

6/23/74

Sidelight

Wednesday, June 23, 1974

THE PRESS - C-1

Mary Ayala

Riverside's Kissinger

By PAT SCHMIDT
Press-Enterprise Staff Writer

One member of the state's Equal Education Opportunity Commission is a "self-taught" Riverside woman whose own schooling stopped at the seventh grade.

Mary Ayala, an administrative aide in the Title VII bilingual-bicultural program of the Riverside Unified School District, says she's the only one on that state commission without a "real" title.

But that doesn't seem to cause any problem. She can hold her own — talk up to 100. "I was Virginia Brown, director of state and federal projects for the Riverside school district. She's probably one of the strongest women I know," Ayala and her husband, John, who works as a janitor at Villages Park, were both born in the predominantly Mexican-American community of Llanos, Calif. They lived on neighboring streets.

Now married almost 11 years, they have three children, David, Richard and Paula. David was the children who started Ayala in education. In 1967, she became a room mother at Casa Blanca elementary school, then closed. Today she is a school and community leader.

"A Riverside Kissinger," says her boss, Teresa Sanchez, coordinator of the Title VII program. "She has a very wide tolerance."

A person "with a kind of infinite capacity to make things better for people, particularly people here in her own community, her own neighborhood," says Al Kever, executive director of the Casa Blanca House of Neighborhood Service. Ayala is a member of his board. She is also, he says, a "fighter."

Ayala is a small, slender woman, with graying hair and classic features. She heavily lidded, deep-set eyes demand attention when she speaks. She has a reputation for being unapologetically blunt and outspoken.

"If being honest and open and frank means being critical," then she is, Ayala says. She doesn't like "chismoseo" and she doesn't like to be lied to. "I get very upset when people aren't being honest."

She is known as a champion of parents, particularly those with limited ability in English.

Several years ago, for instance, she had invited several Spanish-speaking parents to a meeting. For some time, she recalls, she had exposed the importance of interpretation at such meetings. But everything continued to be said in English.

So at the meeting, looking at the parents who didn't understand what was going on, Ayala stood up. "I stood up and said what I said."

Speaker. I did not know what I said," she says.

Ayala was called in and told it was wrong. They wanted to keep the room the same, she says. "The group. It took them a while to realize I was right."

When she became involved with the PTA, "I was still very shy," Ayala says. She knew what she wanted to say, but was afraid it wouldn't come out right. "I knew she would say the same thing and I would look stupid."

Then, back when John was a janitor, Cesar Chavez was working with the Community Service Organization (CSO), and working with him was "I guess I got involved because I saw people getting along, getting together."

But the local CSO chapter did not accept her. "Some of us got discouraged, frustrated," — and she went to work at a private restaurant at the time. "I was there, then went to enter high school, could have been things."

In the middle 60s, regular elementary classes at Casa Blanca elementary school were closed down. The Riverside school district began having to achieve bilingual. Ayala became a community aide for the school district in 1968.

She has not worked with the schools and parents, "mainly trying to help the parents, especially those who had," to ease their pain. She has worked for the schools ever since.

Paul Garcia, coordinator of social services for the Riverside County Schools' Headstart program, says he worked with Ayala. "I knew Mary as my mother," Garcia says. "I still do."

Ayala says Garcia, "who has an almost phony ability to read and understand the River." They would go to the same meetings but Ayala would hear so much more, she says.

Title VII coordinator Sanchez has noticed too. "She's always telling me she's heard some things, and this will come to pass, this will happen." And sure enough, he says, it does. It is a useful skill.

Sometimes, Sanchez says, the district may ask her advice in considering certain courses of action.

Besides her work in education, Ayala is deeply involved in her community, uninvited without current issues. She always has been, and has been in battles during poverty program days with her and indignation.

Now she is, perhaps, more quiet. Still, she keeps in touch, Ayala says.

She has helped many under-attendants taking them to the market and the doctor, writing letters and translating. Her husband worked in his

(The Press-Enterprise Staff)

(From Page 1)

Her formidable strength is not immediately obvious in an encounter. "I guess I like you to move on the shoulders than up front," she says. "Sally Ayala will say that she has been approached to run for city council. I guess I should feel honored. I'm underused. I don't

Know It! Test Your Knowledge
on this page.

Only 45. Ayala has been responsible for a long time. "I feel old," she cries. "I guess because of the length of time I've been keeping house. I've never been a child, playing with dolls."

Her mother died when she was a child, from the age of 11 she had to support the family, leaving school at the seventh grade.

His life today is just as busy. Often, like in Athens by the Great Her

from his work at night.

...their relationship is not always in

Amid all the noise, there are no main things, for example, to be learned by the State Racial Educational Opportunities Commission. Aylis lists the issues — affirmative action, gay children, interracial marriage, abortion, AIDS, the environment, nuclear power, the Vietnam war, the Soviet Union.

because it's the first job I had, really," she says. And some things are very important. "To have an education, to have a good job, to make something of yourself."

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Mary Ayala: An Italian immigrant to make Italian food

Staff photo by Dave Manning

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Weather 8

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THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Riverside

and the Region

The Three Meetings

Once upon a time there were three meetings: The San Berdoo Board O' Supes, The Banning City Council, And the Riverside City Council.

Supervisor Dennis Hansberger said the San Berdoo Supes meetings were much

too fast. The board recently roared through a 77-item meeting in less than 90 minutes — and spent millions of dollars, too.

"I'm not crazy about meetings," said Papa Hansberger, "but I think there's a need to discuss things publicly."

