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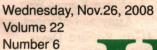
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SHARE THANKSGIVING WITH A FAMILY LESS FORTUNATE



HISPANIC NEWS

The Inland Empire's only Hispanic-owned English language newspaper

San Bernardino • Riverside • Colton • Rialto • Fontana • Moreno Valley
Ontario • Corona • Bloomington • Rancho Cucamonga • Highland • Redlands

USHCC APPLAUDS THE UNANIMOUS ELECTION OF NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ AS CHAIR OF THE CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS



WASHINGTON, DC - The United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) applauds Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez (D-NY) on her election to lead the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) during the 111th Congress. Congresswoman Velázquez is a proven leader who will continue to bring Hispanic small business issues to the forefront. On behalf of the Hispanic business community and in recognition of her many efforts, the USHCC awarded Velázquez the annual Chairman's Award earlier in 2008.

"The USHCC is honored to have the opportunity to expand its already significant collaborations with Congresswoman Velázquez, a leader who is dedicated to increasing opportunities for the Hispanic community," said David C. Lizárraga, USHCC Chairman of the Board. "As the leading advocate for the nearly 3 million Hispanicowned businesses in our nation, our organization will be committed to working with Chairwoman Velázquez during the upcoming Congress to address the foreclosure crisis, education and healthcare reform, small business programs and the many other issues critical to the Hispanic community."

Congresswoman Velázquez was first elected to Congress in 1992 and has consistently established herself as a pioneer for the Hispanic community and Latinas in particular. Since first arriving in Congress, she has been an active member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus serving as both Chair and Vice-Chair of the Economic Development Task Force.

She was the first Puerto Rican woman ever elected to Congress and was the first Latina ever to chair a full committee in the House of Representatives when she assumed the role of Chairwoman of the House Small Business Committee, where she has built consensus and converted ideas into legislative action.

"As a nation, we are undoubtedly facing challenging economic times," said Augustine Martinez, USHCC President and CEO. "Hispanics need strong leaders, such as Congresswoman Velázquez, to help press forward the tremendous purchasing power and political influence we hold to help restore our economy and improve the welfare of our community."

Velázquez was born in Puerto Rico, the first in her family to receive a B.A. at the University of Puerto Rico, and M.A. in Political Science at New York University. She was a professor for many years, first at the University of Puerto Rica and later at New York's Hunter College. In 1983, Velázquez was appointed special assistant to Representative Edolphus Towns, and in 1984, she was the first Latina appointed to serve as a member of the New York City Council.

A LIFELONG TRIBUTE TO A MOTHER -THE ALICIA OREJEL STORY

A mother's dedication to her family was the inspiration for a daughter to excel in her profession



Alice Orejel-a partner in the accounting firm Ahern-Adcock-Devlin LLP. Photo by IFHN

On May 1, 2008, Alicia Orejel became a partner of Ahern Adcock Devlin LLP, CPA's, a prestigious longtime professional service firm in Riverside, with a historical professional background in taxation

and auditing expertise serving varied industries, businesses and individuals throughout the Inland Empire and Southern California.

For Orejel, the achievement to become a partner had been a longterm professional goal: working while attending college, attaining a permanent position after an internship, diligently working and developing both audit and tax technical skills, and throughout the years, dedicating long hours that are demanded to professionally excel in the highly skilled details of financial statement audits of healthcare, manufacturing, not-for-profits, retail and other entities while at the same time preparing complicated tax returns for corporations, partnerships, estates, trusts, and other entities, as well as a myriad of responsibilities

Continue on page 3

A PERMANENT DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY

Hispanic voters played a pivotal role in this election. If current trends continue, they may turn other parts of the country as blue as they just turned New Mexico.

By Alex Koppelman-Noverber 13, 2008

Publisher's note: this article is a critical analysis of the recent presidential election on November 4, and the impact of the Hispanic vote nationwide and specific states. Due to the extensive valid analysis, IEHN is publishing the article in two parts: Part II is scheduled to be published on December 10 issue.

Part I

Over the past eight years, as much of the country went firmly into either the red corner or the blue corner, New Mexico remained doggedly purple. In 2000, two of the state's three U.S. representatives were Republicans, as were its governor and one of its senators. But both houses of the state Legislature were run by Democrats, and Al Gore squeaked past George W. Bush in November, with a margin of

fewer than 400 votes. Four years later, Democrat Bill Richardson won the governorship, but Bush <u>captured</u> New Mexico's five electoral votes, again by a small margin.

This year New Mexico didn't deliver any mixed messages. On Nov. 4, Democrats dominated at every level. Barack Obama beat John McCain, Tom Udall took an open Senate seat that had been Republican, and Martin Heinrich and Harry Teague took two formerly Republican House seats. And every one of them won in a landslide, with margins of 10 percent or more; Obama prevailed by 15 points, Udall by 22. New Mexico is now bright blue, with Democrats in nearly every elected statewide office, control of the state House and Senate, and an all Continue on page 5

RCOE AWARDS HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS TO VETERANS



Veterans from WWII, Korea and Vietnam-era wars salute during Operation Recognition at the Riverside County Office of Education, which honors veterans with high school diplomas they missed due to military service.

The Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) awarded high school diplomas to 17 veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam-era wars, noting their sacrifice and service in its annual Operation Recognition Ceremony.

The program allows veterans and internees to receive diplomas in recognition of their service to their country. The program is sponsored by the RCOE with assistance from the Riverside County Department of Veteran's Services.

"I know that many of you had lost all hope of ever completing your formal

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high school education and receiving your diploma," said Kenneth M. Young, Riverside County Superintendent of Schools. "Today, we are going to take care of that in this special ceremony where the public education community is embracing the veteran community in thanking and recognizing each of you for the sacrifices you made years ago to forego your education to serve our country."

RCOE has awarded 163 diplomas since beginning the program to honor veterans last year, and the date of the ceremony was changed from May to

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO DO CRIME INVESTIGATING FIELD STUDY

students from Bloomington and Pacific high schools will work with the San Bernardino County Sheriff Department's Scientific Investigations Unit to do a field study on blood pattern interpretation on Dec. 5.

Sheriff's Education program.

with business, labor, government, faithbased and community leaders, who develop and demonstrate authentic applications of math in the workplace to students in the classroom or at business or industry sites.

Investigations Unit will lead the demonstration of the field study on Dec. 5 at the County Sheriff headquarters at 655 E. Third St. The media is invited to attend.

WHEN: Dec. 5, 8:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. WHERE: San Bernardino County the week of Veterans Day.

Superintendent Young was joined in the ceremony by State Senator Bob Dutton; William Earl, Director of the Riverside County Department of Veteran's Services; and Riverside County Board of Education Members Lynne Craig and Adolfo Mediano, families and friends that watched veterans step forward as their names were called to receive diplomas and have their picture snapped in a "class photo." The honorees included:

Veterans receiving high school diplomas:

Miguel L. Aguirre - Army, Vietnam War; James Lloyd Allen - Army, Korean War; John Clifford Beecher -Navy, Vietnam War, Peter Joseph

Brabant - Navy, Korean War; Victor Herman Crow - Air Force, Korean War; David F. Curle -Army and Marines, Korean War; Harry Edward Davis -World War II; Jerry Hollister - Army, Korean War; Ronald A. Lozonne -World War II; Darrell R. Olson -Marines, Vietnam War; Milton Oran Peterson - Navy during World War II; Gerald Richard Sheldon - Army, Vietnam War; John Melvin Single -Navy, World War II; John Edwin Snope; Army, World War II; Edwin M. Solter - Navy, Korean War; LeRoy Wahl - Navy, World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War; and Louis Bernard Weckmann; Navy, Vietnam

GOV. NAPOLITANO MEANS SERIOUS LEADERSHIP AT HELM OF DHS Pragmatism and humanity will aid her handling of immigration

LOS ANGELES, CA: The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA), one of the oldest immigrant rights organizations in the county, lauded reports that Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano is the choice to serve as Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary in the Obama Administration, pending confirmation by Congress.

"Governor Napolitano will bring common sense and humanity to a department badly in need of overhaul," stated Angélica Salas, CHIRLA Executive Director.

'We applaud the naming of Governor Napolitano to the key post of DHS secretary at a critical time when Americans have lost trust in their government's ability to follow and respect the Constitution. She is a serious and pragmatic legislator who has enough experience on the ground to deal with major policy issues, including immigration, national security, the economy, and emergency management."

"Immigration, now under DHS, will require a leader that is caring and courageous in order to treat immigrants living and working in this country justly and fairly and also overhaul a system of broken, inhumane, and impractical laws. As a border-state governor, she will bring frontline experience and have the opportunity to voice the need for immigration reform legislation, including stopping the ICE raids," added Ms. Salas.

SAN BERNARDINO, CA - Some 70

The purpose of the event is to demonstrate real-world applications for trigonometry. The demonstration is made in partnership between the County office and County Superintendent of Schools' Alliance for

The Alliance for Education partners

Craig Ogino of the Scientific

WHAT: County Sheriff's Scientific Investigations Unit field study with high school students

Sheriff's Headquarters, 655 E. Third St. in San Bernardino

A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR BLINDED **VETERANS**

(NAPS) - There's promising news for American veterans of conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan who have lost part or all of their sight.

That's because there's a host of services available that provide educational programs, career options, emotional support and technology designed to improve their quality of life.

While thousands have already been helped, an organization called Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) believes even more individuals could e receiving

According to the organization's executive director, Tom Miller, of the estimated 165,000 veterans who are blinded as a result of disease or agerelated factor, only about a third are aware of resources available to them.

Recently, it created Operation Peer Support. In the project, blinded veterans of past wars interact with newly blinded veterans to help them adjust to new challenges.

To learn more, visit www.bva.org.

