Michael Adame, 17, son of Anthony and Susan Adame of Portola Hills and grandson of Art and Becky Adame, Rialto, was awarded the high rank of Eagle Scout in an elaborate Eagle Scout of Honor ceremony at St. John’s Episcopal Church, Rancho Santa Margarita on January 11, 2009. The rank of Eagle Scout was announced by the Boy Scouts organization after Michael completed the requirements and examined by a Board of Review.

Michael, member of Troop 623 (Portola Hills) chartered by the American Legion Saddleback Valley Post 862, joined the Boys Scouts in 2001, and progressed through the six ranks of scouting. He also has served as assistant patrol leader, patrol leader and senior patrol leader.

In order to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, Michael met the Eagle Scouts critical badge requirements of camping, citizenship in the community, citizenship in the world, communications, cycling, environmental science, first aid, lifesaving, personal fitness, personal management, and swimming, and throughout his scouting tenure acquired 18 additional merit badges.

The highlight of reaching the high scouting distinction for Michael was his Eagle Scout Project; an observation and information outpost to the entrance to the Whiting Wilderness Park. The outpost was completed in minimal time after the start of the Santiago Wildfire of 2007.

The rank of Eagle Scout was acquired 18 additional merit badges. Environmental science, first aid, communications, cycling, camping, citizenship in the community, citizenship in the world, and varsity cross country team (most valuable player). His career goal is to be a Foreign Service officer in the United States Department of State.

Michael Adame has applied for admission to attend Columbia, Princeton, Georgetown or New York Universities in the fall of 2009.

Scouting was founded by General Robert Baden-Powell, a hero of the Britain’s Boer War, in England in 1907-08. To date, scouting is founded in 185 of the world’s 192 independent countries. The Boys Scouts of America was founded by Chicago Publisher William Boyce on February 8, 1910. Since its founding, the scout movement has had more than 110 million members, being the largest youth organization in the United States, and currently has over five million members in its age-related divisions.

It was the only structure to survive when firefighters held back the fire at that point. He was singly honored for his community forestry project.

Michael is an outstanding student at Santa Margarita Catholic High School, with a 4.6 GPA, a SAT (test modules) of 2150 score; a leader in the Model United National Group (traveling to China and England with the debate team); member of the Baccalaureate Program, National and California Merit Certificate in Music, and varsity cross country team (most valuable player). His career goal is to be a Foreign Service officer in the United States Department of State.

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Armando Navarro, Ph.D. speaking at a reception to publicize his recent book, Mexican Political Experience in Occupied Aztlán, attended by educators, elected officials, and supporters of the well-known college professor, author and civil rights advocate. Photo by IEHN.

The recent publication by Armando Navarro, Ph.D., was presented to the public on January 28, 2009, at the San Bernardino Economic Development Department attended by educators, elected officials and many supporters of the well-known educator, author and civil rights advocate.

This exciting new volume from Armando Navarro is a comprehensive political history of the Mexican experience in the United States. Viewing Mexicans today as an occupied and colonized people, Navarro calls for the formation of the new movement to reinvigorate the struggle for resistance and change. He envisions a new political and cultural landscape in which a dominate Latino population ‘re-Mexicanizes’ the United States into a more multicultural and multiethnic society. This book will be a valuable resource for political and social activists and a teaching tool for political theory, Latino politics, ethnic and minority politics, race relations in the United States, and social movements.

“Armando Navarro has written a sweeping panorama of the role and importance of political culture in Chicano history. He revises the general stereotype of the apolitical Mexican and documents the central role of political agency among Chicanos.”

-Mario T. Garcia, University of California, San Barbara

“Professor Navarro's work is the most comprehensive study of Chicano politics in a decade, and sure to be a controversial and often debated classic work that will renew the philosophical and intellectual

AN UNKNOWN HERO-ANDREW MELENDREZ

World War II generated many unknown heroes among the hundreds of thousands of Americans that served in the varied theatres of war, men who volunteered or were drafted, nevertheless, committed to join in fighting against the dictatorships of those whose aim was to control our way of life. They came from every part of our country, big cities, small cities and "rural" areas. The following narrative represents one of the many who served.

Andrew Melendrez was born in Arlington, CA on August 22, 1924, and grew up in Casablanca, an adjacent community, and the oldest...
DESPITE VOW, TARGET OF IMMIGRANT RAIDS SHIFTED
By Nina Bernstein

The raids on homes around the country were billed as carefully planned hunts for dangerous immigrant fugitives, and given catchy names like Operation Return to Sender.

And they garnered bigger increases in money and staff from Congress than any other program run by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, even as complaints grew that teams of armed agents were entering homes indiscriminately.