DAN BERNSTEIN

Billy bureaucrats in Banning think Banning City Council meetings are much too mean. They concocted a "decency clause" to ban the public from making "negative or defamatory comments (Imagine not being able to say anything negative or defamatory about a public official. Never mind the First Amendment. Never mind the Brown Act. What about the pursuit of happiness?) The decency clause was pretty much dismissed as indecent.

In Riverside, the council members talked some more about budget cuts and maybe laying off police and fire people — and then unanimously gave First Citizen Debbie Roberts a \$300,000 loan because his company had massively underbid a convention-center remodeling job.

"Missing by \$300,000 is a big screw-up," groined Councilman Alex Clifford.

But nobody said the Riverside City Council meeting was much too long. Nobody said it was much too mean either, talking the boys into giving big money to the city council. Anybody thought the Riverside City Council meeting was just

Community group fights planned cuts

It will petition against proposed city layoffs

By Phil Pitchford
The Press-Enterprise

RIVERSIDE

Outrage over planned cuts to critical city services has spurred about 40 members of the Casa Blanca Community Action Group to fight back.

The group, which met Wednesday at Ysmael Villegas Community Center, agreed to gather signatures on petitions, circulate fliers, attend City Council meetings and call their councilwoman, Maureen Kane.

A city plan calls for laying off employees of the community center and permanently closing the swimming pool at Villegas Park. The pool has been closed because of hazardous conditions and would cost \$450,000 to fix, according to the city.

The City Council is scheduled to consider the cuts as part of a day-long meeting set for March 28. The discussion also will center around the proposed elimination of 282 full-time city jobs. The plan is designed to save about \$5 million a year from the city's general fund, which pays for most city services.

Longtime resident Morris Mendoza said the community center's programs give neighborhood kids a constructive way to spend their free time. He said he fears a

Please see GROUP, B-7

Roping for rodeo



MORE LOCAL

Travel targets: A crackdown on firms that sell credentials to would-be travel agents will be announced today by federal regulators and state law enforcement agencies. **Business, B-1**

Medical "junk": Hagan tied up a calf in a Temecula, Calif. clinic. Participants are accused of using points they have accumulated in other

Are big horns par



Extended forecast

Riverside County
Mostly sunny and mild days
Saturday through Monday.

Western Section
Highs in upper 60s and 70s;
lows in 40s to mid-50s.

Desert
Highs in 80s to low 90s;
lows in low 40s to mid-50s.

Mountains
Highs in upper 50s and 60s;
lows mid-20s to low 40s.

Beaches
Highs mostly in the 60s;
lows in upper 40s and 50s.

GROUP

Continued from B-1
long, troubled summer if the programs are cut.

"I don't have to be a prophet to know that," Mendoza said.

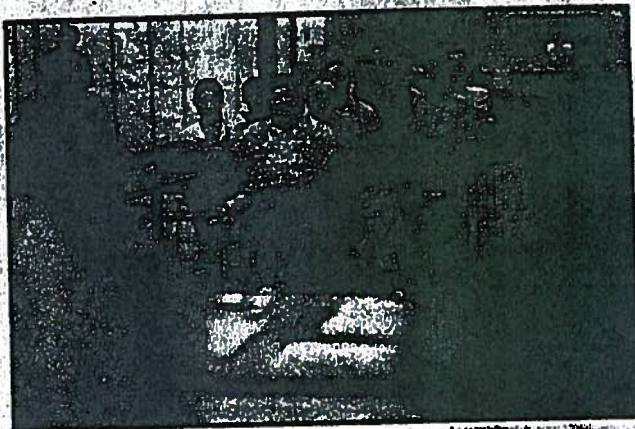
City officials also are leaning toward not building a long-awaited library expansion because they say the city cannot afford to staff it.

"They're taking away our library, which is affecting our kids," said Lucio Arellano. "This is our future. They are targeting our community."

"There is probably nothing more worth going to the mat for than the new library," said resident John Garcia. "That has got to go through."

Several people said they are upset that the City Council, while pondering proposed cuts in jobs and services, voted Tuesday to spend another \$500,000 to cover a 33 percent cost overrun in the renovation of the Riverside Convention Center. The work is being done under a contract with a company owned by Mission Inn owner Diana Roberts.

"This money could have gone for our swimming pool," said Jennie Rivera, the group's president. "It's really upsetting when they



Carlos Puma/The Press-Enterprise

Longtime Casa Blanca resident Morris Mendoza, center, voices an opinion on cuts to the neighborhood library at the Casa Blanca Community Action Group monthly meeting Wednesday.

suddenly find all these pockets of money."

The Casa Blanca group agreed to support a boycott of the Orange Blossom Festival next month. Gil Navarro, regional director of the Mexican American Political Association, said his group is organizing the boycott along with La Raza Coalition to protest inequities in city spending.

City Manager John Holmes has blamed the financial crisis on the state, which took some city revenues to balance its own budget, and the coming deregulation of the power industry. The city uses some of its electricity revenue to help pay for other city services, but it is scaling back on that revenue to help its utility compete against other power companies.

LANDFILL

Continued from B-1
recommendation and noted that it also is studying a landfill proposal for Eagle Mountain, near Joshua Tree National Park.

"These are not normal projects," he said.

USA Waste maintains the questions about neighborhood effects were answered long ago. Governmental affairs director Larry Yatch said it is natural that the commission would wonder, "but when we start giving information about how limited the trucks will be, when they come in and when they don't come in; we'll show that it will be much less disruptive than the current operation."

Current plans call for earth to be moved at the landfill around the clock, though garbage-hauling trucks would not arrive between midnight and 4 a.m. Traffic congestion would be reduced by extra lanes to be built along freeway ramps and Temescal Canyon Road, paid for largely by fees on out-of-county garbage. Most deliveries would arrive on large transfer trucks, requiring fewer trips than the smaller trucks now bringing garbage to the site.

procure a long-term disposal site in the west end of the county right now," he said.

