Grace Vargas made dual history in Rialto as the first Hispanic woman to be elected council person in 1998 and elected mayor of Rialto in 2000, re-elected in 2004, and is seeking reelection in the November 4, 2008 general election.

Vargas, known as "Amazing Grace" has a passion to serve her community and make a difference in a city that she has lived for nearly 34 years, according to many of her supporters. This passion, she states, follows the examples of outstanding Rialto citizens: Congressman Joe Baca, former Councilperson Sam Curtis and Hattie Inge.

"Rialto has been a growing community in the last four years, with new businesses throughout the city and continued planned development along the 1-10 and extension of the 210 to attract other businesses. Our city is the continuation of the growth pattern in the Inland Empire. Our increased tax revenues will help our city provide added services to our residents," Vargas stated in an interview with IEHN.

Vargas mentioned the positive turnabout in the police department with the appointment of a new police chief, with added resources to fight against crime and gangs, development of the senior citizens center and balancing the budget.

"As your mayor I will continue to provide the resources to our police to fight the gangs, keep drugs away from our community and make our streets safer," she said.

Vargas said that as a councilperson and mayor, she has worked vigorously to improve the neighborhoods and provide support to the police and fire departments. She proudly stated being the only city council member that publicly supported the retention of the police department during the time the city council members were in favor of a contractual agreement with the Sheriff's Department.

During her tenure as a city councilperson, Vargas organized groups to clean neighborhoods and other projects to improve the quality of life in the city. "I have always been involved in our city and proud of our accomplishments," she emphasized.

Born and raised in Yuma, Arizona, Vargas has been a resident of Rialto since 1971. Employed by the City of Rialto in 1977, Vargas held positions of clerk, clerk/cashier, notary public/ registrar of voters, and licensing inspector, resigning in July, 1979. Vargas started a realty business and became very successful. In 1992, she was named Rialto's Citizen of the Year, and in 1996, was named Rialto Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year.

Involved in her community, Vargas has been a member of the Rialto Chamber of Commerce, Inland Empire Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, San Bernardino Board of Realtors, Kiwanis Evening Club, and has worked in many various business committees.

She previously served in a myriad of advisory boards. Alcohol Problems Committee, Cottage School Scholarships, Volunteers-In-Probation, Board of Realtors MLS Committee, Rialto Housing Strategy Advisory Task Force, Rialto Clout Legislative Action, among others.

Vargas has been recognized for her volunteer work: BHG Top Listing Agent of the Month; American Cancer Special Appreciation for Volunteerism; Rialto Chief of Police's Certificate Fight against Drugs; Rialto Youth Accountability Board's Certificate of Appreciation; California State Assembly Certificate of Appreciation; Top 100 Women-owned Businesses in the Inland Empire, etc.

Rialto and adjacent cities have been faced with perchlorate contamination and she has been working with federal and state officials in resolving the serious health threat to the residents of the city. "I am proud to say that Rialto and neighboring communities will be receiving over six million dollars in federal grants to clean our water supply through the efforts of Congressman Joe Baca. I will continue to work with Congressman Baca and Senator Diane Feinstein to ensure a safe and healthy community for our children and residents," she said.

As a business owner for over 25 years, Vargas stated that she is aware of the challenges facing the local business community. "As mayor, I will continue to create a friendly environment for businesses to succeed."

Vargas struggled throughout her life to raise seven children, and is proud of their accomplishments and work ethics. She recently lost a daughter to cancer.

"I have invested a major portion of my life to our city and if reelected mayor, I will continue to put forth my energies to improve our quality of life."

Vargas has been endorsed by Congressman Joe Baca, Rialto Police and Fire Associations and the Greater Rialto Democratic Club.
MALDEF/ACLU FILE LAWSUIT TO STOP FARMERS BRANCH NEWEST ANTI-IMMIGRANT ORDINANCE

Ordinance Requires All Renters To "Register" And Obtain City Licenses To Reside In Farmers Branch, Texas

DALLAS, TX - The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), the American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU of Texas filed a complaint in federal court charging that Farmers Branch Ordinance 2952 violates the U.S. Constitution and federal and state statutes. The ordinance, which requires all renters in Farmers Branch to register their presence with the City, and obtain an occupancy license, is the city's third effort to restrict residency in Farmers Branch.

"Unfortunately, the City of Farmers Branch doesn't know when to quit," said Nina Perales, Southwest Regional Counsel for MALDEF. "Despite several rulings striking down predecessor ordinances, Farmers Branch continues to try to regulate immigration by violating the rights of all renters in Farmers Branch.

A federal judge has twice ruled unconstitutional the city's attempts to pass such measures. The third such effort, Ordinance 2952, was passed by the city just five days after U.S. District Judge Sam Lindsay struck down an earlier version of the rental ban. The ordinance was scheduled to take effect Saturday, September 13 but was enjoined late Friday afternoon by U.S. District Judge Jane Boyle in a separate related lawsuit.

"Missing from the list of things the ordinance should be wary of an ordinance requiring a city's residents to 'register' and obtain an 'occupancy license,'" said Lisa Graybill, Legal Director for the ACLU of Texas. "The ordinance continues to violate the Constitution. Rather than ending the city's misguided meddling in people's lives, it seeks to expand its reach by subjecting everyone to this intrusive registration and licensing regime, which would expose private domestic arrangements and personal details," noted Omar Jadwat, staff attorney for the ACLU's Immigrants' Rights Project.