S.B. DEMOCRATIC LUNCHEON CLUB

San Bernardino Democratic Luncheon Club of San Bernardino meets at noon on Fridays at Democratic Headquarters, 136 Carousel Mall (near the central glass elevator-lower level). Questions regarding the Democratic Club call Nancy White at (909) 793-6229. Visitors welcomed.

Following is a schedule of speakers:

Nov 28 Dark for Holiday

Dec 5 John Barry, MS, Director of Public Relations, The Art Institute of CA-Inland Empire

Dec 10 Exec Board Meeting, 2nd Wed eve at 6:30 pm at Marie Callendars, 800 E Highland Ave. SB

Dec 12 Nominations for Club Officers

Dec 19 Election and Pot Luck

Dec 26/Jan2 Dark for Holidays Website: www.sbdems.com

Telephone (909) 381-6259 (909) 384-0419 Fax Email: hispanicnews@verizon.net

Office:

1558-D North Waterman San Bernardino, CA 92404 Continued from page 1 A LIFELONG TRIBUTE TO A MOTHER -THE ALICIA OREJEL STORY

A mother's dedication to her family was the inspiration for a daughter to excel in her profession



The Carmen Orejel family: (I to r) Carmen Orejel, Gloria Gomez, Alex Orejel, Josie Leos-Vargas, Carmen P. Orejel, mother, Alicia Orejel, Lorenzo Orejel, Martha Guerrero, and Rosie Orejel.

associated with a full service CPA

"I have worked extremely hard in a career that I had chosen and enjoyed since early youth and in which I am proud to have reached a successful point in my profession to be recognized as a partner. I am not proud for myself, but for my hero, Carmen P. Orejel-my mother, my role model, my inspiration and the motivation for my success" Orejel said in a statement, "I was fortunate to have inherited her drive, ambition, thoughtfulness, and intelligence. She was a generous person who dedicated her entire life for the benefit of her children."

Carmen P. Orejel's family background was one of poverty, sacrifice, and humiliation, which unfortunately occurred repeatedly in Mexico at that time.

Orejel's father died before Carmen was born. Her mother, a young widow with four children, sent her to live with relatives after she was born. As a young lady, Carmen was reunited with her mother's family after her step-father passed away.

Carmen's family married her at the young age of 14 and the newly-married couple moved from Mexico City D.F. to (then) Cucamonga, and began working.

The beatings began thereafter as children were born. Before long, Carmen was pregnant with the seventh child and the oldest was not yet ten years old. The domestic violence had been continuous throughout the pregnancies, as did the husband's adulterous incidents, often lasting for days.

After enduring years of abuse and repeatedly lacking basic living necessities, Carmen left her husband and moved to San Bernardino with her six children, pregnant with the seventh child. She never looked back, knowing that this courageous act was for her children's well-being.

The family existed for several years on public assistance. The father at one time attempted to kidnap three of the children, including Alicia, threatening to send them to Mexico. He had become a successful

businessman and hid his assets to deny support for his children.

Carmen worked hard to support her children, at times holding two jobs to make ends meet. The family was stigmatized for economic reasons, the children were discriminated due to their lack of English competency, and their Christmas gifts often came from charitable organizations.

"We were deprived of extended families, no grandparents, aunts or uncles, and certainly not a father, only my brothers and sisters, and the love, devotion and stability of my mother," she said.

Carmen was dedicated to her responsibility in raising her children, ensuring that they attended school and instilling strong Catholic traditions and values, which are very evident in their everyday life to the present time.

Under these unendurable circumstances, Alicia Orejel turned to school, excelling in math, becoming a voracious reader, often receiving advanced assignments at higher grade levels. In high school, Alicia joined the National Honor Society, California Scholarship Federation and MECHA.

Due to the lack of adequate high school counseling, Alicia went to a business school and received an A. S. Degree, non-transferable to a university. Bored with a bookkeeping job, she went to Chaffey College and after two years transferred to CalState, San Bernardino, receiving a B. S. in Accounting, and continued her education at the graduate school for

Thanksgiving Day is a jewel, to set in the hearts of honest men; but be careful that you do not take the day, and leave out the gratitude.

~E.P. Powell



Michael Adcock, partner in Ahern-Adcock-Devlin LLP congratulates Alicia Orejel on becoming the firm's newest partner. *Photo* by IEHN

an MBA with a concentration in Taxation.

While in graduate school, she took the State CPA exam and passed prior to finishing the graduate program!

Alicia was hired by BR Sharp and Company in Riverside, performing financial statement audits and soon after specialized in complicated tax returns due to her graduate degree in taxation

She also worked for other auditing firms for five years, later returning to BR Sharp and Company, which is now Ahern Adcock Devlin LLP.

Carmen, Alicia's mother, found happiness many years later. She was blessed with the last born, a little girl named Josie who later cared for her mother until the day of her death. Carmen passed away at age 62, knowing that she fulfilled her responsibilities of raising her children.

