

Casualties of
War in
Iraq 4,801
Afghan 2839
as of Jan.
19, 2012



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Bobbie Gean Patterson, 73 of Lubbock, passed away Friday, January 13, 2012 at her residence. She was born May 1, 1938 to Hillary, Sr. and Elnora Hutchinson. Bobbie Gean learned and developed integrity and received years of teaching and training at Bethel A.M.E. Church where she served as a choir member, church secretary and youth director. As time passed, Bobbie Gean moved her membership

to what is now the Martin Luther King Jr. Seventh Day Adventist Church and proudly served as church pianist and Sabbath School Teacher. Bobbie Gean spent countless hours studying the word of God and imparting that same word to others. Bobbie Gean spent her early years of learning from many loving and caring educators at Dunbar Schools. It was there that she learned to read, recite, remember and the power of the word

reward. Bobbie Gean worked hard and served in many school organizations. She had a true love for singing and developed a very melodious voice. She sang in the school choir, the octet group and the Dunbar Combo until her completion of high school in 1955. Following high school, she took that same ethic, drive and zeal for learning to Paul Quinn College in Waco, Texas where she obtained her Bachelor Degree in Education, graduating Magna Cum Laude and to Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas where she earned a Masters of Education in the area of Counseling and Diagnostics. She met and married Thomas James Patterson or "TJ" as he has come to be known. TJ went into the military after marrying Bobbie Gean and beginning a family. TJ and Bobbie Gean had the responsibility of caring for three children, Avis

Elise, Thomas James, Jr. and Shelia Renee. Bobbie Gean spent many years teaching and educating children and young people. She began her career in the teaching field in the Ralls Independent School District. From there, she taught in the Plainview Independent School District and the Lubbock Independent School District. Bobbie Gean would leave Lubbock I.S.D. to work at the collegiate level as a Counselor in the College of Business at Texas Tech University. Later, she returned to Lubbock I.S.D. to complete her over 40 years of service in education to countless children and young adults. Providing for children were her priority and she worked tirelessly to have another continuing gift to them through the TJ and Bobbie Patterson Scholarship, where graduating high school students and undergraduate students may apply for a scholarship while attending Texas Tech University. Bobbie Gean's life was

filled with the joy of touching young people through her career and Christian and personal walk. She has a record of service through Eta Lambda and Lubbock Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She served on numerous boards for the City of Lubbock, as a cub and girl scout leader, and as a member of many community choirs, church boards and organizations. While Bobbie Gean was not one for wanting recognition, she received several awards and honors that include the United Juneteenth Commission of Lubbock Trendsetter, the MLK Commemorative Council Educator of the Year and the Bobbie Gean & T.J. Patterson Branch Library just to name a few. She is preceded in death by her parents, Hillary, Sr. and Elnora Hutchinson; her grandmother, Sara "Good Mama" Crawford; sisters, Sara Blocker and Sandra McKinzie; brother, Norvell Hutchinson; and, a son, Cliff-

ford Ray Patterson. Those left to cherish her memory and carry on her legacy are her husband of 52 years, Thomas Patterson, Sr. of Lubbock; son, Pastor Thomas Patterson, Sr. (Urusla) of Mansfield; daughters, Avis Patterson and Shelia Harris (Shau) both of Lubbock; grandchildren, Rev. Zairreus Patterson, Marcus Williams (Emmanuel), Asya Harris, Thomas Patterson, III and Lauren Patterson; one great-grand child, Nathan Williams; brother, Hillary Hutchinson, Jr. (Deborah); and, a host of nieces, nephews, other family members, friends and thousands of children whose lives she touched. Celebration of Life Services will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, January 20, 2012 at Full Amor Ministries. Interment will follow at City of Lubbock Cemetery under the direction of Griffin Mortuary. Family will receive friends from 1 to 6 p.m. today at Griffin Mortuary.

Monument at Texas Capitol will honor roles of Tejanos

Leyes migratorias afectan el campo en EE.UU.

AUSTIN — Tejanos will soon have a permanent home at the Texas Capitol.

A groundbreaking ceremony Friday started two months of preparations to install the first monument that honors the contributions of Tejanos — early Texas settlers of Spanish and Mexican descent who introduced ranching and missions, fought in critical battles and can be credited with developing many towns and cities.

The effort to get such a monument on the Capitol grounds was not easy. South Texas resident Renato Ramirez and others have labored for 12 years TX CAPITOL REPORT A view from the state capitol, through legislative red tape, a misunderstanding of the role Tejanos played in the history of the state and attempts by naysayers to keep the monument away from the Capitol.

"There is no art that refers positively to Hispanics," Ramirez, vice president of the nonprofit Tejano Monument Inc., said about the Capitol grounds. "They've got Santana on his knees with a sword to his neck. It's always a put-down."

Ramirez recalled a visit to the governor's office in 2000 that yielded his only encounter with Hispanics at the Capitol. Even still, he said, the painting was of a Mexican hut, not of the ornate haciendas that produce pride in Mexican architecture.

"Hispanics are a very important part of Texas culture and history, and we want to reflect and positively

on the accomplishments of Hispanics," said Ramirez, who leads

to telling part of our great story." Organizers at the groundbreak-

explorations, the establishment of frontier institutions such as ranching, pueblos and missions, the Mexican-American war and the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

Emilio Zamora, a history professor at the University of Texas at Austin, is spearheading the curriculum project. He said he wants to replicate the program in at least 15 to 20 districts throughout the state.

"I think we've hit upon one of the best ways to influence public school curriculum in a positive way — in a way that enhances the subject matter that teachers have," Zamora said.

The arduous process started in 2000 with a group of Texas residents who formed Tejano Monument Inc.

Ramirez said both the monument and the curriculum project are teaching vehicles, which will make Tejanos proud of their heritage. "I want to see, 10 or 15 years from now, Tejanitos come on their field trips to the Capitol and the first monument that will greet them will be the Tejano monument," Ramirez said.

fundraising efforts for the project, which has drawn more than \$1 million in private donations. State lawmakers appropriated an additional \$1 million for the approximately 550-square-foot monument that is 10 feet tall and has 12 pieces, including a Spanish explorer, a vaquero on a horse and two longhorns.

The monument reflects Tejano history starting with the arrival of the Spaniards in the 1500s. The monument will be unveiled March 29, joining 18 permanent displays on that Capitol grounds that include Heroes of the Alamo, Confederate soldiers, the Texas cowboy and volunteer fireman. "The Capitol grounds, in part like the Capitol building, tell part of the great story of Texas and of the people and of the events that are important parts of our history," said John Sneed, executive director of the State Preservation Board. "This will be an important addition



mecanizar más la agricultura, pero no se puede hacer todo con máquinas," explicó Wainer. "Se puede reducir la necesidad de mano de obra con tecnología, pero no se puede eliminar trabajo humano".

Esto es más notorio en los productos que van directamente de la plantación al mercado como las frutas y las verduras frescas, para cuya recolección se necesita la destreza y la experiencia del humano".

"Es más fácil reemplazar la mano de obra cuando se trata de alimentos que serán procesados, enlatados", continuó. "Pero la recolección, selección y manejo de la fruta o las verduras frescas dependen de la mano de obra humana".

El informe sostuvo que los niños de los peones rurales migrantes, muchos de los cuales son ciudadanos nacidos en EEUU, encaran tasas más altas de pobreza y de inseguridad nutricional, todo ello derivado de la situación de inmigrante ilegal de su padre o su madre.

"Los estudios señalan que los inmigrantes no 'quitan' trabajo a los estadounidenses ya que no son muchos los trabajadores estadounidenses dispuestos a tomar esos empleos rurales.

Una de las razones para esta renuencia es que los trabajos rurales tienen remuneración muy baja y los peones de zafra ganan un promedio de \$11,000 al año. Otra de las razones es que estos trabajos se cuentan entre los más peligrosos en EEUU.

El Instituto Paz para el Mundo recomendó que al Gobierno de Estados Unidos que legalice la situación de los peones rurales que ya están en el país para eliminar la amenaza constante de deportación con la cual ellos viven.

También recomendó reformas en el programa de "trabajadores huéspedes", que reciben una visa de tiempo limitado porque los trámites son complejos y llevan mucho tiempo.

El sistema agropecuario de EEUU, que depende en buena parte de la labor de los peones rurales, está en conflicto con las políticas de inmigración que han endurecido la situación para los indocumentados, indicó hoy el Instituto Pan para el Mundo.