The county also would make money — as much as \$100 million over the life of the project, according to USA Waste — because it would get a cut rate on disposal and could mark it up.

In return, USA Waste would be allowed to sell the rest of the space for garbage from throughout Southern California.

The project has been the subject of environmental review since the early 1980s, when the county selected the site to replace the Corona and Elsinore landfills.

Engineers for TRC Environmental Solutions, which conducted the latest environmental review for the county, told the commission the site is ideally suited for a landfill, far from fault lines and with proper precautions, not disruptive to wildlife, the air or groundwater. USA Waste paid \$1.5 million for the study.

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Casa Blanca, sorry to see Fortier go

Neighborhood, chief, forget a friendship

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When the flight became Reverdy's fifth birthday five years ago, students at the school threw him a welcome party. He said he left — Thursday was his last day on the job before he officially retires Aug. 7 — they are more in the mood for a walk.

A predominantly Hispanic neighborhood that has had a history of conflict with the police, Juan Blanco was able to forge a relationship with the Spanish-speaking police that was as strong as with perhaps any police unit in the city's history. It is a relationship that was not taken for granted.

Jannié E. Rivera, chairwoman of the Casa Blanca Community Action Group, a government organization that represents the city's predominantly Hispanic neighborhood. "This is the first chief that we've ever had that we've been able to communicate with."



Ken Fortler

Fortier, 55, is retiring in large part because of gastrointestinal problems that led to a 1993 operation. Although his official retirement date is Aug. 7, Fortier is spending the last two weeks of his tenure on vacation.

Deputy Police Chief Mike Blakely has been named acting chief.

Although many police officers are optimistic that Fortler's replacement will help improve relations between officers and the administration, Casa Blanca activists have only good things to say about the chief.

Before Fortler took over, police-community relations in Casa Blanca had long been troubled. They reached a new low in 1991 after police shot a 16-year-old resident, even though the teen was armed and under the influence of PCP at the time.

Following that incident, shots were fired at a neighborhood police station and authorities seized weapons they said conspirators had collected to assassinate officers in retaliation for the teen's death. Former Police Chief Linford L. "Sonny" Richardson enraged many when he appeared at a community meeting with a police helicopter, 10 uniformed officers—some armed with semiautomatic assault rifles—and four plainclothes officers as bodyguards.

"He's been a great friend to the community," said John Garcia, vice president of the Casa Blanca Community Action Group and chairman of the Casa Blanca Project Area Committee. "The relations with this chief were as good as they've ever been."

Under Fortier's leadership, the Problem Oriented Policing program was started and officers who later would begin to know

Please see CHIEF, 8-2

Monday at the Corona Municipal Airport. Two TWA
passengers were not injured. Story, Page B-2.

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needed to fund the project. First became a partner in the project. Fluor Daniel pulled out.

In what he described as a "very simple transaction," Firestone said his bank issued a letter of credit to Smith Barney, New York City investment firm that issues bonds.

Typically, banks issue short-term construction loans to get a project going. Bob Kirkpatrick, president and chief executive of Rancon Financial Corp., a Tulsa-based real estate company, that loan usually requires a commitment letter from a secondary lender who provides the permanent, or takeout, financing. He says

With approval of the project per
Please see PROJECT 32

ses may face test

they were dismissed because the statute of limitations barred prosecution.

Since then the law has changed. Bill number AB 2014, passed in 1996, allows for some exceptions to the statute of limitations in child abuse and sexual molestation cases.

The statute of limitations on child sexual and sexual molestation charges is usually six years. But if prosecutors can prove there was substantial sexual conduct, which includes rape and oral copulation, and have corroboration of abuse, they have up to a year from when the abuse was discovered.

Please See ABUSE

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project. "I don't know if Mr. Buffman expects to build the rest of the plans," he said.

"We have been with Mr. Buffman and Firestone's representatives, every step of the way," Bradley said. "The ball is strictly in their court and it has been for some time."

Firestone said he has already submitted many plans, more than enough for a typical project in Temecula.

"Buffman is getting frustrated, and I'm getting frustrated, and I'm getting tired of sending my architect out there," Firestone said.

He said he has proposed building from back to finish construction of the nearly \$70 million project planned for about 150 acres he owns in the hills west of Pujoi Street.

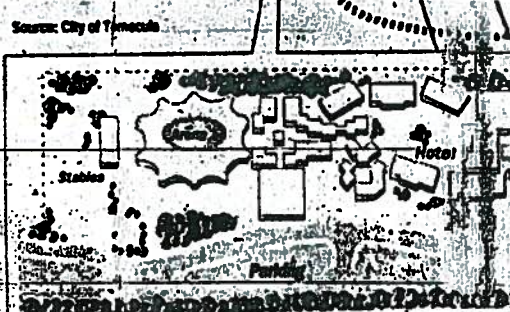
eventually need to build a link between Interstate 15 and Rancho California Road. And he said Temecula will have to buy his land to do it. The city's Capital Improvement Program calls for the bypass to be built in 2001-2002.

"Every taxpayer in the community will benefit directly if I put this in," Firestone said.

Firestone said he has owned his land for 10 years and could easily hold onto it another decade, which would drive up the land and construction costs.

"The benefit to the community and the city is so huge, and the project are huge," he said.

Bradley said the city always planned to create an assessment district to raise much of the money needed to buy the land and build



the bypass. An assessment district would collect annual fees from landowners who develop their property.