Alicia Orejel is active in her community and professional groups: Community Foundation of San Bernardino and Riverside, Cal-State, San Bernardino Accounting Advisory Board, Hispanic Education Assistance Fund, Inland Empire Scholarship Fund, Inland Temporary Homes, American Institute of CPA's, California Society of CPA's, Estate Planning Council of Riverside County. Other interests include political campaigning and future

plans running for elective office.

"My achievements were due to the inspiration provided by my mother and the love and support of my husband, Michael Rodriguez, and my loving family," Alicia Orejel said. Her husband and she provide a home for a niece and her mother.

Alicia was part of our firm merger in 1995. In 1997, she was employed by another CPA firm. I did not know what her loss was until she rejoined our firm in 2002. Since then, she is an important asset to our firm, referred to as a "generalist," accomplished at both audit and taxes. We, at Ahern Adcock Devlin are fortunate to have Alicia working with us, and I am proud to be her partner. Thomas E. Ahern, CPA, Managing Partner

The Orejel Family

Carmen P. Orejel -Mother of 8, worked 15 years in the housekeeping department of St. Bernardine's Medical Center. During her last years of working, she was actively involved in bringing SEIU, the service employees union, to St. Bernardine's Medical Center with the assistance of Congressman Joe Baca; Carmen Orejel - Executive Assistant, Congressman Joe Baca; Martha Guerrero - Supervising Office Assistant, San Bernardino County Transitional Assistance Department; Rosie Orejel -Legal Processing Assistant II, San Bernardino County Superior Court; Alicia Orejel, CPA, MBA - Partner Ahern Adcock Devlin LLP; Lorenzo Orejel -Truck Driver, McLanes Southern California; - Alex Orejel - Manager, WalMart Stores; Gloria Gomez - Crime Prevention Officer, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department; Josie Leos-Vargas - Access Center Counselor, Loma Linda University Health Care Services



CONGRESSMAN BACA'S ANNUAL COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARDS DINNER



Congressman Joe Baca held the Annual Community Leadership Award at the Hilton Hotel, San Bernardino Pictured above are program participants and Award Recipients: John Chang, California State Controller and guest speakers, Dr. Barbara Flores, Jeff Valdez, Founder-Si TV, and master of ceremonies, Ray Abril, Frances J. Grice, Congressman Joe Baca, Patty Taylor and Pastor Emory James. Roberta Shouse was not present. *Photo by IEHN*

Congressman Joe Baca celebrated the traditional Community Leadership Awards Dinner at the Hilton Hotel, San Bernardino attended by elected officials, union representatives, educators, community and political activists.

The event's master of ceremonies was Jeff Valdez, founder of Si TV and chairman of Que Pasa.com. Keynote speaker was John Chiang, California State Controller.

Congressman Baca announced the Annual Community Leadership Award recipients:

Patty Taylor

Patty Taylor received a B. A. from the University of Redlands with a teaching credential, and M. A. at Cal-State, San Bernardino in School Counseling, and has been a teacher and counselor for the San Bernardino School district for 25 years. She is an advocate for the California Teachers Association on student support services including nurses, counselors, psychologists, and social workers and liaison to the California Pupil

Services Coalition; in addition as CTA representative in Washington D.C. on educational issues.

Dr. Barbara Flores

Dr. Barbara Flores, CSUSB professor for 28 years, is known in the Inland Empire as a Latina scholastic activist, teaching educator, and children's literature writer. She also is an international expert in areas of bilateral development, teaching/learning based on Vygotsky's sociocultural theoretical framework, professional staff development, and bilingual education. Flores is a sought-after lecturer and has spoken throughout the United States, Central and South America, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia.

She is past president of the National Association of Bilingual Education.

Roberta Shouse

Roberta Shouse, Director of the Legal Aid Society of the City and County of San Bernardino, is a strong advocate for the rights of women, children, and those in poverty and who have faced injustices. She is affiliated with numerous agencies: the National Women's Political Caucus, Planned Parenthood, State/County Commission on Status of Women, Business and Professional Women, League of Women Voters, Democratic Clubs, among others. In 1993, Shouse was awarded the "Ten Who Make a Difference" by the San Bernardino Sun, and in 1994, the Foundation on the Improvement of Justice Awards. Frances J. Grice

Frances J. Grice, CEO of ADR Networking Consultancy Inc., has an extensive background in community advocacy and development of outreach programs and services to the public, private, and business sector in the Inland Empire since 1960. She has provided innovative models and programs to enhance quality of life to the community through community economic development. She has, in addition, provided a liaison of national and state agency officials with businesses/residents to establishing working relationships that have created local economic incentives. Grice has a myriad of notable partnership accomplishments: California Public Utility Commission, California Public School Construction, Women in Leadership, Senior Advocacy, Edison/Public Purpose, among many others. She is the recipient of numerous presidential awards and commendations from state and local officials.

Pastor Emory B. James Jar.