The lawsuit charges that Ordinance 2952 allows Farmers Branch to enforce immigration law, a responsibility of the federal government. The ordinance also violates the equal protection and due process provisions of the Constitution.

A copy of the complaint is available online at www.aclu.org/immigrants/discrim/36759a12080912.html

Attorneys who worked on the case include Jadwat and Lucas Guttenplan, the ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project, Graybill of the ACLU of Texas; Perales and Marisol L. Perez of MALDEF, and David Broiles of the ACLU's Immigrants Rights Project; and David Broiles of the ACLU of Texas.

For further information contact the following: Maria Archuleta, ACLU national, (212) 519-7808 or 549-2666, media@aclu.org; Dotty Griffith, ACLU of Texas, (512) 478-7300 x106, dgriffith@aclutx.org, or Eduardo Rodriguez, MALDEF, (202) 631-2892.

CSUSB KICKS OFF 2008-2009 WITH NEW BUILDINGS, PROGRAMS AND CELEBRATIONS

SAN BERNARDINO, CA - A summer of anticipation will give way to a new school year at Cal State San Bernardino, as the campus will begin its 43rd year of fall classes on Thursday, Sept. 25.

The start of the 2008-2009 year brings the opening of two major buildings and the renovation of another, the launch of new academic programs and the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the CSUSB athletic program. This year also marks the 25th anniversary of the institution's transition from a state college to university status, becoming California State University, San Bernardino.

The long-anticipated College of Education building is finally a reality. The new building covers 130,000 square feet and is one of the largest structures on campus, housing classrooms, laboratories and much-needed office space for the college's faculty and staff. Official dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremonies are scheduled for Friday, Oct. 3.

Renovations and additions have been completed on the physical sciences building, following the completion of similar construction work on the biology building a year ago. Both buildings are once again fully occupied and operational.

For the first time in the California State University's history, students will have an opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree in Arabic language and culture beginning in fall 2008 at Cal State San Bernardino. CSUSB is the first of the 23-campus California State University System to offer a major in Arabic, and only the third among all public and private universities in California.

With the start of the new school year, there are a host of other new faces, challenges, changes, milestones, accomplishments and achievements to be celebrated:

- CSUSB enrollment is expected again to exceed 17,000 students and likely surpass last year's fall enrollment of 17,066.
- Dr. Albert K. Kamig enters his 12th year as president of Cal State San Bernardino after taking the reins in August 1997. He is only the university's third president since the campus opened in 1965, following John M. Piau and Anthony H. Evans.
- The university has once again been recognized by two of the nation's leading publications that evaluate colleges and universities across the country. Cal State San Bernardino received the "Best in the West" for 2009 designation by the Princeton Review, and it was included in U.S. News & World Report's list of best western universities – master's – in its 2009 edition of "America's Best Colleges."
- The university's Presidential Academic Excellence Scholarship program is expected to welcome more than 40 new freshmen, bringing the total count to more than 130 this year. The program rewards the top one percent of San Bernardino County high school students who elect to attend Cal State San Bernardino with a $5,000 annual scholarship.
- Campus dining and catering operations are now under the management of the Sodexo Corporation, while the Follett Corporation now manages the Coyote Bookstore. Both formerly were operated by the Cal State San Bernardino Foundation.
- Throughout the year, Coyote athletic teams will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the university's first season of NCAA intercollegiate sports.
- CSUSB will mark 25 years since it officially became a state university on June 23, 1984.

For more information, contact the university's Office of Public Affairs at (909) 537-5007 and visit http://news.csusb.edu.

ASSEMBLYMEMBER CARTER SCHEDULES HEALTH CARE FORUM

Assemblymember Carter (62nd Assembly District) has scheduled a vital regional forum, Diversity and Demand: Addressing California's Health Care Workforce Crisis, to be held at the San Bernardino County Government Center, Covington Chambers, 385 N. Arrowhead Av., San Bernardino, CA 92415, on Friday, October 3, 2008, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Carter is hosting the event for The California Wellness Foundation.

Experts in the health care field will present findings from major studies of the health care workforce issues that are endangering health care in our state, particularly for the underserved. They will share insights on successful programs that have helped increase our health care workforce.

Community groups, hospitals, labor unions, chambers of commerce, and media have been invited to attend.

California's aging population threatens to overwhelm our current health care system, which is suffering from a shortage of health care workers including physicians, nurses and more than 200 allied health practitioners. Major studies indicate that increasing the percentage of minority health professionals is crucial for improving the health and wellness of underserved communities. Minorities also represent a vast pool of candidates to fill these crucial jobs.

For information or to RSVP, visit the Website: http://www.assembly.ca.gov/Carter or contact the District Office at 909-820-5008.

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Wednesday, September 17, 2008
WASHINGTON, DC - Representatives Linda Sanchez, Hilda Solis, Nydia Velázquez, and Lucille Roybal-Allard attended an Obama for America press conference at the Democratic National Committee in Washington, DC, joining Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi to discuss Senator Obama and Senator Biden’s record of fighting for issues of concern to women and American families — and John McCain’s plan to offer more of the same failed Bush policies for women and families. The Latina members of Congress were joined by Representatives from across the country including Jan Schakowsky, Rosa DeLauro, Donna Edwards, and Diana DeGette, among others.