By using an assessment the city would not direct Firestone's land or other needed for the bypass.

PROJECT

Continued from B-1

and Buffman entertaining invitations to move the project elsewhere, Klemme said a number of basic issues need to be resolved before Roberts would consider jumping in.

"Where it is located and how is it configured," Klemme said.

Temecula officials said Buffman is not expected to submit updated plans for the project until Aug. 4. But Gary Burnhill, the city's director of community development,

said Buffman is essentially transplanting a scaled-back version of what originally had been proposed in Old Town to Firestone's 150 acres in the hills behind Pujoi Street.

"A lot of it is not real detailed," he said.

As it stands, the 330,000-square-foot entertainment center includes a 100,000-square-foot arena, 50,000-square-foot opera house, hotel and shops.

After pumping an estimated \$3 million into the project with little to show for it, Roberts walked away from the project, said Firestone,

who also is concerned about mounting expenses.

Klemme said Roberts has a number of agreements with Buffman involving the development, but all are predicated on the project materializing.

Firestone figures he has spent about \$50,000 to \$60,000 of his own money on the project, not including the \$1.2 million he recently spent to pay tax bills and buy down loans on the 150 acres he owns.

But he said he "is not going to go much more."

Firestone said he still owes about \$1 million on the 150 acres, which recently were appraised at \$35 million to \$38 million. But only an estimated 60 acres will be available for development because 90 acres have to be set aside for the California gnatcatcher, an endangered song bird.

Firestone said he has grown increasingly frustrated with the

convoluted and time-consuming permit process and meetings with city officials.

If he doesn't get a permit to begin grading by mid-September, Firestone said he will quit at the sunset. "I am gone," he said.

Setting it straight

About correction
Because The Press-Enterprise endeavors to publish as newspaper as possible, it appreciates being notified of factual errors in the news. Please telephone the news desk at (909) 782-7550 or write Metropolitan Press-Enterprise, P.O. Box 1000, Riverside, Calif. 92502-0000. Complaints about this section will be handled by the paper.

CHIEF

Continued from B-1

residents' names were assigned to specific areas of the city. Storefront police stations were opened.

Garcia said the chief wasn't afraid to visit the area and took time to meet and talk to the community. After community meetings broke up, he would chat with older residents in Spanish, which made them feel more comfortable, Rivera said.

"I just believe people all need to be treated equally," Fortier said, adding that people in all areas of the city are concerned about the same things: crime rate. "They want their concerns to be taken as seriously as they would anywhere else," he said.

else," he said.

But the chief was often criticized by other community members for focusing too much effort on Casa Blanca.

Activists maintain the chief spent as much time working on their community as necessary. "If you have a fire, you can put out the little fires around it but if you don't concentrate on the big fire, you're not going to make a difference," Garcia said.

Longtime resident Mary Ayala said Fortier helped change Casa Blanca's reputation as a crime-ridden community. She said she was saddened to hear of Fortier's retirement. "I feel like part of us is dying," she said. "He gave us a very good feeling. We respected him very much."

Stater Bros. donates money for program

The Press-Enterprise

RIVERSIDE
Colton-based Stater Bros. grocery store chain presented a \$5,000 grant to Teen Challenge to help the teens and young adults the agency

Setting it straight

Correction: Sue Hulse was incorrectly identified in a story on Thursday about lawsuits involving Guide Dogs of the Desert. Hulse is a puppy raiser.

serves.

The check was presented Tuesday at the Stater Bros. market on Iowa Avenue in Riverside. The money will be used to provide food for people involved in Teen Challenge's residential rehabilitation program.

The program is one of several offered by the Riverside-based nonprofit organization, which provides drug prevention and education programs for teens and adults and helps them avoid or break away from gang involvement.

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...Daryl Brock, executive...
...for Riverside and San...
...demand continues to grow for...
...Riverside County that provide food. Many...
...difficulties that plague

Where previously much of that food would have been donated to charity, grocers sell more such damaged goods to improve profits. Brokers buy the goods below regular price for sale at discount outlets.
In Los Angeles, Ventura, San Diego and Orange counties, food donations are down 6 to 16 percent in the last year or so, Brock said.
The biggest reason the inland counties are less affected
Please see FOOD, B-7



Greg Vojtko / The Press-Enterprise

at the Church of Religious Science on Statson in Hemet yesterday.

suspect jailed

Attorney rity Alliance, which employs the security guard.
The guard could not be reached last night.
News of the break in the case has spread among apartment managers and residents in the area targeted by the person one detective called a "one-man crime spree."
"We've all been told that someone was being questioned in connection with the case, but I don't think anyone is going to feel entirely relieved until charges are filed and everyone is certain this is the guy," said Donna Brown, manager of Hidden Springs Apartments on Pearblossom Drive.
Please see RAPE, B-8

orm new group

chapter to chapter.
"We may not always be as effective as we should be, but we're doing the best we can with what we've got."
Wilson was a force behind creation of 13 MAPA chapters in the Riverside, San Bernardino and Imperial County areas in recent years.
Wilson and Baca have helped organize a continuing series of protests over the treatment of Hispanic students in Riverside, Moreno Valley and Jurupa schools.

Traveling City Hall hears beefs

► About 30 people in Casa Blanca show up for Mayor's Night Out to tell officials where they need to improve.

By Phil Pitchford
The Press-Enterprise

RIVERSIDE

Mary Ayala has been putting feet to the fire at City Hall since 1958, but last night she did not have to leave her neighborhood to do it.

Ayala, a resident of Casa Blanca since her birth there 64 years ago, took a half-dozen concerns to Villegas Community Center as part of Mayor's Night Out. She listed, among her grievances a lack of recreation programs at the center and inadequate street sweeping.