Emory B. James Jr. graduating from Dorsey High School in 1970. He received a B.A. in Home Economics on Restaurant and Business Administration from Cal-State, Northridge, attended Fuller Theological Seminary and Southern California School of Prophets. He is currently enrolled at Colorado Technical University on an Executive MBA Program. James founded Ephesians New Testament Church, serving for 23 years. He previously served at the United Hoy Church of American since 1974 in various capacities: District YPHA Present, General Assistant, Corresponding Secretary-Bible School, and Young Peoples Holy Association with the Original United Holy Church. He was Assistant to the Bishop of the Central Pacific District Convocation, among other religious positions.

Ray Abril, Jr.

Ray Abril, Jr. graduated from Colton High School in 1950. He and his wife, Hortensia, married for 53 years, are the parents of six children, 19 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. Mrs. Abril recently passed away. Dedicated to the education of children, Abril served in the Colton School District for 28 years, and has served on various organizations: California School Board Association, San Bernardino County Gangs and Drug Task Force and Colton-Redlands-Yucaipa Regional Occupational Program. He is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, San Bernardino County Education Medal of Honor, and has received recognition from the Blood Bank of San Bernardino/ Riverside Counties and San Bernardino County Coroner's Public Guardian Department.

GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ANNOUNCES \$15 MILLION IN JOB TRAINING GRANTS TO ASSIST LAID-OFF WORKERS IMPACTED BY ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced that \$15 million in job training grants will be directed to those regions of California hardest hit by the economic downturn. This is in addition to previous announcement of \$18.4 million in job grants designated to help veterans, many of them returning from war in Iraq and Afghanistan, transition into highwage, high-growth civilian occupations utilizing the skills they learned in the military.

"Not only will these grants provide job training and placement to those hardest hit by the economic downturn, but they will help stimulate our economy when we need it the most," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "These job grants are an important part of our wideranging efforts to get our state's economy back on track – and get

Californians back to work."

San Bernardino County will be allocated \$109,665 to be applied to the County's Workforce Department.

The Governor has authorized \$8 million in Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Funds via direct grants to 15 regions of California that have the highest percentage increase of unemployed job seekers (chart below). These grants will provide education, training, and job placement assistance to people who are out of work as a result of the economic downturn.

and 4) Alameda County will receive \$900,000 to serve workers laid off recently by Mervyns Department Stores and E-Loan.

Governor Schwarzenegger recently called a special session of the legislature and announced an action plan to get our budget back on track,

invigorate our economy and generate jobs for the state's unemployed. His prescription is full of specific actions to generate jobs, keep jobs and businesses that are tempted to leave in California and lure those that have left back to the Golden State. The major elements of the Governor's plan are workplace reforms to assist California businesses and put an end to costly lawsuits and clearing regulations in order to push specific funding that is already "in the pipeline" out into the economy sooner.

Elements of the Governor's plan to stimulate employment in our state include:

- Accelerating hospital construction to inject approximately \$160 million into California's economy.
 - · Pushing out and expediting

infrastructure bond monies to create jobs and help unemployed residential construction workers in the hardest hit areas of the state get trained in a new type of construction.

- Keeping high paying jobs in California by providing overtime exemptions and allowing more flexible work schedules to increase productivity.
- Clarifying meal and rest periods to save businesses hundreds of millions of dollars in litigation costs and create less confusion from meal break violations which will mean fewer terminations.
- Reducing barriers to publicprivate partnerships and "designbuild" agreements to enable more infrastructure to be built better, faster and cheaper and generate more jobs during the housing downturn.

THE GIFT OF GOOD HEALTH

By Grace-Marie Turner-Galen Institute

Seniors currently enrolled in Medicare Part D should carve out time to consider whether they want to stay with their current prescription drug plan.

From now through the end of the year, Medicare is holding its annual "open enrollment" period for Part D. During this time, eligible seniors can sign-up or change plans. Seniors can compare their current coverage with others among the many competing Medicare drug plans, decide whether to stay with their current coverage or switch to another plan that may offer lower premiums or more coverage options.

There's just one plan for everyone, Medicare Part D is structured so that insurance companies must compete for customers. Knowing that beneficiaries have the option to switch means that insurers have to make their plans attractive or they will lose customers. The record shows that this results in more choices and lower costs.

According to government officials, the average monthly premium next year for the standard plan will be just \$28.

Every senior who is enrolled should be sure to seize this once-ayear opportunity to review their coverage.

Seniors can review through Medicare's website at www.Medicare.gov; using the "Medicare Plan Finder," seniors can compare plans based on price, drug coverage, and out-of-pocket expenses.

Seniors can also use the Plan Finder to compare the cost of filling a prescription their local pharmacy versus a mail-order drug store.

Seniors without web access can always call 1-800-Medicare and speak with a customer service representative who will talk them through their choices.

Medicare's open-enrollment period ends on December 31, so seniors should act fast to check their options and make sure they're enrolled in the most-affordable plan that best suits their needs.