Congresswomen Sanchez, Velazquez, Solis, and Roybal-Allard issued the following joint statement after the event:

“Americans are feeling the consequences of failed Bush economic policies, but women are even more deeply affected. Equal pay for equal work is a vital part of helping women and families attain economic security, but Sen. McCain opposes this basic step for working women. After two terms of the Bush economic policies that have left American families and Latinas struggling with rising costs for health care, declining incomes, and an uncertain future for their retirement, we can’t afford four more years of the same policies that have failed women and families.”

During the press conference, the Members of Congress discussed the issues at stake for women and families and the stark differences between the Obama-Biden and McCain-Palin records on critical areas, especially in today’s challenging economy — including equal pay for equal work, retirement security, and the skyrocketing cost of health care. John McCain opposes a law co-sponsored by Obama that would close the pay gap between women and men doing the same work. At a time when most women are working to help support their families in this difficult economy, the pay gap hurts families and threatens retirement security which would be further threatened by the attempted and failed Bush privatization plan McCain favors. Despite soaring healthcare costs and millions of uninsured children in the U.S., John McCain doesn’t have a plan to insure every American. While Obama and Biden have a strong record of standing up for women and families, McCain and Palin offer more of the same policies that have families struggling more than ever before.

To read Senator Obama’s plan to support working women and families, click on the following link: http://obama3cdn.net/2778abe561ba550d407fmb2ba2.pdf

Contact: Luis Miranda / Sonia Melendez - 202-863-8148

S.B. COUNTYWIDE SCHOOL SAFETY SUMMIT SET FOR OCT. 2 IN ONTARIO

ONTARIO, CA — The 2008 School Safety Summit Conference for San Bernardino County will be held on Oct. 2 at the Ontario Police Department.

The annual free event is presented by the Countywide Gangs and Drugs Task Force, in collaboration with the Law Enforcement and Education Partnership and the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools. California gang expert Alfonso Valdez of the University of California, Irvine, and Aguil Basheer, CEO of the BUILD Youth Empowerment Academy, will be two of the featured speakers at the event, which will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Ontario Police Department is located at 2500 S. Archibald Ave.

For more information about the event, contact Sherra Clay of the County Schools Administrative Services office at (909)386-2902.

SBA: www.sba.gov

The City of San Bernardino Employment & Training Agency One Stop Career Center and Workforce Investment Board

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Wednesday, September 17, 2008

CONGRESISTAS SANCHEZ, SOLIS, VELAZQUEZ, Y ROYBAL-ALLARD JUNTO CON NANCY PELOSI, Y OTRAS MUJERES CONGRESISTAS: SOLO OBAMA Y BIDEN TIENEN UNE HISTORIAL DE LUCHAR POR EL CAMBIO QUE NECESITAN A MUJERES

WASHINGTON, DC - Congresistas Linda Sanchez, Hilda Solis, Nydia Velázquez, y Lucille Roybal-Allard participaron en una rueda de prensa de la campaña Obama en el Comité Nacional Demócrata en Washington, DC con Nancy Pelosi, Presidente de la Cámara de Representantes. El grupo de congresistas presentó el contraste entre los historiales del Senador Obama y del Senador Biden de luchar por los temas que afectan y preocupan a las mujeres y a las familias estadounidenses y el plan de John McCain de ofrecer más de las mismas políticas fracasadas de Bush para las mujeres y las familias. Otras Congressistas de todo el país, incluyendo a las Congressistas Jan Schakowsky, Rosa DeLauro, Donna Edwards, y Diana DeGette, entre otras, participaron en la rueda de prensa con las Congressistas Latinas.

La Congressistas Sanchez, Velazquez, Solis, y Roybal-Allard emitieron la siguiente declaración conjunta después del evento:

“Todos los estadounidenses están sintiendo las consecuencias de las políticas económicas fracasadas de Bush, pero las mujeres se encuentran aún más profundamente afectadas.

Igualdad de pago por los mismos trabajos es un elemento vital para ayudarle a las mujeres y a las familias lograr la seguridad económica, pero el Sen. McCain se opone a este paso básico para las mujeres trabajadoras. Luego de dos periodos de políticas económicas Bush que han dejado a las familias estadounidenses y a las Latinas luchando con los costos elevados del cuidado médico, los ingresos en descenso, y un futuro incierto para su jubilación, no podemos costear cuatro años más de las mismas políticas que le hacen daño a las mujeres y a las familias.”

Durante la rueda de prensa; las Congressistas discutieron lo que depende de esta elección para las mujeres y las familias, y la diferencia severa entre los historiales de Obama-Biden y McCain-Palin en temas críticos, especialmente tomando en cuenta los retos que presenta la economía actual. Entre ellos, la igualdad de pago por el mismo trabajo, la seguridad en la jubilación, los costos exagerados del cuidado médico. John McCain se opone a una ley co-patrocinada por Obama que cerraría la brecha entre lo que se gana los hombres y las mujeres por el mismo trabajo. Ya que la mayoría de las mujeres están trabajando para ayudar a sus familias en esta economía difícil, la brecha de pago le hace daño a las familias y amenaza la seguridad de jubilación, que además, está bajo peligro mayor por el esfuerzo fracasado de Bush de privatizar el Seguro Social, lo cual McCain apoya. A pesar de los costos exagerados de cuidado médico y de los millones de niños en Estados Unidos que carecen de seguro médico, John McCain y Palin no tienen un plan para hacerle posible cobertura médica a todo estadounidense. Mientras Obama y Biden tienen un histórico fuerte de luchar por las mujeres y las familias, McCain y Palin ofrecen más de las mismas políticas que han tenido y tienen las familias como nunca enfrentando dificultades.