"Desde que se han empezado a aplicar las nuevas leyes contra la inmigración ilegal hemos visto escasez de mano de obra en estados como Georgia, Alabama y en parte de California", dijo en una teleconferencia Andrew Wainer, un analista del grupo cristiano que aboga por esfuerzos para aliviar el hambre en el mundo.

"Muchos de estos trabajadores han vivido en Estados Unidos durante décadas y están altamente capacitados con mucha experiencia, pero viven con el temor constante de la deportación", añadió.

"La edad promedio del trabajador agrícola en EEUU es 57 años", dijo Wainer. "Son muy pocos los jóvenes interesados en seguir esta profesión y los trabajadores que han hecho esto durante muchos años carecen de protecciones legales".

Las leyes estatales contra los inmigrantes indocumentados han causado el éxodo de muchos de ellos y la renuencia de los empleadores a contratarlos, por lo cual en algunos estados se ha probado con programas que ofrecen la mano de obra de presos.

"No ha sido exitoso el uso de presos en el campo", dijo Wainer. "Los dueños de las fincas y los capataces dicen que no funciona bien. Después de poco tiempo de trabajo (los presos) abandonan la labor, en cuestión de horas o pocos días".

Muchos agricultores, según un estudio del Instituto divulgado hoy, advierten que sin la mano de obra de los inmigrantes tendrían que dedicarse a cultivos que puedan trabajarse con maquinaria, o deberán cesar la producción totalmente.

"Por supuesto se puede

Commentaries - Opinions

PRESUMPTIVE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE MITT ROMNEY HAS FENCES TO MEND TO GAIN HISPANIC TRUST AND VOTES

By Griselda Nevarez - Hispanic Link News Service
Mitt Romney, the Republican Party's presumptive presidential candidate, made his first attempts to gain critical support from Latino voters this month, but failed to confront his own negative record on issues of high priority to Latino voters.

During a primary race stop in New Hampshire Jan. 9, he spoke of the need to "convince more Latinos to vote Republican" if the GOP wants to be competitive in November against the Democrats and Barack Obama, who is already campaigning for reelection. Running against John McCain in 2008, Obama won 67 percent of the Latino vote. On Jan. 17, Romney released his first Spanish-language television ad in Florida's Miami-Dade County, which is heavily populated by Latinos.

In a televised Sept. 22 DDB debate, he attacked Texas Gov. Rick Perry for having signed into law 10 years ago a bill granting in-state tuition at the Lone Star State's public universities and colleges and reaffirmed that he would not support an immigration reform proposal to legalize any of the nation's 11 million undocumented persons.

In an interview with Univision Jan. 11, Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-Calif.) commented that if Romney is serious about trying to recruit Latinos for his vote, he must change his tough stance on immigration. "He's right that he has to attract Latino voters. He's wrong in that every time he says something, he does anything but attract Latinos to his candidacy," Becerra said.

Romney also stated during a Dec. 31 campaign stop in New Hampshire that, if elected, he would veto the DREAM Act.

On Jan. 11, the same day his campaign released the Spanish-language commercial, Romney enthusiastically accepted the endorsement of Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, who helped shape Arizona's and Alabama's immigration laws. Kobach is active with the Federation for American Immigration Reform, an organization the Southern Poverty Law Center has identified as a "hate group."

Adam Basto, president of Sons of Republicans, points to Romney's endorsement from Kobach as well as his stance on immigration and the DREAM Act as examples of how the candidate is out of touch with issues important to Latinos. Sons of Republicans is the country's largest such organization, with 6,000 members

Basto said that unless Romney changes his stance on the DREAM Act, the group will not support him if he becomes the Republican nominee. His group would even consider supporting a Democrat or a presidential candidate from another party, he told Hispanic Link.

Romney's release of the Spanish commercial comes just a couple weeks before the Jan. 31 primaries in Florida, where 22.5 percent of the state's population is Latino. The commercial, titled *Nosotros (Us)*, aired in Miami-Dade County where 72 percent of registered voters are Latino, mostly of Cuban descent. It starts with Craig Romano, the former Massachusetts governor's son, talking in Spanish about his father's values. Congress members Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Mario Diaz-Balart, along with Rubio's brother and former congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart, elaborated on Romney's plans to create jobs and "restore this country's national security."

Romney won the Jan. 3 Iowa caucus and Jan. 9 New Hampshire primary. The next vote is Jan. 21 in South Carolina, where a recent poll shows a close contest between being Newt Gingrich, Rick Santorum and Romney. On Jan. 16 former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman, who ran third in New Hampshire, withdrew

from the primary and endorsed Romney. Gingrich conceded that if Romney wins in South Carolina, "he's probably going to be the nominee." He also points to how Romney's campaign funding advantages gives him a boost. In the last three months of 2011, Romney raised \$24 million while Ron Paul and Gingrich combined raised \$22 million.

Basto says, "Any candidate that has the Latino support behind him could win the presidency." But Romney won't get support from Republican Latinos. "If he's going to veto the DREAM Act, like he claims, and if he's going to accept the support of people like Kris Kobach,"

Sons of Republicans is also calling for the Florida delegation in Congress to renounce its support of Romney.

Most analysts claim a GOP candidate must gain at least 40 percent of the Hispanic vote to win the White House. A Dec. 29 Pew Hispanic Center poll showed in a match-up with Obama, Romney would get 27 percent of that vote while the President would get 68 percent. (Griselda Nevarez is a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C.) See this column and more at www.HispanicLink.org. ©2012

PRECANDIDATO MITT ROMNEY DEBE REMENAR RELACIONES PARA GANARSE LA CONFIANZA Y LOS VOTOS HISPANOS

Por Griselda Nevarez - Hispanic Link News Service
Mitt Romney, presunto candidato presidencial del partido republicano, estableció intenciones este mes para ganarse el crítico apoyo de los electores latinos, sin embargo fracasó con su enfrente a su propio historial negativo con temas de alta prioridad para los votantes latinos.

Durante un evento de la campaña primaria en Nuevo Hampshire el 9 de enero, habló de la necesidad de "convencer a más latinos americanos a votar republicano" si el partido quiere ser competitivo en noviembre contra los demócratas y Barack Obama, quien ya está en plena campaña para ser reelegido. Haciendo campaña contra John McCain en el 2008, Obama ganó con un 67 por ciento del voto latino.

El 11 de enero, Romney emitió su primera propaganda de televisión en español en el condado Miami-Dade, en Florida, que tiene una alta población latina. En un debate republicano televisado el 22 de septiembre, Romney atacó al gobernador de Texas, Rick Perry, por haber promulgado una ley hace diez años que otorga a estudiantes indocumentados el derecho a pagar matrícula a nivel de residentes estatales en las universidades del estado de Texas y volvió a afirmar que no apoyaría una propuesta de reforma migratoria que legaliza inmigrantes de las 11 millones de personas indocumentadas de la nación.

En una entrevista con Univision el 11 de enero, el representante demócrata por California, Xavier Becerra, comentó que si Romney seriamente quiere atraer a electores latinos, debe cambiar su posición dura en cuanto a la inmigración. "Tiene razón que debe atraer a más latinos a su candidatura. Dónde se equivoca es en el hecho de que debería decir algo, hace todo menos atraer a latinos a su candidatura," dijo Becerra.

También afirmó Romney durante un evento de campaña en Nuevo Hampshire el 31 de diciembre que, si resultó electo, vetaría la ley DREAM.

El 11 de enero, el mismo día que su campaña emitió la propaganda en español, Romney aceptó con entusiasmo el respaldo del secretario de estado de Kansas, Kris Kobach, quien ayuda a formular las leyes de inmigración en Arizona y en Alabama. Kobach colabora con la Federación for American Immigration Reform, una organización identificada por el Southern Poverty Law Center como "grupo motivado por el odio."

Adam Basto, presidente del grupo Sons of Republicans, señala que, tanto el respaldo de Kobach para Romney como su posición en cuanto a la inmigración y la ley DREAM, son indicaciones que el candidato no está al tanto de los temas de importancia para los latinos. Sons of Republicans es la mayor organización de este tipo a nivel nacional, y cuenta con seis mil miembros.

Basto dijo que al menos que Romney cambie su posición en cuanto a la DREAM, el grupo no lo dará su apoyo si llega a ser el nomado republicano. El grupo lista consideraría dar su respaldo a un candidato demócrata o de otro partido, dijo a Hispanic Link.