Grace-Marie Turner can be contacted at P.O. Box 320010, Alexandria, VA, or at turner@galen.org

HECTOR ELIZONDO: CARING FOR A LOVED ONE WITH ALZHEIMER'S DEMENTIA

(NAPS) – For Emmy Award-winning actor Hector Elizondo, the challenges of caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's dementia are very personal. In the 1960's, Elizondo's mother was afflicted with Alzheimer's dementia, a degenerative disease that alters the brain, causing impaired thinking, memory and attention.

For Elizondo's father, the primary caregiver, taking care of his wife was a 24/7 commitment. Although the family was willing to do whatever it took to care for Hector's mother, the demands, coupled with unpredictable days, were physically exhausting. Back then, there weren't any treatment options to help with the worsening of Elizondo's mother's symptoms. The lack of caregiver support resources brought emotional chaos and physical exhaustion to Elizondo's father, and his health eventually declined.

"While my family had nowhere to turn, it is important for today's caregivers to recognize that they now have access to medical treatments, educational information resources that can help," said Elizondo. "I encourage caregivers to visit www.CaringFor Alz.com, on online resources from Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, for information that can provide answers to common caregiver challenges. The resources may also offer stability to those caring for loved ones with mild to moderate Alzheimer's dementia, and put them in touch with a community of caregivers so they know they are not alone."

Today, more than 5 million

Americans have Alzheimer disease, many of whom are in the mild o moderate state of the disease. Additionally, nearly 10 million Americans provide unpaid care for a person with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia. As the disease can present unpredictable challenges on a daily -or even hourly- basis, caring for a person with Alzheimer's dementia is often very difficult. However, while medical treatment options did not exist in the 1960s, recent advances may help today's patients.

"Fortunately, today, patients have access to the latest medical treatments, such as the Exelon Patch (rivastigmine transdermal system) which is the first and only skin patch for the treatment of mild to moderate Alzheimer's dementia," said Dr. Gus Alva, director of ATP Clinical Research in Costa Mesa, Cal. "By providing continuous delivery of rivastigmine over 24 hours, Exelon Patch represents a different treatment option for people with mild to moderate Alzheimer's dementia."

For more information about caring for a loved one with mild to moderate Alzheimer's dementia and treatment options, visit www.CaringFor Alz.com.

Emmy Award-winning actor Hector Elizondo has appeared in more than 80 motion pictures and made-for-TV movies, as well critically acclaimed TV series such as "Chicago Hope" and "Cane". He is currently featured in the Golden Glove Award-winning USA Network series "Monk."

A PERMANENT DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY

Continued from page 1

Democratic congressional delegation.

What happened? The longpromised, Latino realignment may have become reality. Coveted by Karl Rove, courted by George W. Bush, the fastest-growing sector of the American electorate stampeded toward the Democrats this November. New Mexico is only the most striking symbol of a nationwide trend that helped flip as many as seven states and 85 electoral votes into Obama's column. Latinos formed their largest share ever of the national electorate, 9 percent, and their numbers are poised to increase in every election to come. They also voted by their largest margin ever for the Democrats, 67 to 31 percent. If that pattern continues, the GOP is doomed to 40 years of wandering in a desert. (Editor's emphasis)

In some of the purple and red states conquered by Obama last week, the degree to which Hispanic votes determined the outcome can be debated. Not in New Mexico. The bluing of New Mexico can be attributed almost solely to a change in the behavior of one demographic bloc. "If you look at the numbers, you'd have to say that it is because of the Latino vote," Cuauhtemoc "Temo" Figueroa, the Obama campaign's Latino vote director, says.

"When you talk about New Mexico politics, it's not an afterthought, it's not an addendum, it is the discussion."

By 2008, the Hispanic share of the electorate had increased by a third, to 41 percent, and voters in the demographic were much more Democratic, going 69-30 for Obama over McCain.

That change by itself can account for almost all of Obama's advantage in the state, especially since the white vote stayed essentially the same (though whites' share of the electorate was down by 7 percentage points) and the African-American population is small. It also means that the Hispanic share of the New Mexico electorate finally approaches the Hispanic share of the state population, which is 42 percent.

Experts who spoke to Salon also credited the Hispanic vote with delivering Colorado and Nevada to Obama. Nevada's Hispanic margins for Obama were especially lopsided, at 76 to 24, according to exit polls.

Fernand Amandi, executive vice president of Bendixen & Associates, a firm known for its polling of Hispanics, says that even Obama's wins in Indiana, North Carolina and Virginia should be credited to this demographic cohort. Figueroa doesn't wholly disagree — he says

A PERMANENT DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY

that the Hispanic vote was "pivotal" in Indiana and "pivotal and determinative" in Virginia.

But the <u>numbers</u> were most striking in Florida, because of the history and unique nature of Florida's Latino electorate. For years, the state's Hispanic community was dominated by Cuban exiles, the devout Republicans crucial to the GOP's hold on the state's rich trove of electoral votes. This year, for the first time since such things began to be measured in the 1980s.