But in fact, beginning in 2006, the program was no longer what was being advertised. Federal immigration officials had repeatedly told Congress that among more than half a million immigrants with outstanding deportation orders, they would concentrate on rounding up the most threatening - criminals and terrorism suspects.

Instead, newly available documents show, the agency changed the rules, and the program increasingly went after easier targets. A vast majority of those arrested had no criminal record, and many had no deportation orders against them, either.

Internal directives by immigration officials in 2006 raised arrest quotas for each team in the National Fugitive Operations Program, eliminated a requirement that 75 percent of those arrested be criminals, and then allowed the teams to include nonfugitives in their count.

In the next year, fugitives with criminal records dropped to 9 percent of those arrested, and nonfugitives picked up by chance - without a deportation order - rose to 40 percent. Many were sent to detention centers far from their homes, and deported.

The increased public attention comes as the new secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, has ordered a review of the fugitive teams operation, which was set up in 2002 to find and deport noncitizens with outstanding orders of deportation, then rapidly expanded after 2003 with the mission of focusing on the most dangerous criminals.

Kelly A. Nantel, a spokeswoman for the immigration agency, defended the program. "For the first time in history, we continue to reduce the number of immigration fugitive cases," she said, noting that the number of noncitizens at large with outstanding deportation orders, which peaked at 634,000 in the 2007 fiscal year, is now down to about 554,000.

Michael Wishnie, one of the authors of the report, who teaches law at Yale, said that random arrests of low-level violators in residential raids not only raised a new set of legal and humanitarian issues, including allegations of entering private homes without warrants or consent and separating children from their caregivers, but was "dramatically different from how ICE has sold this program to Congress."

Congressional financing for the fugitive operations program rose to $218 million in the 2008 fiscal year, from $9 million in 2003, as the number of seven-member teams multiplied to 104 from 8.

In Congressional briefings and public statements since 2003, agency officials have repeatedly said the program will focus its resources on the roughly 20 percent with a criminal background.

An Immigration and Customs Enforcement memo dated Jan. 22, 2004, underscored that commitment: "Effective immediately, no less than 75 percent of all fugitive operations targets will be those classified as criminal aliens D - noncitizens with a criminal record as well as an order of deportation. It added that "collateral apprehensions" - immigration violators encountered by

LETTER TO THE EDITOR
Feb. 1, 2009

Esmail Adibi, Chapman University professor, along with many Republican Congressmen from the Inland Empire such as Jerry Lewis, David Drier, Ken Calvert, Gary Miller and Mary Bono-Mack, argue the stimulus package should have had more tax cuts than the $300 billion already allocated in the $819 billion dollar package. To those who are unemployed their concern is how they can get to work immediately on a project to put money on the table.

The Republican members of Congress, by voting "no" on the stimulus just demonstrates how out of touch they have been for years and continue with making nonsensical arguments despite the President asking them for their votes on the stimulus bill.

As a thirty-five year resident of the Inland Empire I would like to see some of the stimulus package money reach the average people of the region. When I look at the artwork on old historic buildings in Colton and other cities in the Inland Empire as part of the green economic recovery.

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BACA SUPPORTS BI-PARTISAN BILL TO PROVIDE HEALTH COVERAGE TO 11 MILLION CHILDREN

Bill Will Provide 694,000 Uninsured Children in California with Coverage

WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Joe Baca (D-Rialto) joined a bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives to support legislation that will provide health care coverage to 11 million children, including 694,000 children in the state of California who are currently uninsured. The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) Reauthorization bill passed the House of Representatives with a 250 to 135 vote, and will now head to President Obama's desk for signature into law.

This legislation renews and improves the SCHIP program. The bill preserves coverage for the 7 million children currently covered by SCHIP and extends coverage to 4.1 million uninsured children who are currently eligible for, but not enrolled in, SCHIP and Medicaid.

"After three years of fighting for this legislation, I am very pleased that President Obama will sign this key bill to provide health care coverage for 11 million children - including over 694,000 uninsured kids in California," said Rep. Baca. "This is the same legislation that President Bush vetoed twice in the last Congress. Providing health coverage for America's children is the change America needs."

The legislation also improves many aspects of the program. Quality dental and mental health coverage will now be provided to all children enrolled in the program. In addition, the bill provides $100 million in grants for new outreach activities to states, local governments, schools, community-based organizations, safety-net providers and others.

The legislation also gives states the option of covering legal immigrant children immediately, waiving the five-year waiting period currently in effect for both SCHIP and Medicaid coverage. In addition the bill is fully paid-for by increasing the tobacco tax by 62 cents.