Para leer el plan del Senador Obama para apoyar a las familias y mujeres trabajadoras, haga clic sobre el siguiente enlace: http://obama3cdn.net/2778abe561ba550d407fmb2ba2.pdf.

Contactos: Luis Miranda / Sonia Melendez - 202-863-8148

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PROJECT STUDENT RECOVERY HEADLING TO LOCAL NEIGHBORHOODS

The days of house calls may seem like a thing of the past, but concern over local teenagers’ academic well being is bringing the idea back, with a twist. On Wednesday, September 10, San Bernardino City Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Arturo Delgado and more than 70 other School District managers will be visiting the homes of approximately 350 students who have not attended school since the start of the school year. Delgado initiated the home visits, now dubbed Project Student Recovery, in February 2007. At the beginning of each semester, teams of District managers visit the homes of truant high school and middle school students. The goal is to meet with the students and their families to discuss the reason for the truancy and to help the families find solutions.

Generally, students are considered truant when they are absent from school without a valid excuse. The Manual to Combat Truancy, prepared by the U.S. Department of Education in 1996 in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Justice, indicates truancy is an early sign that a student is at risk of dropping out of school. And, information collected by the National Center for School Engagement shows a correlation between chronic truancy and school expulsion and juvenile incarceration and detention.

Recognizing that many issues can lead to student truancy, some unrelated to school, District managers are prepared to provide students and parents with information and referrals to agencies providing health screenings, financial assistance, counseling, and services for homeless families. Managers will also have information on the academic support programs available at District high schools and services offered by the District’s Family Resource Center.

“I want our students, especially those at risk of dropping out, to know how important it is to me and ever our commitment to their education is more than just empty words. We care, and we intend to prove it.”

After previous Project Student Recovery visits, some students returned to school the same day or the next day. Project Student Recovery is part of Delgado’s Accelerate Student Achievement Plan (ASAP), a 10-point plan to boost student academic achievement and lower the dropout rate.

FACT SHEET: •More than 70 San Bernardino City Unified School District managers will participate in Project Student Recovery on Wednesday, September 10. •Teams of two District managers will visit the homes of approximately 350 truant students enrolled at one of the following schools: Arroyo Valley, Cajon, Pacific, San Bernardino, and San Gorgonio High Schools and Curtis and Golden Valley Middle Schools. •Project Student Recovery is coordinated by the District’s Student Services Division. •More than 50 District managers participated in Project Student Recovery for the second semester of the 2007-2008 school year.

RIVERSIDE LIBRARY SPONSORS INTERNET MARKETING CLASS

RIVERSIDE, CA – The City of Riverside Public Library sponsors a free class in Internet marketing, from 6 to 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, at the Main Library’s second floor auditorium, 3851 Mission Inn Ave.

The class will cover using the Internet as an effective marketing tool: understanding how to design a Web site to reach customers; and how to use the Internet for communicating with customers.

All attendees will receive a free business plan compact disk with business plan templates and Excel spread sheets. For more information, call Jeff Lambert at 826-5212.

The San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors will host its 80th Season Anniversary Extravaganza, “Rhapsody in Revue,” at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3 at the National Orange Show Events Center at 689 East St., in San Bernardino. The fundraising gala will feature dinner and entertainment by Maestro Carlo Ponti, music director and conductor of the Symphony and a pianist, his wife Andrea, a violinist, and his brother Edoardo Ponti, a filmmaker and vocalist. Also performing will be orchestra members, Cal State San Bernardino faculty musicians and Rebecca Clark, a vocalist and entertainer known for her musical tribute to Barbra Streisand. A Sam Maloof pedestal table, among many other items, will be sold at a live auction led by cooking guru and restaurateur Martha Green. Phone-in absentee bids will be accepted. Sophia Loren, mother of Carlo and Edoardo Ponti, is honorary chair of the gala. Tickets are $125 per person. For more information and reservations, contact the Symphony office at (909) 381-5385.

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Scientists from around the world gathered at LLU last week to increase knowledge of how physical activity and nutrition impact health. They spoke during the 25th symposium of the International Council for Physical Activity and Fitness Research (ICPAFR), which met September 2-4.

The council, which was established in 1964, hosts biennial conferences at locations around the globe; this year's event was hosted by Loma Linda University School of Public Health.

Nearly 120 people attended the symposium. One of them was Marcia Chung, RN, MS, of Redlands, who came because she wanted to learn more about bone density, exercise, and weight management. "I have a lot of obese patients, and they ask me questions, so it's nice to get current information on weight loss," she says.

Disseminating specialized knowledge to practitioners such as Ms. Chung is the aim of the symposium, according to Franco Viviana, president of ICPAFR, who is with the University of Padua, in Italy. He notes that the scientific level of the conference was high, including speakers who proposed new ideas in fitness, nutrition, and body composition.

Presenters discussed a wide range of topics related to physical activity and nutrition. These included the effects of exercise on body composition, the relationship between physical activity and bone health, and eating disorders in sports.

ICPAFR board member Toivo Jurimae, PhD, of the University of Tartu, in Estonia, notes that physical inactivity is a significant challenge for our society. "It is one of our tasks to explain to people why physical activity is necessary," he says.

Zaida Cordero-Maclntyre, PhD, of the LLU School of Public Health and the Center for Health Disparities and Molecular Medicine, organized and chaired the event and was one of its speakers. She was assisted in the planning by Venice Brown of the School of Public Health.