"They leave them dirtier than they were" before, Ayala said. Before long, she was on to the gopher holes that pockmark a ball field, and the condition of the neighborhood swimming pool.

Ayala was one of about 30 people who showed up to tell City Hall where it needs to improve. Mayor's Night Out is a traveling road show of sorts, taking Mayor Ron Loveridge and various department heads around Riverside's 18 neighborhoods to hear concerns and answer questions.

The Casa Blanca meeting was the sixth this year. After taking next month off because of the holidays, Mayor's Night Out will resume with a meeting in the Magnolia Center neighborhood on Jan. 28. Each meeting is hosted by the council member, or members, who represent the neighborhood.

Though no stranger at council meetings, Ayala said the familiar surroundings at Villegas were to her liking.

"Sometimes you don't really want to go to City Council meetings," she said. Parking is limited around City Hall, she said, and she feels more at home at Villegas Center.

The program also puts city officials in contact with average folks. For example, Public Works Director Barry Beck told Ayala he would look into the street sweeping problem.

"I think it's a wonderful concept," Ayala said. "When they (politicians) campaign, they make all kinds of promises, but he followed through on this one."

Ayala was referring to Loveridge, who will be visiting neighborhoods until January 1996 before starting over again in La Sierra, where he kicked off the program in June. Loveridge called the program a way

Please see BEEFS, B-4

MORE LOCAL

N
O
V
22

sources and analyzing official investigations.

She said she gained much information from unnamed defense and intelligence officials and could not disclose those sources. She said the conclusions remained the same: The Hanol government holds the key to most of the information and should be pressed to release it.

Katz-Keating, the daughter of Elaine Scott and the late Norman M. Katz, graduated from Riverside's Poly High School in 1973. While working at a small Dixon newspaper, she became interested in the issue of missing Americans when remains began arriving at nearby Travis Air Force Base.

She went to work at the Washington (D.C.) Times in 1985, believing that Americans were still held prisoner in Southeast Asia. Her research led her to the opposite

Katz-Keating said that because it had been many years since she talked to some of the people mentioned in the book, they might not remember talking to her.

Retired Navy Capt. Eugene B. McDaniel, president of the American Defense Institute and a former prisoner of war, is accused in the book of distributing "several false POW pictures and has made greater gains in fund-raising than in learning the truth about MIAs."

McDaniel, in a written response, said he was involved with only two such photos and that one was believed by the Defense Department to be possibly true and the other he personally delivered to the Defense Intelligence Agency for its analysis. The photos were distributed by others, he said.

BEEFS

Continued from B-1
to move City Hall out to neighborhoods.

"It's a way of both listening and sharing information about problems," he said. "You get a much better sense of community and the common problems, as opposed to a letter here or a call there."

The typical Mayor's Night Out contingent includes City Manager John Holmes and Police Chief Ken Fortier, as well as the heads of public works, parks and recreation and neighborhoods and community services.

Residents who attend are encouraged to write their concerns on note cards, which are then read aloud by a moderator and listed on large pieces of butcher paper. Department heads respond briefly to some of the concerns. Anyone leaving an address receives a written reply to his or her question, usually within a month.

The meetings typically are held the last Monday or Thursday of the month and begin at 6:30 p.m. Interpreters are available for the deaf and for people who speak only Spanish.

Two downtown businesswomen, Debbie Lorenzi and Rita Norton, contact groups that might be interested in attending, then line up the meeting rooms and print fliers that are distributed in advance.

Rosalie Silvergate, who worked for years in the city's Development Department, is in charge of collecting responses from department heads and getting them out to residents.

The program has yielded tangible results. Residents who attended the first meeting complained about drug dealing in a poorly lit greenbelt in Arlington known as Eldorado Park. Last month, the council agreed to spend \$15,000 to install lights in the area.

Stacy Manzanares went to Village Center to talk about day laborers who congregate along Madison Street. The 16-year-old junior at Rancho High School said laborers

directed catcalls at her and made suggestive gestures whenever she walked by on her way to school.

"I don't think anybody should have to put up with that horrible abuse," said Manzanares, who now rides each morning with her father.

"It's great that they came out here to hear our problems," said her mother, Eleanor Manzanares. "Even if nothing gets done, you feel like you've aired your concerns."

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Mary Ayala praised for her community work

TRIBUTE: The Casa Blanca activist, 71, died at a Riverside hospital.

BY GAIL WESSON
THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

RIVERSIDE—For decades, people in the Casa Blanca neighborhood of Riverside turned to Mary Ayala for advice or to lobby officials about community needs from improving educational opportunities to fixing potholes.

Her own formal education ended at the seventh grade, but she kept teaching herself what she needed to know as a community organizer and activist.

Mrs. Ayala, a lifelong resident of Casa Blanca, died April 18 at Riverside Community Hospital. She was 71.

"She was very energetic, clear-thinking, highly motivated to advocate and fight for issues that were a matter of what was right and just," said Al Kovar, executive director of the Casa Blanca Home of Neighborhoodly Service. Kovar, who often worked with Mrs. Ayala on the same issues for 30 years, said people trusted her and called on her to help them.

Mrs. Ayala was petite in stature but a real powerhouse in the community.

Education was her top priority, according to her family. She became a community aide for Riverside Unified School District in 1966 and continued in various roles, including a position as instructional bilingual aide for 18 years. She was a liaison between parents and the schools and she lobbied for interpreters at meetings for Spanish-speaking parents.