"With over 33,000 uninsured children living in my district alone, the reauthorization of SCHIP is critically urgent," added Rep. Baca. "Providing health care to more eligible children is not only the right thing to do - it's also more cost-effective for taxpayers than using the emergency room as a primary care provider."

Continue on page 7
CAUTION EATING PEANUT BUTTER AND PEANUT BUTTER-CONTAINING PRODUCTS

SAN BERNARDINO

Consumers are being warned to use caution when handling or consuming peanut butter and other products that contain peanut butter. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have identified human infections due to Salmonella serotype Typhimurium. Peanut butter has been identified as the likely source of the bacteria causing the infections.

“There have been no cases of Salmonella serotype Typhimurium confirmed in San Bernardino County,” stated Maxwell Ohikhuare, M.D., Health Officer, San Bernardino County Department of Public Health. Salmonella bacteria can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Health care providers infected with Salmonella often experience fever, diarrhea (which may be bloody), nausea, vomiting and abdominal cramps. Consumers with the above symptoms should consult their physician. At this time, the CDC and FDA recommendations include:

- Do not eat products that have been recalled and throw them away in a manner that prevents others from eating them. These products include Austin and Keebler brand peanut butter crackers and King Nut brand peanut butter produced since July 1, 2008 (FDA's web site has recalled lot numbers).
- Postpone eating other peanut butter containing products (such as cookies, crackers, cereal, candy and ice cream) until more information becomes available about which brands may be affected.
- Use FDA's online database to check if foods you're concerned about are on the recall list.
- Call the consumer hotline phone number that may be on any product packaging you have to get information directly from the product manufacturer.
- Persons who think they may have become ill from eating peanut butter are advised to consult their health care providers.
- For more information on salmonella outbreak linked to peanut butter and peanut butter containing products, visit http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/salmonellatyphi.htm or call the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health Disease Control Helpline at (909) 383-3050.

USE VALENTINE’S DAY TO RE-IGNITE THE ROMANCE

By the American Counseling Association

Valentine’s Day – candies, flowers and all the sweet sentiments that speak to young love. Is that what this holiday is for, or have you been in a relationship so long that the romance is just a fading memory?

If the latter is the case, why not use Valentine’s Day as a starting point for putting the romance back in the relationship, and not just for one day but as a permanent adjustment? The sad truth is that most failed relationships don’t explode, but rather fade over time as the romance disappears and one or both partners end up feeling neglected and unimportant.

A starting point for reviving the romance is by showing the other person you’re still paying attention. Start by remembering things (yes, use your calendar or day planner) beyond just that birthday and anniversary.

Celebrate special days, like that first date anniversary or that vacation that you both so enjoyed. Celebrate non-special days, just because you want to.

You also have to make time for each other. Romance in a relationship requires paying attention to the other person’s feelings and thoughts, not just to the problems, issues and details of daily life.

If necessary, add your partner to your schedule in order to insure that there’s time for each other. Maybe you need a weekly “date night,” or a set 30 minutes each day to share thoughts, feelings, and future plans.

In our busy lives, it’s too easy to just pass each other by. We let the problems overwhelm us, and ignore the love and positive emotions that bring us happiness.

While love may “just happen” when you meet the right person, keeping love alive as a relationship matures takes time and effort, though the work can be enjoyable. Giving your partner a small gift for no reason other than love will bring a loving smile to his or her face, and a warm feeling to you as well. And isn’t that what a strong, romantic relationship should be giving you?

PRESIDENT OBAMA SIGNS CRITICAL HEALTH COVERAGE BILL FOR CALIFORNIA CHILDREN

LOS ANGELES, CA – United Ways of California today lauded President Obama’s signing of a bill reauthorizing the State Children’s Health Insurance Program, or SCHIP. The bill, which was reauthorized for four and a half years, provides critical healthcare for 11 million children nationwide, including nearly one million children in California. United Ways of California has been advocating for SCHIP reauthorization since 2007.

“With his signature today, President Obama has ensured that 900,000 children will continue to have access to the healthcare they need,” said Peter Manzo, president & CEO of United Ways of California. “This comes at a critical time for California’s children as the economy takes its toll on our state’s families and more find themselves without healthcare.”

SCHIP is the primary funding source for California’s Healthy Families program, which provides low-cost health insurance coverage to more than 900,000 California children. The program is critical for children whose parents work, but can’t afford private insurance. With the economic downturn, more families are losing employer-based coverage for their children, resulting in record enrollment in Healthy Families.