Dr. Cordero-Maclntyre notes that one of the goals of ICPAFR's biennial symposium is to establish a network of academicians and researchers to foster research collaborations. During her first participation in an ICPAFR conference, held in 2002 in Tartu, Estonia, Dr. Cordero-Maclntyre met Jean Medelli, MD, from Amiens, France. From that point on, they have collaborated to study the bone mineral density of professional cyclists from the Tour de France.

Recently, they had a paper from this study accepted for publication in the upcoming issue of The Journal of Clinical Densitometry.

A highlight of this year's symposium was the recognition of Timothy Lohman, PhD, according to Dr. Cordero-Maclntyre. An emeritus professor at the University of Arizona, Tucson, Dr. Lohman was honored for his lifetime research contributions to the field of sports science and body composition.

The next ICPAFR symposium is planned for the year 2010 in South Africa. Marius Coetsee, PhD, a professor from the department of human movement science at South Africa's Zululand University, will organize and chair the event. Dr. Cordero-Maclntyre will be one of the invited speakers.

FONTANA DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Fontana Democratic Club meets every fourth Saturday of the month at the Big Apple Restaurant (corner of Locust and Arrow) at 9:00 a.m. Visitors are welcome. For information call Jess Sandoval at (909) 829-4386 or (909) 953-0897.

ELECT DR. AMOS ISAAC FOR AREA "E", SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

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- Colton Joint Unified School District
- Morongo Unified School District
- Redlands Unified School District
- Yucaipa/Calisina Joint Unified School District

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S.B.U.S.D. MIDDLE COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL COUNTY'S ONLY NATIONAL-BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

SAN BERNARDINO, CA - Middle College High School in the San Bernardino City Unified School District was one of only 27 California public schools - and the only one in the Inland Empire - to be named a National Blue Ribbon School, according to a release today by the U.S. Department of Education.

"We are extremely pleased that the achievements taking place at Middle College High are being recognized," County Superintendent Gary Thomas said. "With only 27 public schools in California receiving the distinction of being Blue Ribbon Schools, we applaud the work of the students, teachers, administrators and staff at Middle College High, as well as those in the San Bernardino City Unified School District."

The No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools Program is a 25-year-old program that encourages states to nominate public kindergarten through Grade 12 schools that are either academically superior or demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement.

Middle College High School joins County Springs Elementary from the Chino Valley Unified School District (2007) and Brentwood Elementary from the Victor Elementary School District as the only other San Bernardino County schools in the last 10 years to receive the National Blue Ribbon distinction.

For more information on the program and for the list of 2008 winners nationwide, visit the U.S. Department of Education’s Web site: http://www.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/awards.html.

Famous Hispanics Actors in the U.S.

Rita Hayworth - famous in films of the 40's. She was especially renowned for her dancing with Fred Astaire.

Rita Moreno - (originally Rosa Dolores Alverio) - She is the first woman to win all four: an Academy Award, a Tony Award, an Emmy (2 actuals), and a Grammy.

Anthony Quinn - crossed into the U.S. via a coal wagon through the Rio Grande. He has won two Oscars and starred in several dozen movies.

Martin Sheen - (originally Ramon Estevez) - He has acted on Broadway, television and the big screen, and his four children are now following in his footsteps.
beat on the door begging the sleeping priest to let them in. The tall lean figure of an aging priest emerged from behind the heavy oak door. After he rubbed his eyes he held his lantern toward the unexpected visitors and he recognized the men as several members of the Queretaro literary circle he had joined months before.

It was the Cavalry Lieutenant Juan de Alcaine and Captain Ignacio Allende. "We’ve been discovered!" Allende said. "Don Gonzalez has been arrested," Aldama added. The priest brought the men into the rectory then he bolted the door.

"And what of you followed?" asked the priest. "I don’t think so," Aldama said as he nervously began wringing his hands.

The young lieutenant grieved over the thought of being captured and executed before a firing squad. It was treasonous for a royalist soldier to even think of revolt against the crown in New Spain. Aldama and Allende’s death warrants had been signed when the soldiers found the weapons, for it wouldn’t take long to torture a confession out of the grocer. The time was not ready for revolt for Captain Allende had not yet mobilized and trained an army.

But the would-be traitors were not with the priest to confess their sins or beg for sanctuary. The priest had a bold idea. He went out to the bell tower and sounded the bells which rang loudly throughout the village and nearby hamlets. Suddenly torches and candles lit up in every dwelling of Dolores. The inhabitants, mostly poor Indian and mestizo peasants, emerged from their homes and assembled before the church where the priest, Padre Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, stood atop of a large boulder with his torch held high. This priest was not that interested in saving the souls of his parishioners, but he fought and struggled to improve the condition of their lives by introducing to the inhabitants new forms of industry to improve at least, their meager economic condition of their lives.

In return, these villagers were grateful to their parish priest and they stood by to listen to what he had to say to them.

"Here are our army," Padre Hidalgo said to Aldama and Allende. This priest became the catalyst to a revolution that would not ultimately stop for more than a hundred years. Hidalgo raised his torch over his gleaming bald head.

"My children," he cried out. "A new dispensation comes to us today. Will you receive it? Will you free yourselves? Will you recover the lands stolen three hundred years ago from our forefathers by the hated Spaniards?"

The assemblage of natives than became a mob. Fueled by such words, the people let out a war cry and lifted their torches menacingly towards the night sky.