Romney emitió la propaganda en español sólo un par de semanas previas a la primaria del 31 de enero en la Florida, donde el 22.5 por ciento de la población es latina.

La propaganda, titulada *Nosotros*, salió en el condado de Miami-Dade, donde el 72 por ciento de repulicanos registrados son latinos, la mayoría cubanos. La propaganda comenzó con el hijo del ex gobernador de Massachusetts, Craig Romano, hablando en español sobre los valores de su padre. Miembros del Congreso, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen y Mario Diaz-Balart, acompañados de hermano de Mario, y ex congresista Lincoln Diaz-Balart, se explican sobre los planes que tiene Romney

para crear empleos y "restaurar la seguridad nacional de este país."

Romney ganó el voto de la asamblea en Iowa el 3 de enero y la primaria en Nuevo Hampshire el 9 de enero. El siguiente voto será el 21 de enero en Carolina del Sur, donde una encuesta reciente indica que se está gestando una contienda entre candidatos como Newt Gingrich, Rick Santorum y Romney.

El 11 de enero el ex gobernador de Utah, Jon Huntsman, quien salió tercero en Nuevo Hampshire, se retiró de la primaria republicana y dio su respaldo a Romney.

Gingrich le dijo que si gana Romney en Carolina del Sur, "es probable que salga nomado". También señala cómo la ventaja que tiene Romney en términos de la presidencia de su campaña le da un impulso. Durante los últimos tres meses del 2011, Romney recaudó \$24 millones, mientras que combinados, Ron Paul y Gingrich recaudaron \$22 millones.

ES CIERTO QUE LA COMISIÓN FEDERAL DE COMUNICACIONES (FCC) DE OBAMA ESTÁ PROMOVENDO LAS POLÍTICAS FRACASADAS DE BUSH REFERENTE A LA PROPIEDAD DE LOS MEDIOS?

por Joseph Torres y Craig Aarons - *Hispanic Link News Service*

Como senador, Barack Obama luchó por prevenir mayor consolidación de los medios de comunicación.

En el 2007, por el apoyo a un voto promovido por la Comisión Federal de Comunicaciones (FCC) por sus siglas en inglés) entonces senador, Obama defendió una ley que autorizaba la prohibición contra ser propietario una sola estación de un periódico diario y una estación de medios radial/televisiva en un mismo mercado.

Debemos asegurar que tengamos un mercado mediático abierto que represente todas las voces de nuestra diversa nación y que permita que se oigan todas", dijo el futuro presidente antes del voto de la FCC.

Obama cubrió en la redacción de cartas a la FCC y en cartas editoriales en periódicos con el senador John Kyl (demócrata por Arizona) cuando se araban sobre el peligro de una mayor consolidación de los medios y el impacto que esto tendría sobre los propietarios, cuyos nombres se registran, de propietarios no blancos y mujeres se medios de emisión.

Dado esto, ¿por qué, entonces, se reporta que está la FCC bajo Obama promoviendo precisamente los mismos cambios en las reglas que intentaron y con lo que frustraron los republicanos en los años bajo Bush? Los esfuerzos por debilitar aún más los límites a la propiedad de medios han sido rechazados por el público, los tribunales y los dirigentes en el Congreso, incluyendo a miembros del Senado cuyos promuevan legislación por revocar las reglas de propiedad comunitaria de la FCC del 2007.

Según informes periodísticos, presidente de la FCC, Julius Genachowski, está permitiendo que haya mayor consolidación de los medios a pesar de la oposición del público, incluyendo la de organizaciones de color.

Existen muy pocos temas de política mediática que hayan logrado movilizar tanta oposición pública como la consolidación

de un candidato republicano que tenga el apoyo latino podrá ganar la presidencia", dijo a Romney su consiguiente apoyo de los latinos republicanos. "Si a ver la ley DREAM, como afirma, y si a aceptar el apoyo de personas como Kris Kobach,"

Sons of Republicans también hace un llamado a la delegación de Florida en el Congreso a que renuncie su apoyo de Romney.

La mayoría de los analistas afirma que un candidato republicano debe ganarse al mínimo el 40 por ciento del voto hispano para ganarse la Casa Blanca. Una encuesta del 28 de diciembre del Centro Hispano Pew, indicó que en una contienda contra Obama, Romney se ganaría el 23% de tal voto mientras que el presidente obtendría el 68%. (Griselda Nevarez es reportera con Hispanic Link News Service en Washington, D.C.) Para ver esta columna y mucho más, visite www.HispanicLink.org. ©2012

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Submitted to editor@sbglobal.net

THREE COURTS REJECT GUN LAW CHALLENGES IN 24 HOURS

Arizona, California, New Jersey, New Mexico and Texas Affected

In a string of legal victories for gun control, last week three courts rejected three gun lobby lawsuits challenging laws restricting the public carrying of guns in California and New Jersey and challenging a federal rule on gun trafficking along the Mexico border.

In all three cases, courts sided with arguments presented in legal briefs by the Brady Center that the contested gun laws were lawful and constitutional. "The gun lobby makes its priorities clear by litigating almost every law enforcement law, instead of working to keep guns off their streets and assisting law enforcement to fight illegal gun trafficking," said Jonathan Viner, director of the Brady Center's Legal Action Project. "We know there are too many victims of gun violence, and we are grateful that the courts agree that these laws are necessary to protect our communities from the scourge of gun violence in schools."

In a ruling affecting thousands of high-powered rifle sales in Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas, United States District Judge Rosemary M. Collyer in Washington, D.C. dismissed a gun lobby challenge to an Obama Administration rule requiring that gun dealers in the Southwest border states notify law enforcement of bulk sales of semi-automatic rifles, such as AK-47 assault rifles. These sales are a key indicator of gun trafficking. The United States District Court for the District of Columbia dismissed the case filed by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, agreeing with an amicus brief filed by the Brady Center that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) had authority to promulgate the rule. In such a gun trafficking situation, Viner, Jones, the court held that "ATF determined that certain gun sales among all other constitutional rights to the individual because it promotes the use of a firearm to cause serious personal injury - including the deliberate injury, death - to other individuals, rightly or wrongly," and said "the Second Amendment does not include a general right to carry handguns outside the home."

These legal decisions follow recent rulings by at least a dozen other courts around the nation declaring that the Second Amendment right to possess firearms is limited to the home. Similar to the defaults suffered by the gun lobby in these three cases, a Brady Center report, http://www.bradycenter.org/sharpe/rep/101710_Victors.pdf, examines the results of more than 40 challenges to gun laws filed by the gun lobby and gun criminals from the time the U.S. Supreme Court held that the Second Amendment provides an "individual right" to possess guns in the home for self-defense to the summer of 2011. The report finds that the courts overwhelmingly have rejected the gun lobby's challenges.

In California, a federal judge upheld Los Angeles County's strong concealed carry laws, agreeing with an amicus brief filed by the Brady Center in Birtli v. Burt. This ruling follows similar rulings at the district court level in Volio County and San Diego County. These prior decisions are now on appeal in the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The Brady Center filed amicus briefs at the appellate level in the pending cases.

In New Jersey, a federal judge upheld New Jersey's strong restrictions on the public carrying of guns, agreeing with the Second Amendment Foundation's lawsuit challenging those restrictions. Following suit by the Brady Center's amicus brief, the court in the Second Amendment Foundation v. Township of Turnershire held that the Amendment provides an "individual right of a firearm to cause serious personal injury - including the deliberate injury, death - to other individuals, rightly or wrongly," and said "the Second Amendment does not include a general right to carry handguns outside the home."

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Romney Tells Undocumented Youth He Will Veto the Dream Act Because She Is "Illegal"

Bracing signs saying "WE VETO ROMNEY", undocumented youth gathered at the Sheraton Hotel in New York City, they were delivering a message to Romney again about his promise to veto the Dream Act. They were trying to change a message to Romney during his fundraiser on how he would be changing his stance on this legislation if he is serious about attracting Latino voters.

"Are you going to support the DREAM Act?" Lucy asked. "I already said, across the country, after being contacted by Sheraton security as well as the NYPD and changing the demonstration around several times, Dreamers were able to make it inside the second floor Sheraton conference hall. Lucy, Aarons who was brought to the country when she was 10, made her way through a room full of Romney supporters to speak with Mitt Romney himself.