The bill signed by President Obama not only allows children who currently receive health coverage through SCHIP programs like Healthy Families to continue to do so, but it also gives states the ability to provide health coverage to more children who need it. California receives $2 from the federal government for every $1 it puts into Healthy Families, making it an extremely cost-effective way for California to provide health coverage to children.

While SCHIP reauthorization is widely praised by United Ways throughout the state, Manzo cautioned that nearly 700,000 children remain uninsured in our state and the work on children’s health is not over.

“SCHIP reauthorization certainly shows that Congress and the new president are willing to do what is right for the health of our children,” continued Manzo. “It is now up to our Governor and State Legislature to make sure we are poised to make the most of the federal dollars coming into our state and to continue to do what it takes to ensure all children have access to healthcare.”

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BACA VOTES TO SEND LILLY LEDBETTER BILL TO PRESIDENT

Bill Restores Protections Against Pay Discrimination for American Workers

WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Joe Baca (D-Rialto) joined a bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives to pass legislation that will stop employers from discriminating against employees based on gender, ethnicity, or religion. S 181, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, passed the House of Representatives with a 250 - 177 vote.

"I am proud to support the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which restores the original intent of the Civil Rights Act as it pertains to discriminatory pay practices," commented Rep. Baca. "This issue is as simple as it gets. It is our moral obligation to stop discrimination of any kind when we see it taking place, and today's bill moves us one step closer to achieving this goal.

The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act restores critical protections against pay discrimination for women and other workers. It rectifies a May 2007 Supreme Court decision that overturned longstanding precedent and made it much more difficult for workers to pursue pay discrimination claims. The legislation clarifies that as long as a worker files a charge within 180 days of a discriminatory paycheck, the charge will be considered timely, and cannot be thrown out by a court.

Lilly Ledbetter worked for nearly two decades at a Goodyear Tire and Rubber facility in Alabama. She sued the company after learning that she was paid less than male coworkers, a pattern that ran throughout the industry for years. A jury found that her employer had systematically discriminated against her on the basis of sex. However, the Supreme Court—citing a 1978 decision—ruled that Ledbetter's legal claim was time-barred because she had waited too long to sue for pay discrimination, despite the fact that she filed a charge with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as soon as she received an anonymous note alerting her to pay discrimination.

Earlier, the House passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act on January 9, 2009. Last week, the Senate passed an amended version of the House's bill. With the House passage of the final bill today, the legislation will now go to President Obama's desk for his signature into law.

MEXICANO POLITICAL EXPERIENCE IN OCCUPIED AZTLÁN

Continued from page 1

Militant Ethos among Mexican Americans and United We Win: The Rise and Fall of La Raza Unida Party

About the author

Armando Navarro is a political scientist and professor of ethnic studies at the University of California, Riverside. He receives his AA from Chaffey College in Political Science in 1968, a BA in Political Science from Claremont McKenna College in 1970, and Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, Riverside. His areas of teaching include Mexican/Latino politics, Social Movements, American Politics, and contemporary issues.

Navarro has more than 28 years of experience in community organizing, and advocacy, dealing with local, state, national, and international social justice issues that affect Latinos. His previous books include Mexican American Youth Organizations, The Cristal Experience, and La Raza Unida Party.

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AN UNKNOWN HERO-ANDREW MELENDRÉZ

Continued from page 1

of four, Margie, Henry, and Vera. The parents, Aurelio Melendrez and Angela Soria Melendrez, passed away when the children were young, and as traditional in Hispanic families, the Pugno family, a cousin, took the responsibility of raising the siblings.

Melendrez attended Casablanca Elementary School and Chaffey High School. The 1929 depression was still ongoing, impacting the majority of families in every sector of the nation, more so in Mexican families who were in the lower economic level of the population, comparable to others.

Melendrez dropped out at the 7th grade due to the obvious economic needs. The family followed the "crops" throughout California, similarly like many thousands of families during this economic upheaval, picking oranges, grapes, cotton, and other field manual work. "Life in Casa Blanca was like normal small communities. Many of the families were poor, but were very tight, and many of the families were related. There was a close friendship with many of my friends that I grew up with, like Dario and Ysmael (Ysmael) Villegas, and we supported each other. I am still close to many of them," he said, reminiscing about friendships of many decades ago.

World War II started in December 8, 1941. In March 30, 1943, Melendrez was drafted into the service, receiving his basic training in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. In Camp Brackenbury, Kentucky, he received added training in heavy machine guns, rifle and pistol, and was assigned to the 75th Infantry Division. He was shipped out to England on June 26, 1944 and transferred to the 30th Division.

The 30th Division landed in France at Saint Lo on July, 1944, following the Normandy Invasion. While in that battle site, the Air Force inadvertently bombed the troops, and the 30th Division, against a strong contingency of SS and the French Fourragere.