"Will you defend your rights as true patriots? Long live our Lady of Guadalupe! Death to bad government! Death to the gachupines!"

Then the men followed the priest down towards hidden cellar below the rectory. He took an axe and broke through the wooden planks. Underneath the wooden debris lay another cache of muskets and ammunition. After the weapons were passed around, Father Hidalgo’s new “army” was on the march or rather on the rampage. The insurgent army, now turned into a vengeful mob, slaughtered and pillaged nearby towns such as San Miguel, Celaya, and finally the state capital of Guanajuato.

At the Guanajuato granary, called the Alhondiga, the royalist and other survivors of the pillage stood their final ground until the insurgent army made their way into the fortified granary and slaughtered every last survivor. Hidalgo left part of his army at the Alhondiga and went off to Morelia to claim more victories. Eventually, the priest would meet his defeat and be captured.

But of course, the Spaniards would retaliate severely. By then most of Father Hidalgo’s occupying army had already fled or deserted leaving only innocent townspeople of Guanajuato. A royalist officer, called the Count DeLaCadena, nevertheless he was given an order to prepare for a mass execution.

As the church bell tolled the “death knell,” a humble Franciscan friar came out to offer up his own “grito” of mercy.

"These people have committed no crime," the friar said. "Suspend the order for the execution. I beg you in the name of the Lord who will on the last day ask for an account of the innocent blood that will be spilled here." The count, heeding to the words of Padre Belauzaran, suspended the order of executions.

This account of the early uprisings for Mexican Independence is, of course, familiar to every Mexican person dead or alive. At first with Hidalgo’s unexpected Grito de Dolores, the wars for independence began to have social implications that some promise of justice and improved economic conditions for the Indians and mestizo peasants, but Spanish creoles-Spanish born in the New World were at first reluctant to support such a revolution.

Eventually, Hidalgo and his other rebels were captured and executed, burning with their headless corpses any hope of uplifting the peasant’s social conditions. In order to make the move towards independence more attractive to the Creoles and other conservatives factions, a royalist officer called Agustin de Iturbide, who first fought to defeat the insurgents, decided to turn the table and join the other side. His prize for treason was the first crown of Mexico.

What actually occurred as a result of the wars of Independence was the replacement of one bad government for another. Iturib’s reign, fortunately, only lasted a year. The promises of the Grito De Dolores has been forgotten as Creolos replaced Spanish “Gachupines” in state offices and other responsibilities of power.

Although Father Hidalgo set the path for independence on September 16, 1810, eleven years later the conservative, wealth forces of the new nation put a crown on Iturib’s head making him the Emperor Agustin I. Meanwhile, the rotting decapitated heads of Allende, Aldama, and Father Hidalgo swung in cages from poles outside the ruined remains of the Alhondiga in Guanajuato whose motto was to become “donde la vida vale nada” (where life has no value).

Another chapter in Mexico’s history was about to be written.
CONGRESSIONAL EVENT PERPETUATES MYTH OF IMMIGRANT CRIMINALITY CRIME FORUM OVERLAPS WITH RESTRICTIONIST ORGANIZATION’S LOBBY DAYS

WASHINGTON, DC - Republican members of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration are regrettably perpetuating the persistent myth of immigrant criminality with their forum on "The Toll of Illegal Alien Criminals on American Families." Lamar Smith (R-Texas) and Steve King (R-Iowa) are spearheading tomorrow’s conversation.

Numerous studies by independent researchers and government commissions over the past 100 years have consistently found that immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than the native-born. This holds true for both legal immigrants and the undocumented, regardless of their country of origin or level of education.

It’s not likely a coincidence that Smith and King’s forum is happening during the same week that the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) is lobbying Congress, demanding an impractical and hateful agenda of mass deportations, worksite raids, and other expensive and ultimately ineffective approaches as part of their “Hold Their Feet to the Fire” gathering. The Republican forum is even featuring some of the same witnesses who participated in FAIR’s rally this afternoon.

It is disappointing to see lawmakers Smith and King—along with their fellow congressmen Darrell Issa (R-CA), Brian Bilbray (R-CA), and Duncan Hunter (R-CA) who attended FAIR’s rally today—tarnish the Republican brand by supporting the agenda of FAIR, an organization designated a "hate group" by the Southern Poverty Law Center. It is especially troubling to see lawmakers exploit the pain of the victims of these terrible crimes to promote their political motives.

There is no doubt that dangerous criminals must be punished, and that immigrants who are dangerous criminals should not be allowed to enter the US or should be deported if they already are here. But exploiting the profound painful loss of crime victims to spread the myth that immigrants are criminals is irresponsible and disingenuous.

Fact Sheet from the Immigration Policy Center: For more information contact Andrea Nill, 202-507-7520 or email anill@aif.org

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS' VOTEMOBILE HITS THE VOTER EDUCATION CAMPAIGN TRAIL Outreach Effort Seeks to Educate Residents about Voting Rights, Vote by Mail

SAN BERNARDINO, CA — Beginning this weekend, the San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters’ “Votemobile” will be making its way around the county on its own Voter Education campaign trail, encouraging voters to register to vote by mail in the upcoming presidential election.