"She was Mrs. Wonderful. She cared about the community. She was a part of all the committees," said Rodolfo Garavito,

who oversees the Casa Blanca Boxing Club at the former Casa Blanca elementary school they both attended in childhood. "She was like E.F. Hutton: When she talked, everybody listened."

Mrs. Ayala was among those who started the Casa Blanca Community Action Group, which honored her last year for her volunteer service, said Jennie Rivera, president of the group. Rivera, who worked side by side with Mrs. Ayala on many issues, said she acted on behalf of the community, not out of self interest. Mrs. Ayala was a past president of the group.

She served on the California Equal Educational Opportunity Commission. She helped develop the Casa Blanca Centro de Niños and served as PTA president. She worked with Cesar Chavez and the Community Service Organization and the local Brown Baggers public assistance group.

Mrs. Ayala attended Bethel Christian Center of Riverside for 15 years. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Glen; a son, Richard "Sluggo" of Riverside; a daughter, Iris "LuLu" Sosa of Riverside; 16 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; three brothers, Beto Jaramillo of Fullerton and Kico Jaramillo and José Jaramillo, both of Riverside; and a sister, Chunga Martinez of Riverside.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Acheson & Graham Garden of Prayer Mortuary in Riverside. After the service, there will be a procession through Casa Blanca to Olivewood Memorial Park, where she will be buried. Friends may call at the mortuary from 7 until 9 p.m. today.

Reach Gail Wesson at (909) 368-9444 or gwesson@pe.com

Blanca Centro de Niños and past President of the Community Action Group, past President of the PTA, involved with the implementation of the Bilingual Education in the Riverside area, involved with the Brown Baggers, assisting with the implementation of the CSO Organization with Cesar Chavez, member of the Grupo Femenino Logia #17 Flor de Paraiso, California State Board of Education Commission. She fell illshipped at Bethel Christian Center of Riverside for 15 years. Married to Glen Ayala for 58 years. Sister of Beto Jaramillo of Fullerton, Ca. and of Chunga Martinez, Kico Jaramillo, and José Jaramillo all of Riverside. Mother of David (Telle) Ayala (deceased), Danny Ayala (deceased), Richard (Sluggo) Ayala and Iris (LuLu) Sosa. Mother-in-law of Eddie Sosa and Juanita Ayala. Grandmother of 16 and Great Grandmother of 21. The mass of Christian Burial will be at Acheson & Graham Garden of Prayer Mortuary in Riverside. Friends may view her from 7:00pm until 9:00pm Thursday 4/25/02. A small service will be held at Acheson & Graham Garden of Prayer Mortuary in Riverside on Friday 4/26/02 at 10:00 A.M. Burial to proceed after services to Olivewood Cemetery Riverside.

Mary Ayala, 71,



passed away on Thursday 4-18-02 at Riverside Community Hospital. Mrs. Ayala was a lifelong resident of the Casa Blanca Community. She was an Instructional Bilingual Aide for 18 years before retiring. She also worked with Cesar Chavez and the Unified Farm Workers. She served on the California Equal Educational Opportunity Commission and also helped develop The Casa

Casa Blanca toured on ride to cemetery

RIVERSIDE: Family and friends recall Mary Ayala's lifetime of service to her community.

BY HAN KWAK
THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

RIVERSIDE—It was one last trip through Casa Blanca for Mary Ayala, a lifelong resident and beloved matriarch of the community.

Ayala, who died April 18, was taken through the streets of the community she helped build in her 71 years as a mother, neighbor and activist.

The funeral procession Friday traveled along Madison Avenue, through Evans Street and past the Villegas Center she helped found before she was laid to rest at Olivewood Cemetery in Riverside.

"My mother was an inspiration to everybody. A lot of people used my mom for a lot of things," son Richard Ayala said.

While many residents in Casa Blanca know Mary Ayala and her husband, Glen, best for their roles in working with Cesar



KURT MILLER / THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Family and friends gather for the graveside service for Mary Ayala at Olivewood Cemetery. Ayala was a well-known figure in the Casa Blanca community.

Chavez and helping to bring about community improvements such as the Villegas Center to Casa Blanca, friends and family also recalled other acts of kindness that set them apart.

They were married 58 years.

Among the many beneficiaries of Mary and Glen's work were immigrants from Mexico who needed a friendly face to help them adjust to life in the United

States.

"People from Mexico would come to them. Instead of going to the post office, they would come to my mom and dad first," Richard said, recalling how his parents helped immigrants with paperwork and procedures to establish their new lives in America.

"(And) my parents never charged anybody," Richard said.

"*Si, se puede.*" Yes, you can. A favorite saying friends and family repeated after the funeral.

It was a fitting remark for a woman who had a seventh-grade education but continued to teach herself to accomplish much in her life, including serving on the California Equal Educational Opportunity Commission and as a bilingual aide 18 years for the Riverside Unified School District.

A petite woman, Ayala was
PLEASE SEE AYALA, B4



KURT MILLER / THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

The casket of Mary Ayala is moved to the hearse after the memorial service.

AYALA

CONTINUED FROM B1

described by people who knew her as a powerful presence, one of the first people the community would call upon if there were any issues that needed to be addressed.

"I don't know if she could see through people or what . . . but she was special," an emotional but dignified Glen Ayala said.

"There isn't an improvement in Casa Blanca that she didn't have a hand in. She was a small person who blossomed out . . . and left a legacy for the women of Casa Blanca," said Grace Bailon, a friend and colleague.

With stories about the community getting second-hand equipment and apathy from the city in years past, residents said



Mary Ayala died on April 18.

community leaders like Ayala provided a voice for Casa Blanca.

Elected officials have come

and gone over the decades, but the real leadership was within the community, according to Jennie Rivera, a spokeswoman for Casa Blanca's Community Action Group.