Melendrez and his wife, Helen, are parents of Viola, Andy, and Rebecca, seven grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Andrew Melendrez retired from the Federal Government after 40 years.

"As a Mexican-American citizen, I was proud to fight for my country, just like many of my friends like Ysmael Villegas, who did not come back, and many others. This was the least we could do for this great country. We did our part without fanfare and is history now," Melendrez said proudly.

Andrew Melendrez is a member of the Ysmael Villegas VFW Post 184 and the DAV, San Bernardino.

Editor’s note: Ysmael Villegas, a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, posthumously.

Have you been touched by breast cancer? it helps to talk to someone who's been there before.

Inland Empire Hispanic News
Wednesday, February 4, 2009
AN EXTRA HAND FOR CANCER PATIENTS AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

(NAPS)—The American Cancer Society estimates that one in three Californians have served as an unpaid caregiver for someone with cancer, with 72 percent caring for an immediate family member. When providing care to a loved one battling cancer, support for the caregiver can be overlooked. Recognizing the demanding, exhausting and critical role caregiver’s play, the organization provides free services to assist patients and caregivers alike. The Society is professional resource that provides objective support to emotionally empower both patients and caregivers facing cancer.

By calling (800) ACS-2345, patients and caregivers can speak with specially trained staff who can guide them to services offered by the Society. The toll-free support line is available to offer information, day-to-day help and emotional support 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"Caring for my husband when he had cancer was often challenging because I wanted to provide the best care possible for him but was not sure how," said Mary Walters, Santa Barbara, who cared for her husband, Carter, a melanoma cancer survivor. "The services provided by the American Cancer Society gave me the information and support I needed to give Carter the Best possible care."

"I am so grateful that my husband had the American Cancer Society to rely on while caring for me during my cancer treatment and recovery," said Judy Blanco, Santa Barbara, a breast cancer survivor. "My treatment was a scary and exhausting time for both of us. Taking advantage of the support available helped us stay strong and enabled me to focus on my recovery."

The Society has information on more than 4,000 different resources and services available throughout California to assist caregivers who need help providing the best possible care. Free resources and programs for cancer patients, family members and caregivers include:

**Free Rides To And From Treatment**

Cancer patients usually are too exhausted to drive to treatment and their caregivers often have limited time during the day to help given their work responsibilities. Free transportation to and from treatment is available throughout the state. Appointments for pickup can be scheduled by calling the Society’s toll-free number.

**Support Groups and Services**

Support groups and services exist to ensure no one has to fight cancer or care for a loved one alone. The groups are designed to help men, women, children, parents, friends and caregivers cope with the emotional challenges caused by cancer.

**I Can Cope** is an educational program for people facing cancer, either personally or as a friend or family caregiver.

**Man to Man** is a program that helps men cope with prostate cancer by providing community-based education and support to patients and their family members.

**Reach to Recovery** is a one-on-one service that helps patients cope with breast cancer by sharing their experiences with other breast cancer survivors in a comfortable setting.

**Look Good...Feel Better** is a service that teaches female cancer patients beauty techniques to help restore their appearance and self-image during chemotherapy and radiation treatments.

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

(NAPS)—Americans love new gadgets, but many don’t know the first thing about fixing them. According to the Cyber Stress study conducted by Kelton Research, computer problems can waste up to 12 hours per month for the average American user.

Computer support technicians help people get back nearly 150 hours of valuable free time every year. It’s no wonder job growth for this field is expected to increase by 12 percent from 2006 to 2016, adding 71,000 jobs in the coming decade. A new Computer Support Technician (CST) program at many Kaplan Higher Education campuses across the country focuses on preparing individuals for this fast-growing field.

Computer support technicians are trained to diagnose and repair hardware problems and handle software applications. These professionals are also skilled in solving network security issues, a growing concern for many.

While companies may fill certain IT positions overseas, the higher-quality service from an in-person computer support technician is not a role that can be outsourced.

Students receive hands-on-training in a variety of computer repair and upgrade areas. Additionally, they learn how to create and maintain computer networks and work with a Linux Operating System. A thorough education in "soft skills" is increasingly required in today’s hiring market and emphasized throughout the program.

Kaplan Higher Education campuses also offer programs in allied health and nursing, criminal justice and legal studies, as well as business and trades. For more information about these and additional programs, visit www.khec.com.