Florida's Hispanics voted for a Democrat for president and in large numbers too. In 2004, they went for Bush 56-44. This year, the result was almost the exact opposite; Obama took the community's vote, 57-42,

and won the state.

Amandi says this change was the "largest swing of any demographic group in the country." He attributes it to the "rise of the non-Cuban Hispanic vote," an influx of people from other countries moving to Florida. (The Obama campaign made a special effort in the Orlando area, the center of the state's Puerto Rican community, a reliably Democratic bloc.) And as the exile generation ages and dies, the Cuban community is becoming less Republican too, Amandi says. Both trends bode poorly for the GOP's prospects in a swing state with 27 electoral votes.

A PERMANENT DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY-part 2 will be published on November 26, 2008.

COORDINATED HEALTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE AVAILABLE TO COUNTY SCHOOLS

SAN BERNARDINO - School districts throughout San Bernardino County will have the opportunity to take part in the Coordinated School Health Leadership Institute, which would help streamline comprehensive coverage of health issues for all students and decrease disparities among high-risk students.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O¹Connell will attend a meeting with county district superintendents on Nov. 20 in San Bernardino to unveil how the Health Leadership Institute will work.

"We look forward to this opportunity to encourage and assist our districts in finding strategies to decrease the health disparities for our students and provide the best opportunity to reach their academic potential and be healthy productive members of our community," O¹Connell wrote in a letter to the district superintendents.

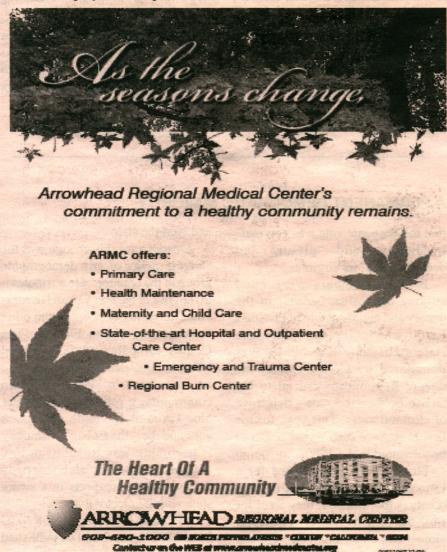
Under the Coordinated School Health Leadership Institute, county districts would apply to be accepted into the program with the goal of being able to provide better coordinated student health programs. The model includes the following components: health education; physical education; school health services; psychological and counseling services; nutrition services; employee health promotion;

environmental health and safety; and family and community involvement.

"This is a win-win situation for our schools, families and all students who attend public schools in San Bernardino County,² County Superintendent Gary Thomas said. "This should improve the well-being of students, which in turn, will help them in their academic achievement."

The San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools is partnering with the California Department of Education and the American Cancer Society to provide the training for the Coordinated School Health Leadership Institute. Trainings are scheduled to begin in March.

There is evidence that shows the positive impact of one or more components of the coordinated school health program on student health and learning outcomes. School administrators report (McKenzie and Richmond, 1998) that coordinating health initiatives resulted in: reduced absenteeism; fewer classroom behavior problems; improved academic performance; greater interest in healthy diets; increased participation in fitness activities; delayed onset of certain health risk behaviors; less smoking among students and staff; and lower rates of teen pregnancy.



LOCAL STUDENT ACCEPTED TO HOUSE PAGE PROGRAM



Sally Phang, left, with her parents, was selected to be part of the House of Representatives Spring 2009 Page Program. Phang, who has an excellent academic record, proven leadership and community involvement, was selected by Congressman Joe Baca. *Photo by Congressman Baca's Office*

WASHINGTON, DC - San Bernardino resident and high school student Sally Phang was accepted to the U.S. House of Representatives Spring 2009 Page Program. As a Page, Sally will assist Members of Congress with their legislative duties and help prepare the House floor for sessions of Congress. " T h e education of bright young minds through the U.S. Congressional Page program has been a tradition in the House of Representatives for nearly 200 years," said Rep. Baca. "I am proud to welcome an extremely dedicated and intelligent individual like Sally to this prestigious program, and I know she will represent her family, her school, and her community well in the Halls of Congress."

High school juniors with a GPA of 3.0 or higher in core academic subjects may apply to work as Pages in the U.S. House of Representatives

for a fall or spring appointment. While serving the House, Pages live in Washington D.C., at the Page Residence Hall, a few blocks away from the Capitol. During the academic year, Pages attend classes at the House Page School.

Pages must be sponsored by a Member of Congress and be at least sixteen years old on the date they begin their term. A junior at Arroyo Valley High School in San Bernardino, Sally gained acceptance into the Page program because of her excellent academic record and her proven leadership skills and community involvement.

"The Page program provides a valuable opportunity and learning experience to many young people across our nation," concluded Rep. Baca. "I look forward to Sally's involvement in the program and welcome her to Washington D.C."