"Are you going to support the DREAM Act?" Lucy asked. "I already said, across the country, I would veto the Dream Act," the FCC fundraiser answered. "I'm undocumented, I want to know then, why are you not supporting my dream?" Lucy inquired. "Because if someone comes here illegally..." Romney replied, however, was "out with you" but "didn't come here illegally, and I have a 40 GPA," that was wonderful," he replied, his discomfort showing a bit. A Romney handler, carrying a bodyguard, quickly inserted himself between the two women. Lucy back, Lucy made her way out while Romney supporters cheered. They booed and booed, saying that "he was illegal and not working in the country. As she made her way out, he heard one man yell "Go back to Mexico." She turned around and replied "I'm not Mexican, I'm Peruvian." Later, undocumented youth caught a glimpse of Romney getting into a large, black SUV to make his exit. They approached him, chanting "We Veto Romney!"

DRM Capitol Group serves as a voice for undocumented youth. Our work ensures that undocumented youth are represented in the halls of power and are correctly and effectively informed of the actions of Congress, Executive Agencies, and the Courts. drmcapitolgroup.com

tendría a contratar a más personas de color y a incrementar su gasto en reclutamiento a las comunidades de color y a la justicia social (incluyendo Free Press, la Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Hispanos, la Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Negros y UNITY: Periodistas de Color) se han pronunciado con otra carta a la agencia que advierte: "La continuación de la falta de acción de parte de la FCC frente a las propuestas e inabundantes disparidades no es aceptable."

Los grupos que incluyen la Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, la ACLU, NOW y la NAACP, concluyeron que, "En lo que crecemos la consolidación, las personas de color y las mujeres tienen menos importancia como actores en el ecosistema de los medios de comunicación. La Comisión debe reconocer este hecho y tomar acción para remediarlo."

Cinco temas medios, entre organizaciones de mujeres y la justicia social (incluyendo Free Press, la Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Hispanos, la Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Negros y UNITY: Periodistas de Color) se han pronunciado con otra carta a la agencia que advierte: "La continuación de la falta de acción de parte de la FCC frente a las propuestas e inabundantes disparidades no es aceptable."

No hace falta tener medios que verdaderamente representen, como dijo Barack Obama mismo hacer no media, a "todas las voces de nuestra diversa nación." (Joseph Torres es asesor principal del Free Press nacional de reformas mediáticas. Sin embargo, y autor en el libro de "News for All and the People: The Epic Story of Race and the American Media" con columnistas del New York Daily News, Juan González, Craig Aaron es presidente de Free Press, y fue editor gerente de la revista In These Times. Contacta con Torres a jtorres@freepress.org o en Aaron a carver@freepress.net) Para ver esta columna y más, visite www.HispanicLink.org. ©2011

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Latinos Join Backlash to SOPA and PIPA Bills



Thousands of websites went dark Wednesday to protest the government's Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) and the Protect Intellectual Property Act (PIPA), bills that legislators claim would help stop Internet copyright infringement but that some online experts warn could restrict the freedom of the Internet.

The biggest names participating in the blackout include user-based encyclopedia Wikipedia, web browser Mozilla and photo-sharing site Twitpic.

"For over a decade, we have spent millions of hours building the largest encyclopedia in human history," Wikipedia stated on its website. "Right now, the U.S. Congress is considering legislation that could fatally damage the free and open Internet. For 24 hours, to raise awareness, we are blacking out Wikipedia."

It would be a shame if sites that are rich in Latino content that cater to an underserved community would be forced to shutdown because of such legislation.

-Louis Pagan, a social entrepreneur and content manager of Hispanicize

Besides those sites going totally dark, search engine giant Google and other sites have put up anti-SOPA content on their website in solidarity with the blackout.

In New York, members of the technology community planned a protest outside the offices of New

York Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand who support the legislation.

"This legislation would give the government and corporations the ability to censor the net in the name of protecting creativity simply by convincing a judge that a site is 'dedicated to copyright infringement.'" The New York Tech Meetup's website stated.

"More importantly, the legislation amounts to a wholesale re-engineering of the open web in a way that would allow the US government to prosecute Internet users without due process, which in turn would discourage innovation, limit investment, and hurt our economic future."

Members of the Latino community have also raised concerns about PIPA and SOPA, as the bills put websites that link to other sites that have copyright infringement in jeopardy, said Louis Pagan, social entrepreneur and content manager of Hispanicize.

"SOPA limits the free net and puts sites like mine in legal jeopardy if I link to anywhere on the Internet that has copyright infringement. To be forced to police such information is unfathomable," Pagan said to Fox News Latino. "It would be a shame if sites that are rich in Latino content that cater to an underserved community would be forced to shutdown because of such legislation."

Sites like Google and Wikipedia argue that stricter copyright laws would be very difficult to police and could open the companies

to a blitz of law suits. Google, YouTube and other sites spend a large amount of time watching their sites for illegally posted, copyrighted material and the two new bills would hold the websites accountable.

Legislators in support of PIPA recently removed a provision that would require Internet service providers to block access to overseas web sites accused of piracy.

"This provision was drafted in response to concerns that law enforcement has remedies it can take against domestic websites, but does not currently have the power to stop foreign rogue website," said Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy. "I regret that law enforcement will not have this remedy available when websites operating overseas are stealing American property, threatening the safety and security of American consumers."

The Obama administration announced earlier this week that it would veto any bill that's not more narrowly focused. "Any effective legislation should reflect a wide range of stakeholders, including everyone from content creators to the engineers that build and maintain the infrastructure of the Internet," the White House said in a statement. "While we believe that online piracy by foreign websites is a serious problem that requires a serious legislative response, we will not support legislation that reduces freedom of expression, increases cybersecurity risk, or undermines the dynamic, innovative global Internet."

Due to the pressure from online groups as well as the White House, the U.S. House of Representatives has decided to push back a vote on SOPA until February.

Republicanos de a pie, más flexibles sobre reforma migratoria

Larry Stichefield es un republicano que simpatiza con el más conservador de los precandidatos de su partido, Rick Santorum.

Pero en lo que respecta a los inmigrantes, el dueño de un restaurante en Laconia, New Hampshire, tiene ideas más flexibles que su candidato.

"Yo creo que hay que cerrar las fronteras y eliminar la inmigración ilegal", dijo Stichefield a La Opinión durante un evento de Santorum aquí. "Respecto a los sin papeles que tienen hijos ciudadanos, es una pregunta difícil, ahí les permitiría que ganaran la oportunidad de quedarse. Si los hijos son ciudadanos, es algo más complicado".

Su esposa, Patty, estuvo de acuerdo. Ella piensa que los indocumentados son una carga para los contribuyentes porque, dice, usan servicios. "Pero yo sé que hacen trabajos que muchos estadounidenses no quieren hacer", dijo la mujer, también republicana.

Donald y Carol Yemma estaban entusiasmados asistiendo a un mitin de Ron Paul cuando respondieron a la misma pregunta. "Yo creo que los inmigrantes deben venir legales. Yo no tengo problema con los inmigrantes legales ni con los latinos. Nuestra hija aprendió español y gracias a eso encontré un buen trabajo", dijo el hombre, ahora retirado.

Yemma es uno de los "duros" que apoya quitar la ciudadanía a los hijos de inmigrantes indocumentados. "Yo creo que la gente se aprovecha para venir y tener hijos ciudadanos", dijo, mientras su esposa sacudía

la cabeza en movimiento de "no".

"No estoy de acuerdo", dijo Carol. "Yo no creo que debamos quitar la ciudadanía a alguien nacido aquí. No sé. No me he decidido en ese asunto, pero no me parece".

Las encuestas llevan tiempo mostrando que en lo que se refiere a inmigración, las opiniones de los votantes republicanos de a pie son más complejas y matizadas que las de los candidatos de ese partido, que con excepción de Newt Gingrich, han rechazado cualquier posibilidad de legalizar a inmigrantes sin papeles.

Hace pocas semanas, una encuesta de FOX halló que 57% de republicanos apoyan una forma de legalización para los indocumentados. Sólo 26% dice que quiere deportarlos a todos.

Otro sondeo más revelador fue uno realizado hace días en Iowa, un estado mucho más conservador que New Hampshire. Entre republicanos de Iowa, un sondeo local halló que sólo un 16% está completamente opuesto a una reforma pro inmigrante y que mayorías en los sesentas y setentas por ciento apoyan diversas reformas, como facilitar la contratación de inmigrantes en puestos temporales o permanentes si no hay estadounidenses para realizarlo.