**FIVE SMART TIPS FOR INVESTORS DURING A TIGHT ECONOMY**

**Individual Investors Can Still Find Smart Buys in Today’s Tough Economy**

(NAPS)—A slow economy could spell opportunity for those who invest wisely. According to experts, now’s the time to invest in companies that provide value to consumers and consistency to shareholders. To help you navigate today’s challenging financial environment, here are some tips:

1. **Apply “Warren Buffett’s Investment Principles.”** These include having a wide competitive advantage; well-known brands; track record of strong financial performance; excellent management; and understanding of the company’s products and services.

2. **Think global, buy local.** Look for companies with a global portfolio and robust growth opportunities outside the U.S. Smart companies with strong footholds in emerging markets such as China, India, Vietnam, South Africa and Middle East are best positioned to weather economic ups and downs.

3. **Buy what you know.** Invest in companies whose brands you know and trust with products you purchase regularly. When times are difficult and money is tight, how does your lifestyle change? For many people, finding everyday value and quality is the key, including a discount retailer or quick-service restaurant company such as Yum! Brands (NYSE: YUM), parent or Taco Bell (the No. 1 value restaurant in the U.S. with its Why Pay More! Value menu), Pizza Hut (value-priced Pizza Mia Pizza and Tuscani Pastas) and KFC. No matter what the economy, people still have to eat.

4. **Show me the money.** Look for companies with strong, consistent and growing cash flows because that’s a tangible reflection of the strength of the business. Cash can be used to reinvest for future growth or returned to shareholders through stock buybacks and dividends.

5. **Companies that reward shareholders.** Companies that increase shareholder value not only grow cash flow, but do so at a high return. Look for the highest ROICs (Return on Invested Capital) within the industry.

6. **Always consult your financial planner before investing.**

For more information Visit www.yum.com

Inland Empire Hispanic News

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

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HOMEOWNERS CAN CUT HOME ENERGY BILL AND FEDERAL TAXES WITH ENERGY EFFICIENCY HOME IMPROVEMENTS

http://www.energytaxincentives.org/consumers/

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. homeowners have a new opportunity to lower their energy costs and save up to $300 on their 2009 federal income taxes by making specified energy efficiency upgrades to their homes, advises the Tax Incentives Assistance Project (TIAP). (See www.energytaxincentives.org/consumers/ for details.)

"Thanks to a provision of the national financial rescue package enacted on October 3, 2008, consumers can once again get an income tax credit to help defray the cost of energy-saving home improvements," said Steve Nadel, executive director of the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), a TIAP founder. Improvements must be installed in 2009, improvements installed in 2008 are not eligible.

"We urge consumers to take advantage of the federal tax credits to make their homes more comfortable and affordable, as well as more environmentally friendly, through reducing energy waste," said Kateri Callahan, president of the Alliance to Save Energy, another TIAP founding organization.

The home improvement tax credits in effect for 2009 are as follows:

Building Envelope (See www.energytaxincentives.org/

consumers/insulation etc.php for details on qualifying products.)

• Insulation and sealing products - 10 percent of the cost, up to $500, of any new ENERGY STAR qualified windows (but not installation costs).

• Exterior doors and window films - 10 percent of the cost, up to $300.

• Windows, storm windows, and skylights - 10 percent of the cost, up to $200, of any new ENERGY STAR qualified windows (but not installation costs).

• Solar water heaters - up to $1,500.

• Stoves - up to $300 towards the purchase price, including installation costs.

• Furnaces and boilers - up to $150 for new high-efficiency gas, oil, and propane furnaces and boilers.

• Central air conditioners - up to $300 towards the purchase price, including installation costs.

• Exterior doors and window films - 10 percent of the cost, up to $300.

•Roofs - 10 percent of the cost, up to $500; for metal roofs with pigmented coatings or asphalt roofs with cooling granules that meet ENERGY STAR requirements.

• Central air conditioner, heat pump, water heater, or biomass (e.g., corn) stove - up to $300 towards the purchase price, including installation costs.

• Insulation and sealing products - 10 percent of the cost, up to $500; for metal roofs with pigmented coatings or asphalt roofs with cooling granules that meet ENERGY STAR requirements.

• Furnaces and boilers - up to $150 for new high-efficiency gas, oil, and propane furnaces and boilers.

• High-efficiency fans for heating and cooling systems - $50.

A new online service is designed to protect personal information in a centralized location—everything from medical records to family photos. Wells FargoSafe allows consumers to access copies of important personal documents in the event of a disaster or emergency. Learn more at www.wellsfargo.com

BOOK BANNED BY STANISLAUS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Stanislaus County school board voted to ban "Bless Me, Ultima," a celebrated piece of Chicano literature, from high school classrooms because it contains profanity.