Long-time friend Mary Gutierrez said Ayala's words "filled volumes in Casa Blanca when little was said."

"She was a tiny person but she had power when she spoke," Gutierrez said. "Her words would get us somewhere. That was power."

Reach Han Kwak at (909) 368-9644 or hkwak@pe.com.

2005

SHOWTIME

APR 23 2005

The real Mr. Jones a phone call away

By [Name] [City] **Mr. Jones** is a name that has become synonymous with the fight against AIDS. The real Mr. Jones, however, is a man who has spent his life helping others. He is a man who has been a part of the community for over 30 years. He is a man who has been a part of the community for over 30 years. He is a man who has been a part of the community for over 30 years.



Mr. Jones is a name that has become synonymous with the fight against AIDS. The real Mr. Jones, however, is a man who has spent his life helping others.

MARKING 'HEROES'

A Casa Blanca native uses banners to honor those who built the community

By [Name] [City] **Marking 'Heroes'** is a project that has been going on for several years. It is a project that has been going on for several years. It is a project that has been going on for several years. It is a project that has been going on for several years. It is a project that has been going on for several years.



A banner from the 'Marking Heroes' project, honoring those who built the community.

Who will make the fall TV cut?

THE BUZZ

By [Name] [City] **The Buzz** is a section that provides information on the latest news and events. It is a section that provides information on the latest news and events. It is a section that provides information on the latest news and events. It is a section that provides information on the latest news and events.

By [Name] [City] **The Buzz** is a section that provides information on the latest news and events. It is a section that provides information on the latest news and events. It is a section that provides information on the latest news and events. It is a section that provides information on the latest news and events.

By [Name] [City] **The Buzz** is a section that provides information on the latest news and events. It is a section that provides information on the latest news and events. It is a section that provides information on the latest news and events. It is a section that provides information on the latest news and events.

By [Name] [City] **The Buzz** is a section that provides information on the latest news and events. It is a section that provides information on the latest news and events. It is a section that provides information on the latest news and events. It is a section that provides information on the latest news and events.

A section from 'The Buzz' providing information on the latest news and events.

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He said that through the program's weekly work-related training workshops, he's learned about communication, body lan-

guage, and how to handle the grant requirements. Potential hires had to provide substantial documentation of residence and family

status. "I was one of the few who didn't have a car, and I didn't have a lot of money," he said. "I was a single parent."

He said that through the program's weekly work-related training workshops, he's learned about communication, body lan-

IN BRIEF

RIVERSIDE Memorial set for Villegas director

A memorial for a longtime Riverside parks and recreation employee and volunteer is planned for 11 a.m. Monday at Villegas Park, 7240 Marguerite Ave. Valente Glen Ayala, 81, died of cancer Sunday. The memorial will feature a 21-gun salute, said organizer John Cisneros. Mr. Ayala was center director at Villegas Park for 18 years until he retired in 1984 and lived in the Casa Blanca area of Riverside his entire life.

—Marlene Toscano
mtoscano@PE.com

City offering free swim night

The city of Riverside will celebrate its annual National Night Out Against Crime on Tuesday. To mark the event, the

NORCO School board will discuss goals

Goals, highlights and objectives of the Corona-Norco Unified School District will be discussed at a special board meeting at 9 a.m. Tuesday in the board room at 2820 Clark Ave., Norco.

The meeting will begin with a closed session to discuss personnel matters before district goals are discussed in public.

—Cory Sweeney
csweeney@PE.com

RUMOUR District office designs to be shown

(The Rumourist's Column)

by Services District board of directors will show presentation of design concepts for the district's future headquarters building when they meet at 11 a.m. Tuesday.

The building to be built on a 2.5-acre parcel adjacent to the existing building at 1000 S. Main St. will house district administration and field operations in the future.

Field operations are currently housed in an old fire station at 1000 S. Main St. and 1000 S. Main St.

The board will meet at 11 a.m. at 1000 S. Main St. Information: 951-281-1000.

—Cory Sweeney
csweeney@PE.com

EASTVALE Extra park c

The district's board of directors will show presentation of design concepts for the district's future headquarters building when they meet at 11 a.m. Tuesday.

The building to be built on a 2.5-acre parcel adjacent to the existing building at 1000 S. Main St. will house district administration and field operations in the future.

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THURSDAY
APRIL 30, 2015

Groups struggle over Casa Blanca dedications

Proposals seek to name parts of a park for a war hero and community activists.

A bit of politics will be served up with the tamales this weekend at the community's revered Cinco de Mayo celebration in Villegas Park.

Different factions are busling over naming parts of the park for people other than World War II Medal of Honor recipient Ysmael "Smiley" Villegas, who grew up in Riverside's Casa Blanca neighborhood and died in the war.

A family of lifetime Casa Blanca residents, the late Glen and Mary Ayala, will gather petition signatures

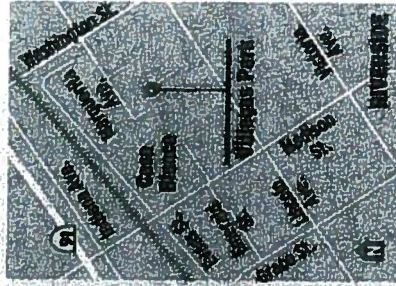
at the fiesta and march in the Saturday parade to ask that a gym at the park be named for the couple.

He oversaw the Ysmael Villegas Community Center, which holds the gym, for nearly 20 years. She led the Casa Blanca Community Action Group.