CONGRESSMAN BACA TO ASSIST TROOPS-INVITES PUBLIC TO SUPORT EFFORT

SAN BERNARDINO, CA.- As a veteran, Congressman Joe Baca knows what it is like to be in harms way far away from home during the holiday season, missing family and friends, and often without the small, simple things that can make military service more tolerable. Simple things like new razor blades, a fresh bar of soap, home-made cookies, batteries, or fresh, clean socks can often remind servicemen and women of home and just may make that day of service go a bit faster.

The Congressman would like to invite residents of greater San Bernardino

donate to veterans serving overseas by bringing a packaged item to the collection box located at his District Office at 201 North E Street by December 1 for inclusion in a shipment being prepared by the Teamsters, Local 63 called "Christmas Boxes for the Troops."

Donated items may include: slim jims, eye drops, flashlights, writing materials, stamps, beef jerky, crackers, granola bars, cup of soup, hand lotion, magazines, foot powder, pens, bug spray, body wash, sun block, coffee, chap stick, towels, baby powder, Qtips, blank micro cassettes, or anything else to make the holiday season just a little bit enjoyable.

Support our troops by donating an item by December 1 at the District Office of Congressman Joe Baca, 201 North E Street, and San Bernardino.

HATE-CRIME DEATH HIGHLIGHTS RACIAL TENSIONS IN SUFFOLK COUNTY, NY

By Denise M. Bonilla

New York – 11/11/08 - Eight years after Suffolk was thrust into the national spotlight over a crime against Latinos, an Ecuadorean immigrant's death has once again drawn attention to the county - and now its executive, Steve Levy.

Marcello Lucero, 38, was stabbed to death in Patchogue late Saturday, targeted by seven teens "determined" to find a Hispanic victim, prosecutors said.

"There are a lot of racists in Suffolk County," county Hispanic Advisory Board chairman Alexander Gutierrez said. "I think it's one of the more racist counties around."

In an interview, Levy said such criticism is wrong. Had Lucero died in Nassau, "it would be a one-day story," he said. "You have hate crimes all the time in Nassau, but they don't rise to the level in the media."

Hispanic advocates have attacked Levy for targeting landlords of overcrowded housing and backing legislation requiring contractors to verify employees' legal working status.

Levy said Lucero's death had nothing to do with his immigration positions. "If the reason you have these hate crimes was because Suffolk believes in patrolling the border, in a sanctuary city you wouldn't have any hate crimes at all," he said.

Some define a "sanctuary city" as one with immigrant-friendly policies, while others say such communities turn a blind eye to illegal immigration.

"There are racists in every community in the United States," Levy said. "Our figures show that it [Suffolk] has become a safer community since I've been in office."

Levy began his first term as county executive in 2004 and was re-elected in 2007 without major opposition. There were 16 bias crimes against Hispanics in 2004, six each in 2005 and 2006 and one in 2007, according to Suffolk Police Commissioner Richard Dormer. In Nassau, there were five anti-Hispanic crimes in 2006 and four in 2007.

Patrick Young, program director of Central American Refugee Center in Hempstead and Brentwood, said many Latinos are too frightened to approach Suffolk police. There is "almost a direct relationship" between such attacks and what he described as anti-immigrant legislation, he said. "These are not

isolated incidents," Young said.
"There is a climate of disrespect created within Suffolk County."

Gutierrez said it was "a cop-out" to place blame for the Lucero killing on Levy or other county officials. "This has been around for a long time," he said.

Responding to Levy's claim about Nassau's hate crimes, Bruce Nyman, a spokesman for Nassau Executive Thomas Suozzi, said, "I think the numbers would tell a different story."

Levy said he would like to attend Lucero's funeral, but he has not yet reached out to his family. The Suffolk Association of the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ has raised several hundred dollars to help send his body to Ecuador.

To some, Suffolk's reputation as a hotbed of anti-Latino sentiment began in 2000, when two Mexican day laborers were brutally beaten. In 2003, the house next door to the one where the laborers lived in Farmingville was firebombed, nearly killing five.

Hispanics Across America, of Manhattan, is exploring a lawsuit against the parents of those charged in Lucero's death, saying they should be held accountable for how they raised their children. Organization president Fernando Mateo criticized Levy yesterday for what he called Suffolk's anti-immigrant attitude. "Today, we are asking for his resignation" for "sowing hatred against Hispanics and immigrants," he said.

Levy said he remains popular in Hispanic neighborhoods. "I won overwhelmingly as an assemblyman in heavily Hispanic areas and then won overwhelmingly again in my two county executive runs."

Levy represented the 5th Assembly District. In 2000, Selden had the highest percentage of Hispanics in that district: 8.2 percent. Nearby Farmingville was 8.1 percent Hispanic. They are the fastest-growing minority population on the Island, comprising 12.4 percent of Nassau residents in 2007 and 13.3 percent in Suffolk, census figures show.

Staff writers Keith Herbert, Zachary R. Dowdy and Dave Marcus contributed to this story.



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