"There was excessive vulgarity or profanity used throughout the book," said Rick Fauss, superintendent of the nearly 2,700-student Newman Crow's Landing Unified School District. "The context didn't make it acceptable." English teachers, the community, the ACLU and author Rudolfo Anaya are outraged by the 4-1 vote on Monday.

"What are these people afraid of?" said Anaya, 71. "We have ample evidence throughout history of what happens when we start banning books, when we are afraid of ideas and discussion and analytical thinking. The society will suffer." As trustees of the rural district weighed their ban, the 1972 coming-of-age novel was enjoying renewed popularity — it was chosen by the National Endowment for the Arts as part of its "Big Read" program, in which communities read the same book at the same time, and is also the literature selection for this year's Academic Decathlon. The book is also on former first lady Laura Bush's Top 10 Must Read List.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION-STATE OF EDUCATION SCHEDULED

Riverside County Superintendent of Schools Kenneth M. Young announced today that the Riverside County Office of Education will present the annual Riverside County State of Education Address in partnership with the Riverside County Workforce Development Board on Friday, February 6, 2009, at the Moreno Valley Conference and Recreation Center.

The State of Education Address will be hosted by the Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Moreno Valley Conference and Recreation Center is located at 14073 Frederick Street, Moreno Valley. The cost is $30 per person and includes lunch.

"We are very excited that we will have the Workforce Development Board as a partner for this event," Young said. "We have a great collaboration that benefits students, businesses and the community. We are happy to have them join us on this special day as we celebrate student achievement across this county."

Jamil Dada, Chairman of the Workforce Development Board, said support for this event with the Riverside County Office of Education because it offers resources for students to become successful in educational and employment fields.

"Today we are facing challenging times, but we know that with both entities' joint efforts along with the current administration's support, our students will continue to experience "Infinite Opportunity and Lasting Prosperity," Dada said.

Sponsors for the event include Altura Credit Union, Southern California Edison, the Gas Company, and Highland Fairview.

More than 350 education, business and community leaders are scheduled to attend. The event will highlight student achievement and outstanding education programs from different regions of the county, and will include an update on the impact of the current state budget impasse on schools.

The Gift

There was a blind girl who hated herself because she was blind. She hated everyone, except her loving boyfriend. He was always by her side in the most painful situations.

"What are these people afraid of?" she said. "They used to refuse to marry him."

Her boyfriend left in tears and days later wrote a note to her saying:

"When the bandages came off, she was able to see everything, including the people she used to disdain."

This is how the human brain often works when our status changes. We tend to refuse to marry him.

Her boyfriend left in tears and days later wrote a note to her saying:

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**Inland Empire Hispanic News**

**OPERATION RECOGNITION VETERANS DIPLOMA PROJECT SEEKING APPLICANTS**

SAN BERNARDINO - Veterans of San Bernardino County who missed graduating from high school because of their military service in World War II, the Korean War or the Vietnam War may be eligible to receive their high school diploma.

The Operation Recognition Veterans Diploma Project, offered in a partnership between the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools and the county's Department of Veterans Affairs, is accepting applications from veterans or family members of those who are deceased to award a high school diploma for those who meet the qualifications.

The application deadline is 4:30 p.m. on March 27, and there is no cost to apply. The only qualifications are that the individuals either served in the U.S. military during World War II, the Korean War or the Vietnam War and received an honorable discharge or were interned in a Japanese American relocation camp during World War II. The individuals also must reside in San Bernardino County or if they are deceased, a surviving family member that applies on their behalf must reside in the county.

Those who successfully apply will receive a diploma at a ceremony in the spring. Applicants will be notified regarding the date, time and location of the ceremony.

Applications are available through the County Schools' office, located at 601 N. E. St. in San Bernardino or can be downloaded off the County Schools' website at www.sbscs.k12.ca.us/vdp.

**HISPANICS AND THE NEW ADMINISTRATION: IMMIGRATION SLIPS AS A PRIORITY, LATINOS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT OBAMA**

A year and a half after a lengthy, often rancorous debate over immigration reform filled the chambers of a stalemated Congress, the issue appears to have regained importance among one of the groups most affected by it—Latinos.

Only three-in-ten (31%) Latinos rate immigration as an "extremely important" issue facing the incoming Obama administration, placing it sixth on a list of seven policy priorities that respondents were asked to assess in a nationwide survey of 1,007 Latino adults conducted from December 3 through December 10, 2008, by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center.

The top-rated issue among Latinos is the economy; some 57% of Latinos say it is an "extremely important" one for the new president to address. Looking forward, 54% of Latinos are optimistic about the incoming Obama administration. More than seven-in-ten (72%) say they expect Obama to have a successful first term. Looking back, Latinos offer a negative assessment of the outgoing Bush Administration. More than half (54%) of Latinos say that the failures of the Bush Administration will outweigh its successes. In comparison, 64% of the U.S. general population holds the same view.