Pero hasta ahora, ninguno de los pre-candidatos republicanos ha diseñado un plan de acción para lidiar con el asunto migratorio, con excepción de Newt Gingrich, quien habla de

cambios como la creación de un programa de trabajadores temporales y reformas a categorías de visas que permitan la entrada legal más rápida de inmigrantes necesarios para el país.

De hecho, el tema de inmigración ni siquiera se trató en Iowa o New Hampshire ni en los dos debates que se realizaron en Manchester en las horas anteriores a la votación de este martes.

Pero el presunto favorito para ganar la nominación Mitt Romney, no tiene un plan de reforma migratoria, rechaza el Dream Act, apoya la construcción del muro en la frontera y denomina "amnistía" a la legalización de indocumentados, posturas que han sido criticadas hasta por sus primos mexicanos en Chihuahua.

Romney tiene a parte de su familia en México, hacia donde su bisabuelo escapó en 1880 huyendo de las leyes contra la poligamia en Estados Unidos.

Ron Paul favorece quitar la ciudadanía a hijos de indocumentados y Rick Santorum, cuyo padre y abuelo fueron inmigrantes en la época de la Italia de Mussolini, no está de acuerdo con legalizar a los indocumentados de ninguna manera.

El domingo, en un evento latino, Gingrich dijo que "es importante que establezcamos que abrimos las puertas a la gente buena que viene buscando oportunidades. Tampoco vamos a entrar a las iglesias y a llevarnos gente que está enraizada en este país por 25 años o más".

¡DISFRUTA LOS JUEGOS DE TEXAS!



'El Talismán' Premiere Set for January 30



In "El Talismán" a loving father who loses it all in a poker game, has no idea the far-reaching repercussions of his actions; ones that will forever change his daughter's destiny. Trapped in the middle of an old feud symbolized by the powerful haciendas of "El Alcazar" and "El Talismán," Camila Aceves (Blanca Soto) and Pedro Barra (Rafael Novoa) will be the pawns in this unlikely game. He is a handsome and courageous man who, despite being cynical about love, cannot help but open up his heart to her. She is a young, beautiful and intelligent woman that can't stop herself from loving him despite the uncertainty about his past. But when Pedro unwittingly becomes the man that brings Camila's father to his ruin, destiny will turn them into enemies. Spinning a web of secrets and lies around them will be the handsome but arrogant Antonio Negrete (Aarón Díaz), along with his sensual and manipulative sister Lorena (Lola Ponce). They will do everything in their power to turn the odds to their favor and win what their hearts' desire most -- to destroy Camila and Pedro's relationship. As deceit, betrayal, and confusion tear Camila and Pedro apart, only one question remains: will they find the talisman to turn luck in their favor?

After captivating worldwide audiences with her lead role in Univision Studios's hit novela "Eva Luna," Blanca Soto returns to the network in the mega production, "El Talismán." Prior to her work with Univision, the actress, model and former Miss Mexico had starred in several movies, including the award-winning short film "La Vida Blanca" and the 2010 blockbuster "Dinner for Schmucks." Mexican actor Aarón Díaz also returns to the small screen after making his indelible mark on Univision's highly popular novela "Teresa." Starring as Mariano, one of Angélica Boyer's ("Teresa's") main love interests, Díaz won the hearts of millions with his irresistible looks and charming personality. The charismatic Rafael Novoa, plays a strong role in this story of entangled love in "El Talismán"; is one of Colombia's most renowned actors. As the main character of Colombia's hit novela "Pura Sangre," he broke international barriers becoming a household name in the entertainment industry. Lola Ponce, Argentinean actress and singer will make her U.S. debut as the bombshell temptress "Lucrecia" in "El Talismán." Ponce began her acting career starting in teenybopper novels in her native Argentina

in the late 90s. Sergio Reynoso is a 30-year veteran of Spanish-language television. Better known as el "Chakain," Reynoso began his on-screen career in Mexican films, including Luis Alcorza's "Las Fuerzas Vivas," "El Angel Negro," and "Viajero," among others. Marcela Mar is a well-known Colombian actress who began acting at an early age and attended Bogota's prestigious National Theater. Since then, Marcela has participated in theater productions, film and television, characterizing various genres with the innate talent and passion she is known for. Julieta Rosen is a Mexican actress with an extensive career in Spanish-language television. She began her career at the tender age of 16 in theater productions in her native Mexico, including the famous play "Don Juan Tenorio." Novela sweetheart Karyme Lozano, known for her role in some of Spanish-language television's leading novelas, including "Amar Sin Límites," "El Manantial," "Niña Amada Mía," and "Soñar No Cuesta Nada," makes her much-anticipated return to the small screen in "El Talismán." WHEN: Premieres Monday, January 30 at 8 p.m. ET/PT WHERE: Univision Network

¿Que Pasa?

"PROJECT FOCUS!"

Hospice of Lubbock "Project Focus!" Program Utilizes Movies to Help Children and Families with Grief Communication with your children, spouse or extended family following the loss of a loved one can be difficult. "Project Focus!," a new program offered by Hospice of Lubbock, utilizes movies to help families open the lines of communication to cope with the loss of a loved one. The first film featured by "Project Focus!" is Disney Pixar's "Up." The movie will be shown on Sunday, Jan. 22 at 2 p.m. at the Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts (LHU-CA) Firehouse Theater located at 511 Ave. K. "Project Focus!" will take place quarterly. Each program will feature a different movie to help children and families effectively deal with the grief of losing a loved one. "Movies help connect us to not only our feelings but to others through shared experiences," Charles Lindsey, bereavement counselor for Hospice of Lubbock, said. "Our goal with this series is to help families find new ways to connect, talk and heal after the loss of a loved one." Following each movie, Hospice of Lubbock staff will offer an activity connected to the featured movie. The activity will focus on the celebration of life and teach families how to begin to communicate their feelings in a productive way. The deadline to register for the first program is Thursday, Jan. 19. To R.S.V.P., please call 806.795.2751

PHONE BOOK RECYCLING

Beginning Tuesday, January 17, 2012, residents can drop-off phone books at the two permanent City drop-off locations: Northside, 208 Municipal Drive Southside, 1631 84th Street Telephone books will be accepted January 17, 2012 through Thursday, March 1, 2012, Monday through Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

This project is a collaboration between the City of Lubbock Solid Waste Services department, Names and Numbers, and Jarvis Metals Recycling.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS AT SPC RESCHEDULED

South Plains College announces a change in the date of a spring photography class at SPC Plainview. The Digital Jump Start class originally slated for Jan. 14 has been rescheduled to Feb. 4. Digital Jump Start is a class designed for the person who has just started digital photography. This class can be taken with a point-and-shoot camera or a digital SLR camera. Students will get instruction on camera functions and shooting in the manual mode. Shooting will take place indoors and outdoors. The class will be presented from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Jan. 21 in Muleshoe, Jan. 28 in Crosbyton and Feb. 4 in Plainview. The class costs \$40. For more information and to register for the class, contact Kasey Reyes at (806) 716-2341.

SPC TO OFFER QUILT PIECING CLASS

South Plains College's Division of Continuing and Distance Education will offer a Quilt Piecing Class from Jan. 24 through March 6 in the Law Enforcement Building Room 116. The class will meet from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday (Jan. 17) for orientation. The cost of the class is \$40 and does not include supplies. Payment is required with registration. According to the instructor, Vickey Vest, students will be given a supply list during the session. Participants will learn new techniques, tips and tricks of quilt piecing.

To register, contact Kasey Reyes, secretary for the Division of Continuing and Distance Education at (806) 716-2341 or email reyesk@southplainscollege.edu

PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS

Learn to Knit at Groves Branch Library Come to the Groves Branch Library, 5520 19th Street, and learn the basics of Continental style knitting on Tuesday, January 17 at 6:30 p.m. Bring size 8 knitting needles and worsted weight yarn. For more information, please call the library at 767-3733. Martin Luther King Storytime at Patterson Branch Library Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday at a special storytime at the Patterson Branch Library, 1836 Parkway Drive, on Tuesday, January 17 at 6 p.m. Each family will receive a free book, courtesy of Literacy Lubbock. For more information, please call the library at 767-3300. Learn to Knit at Groves Branch Library Come to the Groves Branch Library, 5520 19th Street, and learn the basics of Continental style knitting on Tuesday, January 24 at 6:30 p.m. Bring size 8 knitting needles and worsted weight yarn. For more information, please call the library at 767-3733. Book Discussion at Patterson Branch Library The Left-to-Right Book Discussion Group will meet at the Patterson Branch Library, 1836 Parkway Drive, on Saturday, January 28 at 2 p.m. For more information, please call the library at 767-3300.