This high-profile vehicle—easily identifiable by its patriotic, voter-themed graphics—will be featured at numerous community events including fairs, festivals, sporting events and universities, encouraging greater voter turnout in the November election. The Votemobile, on the road through Election Day, will be staffed by elections personnel who will answer questions regarding:

• Voter registration
• Voter rights
• Limited English proficiency voting
• Accessibility issues

The Votemobile serves as an education component to the Registrar’s “Vote By Mail. Voting Made EASY.” campaign which was launched earlier this year to increase voter participation in the vote by mail option. It will also be part of the early voting program, visiting locations throughout the county prior to Election Day.

“The Votemobile is a positive way for us to get out there and speak face-to-face with county voters and address questions about the voting process, polling places and voting by mail,” said Kari Veqil, San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters. “With gas prices so high, we believe that there will be a significant increase in the vote by mail turnout. Voters can avoid the last-minute rush and vote from the comfort of their own homes.”

The Votemobile debuted at the Rancho Cucamonga Quakes game on August 22 during the “Shake, Rattle and Rock the Vote” event at Quakes Stadium. It will also be at the Route 66 Rendezvous in downtown San Bernardino, September 18-21. Voters in San Bernardino County are encouraged to visit www.easvoting.org to download a vote-by-mail application or to call the Registrar’s office at (909) 387-8300 to have one mailed directly to their home.
WASHINGTON, DC – On the seventh anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Rep. Joe Baca (D-Rialto) paid tribute to the victims of the attacks and called upon Americans to commemorate 9/11 as a day of remembrance and resolve.

"On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, nearly 3,000 innocent men, women, and children were murdered by Islamic terrorists," said Rep. Baca. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the families from our Inland communities, and from across the nation, who lost loved ones on that terrible day. Today, we remember those who were taken from us, and affirm our commitment to defeating terrorists everywhere.

"We also continue to honor the heroic service, actions, and sacrifices of those first responders, law enforcement personnel, volunteers, and others who aided the innocent victims and, in so doing, bravely risked and in many cases sacrificed their own lives," added Rep. Baca.

"Thousands of Americans, both in and out of government, have worked tirelessly that terrible day to improve our nation's security and to protect our people. Seven years later, Americans remain steadfast in our determination to stand up to terrorists."

During this 110th Congress, a critical piece of legislation was enacted in August 2007, to better protect Americans from terrorism and improve our homeland security. The legislation (H.R. 1) completes the enactment of the recommendations of the bipartisan, independent 9/11 Commission into law. This law requires 100 percent screening of cargo on passenger aircraft within three years, requires 100 percent scanning of seaborne cargo before it gets to U.S. ports within five years, better ensures that first responders can communicate with each other in an emergency, and improves rail and mass transit security.

"Congress has an obligation to the American people to do all within our power to keep them safe," concluded Rep. Baca. "On this seventh anniversary of 9/11, we honor the memories of the thousands of individuals who were killed on that day and resolve once again to take all necessary steps for ensuring that such a terrible tragedy never happens again."

SBCUSD-ONLINE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS SEEKING ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS SUPPORT

The San Bernardino City Unified School District wants to empower parents and students by connecting them with online resources to extend instruction in English/language arts.

Students in grades kindergarten through six using the Houghton Mifflin reading/language arts textbooks can visit www.eduplace.com/kids/rdg.jsp to play word games, read articles from Weekly Reader, and get tips for better writing. Parents can download spelling word lists sorted by easy, average, and challenging at www.eduplace.com/parents/rdg.jsp.

Students in grades 6 through 12 using Prentice Hall textbooks should visit www.phschool.com/atshool/literature to download reading strategies, take reading comprehension tests with immediate feedback, and get ideas on how to extend learning for almost every literary selection.

Students and parents who do not have Internet access from home are encouraged to visit the District's Family Resource Center at 1525 W. Highland Avenue or their local library for free computer and Internet access.

Colton Joint Unified School District salutes Hispanic Heritage

* Did you know?

Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15 to commemorate the independence of five Latin American countries that include Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, in addition to Mexico on September 16 and Chile on September 18.

Joseph Marion Hernández was the first Hispanic to serve in Congress. He was elected Delegate from Florida to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1822.

There were 1.6 million Hispanic-owned businesses in the U.S. in 2002, which grew at triple the rate (31 percent) from 1997 to 2002 compared to the national average for all businesses. Hispanic-owned businesses generated $222 billion in revenue in 2002.

National Hispanic Heritage Month: September 15 - October 15, 2008

"Getting Involved: Our Families, Our Community, Our Nation"
S.B. COUNTY STUDENTS SHOW IMPROVEMENTS ON PASSING EXIT EXAM

SAN BERNARDINO, CA - The achievement gap among White, African American and Latino students in San Bernardino County was the lowest it has ever been for the English language arts portion of the California High School Exit Exam, according to data released today by the California Department of Education.

The difference of 16 percentage points between White and African American and Latino 10th-graders, who took the statewide exit exam in the 2007-08 school year, was the smallest gap among those county groups in seven years of testing.

“The achievement gap has been persistent and troubling, but these results show a trend of sustained improvement,” County Superintendent Gary Thomas said. “The credit goes to our teachers in the classrooms, their students and districts, who have worked tremendously hard to make these improvements.”

In addition to a closing in achievement gaps, sophomores in the county who took the exit exam last academic year posted the highest English language arts test scores since testing began. Both were improvements from results released for county 10th-graders last year.

Among the 32,484 county 10th-graders who took the exam, 73 percent passed the math portion of the exit exam, the highest-ever passage rate. In English language arts, 76 percent passed the highest level since 2002-03 and second-highest rate ever an increase of 2 percent from last year.