"We don't want to take anything from Ysmael Villegas. We love and respect the guy," said grandson Anthony Ayala, 45. "But there's other



COURTESY OF POLIE AYALA RODRIGUES
Mary and Glen Ayala lived in Riverside's Casa Blanca all their lives and were community leaders.



STAFF GRAPHIC

IF YOU GO

What: Riverside Park and Recreation Commission meeting
When: 6:30 p.m. May 11
Where: Ysmael Villegas Community Center, Villegas Park, 3091 Esperanza St., Riverside

City
says:
Hire
local, get
a break



SEE PARK • PAGE 3

UZANNE
HURT
STAFF WRITER

PARK

FROM PAGE 1

people that have done so much in the community of Casa Blanca that deserve to have things named in their honor. And my grandparents are (two) of them."

At the same time, three former Casa Blanca residents aren't giving up on their fight to get the fiesta grounds at the park dedicated to the late World War II vet Salvador Lara, a former Casa Blanca resident posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor last year.

"That is the cornerstone for the Casa Blanca complex," said Rudy Chavez, who formed Concerned Citizens for Casa Blanca to take action on issues he and two others think aren't being properly handled.

On April 13, the city Park and Recreation Commission discussed the Concerned Citizens for Casa Blanca's proposal to name the park's stage, picnic area and grassy plaza, where the fiesta takes place each year, for Lara.

The commission thought that would detract from the honor shown to Villegas and did not move forward on the idea. The panel is considering sending the matter to the City Council's Community Services and

Youth Committee with the recommendation not to approve it, said Parks and Recreation Deputy Director Mario Lara, who is not related to Salvador Lara.

"While he deserves an honor... they said he needed something bigger," Lara said.

Some have proposed naming the neighborhood's library for Lara.

The Riverside Park and Recreation Commission will consider the proposal to honor the Ayala's at a May 11 meeting.

Initially, people pushed to name the fiesta grounds for them, but the effort was changed to the gym. Glen Ayala's office was his second home, said Villegas. Park Advisory Committee Chairwoman Priscilla Mar-

rujo.

"His heart was Villegas Park," she said.

The advisory committee was split over whether to dedicate the plaza to Lara. Marrujo said they were persuaded to vote against the idea by the committee's former chairman, Ted Orozco, the park's retired recreation coordinator, and Villegas' sister and her husband, Martha and Joe Diaz.

The family thinks naming the fiesta grounds for Lara would take away from Villegas' honor, Joe Diaz said.

"What these people are trying to do - it's like taking an arm off of him," he said.

CONTACT THE WRITER:

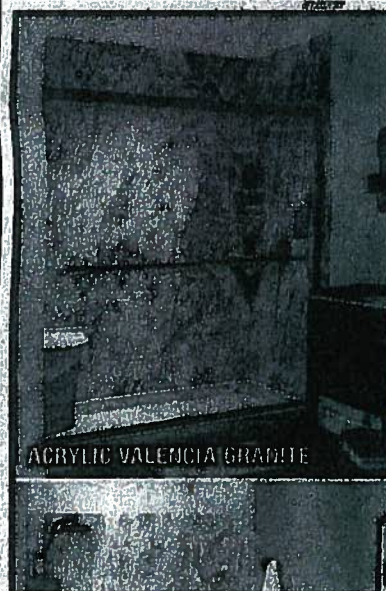
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SILVIA FLORES, FILE PHOTO

Charlie Villegas holds a photo taken in 1945 of his father, Ysmel Villegas, for whom the park in Riverside's Casa Blanca neighborhood is named.



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Villegas Park gym may be named for late Casa Blanca leaders

BY SUZANNE HORT
STAFF WRITER

Riverside natives Valencia "Glen" and Mary Ayala were hard to raise in Casa Blanca.

He oversaw the Yarnell Villegas Community Center, coached Little League baseball and did his returns for many - charging \$25 a person but accepting boxes of oranges from those who couldn't pay cash.

She led the Casa Blanca Community Action Group, advocated for education of



COURTESY OF
EDDIE AYALA RODRIGUES

Mary and Valente "Glen" Ayala lived in Riverside's Casa Blanca neighborhood all their lives.

discouraged, Spanish-speaking children and helped start a preschool.

The giving, kindhearted couple once recognized as the heart of Riverside's Casa Blanca neighborhood may soon be honored by the community they worked many years to help.

The Riverside Park and Recreation Commission on Monday cleared the way for the Villegas Park gym to be named in honor of the lifelong Casa Blanca couple and community leaders. A life died in 2002.

The commission voted 9-0 to approve the request

from the Ayala family. At least 70 people, including Ayala children and grandchildren, attended the meeting at the Yarnell Villegas Community Center to mark the couple's relatives were among those who spoke.

"In my heart, I believe they've earned it," said Riverside Faith Temple Ministries Pastor Leovina Galaz, whose children got counseling from Glen Ayala when they were young.

"Because of the love and the care and concern, it made a difference in our family," he said.

People spoke about the couple's sacrifices, the way they encouraged education and the "hugs and smiles" they gave freely.

The commission's recommendation will go to the City Council's Community Services and Youth Committee, which may consider it in June. The matter may go to the City Council by early July, Commission Chairwoman Becky Whatley said.

ARTICLE IN THE LOCAL SECTION OF
THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE 5/13/15



**RIVERSIDE: Villegas Park gym may
be named for community leaders »**

A city panel is recommending approval of the Ayala family's request to honor the late Valente "Glen" and Mary Ayala.

ONLINE ARTICLE OF GLEN AND MARY AYALA
PRESS-ENTERPRISE MAY 13, 2015



**RIVERSIDE: Parks panel OKs naming
gym for community leaders**
m.pe.com