ANNUAL FITNESS OPEN HOUSES

Parks and Recreation is ready to help you achieve your New Year's resolutions! On Saturday, January 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., our community and senior centers (see below) will host open houses to introduce the public to their lifestyle fitness areas and classes. There will be door prizes, demonstrations to participate in, and refreshments, and admission is free. There is never a cost to use the fitness equipment, but patrons must complete an orientation packet with annual waiver and be instructed on how to use the equipment prior to their first workout. Lubbock Senior Center 201 19th Street 767-2710 Ages 45+ Treadmills, Elliptical Machines, Cardio Glide, Recumbent and Stationary Bikes, Stepper, Hand Weights, Maggie Trejo Supercenter 3200 Amherst Street 767-2705 Treadmills, Elliptical Machine, Stationary Bikes, Hydraulic Fitness Equipment (9 piece circuit), Toning Tables, Weight Machines, Free Weights, Bench Press. Mae Simmons Community Center 2004 Oak Avenue 767-2700 Senior Center -Treadmill and Bike only Community Center -Treadmills, Elliptical Machine, Recumbent and Stationary Bikes, Universal Gym, Free Weights, Bench Press Copper Ravines Community Center 213 40th Street 767-2704 Arc Trainer, Treadmills, Recumbent and Stationary Bikes, Weight Machine, Hand Weights, Benches Jazzercise Open House Hodges Community Center, located at 4011 University, will be hosting a Jazzercise Open House on Saturday, January 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Individuals can participate in a 15-minute Jazzercise class on the hour and half hour and try out this fun and exhilarating workout! For more information, call the center at 767-3706. Parks and Recreation is dedicated to helping Lubbock citizens maintain a healthy lifestyle and offers many activities at low or no cost including Jazzercise, Zumba, Martial Arts, Tai Chi, Yoga and Dance. All of these activities are listed in the 2012 Spring Recreation and Leisure Guide, which is available online at www.playlubbock.com <<http://www.playlubbock.com>> or by mail by calling 775-2685.

BAN LIFTED ON GENERATORS & OUTDOOR GRILLING IN CITY PARKS

The city of Lubbock's parks and recreation department is lifting the ban on the use of fuel-driven electrical generators and outdoor grilling in all city parks. With recent fire concerns, the city of Lubbock parks and recreation department and the Lubbock fire department want you to be safe when using grills in our city parks. Here are some safety tips to remember when grilling:

- Grills – campfires are not allowed in any city park. Use only permanent grills located in the parks or a self-contained, off the ground charcoal or propane grill.
- Pick a safe area – place the grill on a flat surface in a well-ventilated area away from overhangs, park shelters, low hanging bushes, fences and shrubbery. Keep children and pets away from the grill when in use.
- Handle charcoal carefully – use only the amount of charcoal needed. Do not overfill. Never add lighter fluid directly to hot coals since flames could travel up the fluid stream and cause an explosion. Never use gasoline or kerosene to start a fire. Use proper utensils for safe handling of food and coals.
- Putting out the fire – make sure that all charcoal is completely cool to the touch before leaving a park grill. If possible, allow the coals to burn out completely before dousing with water. For portable, self-contained grills, also insure that coals are completely cooled before transporting grill in a vehicle. Dispose of cold ashes in an appropriate receptacle. Do not throw on the ground. Do not put hot coals into park trash cans.
- Don't litter! – Take care of your parks! Please pick up all trash and place it into park trash cans before you leave the area.

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\$15/Couple or \$8/Individual

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PO Box 1614 Lubbock, TX 79406-1614
All proceeds to benefit student scholarships.

T.O., with more controversy, will join IFL

Terrill Owens, with his money problems and desire to return to the NFL, has had a tough time staying out of the news in his first season out of the NFL. But late Wednesday night, Owens finally had some positive career news to share.

And now, it's official: Owens says he'll return to professional football with the Allen Wranglers of the Indoor Football League.

In a video he posted on YouTube.com, Owens proclaimed the following: "Uh-oh, it's official. It just went down. I'm headed back to Texas. That's right. IFL here I come. Allen, Tx., Here I come. I'm gonna be me. Allen, Tx., I'll see you in the end zone."

As we wrote before, players only make \$225 per game in the IFL, and they get a bonus for winning. Owens' paycheck, though, figures to be much larger than that, as the Wranglers put out a story on their website last month that said his compensation package could be worth between \$250,000-\$300,000 (it seems likely Owens would have an ownership stake in the franchise if that's the case).

"I'm sure Cowboys fans and all football fans in the area would love to get T.O. back," Wranglers coach Patrick Pimmel said last month. "Terrill would be a great addition to our organization and I hope we can make this happen."

Now, the Wranglers and Owens have. But that doesn't mean Owens isn't still causing controversy of the negative persuasion.



It came to light Wednesday that Owens made an accusation in the February issue of GO in which he's said that before he was to read an apology to his Eagles teammates for his behavior in 2005, Jeremiah Trotter told him not to read the section that was intended as an apology to Donovan McNabb.

Here's an excerpt of the article that likely will cause many more headaches in Philadelphia (via the Philadelphia Inquirer):

How about the decision not to publicly apologize to McNabb for suggesting in an interview immediately after the Eagles lost the Super Bowl that the quarterback had "got tired" on the field? For a moment, he is silent. Could he actually be on the verge of admitting he made an error?

"Well, I probably should have done...." he begins, rubbing his hand along the contours of his massive shaved dome. Then he stops himself. "No. No. Listen, I was in the locker room before the press conference, and my team captain,

Jeremiah Trotter, read through that apology they wrote for me. He got to the bottom part, the part where it had the stuff about

Donovan, and he did this." Owens snatches a piece of paper from the table and rips off the bottom three inches. "This is the team leader we're talking about; he told me not to do it."

Trotter, not surprisingly, was outraged by the accusation. In a text to the Inquirer on Wednesday night, Trotter wrote that Owens' quotes were

a "super lie." Then, the former Eagles linebacker tweeted the following to Owens, "yo man u ying to GO Mag I never told u that call me ASAP!!!!!!"

A few minutes later, Owens responded, "@jtrttrr_54 lying about what?" Then, Owens sent Trotter a direct message with his contact information, so I assume the trail on that aspect of this story has run cold.

But Owens also had this to say in the GO article, "To say I regret anything would be a slap in my grandmother's face. Are there some things I might do differently now? Sure."

Apologizing to McNabb apparently is not one of them. At the end of the excerpt, though, Owens got it exactly right. "I am not," he says, "a tactful person."

No, but once again, Owens is officially a professional football player. And he has all bunch of new teammates to whom he can be tactless.

Smith, Flacco among those who stand to gain most with Super berth

There are more than four football teams that stand to gain something wonderful this weekend. There are a handful of individuals who need a victory either to validate their credibility or enhance their reputations.

These are their stories. Look, I understand conference championship games are important to everyone involved, but they're more significant for some than others. There are plenty of guys who want to win, but there are considerably less who need to win.

Which is why we're here. I've identified a few of the individuals who stand to gain the most Sunday, and let's be clear on one thing before we go further: That doesn't minimize the importance of winning to someone like, say, New England's Tom Brady. But Brady is the best quarterback in today's game and one of the best ever. Plus, he has been to four Super Bowls and won three. Contrast that to what Joe Flacco or Alex Smith is up against, and I think you can see why I'm going.

Anyway, if there's a guest list of those who benefit most with a victory Sunday, this is where I start:

Joe Flacco, quarterback, Baltimore: This weekend's game is supposed to be a litmus test for him, but people forget that the Ravens offense doesn't revolve around the quarterback. It revolves around Ray Rice. Nevertheless, frustrated Baltimore fans is questioning whether their team can make it to the top with Flacco, and this is where they find out. All I can be to the Ravens to the AFC Championship Game as a rookie, and he has taken them to the playoffs in the three years that followed. So has never been to a Super Bowl. Neither did Dan Fouts or Warren Moon, and they're in the Hall of Fame. Now let's get something straight: I'm not saying Flacco is Hall-worthy. But he doesn't have to be. Not in this offense. He must, however, be good enough to push the Ravens from behind if they're forced to play catchup with Tom Brady, and I wouldn't underestimate the guy.