There have also been sustained improvements in closing the achievement gap for subgroups in both English language arts and math over the seven years of testing. During the last three years of testing for African American students in English language arts, the gap has closed with white 10th graders from 27 percent in 2005-06 to 16 percent for 2007-08.

In math, the gap has closed from 31 percent in 2005-06 to 15 percent for 2007-08.

For Latino students, the achievement gap with white 10th-graders narrowed from 23 percent in 2005-06 to 16 percent in 2007-08 in English language arts. In math, the gap closed from 22 percent in 2005-06 to 15 percent for 2007-08.

For the class of 2009, which will graduate this year compared to last year’s scores. Economically disadvantaged 10th-graders improved 1 point in math and 3 points in ELA over last year.

• Among county 10th-graders, females scored better than males in ELA (80 percent vs. 71 percent), while males did slightly better in math (74 percent vs. 73 percent).
• Overall passage rates for county 10th-graders 73 percent in math and 76 percent in ELA were slightly under the state averages (78 percent in math and 79 in ELA).
• Among county 10th-graders, 90.2 percent of all seniors have passed in ELA and 85 percent in math. The California Department of Education estimates that 90.2 of all seniors have passed both portions of the exit exam.
• The achievement gap of 10th grade African American and Latino students in the county closed considerably in comparison to white students. Both African American and Latino students closed the gap 3 percentage points in ELA and 2 percentage points in math.
• English language learners in 10th grade improved 7 percentage points in ELA this year compared to last year's scores.
• Among students with an estimated disadvantage 10th-graders improved 1 percentage point in math and 3 points in ELA over last year.

Results of the CAHSEE are available at the California Department of Education’s Web site at www.cde.ca.gov. Happy Hispanic Heritage Month!
REP. BACA PUSHES FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF TO CONSUMERS TO REFINANCE HOME LOANS
Bill Would Help Homeowners in Foreclosure or Default

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Congressman Joe Baca (D-Rialto) spoke before the House Financial Services Committee, in support of his legislation H.R. 4135, the Family Foreclosure Rescue Corporation Act. H.R. 4135 would create a new entity within the federal government, the Family Foreclosure Rescue Corporation (FFRC), responsible for financing loans to people currently in foreclosure or in serious default.

"With the current economic crisis growing, our Government has responded by bailing out major financial institutions like AIG, Bear Stearns, Freddie Mac, and Fannie Mae," said Rep. Baca. "But what about the average homeowner caught up in the housing market? The 1.6 million Americans that are expected to lose their homes this year due to foreclosure deserve a helping hand."

Rep. Baca spoke today at a hearing of the House Financial Services Committee on the implementation of the Hope for Homeowners Program and a review of foreclosure mitigation efforts. Witnesses at the hearing included Sheila Bair, the Chair of the Federal Deposit Insurance Company, Elizabeth A. Duke, a member of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, Phillip Swagel, the Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Brian Montgomery, the Assistant Secretary for Housing at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Thomas Curry, the Director of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

H.R. 4135 introduces a concept instituted by President Franklin Roosevelt during the Great Depression. President Roosevelt established the Home Owner's Loan Corporation to provide emergency refinance assistance to families who could no longer make their mortgage payments. Presently, in the midst of a new financial crisis, when many mortgage payments have ballooned past affordable levels, the FFRC would function under the same principles and allow families to refinance their mortgage through a government administered loan with a set interest rate.

"Throughout our nation's proud history, America has always cared for her own in times of hardship," concluded Rep. Baca. "This new financial crisis should be no different. By providing mortgage assistance, the Family Foreclosure Rescue Corporation can prevent homelessness and bring economic stability back to our communities and neighborhoods."

H.R. 4135 has been referred to the House Committee on Financial Services to await further Congressional action.

S.B. DEMOCRATIC LUNCHEON CLUB
Democratic Luncheon Club of San Bernardino meets on Fridays at noon at Democratic Headquarters, 136 Carousel Mall (near the central glass elevator) in San Bernardino. For information call Nancy Ruth White at (909)793 6229.

JOIN ME AND OUR COMMUNITY LEADERS IN CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

"WE NEED TO HELP STUDENTS AND PARENTS CHERISH AND PRESERVE THE ETHNIC AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY THAT NOURISHES AND STRENGTHENS THIS COMMUNITY AND THIS NATION." CESAR CHAVEZ

RANDALL CENICEROS

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$3,663.50-$4,931.33/mo

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$20.23-$25.82/hr

San Bernardino Human Resources
157 W. Fifth Street, First Floor
San Bernardino
(909) 387-8304
www.sbcounty.gov/hr
EEO/ADA Compliant

San Bernardino City Unified School District is now hiring for the following bilingual positions:

Bil. Inst. Asst./SL-13.81 hr.
Bil. Library Asst.-12.04 hr.
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Bil. Parent Vol. Worker-12.04 hr.
Bil. Sch. Outreach Wkr.-14.94 hr.

Sal & Bil diff. based on 40-hr wk., 8 hrs per day. Bil. diff: $50.00 per mo. Most positions in these classifications are part time only. Benefits: M/D/V/L + PERS; SL - based on 40-hr wk., 8 hrs per day. Apply: SBCUSD, HR-Classified, 777 N F St, San Bernardino, (909) 381-1234. For more info, visit our website at http://www.sbcusd.com

Safe summer reminder:

DON'T SERVE ALCOHOL TO TEENS.

It's unsafe. It's illegal. It's irresponsible.

www.DontServeTeens.gov

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