

Corona called great place for young

Indio, Chino and Chino Hills also made the cut in a survey of communities that provide strong services for youths

BY DAYNA STRAEHLEY
STAFF WRITER
dstraehley@pe.com

America's Promise Alliance named Corona one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People because of its services for youth and efforts to reduce dropout rates.

Indio, Chino and Chino Hills also were included on the list. Only seven communities in California were listed, Corona Mayor Stan Skipworth said.

"America's Promise Alliance has a very stringent set of criteria," Skipworth said.

Communities are evaluated on five issues: "caring adults," "safe places," "a healthy start," "effective education" and "opportunities for young people to help others."

"In Corona, children matter, and they matter a great deal," Skipworth said. "We want them to have opportunities to grow and develop into successful adults."

Both formal and informal community leaders in Corona are committed to young people across all racial and socio-economic groups, Skipworth said. Many of those community leaders, representing the city, Corona-



Taryn Spencer, right, and Hailey Moreno enjoy lunch during the annual Community Children's Christmas Party at Naval Surface Warfare Center in Norco in 2010.



Monique Flores, left, and Lauren Hough designed Halloween costumes for The Foundation for Community and Family Health.

na-Norco Unified School District and numerous nonprofit groups, share ideas in monthly meetings of United Neighbors Involving Today's Youth.

Examples of programs in Corona that were recognized for the award include:

- An annual health clinic sponsored by Suthya Sai Ba-

Organization of America that provides free screenings and tests for 1,000 to 3,000 residents annually;

■ Corona-Norco Settlement House, which offers families food, clothing and shelter;

■ Foundation for Community and Family Health, which offers free immuniza-

tions;

■ The 100 Mile Club program, which is based in Corona and promotes fitness nationally by encouraging students to walk or run 100 miles during the school year; and

■ The Early Mental Health Initiative, which supports children in kindergar-

ten through third grade who are having difficulty adjusting to school. Children meet individually with trained adults, called Special Friends, at school.

"You cannot forget the schools. Not just at the administrative level but at every school site, so many people are genuinely concerned

for kids," Skipworth said. Many children and adults, including Girl Scouts and church groups, painted bowls for the annual Empty Bowls fundraiser planned by the Settlement House for Saturday, said Kathy Fichtelman, the fundraiser's co-chairwoman. The group supports homeless families with daily and holiday food and gift distributions, school clothing and supplies, she said.

Youth sports organizations and the YMCA contribute to the community's success, Skipworth said.

"We have a community where a lot of different types of people have a lot of different ways they can help and they're not afraid to do it," he said.

IN BRIEF

FROM NEWS SERVICES

RIVERSIDE

Rodney King pleads not guilty in July DUI

Rodney King, a central figure in the 1992 LA riots, has pleaded not guilty to charges of driving under the influence stemming from his arrest in Moreno Valley in July.

Online court records show King entered the plea Monday in Superior Court in Riverside to misdemeanor counts of driving under the influence and driving with a blood-alcohol content above the legal limit. King's next hearing is Nov. 21.

—ASSOCIATED PRESS

\$350,000 college prep grant awarded

Riverside City College will develop programs to help high school students prepare for college with a \$350,000 grant it recently received from James Irvine Foundation.

The college plans to work with the Riverside and Al-vord unified school districts to create and expand career technical courses that will increase the number of high school students qualifying for college courses.

—IMRAN GHORI
ighori@pe.com

Trustee chosen for national board

Riverside Community Col-

lege District trustee Mary Figueroa has been elected to the National Association of Community College Trustees board of directors, according to a district news release.

Figueroa is the first district official to serve as a regional representative on the national nonprofit organization board. It represents more than 6,500 elected and appointed trustees from community, technical and junior colleges.

—IMRAN GHORI
ighori@pe.com

MORENO VALLEY

Update today on plans for high school

Two employees of the Moreno Valley Unified School District will discuss alternatives to building a new high school at a 4 p.m. meeting today in the district office.

Mays Kakish, chief business official, and Sergio San Martin, director of facilities, will talk about options other than building a fifth high school.

—LAURIE LUCAS
llucas@pe.com

RIVERSIDE

Injured dog better; essay contest opens

The medical condition of a dog that was dragged

SEE IN BRIEF/A4

TENTH-GRADERS EXPLORE CAREER COSTS, EARNINGS

BY DAYNA STRAEHLEY
STAFF WRITER
dstraehley@pe.com

Tenth-graders at Corona High School are clicking through an online survey, considering whether they like or don't like jobs that would entail refinishing furniture, examining structures of the human body, working in a biology lab or writing songs.

The survey is part of the guidance department's 10th-grade career program to help guide their class choices in 11th and 12th grades. It also helps students focus on their opportunities and life after high school, Principal Owen Crosby said.

"It makes the classes more meaningful," he said. "We talk about trying to make connections to the real world, and how much more real-world can you get."

School counselors also have every 10th-grader fill out a sample job application and suggest they could take it with them to refer to when they fill out applications for real jobs. They get an overview of the various career technical education classes available at Corona High as well as regional occupational programs throughout Corona-Norco Unified School District.



MARK ZALESKI/

Corona High counselor Anna Ferrera helps Caleb Hudson, 15, during the 10th grade hand-on career interest survey and reality check. All 10th-graders in the district take the survey.

The program, at www.careerzone.org, also includes what's called a "reality check" — asking students what kind of home or apartment they would like as adults, what kind of car they would expect to drive and other lifestyle questions. Then it calculates the cost of that lifestyle and compares it with students' career choices.

Corona's 10th grade career program, which is free, won Model of Excellence recognition at last week's Riverside County Education Summit.

Honor students, who said they feel their education is on track to become doctors,

could expect to earn tens of thousands of dollars more than their lifestyle expectations would require, according to the survey.

"You also have to pay for the schooling to get the job," said Andrew Jones, 15, who said he is still interested in genetics. The survey said he could expect average pay of \$168,000 a year.

The survey also pointed out other interesting options, such as athletic trainer, cardiologist or nutritionist.

The career survey is given to all 10th-graders, from honor students to students in special education and those at risk of dropping out, counselor Anna Ferrara said. The jobs outlook updates every two years.

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FRANK ESCOBEDO
Publisher and General Manager/ Hispanic Media
fescobedo@pe.com

ED LASAK
Senior Vice President/
Finance and Publishing Operations
elasak@PE.com

KEN NELSON
Senior Vice President/Advertising and Interactive
Development
knelson@PE.com

AARON KOTAREK
Vice President/Circulation and Distribution
akotarek@PE.com