This was the season he finally beat Ben Roethlisberger — twice, no less, including a come-from-behind victory in Pittsburgh where he drove the Ravens 92 yards in the final two minutes. Granted, he can be inconsistent, and last weekend he demonstrated a lack of pocket presence in the face of Houston's pass rush. But this is not the Houston defense. This is New England, the league's 31st-ranked unit. The challenge is different, and for Flacco, the challenge is proving he can win a championship game.

Alex Smith, QB, San Francisco: I know, he pushed his career forward with his last-minute heroics vs. New Orleans, but one game doesn't undo six years of mediocrity. Most people in and around the 49ers don't worry about Smith, because what he did last weekend is what he has been doing all season — except not in such dramatic fashion. Anyway, he has led the 49ers to six come-from-behind victories, including one in Philadelphia where he overcame a 20-point fourth-quarter deficit. The national perception of Smith is that

he's more of a game manager than a dangerous quarterback, but tell that to the New York Giants. When they played Smith and the 49ers in November, he carried the club in the second half without running back Frank Gore — and he won. But it's one thing to get this far, it's another to make it to the Super Bowl. Just that step is a giant one, and just ask Flacco: He went to a conference championship game as his rookie season but has been hounded by critics since. It took Smith seven seasons to get this far, and one more victory would go a long way toward repairing a damaged reputation. Remember, Smith is the quarterback the 49ers chose instead of Aaron Rodgers at the top of the 2005 draft, and he and the club were buried for it... until now. It took Drew Brees nine seasons to arrive. Maybe this is Alex Smith's time. We'll know Sunday.

Cam Cameron, offensive coordinator, Baltimore: When there are questions or complaints about the Ravens, they usually don't involve the defense. Instead, they're aimed at the other side of the ball, and, often, at this guy. If it's not Flacco's errant passes that frazzle Ravens fans, it's Cameron's play calling — usually, with angry followers wondering why he didn't remember to call Rice's number. You would think critics might back off after that victory last weekend, but, nope, the Cameron Critics were out there again, wondering what in the world their favorite target was being by calling two passes late in the fourth quarter. Basically, the guy's about as popular in Cantonville as the Steinbrenners, and one Baltimore radio station two weeks ago asking me when the Ravens might hire next as their offensive coordinator. Honest. Have an idea, fellas, but why not enjoy the moment and see what happens next? Remember: People wanted Tom Coughlin fired six weeks ago, so there's a lesson there. Granted, I sometimes wonder what's going on asking me when the Ravens might hire next as their offensive coordinator and made a bizarre choice of calls late in a 2006 playoff loss to New England. But let the guy breathe, for crying out loud. He has a chance to beat Bill Belichick, just as he did in the 2009 playoffs when the Ravens ran for 254 yards and destroyed New England. I don't hear anyone complaining then.

Perry Fewell, defensive coordinator, New York Giants: Like his head coach, Fewell is a popular target in December. The Giants couldn't win. Their defense stunk. And the coaching staff was all but out the door. Then they beat the Jets and Dallas to win the NFC East and reach the playoffs. That was good. Now they've won two playoff games and are within a victory of their second Super Bowl in five seasons, and that's great for someone like Fewell. Once a candidate for dismissal, he can be a candidate for the next head-coaching opening

because... well, because when teams get hot, their assistants get noticed. New York goes only as far as its defense takes it, and the defense has been so solid the past month that it shut down the defending Super Bowl champions and allowed only three plays the past month longer than 20 yards — two of which were 21. Trust me, that hasn't gone unnoticed. Fewell has been on the head-coaching radar for a couple of years — since he did a credible job in Buffalo as interim coach in 2009 — and he's there again. Another victory would only heighten the interest. It's no secret that Super Bowl coordinators are logical places to start for clubs in search of their next head coaches, and last time I checked, there were four that hadn't filled vacancies. Maybe they're waiting for Fewell.

Eli Manning, quarterback, N.Y. Giants: OK, so this is a bit of a reach. But it was Manning who was mocked earlier this season when he labeled himself an "elite quarterback" in the class with Tom Brady. Brady won three Super Bowls and has been to four. Manning won the only one he reached — beating Brady in an unforgettable finish. But that was four years ago. Since then, he hasn't done much of anything, other than lose a playoff game and demonstrate remarkable inconsistency with his play. But all that changed the past month, with Manning playing like... well, like an elite quarterback in disposing of his past four opponents. "This is exciting," Manning said of the NFC title game. "This is where you want to be. No, this is where he needs to be to reach the next level. If Manning wins Sunday, he will go to his second Super Bowl — tying old brother Peyton — and I guarantee nobody will mock him. In fact, maybe then people will realize you can't spell elite without Eli."

The York family, San Francisco: For two years now, there was a perception the 49ers would not be successful under the ownership of Denise DeBarto York. It wasn't only the family's management style that differed from previous owner Eddie DeBarto, it was the coaching decisions. It was the coaching decisions that fired Steve Mariucci after he won a division championship in 2002 and running through a string of successors who either weren't qualified or weren't prepared to handle responsibilities they were asked to assume. Result: The 49ers went belly up, suffering through eight consecutive non-winning seasons and twice finishing last in their division. Compare that to the club that went 16 consecutive years with 10 or more victories, and maybe you'll understand why people questioned if this ownership could make the 49ers whole again. Well, it just did. With the hiring of Jim Harbaugh, the 49ers not only are back — they're back on top, in their first conference championship game in 14 years. Harbaugh almost surely wins the league's Coach of the Year award, but he's not there without the Yorks. They're the ones who convinced him to stay in the Bay Area when others like the University of Michigan and the Miami Dolphins were calling. I don't know if Jim Harbaugh is to the Yorks what Bill Walsh is to DeBarto: what I do know is that with one more victory, the 49ers will move to their first Super Bowl without DeBarto... and, yes, that says something.

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Denise Arpuello receives a \$500 Scholarship from Sipriano Gutierrez, Executive Director of Young Scholars USA, a leadership and scholarship program. Denise graduated with Honors from Lubbock High School in 2004 and is currently enrolled in the Covenant School of Nursing. "Denise is devoted to her studies and has achieved excellent grades," said Mr. Gutierrez. "She has a bright future and I'm happy that Young Scholars USA selected her as a Scholarship recipient." Denise will complete her studies in December 2012 at Covenant and plans to enroll at Texas Tech University where she will continue her nursing education. Denise plans to complete course work towards a BSN degree from TTU. To learn more about Young Scholars USA call Mr. Gutierrez at 317-6132.



Former editor of the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, Randy Sanders, announced his intent to run for Lubbock City Council, District 6 on Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Sanders is a former president of the Freedom on Information Foundation of Texas and has been involved with numerous organizations in Lubbock including Guadalupe Parkway Sommersville Neighborhood Association, Women's Protective Services, the Lubbock Area Foundation, the United Way and the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce. The race for Lubbock City Council, District 6 will appear on the May 12 municipal election ballot.



A pesar de que Rocío vive en una década que puede ser de mucha plenitud, como son los 40's, goza de estabilidad laboral, con la disponibilidad que la soltería le brinda y con todas sus facultades y talentos al 100%, ella está esperando para ser feliz el retiro, porque piensa que es justo en ese momento cuando tendrá tiempo y dinero para hacer lo que a ella más le gusta y apasiona, que es viajar, hacer yoga y dedicarse a la fotografía. Y en sus palabras: "Cuando cumpla 60 años será libre", pero lo que Rocío se niega a aceptar es que no tiene que esperar tanto tiempo, sino que es ahora cuando tiene más vida que nunca la posibilidad y la libertad de disfrutar lo que tanto desea, y mejor aún, descubrir nuevas aficiones y áreas en las que puede convertirse en toda una experta. Este es un claro ejemplo de alguien que sin tener físicamente los barótes enfrente, vive como si los tuviera, y se niega la oportunidad que ofrece la vida por sí sola de hacer uso del albedrío. Él dice, la felicidad y la libertad no dependen del escenario que nos rodee sino de la actitud con las que lo asumimos. La comparte a esta situación que aqueja a Rocío lo tiene en el mundo de la farándula la señora Silvia Pinal, quien a lo largo de su trayectoria ha incurrido en ambientes como la actuación, la moda e incluso, como empresaria. Afortunadamente, los campos de este tipo no se limitan al mundo artístico, sino que es una constante en la vida cotidiana, donde es frecuente encontrar mujeres que encabezan un hogar y al mismo tiempo están aprendiendo un idioma, a bailar, tener varios empleos y, de manera simultánea, amantando a su hijo y contestando correos electrónicos de la oficina.