The latest report from the Pew Hispanic Center also examines the ways Latinos were involved in the historic 2008 presidential campaign such as using the Internet to research a candidate, trying to persuade someone else to vote for or against a candidate or opening a discussion, displaying material or wearing clothing related to a political campaign. The report, Hispanics and the New Administration: Immigration Slips as a Priority, authored by Mark Hugo Lopez, Associate Director, and Gretchen Livingston, Senior Researcher, is available at the Pew Hispanic Center’s website, www.pewhispanic.org.

**PUBLIC NOTICE INVITING SEALLED BIDS (BIDS)**

**PERRIS GATEWAY PROJECT**

The City of Perris will receive sealed proposals (Bids) in City Hall, 101 North D Street, Perris, CA 92570, until 2:00 p.m. (PST) February 27, 2009 for the "Perris Gateway Project" (Spec. No. C-007-S-009 Fed. No. F49622-08-D-0051). The Closing date and time shall be simultaneous with the Bid Opening. The City of Perris, at its option, is extending the Bid Opening Date to March 12, 2009, for the Perris Gateway Project, and the Bid Closing Date and Time shall be extended accordingly.

All applicants for the Operation Recognition Veterans Diploma Project must have been enrolled in high school prior to their military service or internment in a World War II relocation camp.

On Feb. 2, the County Board of Education passed a resolution in support of Operation Recognition Veterans Diploma Project.

For assistance with verification of military service and/or discharge papers, contact the county's Department of Veteran Affairs at (866) 476-8387 or (909) 387-5516 or visit the department's website at http://hss.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/VA/

**DESPITE VOW, TARGET OF IMMIGRANT RAIDS SHIFTED**

By Nina Bernstein

chance during an operation - would not be counted in that percentage. But on Jan. 31, 2006, a new memo removed the requirement that many deportation orders were issued without the subject in court. That standard, too, was dropped nine months later. A new one repeated that "collateral apprehensions will not count" toward the 1,000 arrest quota.

But that standard, too, was dropped nine months later. A new memo from Mr. Torres said "nonfugitive arrests may now be included" to reach the required 1,000 arrests.

One result was an increase in the percentage of noncriminals held in immigration detention. Another, the Migration Policy Institute report concluded, was that the percentage of criminal fugitives arrested plummeted, to 9 percent in the year that ended Sept. 30, 2007, from 39 percent in the 2004 fiscal year.

That same year, 15,643, or 51 percent of those arrested, had an outstanding deportation order, but no criminal record.

The report said the program relied on a database riddled with errors, and that many deportation orders were issued without the subject in court.

"continuing with public works-engineering administration division."

"minimal and prevailing wages: this is federal assisted project and the highest of the two"
REUNIÓN PÚBLICA
Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) y Southern California Edison (SCE) le invitan a la exhibición pública para aprender más del Proyecto de con Fiabilidad de Transmisión de Riverside.
Jueves, 12 de Febrero, 2009
Jurupa Community Services District Board Room
11201 Harrel St.
Mira Loma, California 91752
5 pm – 8 pm
Este proyecto propuesto incluirá construcción de líneas nueva transmisión de 230 y 69 kilovoltios (kV), mejoramientos estaciones secundaria existentes de 69 kV, una nueva estación secundaria de 230 kV, y una estación secundaria de 69 kV.
Visite a www.riversidepublicutilities.com o llame 951-710-5013 para más información.

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Take Metrolink this weekend for an international adventure — no passport required.
Metrolink has special weekend rates* that let you satisfy your craving for adventure without emptying your wallet. So go ahead — enjoy the weekend delights of Olvera Street or Chinatown. With the right attitude, you could do both in one day!

New County recruitments this week:
Assistant Director of Behavioral Health
$113,335.20 - $144,934.40 annually
Liability Claims Representative
$46,820.80 - $59,758.40 annually
Public Health Chief Financial Officer
$102,606.40 - $131,331.20 annually
San Bernardino County HR
157 W. Fifth St
San Bernardino
(909)387-8304
www.sbcounty.gov/hr
EEO/ADA Compliant

Take Metrolink this weekend for an international adventure — no passport required.
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• www.olvera-streel.com
• www.chinatownla.com
• www.sanbag.ca.gov/metrolinkadventures

Weekend Brunch: Ensenada or Beijing?
Decisions, Decisions....
Find out how children 5 and under can ride free!
Learn more at these web sites:
• www.metrolinktrains.com
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Save green.
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