Mathew Kelly, autor del libro Sé tu mismo, de Editorial Urano, explica al respecto: "Hay personas que han elegido ser felices en proes circunstancias que aquellas en las que tú o yo podamos nunca encontramos. Nadie ha demostrado eso con más fuerza que Viktor Frankl, en el libro El hombre en busca de sentido, mientras recordaba sus experiencias en los campos de concentración nazi durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial. Una y otra vez se encontró con personas que, se morían de hambre, compartían sus exiguas raciones con los demás. Frankl explica que mientras algunos se suicidaban o se hundían en su propia miseria, otros rebotaban de una inexplicable felicidad, una verdadera dicha independiente de su circunstancia. Su felicidad no dependía de que las circunstancias externas fueran favorables, sino que tenían su fuente en su interior." Descubre tus pasiones. Levantamos todos los días con la clara idea de que hoy seremos capaces de hacer el doble de lo que realizamos el día anterior, puede ser un motivo de mucha alegría, pero saber que podemos entrar en contacto con áreas que nos apasionan y que no es necesario esperar a que el futuro nos alcance, sino que hoy es el momento ideal para hacerlo, debe convertirse en la mejor inspiración. "Puede ser que tardes meses o años en descubrir qué es lo que te gusta. Puede que tardes meses o años en tener un trabajo en el que puedas hacer lo que te gusta de tiempo completo, pero de algún modo, en mayor o menor medida, puedes empezar a hacer lo que te gusta hoy mismo", explica el autor. Lo anterior se traduce en no esperar a que llegue una mejor condición de vida o a tener cierta

edad, incluso periodos vacacionales, para dejar de darle tanta importancia a los prestatos y regalarlos horas de plenitud. Si tienes un espíritu más aventurero, decides que lo que sabes no es suficiente y que hay mucho mundo por conocer, seguramente el plan de vida que te propongas hará un efecto dominó en todos los ámbitos en los que te desenvuelvas. Prueba la libertad El autor hace algunas recomendaciones dirigidas a aquellos espíritus inconformes y amantes del cambio: Reconoce y presta atención a los detalles de tu trabajo dentro y fuera de casa, cada tarea es una oportunidad para desarrollar tus virtudes y carácter. Identifica y erradica todo lo que haga sin pasión en tu vida, si no las puedes evitar determina su función y valor para que te reconcilies con su importancia. Haz una lista de todas las cosas que te gustan y apasionan. Al hacerla no te censures ni restringas. No te debes paralizar por el miedo al cambio, recuerda que tu vida será la medida del valor y camina con decisión. Seguramente hace algunos años, en la adolescencia, pensabas que lo más divertido y lo mejor de la vida estaba por venir, ahora que la fiesta ya comenzó no renuncies a esta idea y complétala todos los días. No esperes a que con el tiempo venga la realización o la oportunidad de hacer aquello que te hace vibrar. En la medida que explores y abras tus horizontes, seguirás aprendiendo cosas nuevas y pienses que todo lo bueno que te pasa no es suficiente, podrás dormir tranquila y agotada de haberte reído, y realizado todo lo que tenías que hacer: La mejor versión de ti misma.

Michelle Obama publica libro saludable

La primera dama, Michelle Obama, promocionará la alimentación sana y

los alimentos frescos y cultivados en huertos como el que ella misma

adelanto económico por la obra y donará todos los beneficios a obras de caridad.

contará cómo funciona el huerto que tiene instalado en la Casa Blanca en su primer libro, que se publicará en abril de 2012, según anunció ayer la editorial Crown Publishing Group. El libro



De acuerdo con una nota de la editorial, las hijas del matrimonio presidencial, Malia y Sasha, fueron las "catalizadoras" del cambio en los hábitos alimenticios de la familia e inspiraron a Michelle para montar el huerto en la zona sur de la Casa Blanca. Es una zona fue bautizada como el "jardín de la victoria" por Eleanor Roosevelt durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

levará por título American Grown: How the White House Kitchen Garden Informs Families, Schools and Communities (Cultivo en América: Cómo el jardín de la Casa Blanca inspira a familias, escuelas y comunidades).

instaló en una zona de los jardines de la Casa Blanca en marzo de 2009, dos meses después de llegar a la residencia presidencial. Fotografías de ese huerto y de otros creados en escuelas de EEUU a imagen del de la Casa Blanca ilustrarán el libro, según Crown Publishing Group, que precisó que Michelle Obama no aceptó ningún

la zona sur de la Casa Blanca. Es una zona fue bautizada como el "jardín de la victoria" por Eleanor Roosevelt durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial. La primera dama también promueve varias campañas de concienciación ciudadana contra la obesidad infantil, entre ellas una conocida como Let's Move.

En él, la esposa del presidente Barack Obama explicará los beneficios de la comida sana y de

In Arizona, Carmona Campaigns On 'Health Care For All Americans'

Relaxed and friendly, former Surgeon General Dr. Richard Carmona was right at home—literally—in front of an audience of about 60 Democratic Party faithfuls and elected officials at a recent Tucson event.

In one of his first campaign appearances since he announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination, Carmona told fellow Tucsonians why he should replace retiring Senator Jon Kyl as Arizona's junior Senator.

Carmona spoke for approximately 10 minutes and answered questions from the press and the audience for another 30 minutes. With humor, humility and forthrightness, Carmona offered personal anecdotes and fielded queries on everything from his

party affiliation (he recently switched from Independent to Democrat) to climate change, healthcare coverage for Americans; immigration reform; and his political strategy going forward.

"I could have run for any party or as an independent," commented Carmona, a long-time registered Independent who was actively recruited to run for the Senate by Republicans and Democrats—including President Obama. "When I looked at the big issues facing Arizona, yes, it's the economy, jobs, and so on, but when I looked at health issues—particularly seeking some type of healthcare for all Americans —immigration, and women's issues, the Democratic Party clearly resonated more closely

with my views." Homeless for a time as a child, Carmona said he "lived with the health disparities" that many Americans currently experience and understands their struggles. On the issue of universal healthcare, Carmona said he stays away from "highly charged phrases like universal healthcare or single-payer" because those words can shut down conversation and negotiation. He said the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (AKA "ObamaCare") includes worthwhile ideas but definitely can be improved upon. Carmona didn't mince words when he added that all Americans should have some basic health coverage, prompting hearty applause from the audience.

When asked how he will deal with Washington's sometimes "free-free environment" and the personal attacks that often come with a campaign, Carmona said he worked "both sides of the aisle" to change health policy as Surgeon General, knows what he's getting into, and is ready to tackle Washington politics to serve Arizonans.

Carmona, son of Puerto Rican immigrants, had a hard scramble upbringing in Harlem before he dropped out of high school to join the military. In addition to his tenure as Surgeon General, Carmona is a decorated Vietnam War veteran, a trauma physician, a former local law enforcement officer, and a staunch public health advocate.

Although the audience asked tough questions, Carmona was well-received at the Tucson event. His talk and the Q&A session were interrupted several times with applause. The Legislative District (LD) 28 meeting may be one of the friendliest audiences Carmona encounters along the campaign trail, since LD 28 is likely the bluest district in a very blue county, in a purple state, with voter registration split in thirds between Republicans, Democrats and Independents.

Carmona faces an uphill battle as he organizes his staff and plays catch-up with Don Bivens, a Phoenix lawyer and former chair of the Arizona Democratic Party who has been campaigning for the Senate seat and raising funds for

months. In 2011, Democrats held back in declaring candidacy for a few months because of the buzz about a potential Senate run for Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, who was shot a year ago while meeting with constituents in Tucson.

On the Republican side of the Senate race, two self-proclaimed, staunch conservatives—Congressman Jeff Flake and businessman Jeff Wardon—have thrown their hats into the ring.

Arizona has been represented by Republicans Jon Kyl and John McCain in the US Senate for years. As they do every few years, Democrats are gearing up for the Senate race, with Kyl's retirement, they're hoping for a different outcome in 2012.

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