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VOL. XXXVII No. 13

Week of Jan. 30 thru Feb. 5, 2014

www.eleditor.com

Lubbock/Midland-Odessa Region

Obama Targets Republicans, Vows Executive Action

President Barack Obama, in what served as the opening salvo in a fight for control of Congress ahead of the November election, used his biggest speech of the year to push for programs to narrow economic disparities between rich and poor.

Looking to energize his sluggish second term, Obama pledged in his State of the Union speech Tuesday night to side-step Congress "whenever and wherever" necessary to bypass the political gridlock that has bedeviled his presidency.

Democrats, seeking to cast Republicans as uncaring about the middle class, have urged Obama to focus on economic mobility and the gap between the wealthy and poor.

His focus on executive actions that don't need congressional approval was greeted with shouts of "Do it!" from many Democrats.

"Inequality has deepened.
Upward mobility has stalled,"
Obama said. "The cold, hard
fact is that even in the midst of
recovery, too many Americans
are working more than ever just
to get by — let alone get ahead."

For Obama, the address was also aimed at convincing an increasingly skeptical public that he still wields power in Washington even if he can't crack through the divisions in Congress. Burned by a series of legislative failures in 2013, White House aides say they're now redefining success not by

what Obama can jam through Congress but by what actions he can take on his own.

While domestic issues dominated the speech, Obama also warned Congress he would veto any sanctions bill that threatens to derail talks with Iran, even as he acknowledged that the talks may not succeed.

The hour-long speech came as Obama is trying to recover from the blundered rollout of his sign

dered rollout of his signature health care overhaul. An AP-GfK poll this month found 45 percent of those surveyed approved of Obama and 53 percent disapproved. That's worse than a year ago, when 54 percent approved and 42 percent disapproved, but an improvement over his ratings in December, when 58 percent disapproved of his job performance.

Obama unveiled an array of executive actions, including increasing the minimum wage for some federal contract workers and making it easier for millions of low-income Americans to save for retirement.

His proposals for action by lawmakers were slim and largely focused on old ideas that have gained little traction. He pressed Congress to revive a stalled immigration overhaul and increase the minimum wage. His one new legislation proposal calls for expanding a tax credit for



workers without children.

Turning to foreign policy,
Obama said negotiations to stop
Iran's nuclear program will be
difficult and if they fail, he will
call for more sanctions. "But
if Iran's leaders do seize the
chance, then Iran could take an
important step to rejoin the community of nations, and we will
have resolved one of the leading
security challenges of our time
without the risks of war."

On Syria, he pledged "to work with the international community to usher in the future the Syrian people deserve — a future free of dictatorship, terror and fear."

Obama reaffirmed that the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan will formally conclude at the end of this year. But he said a small contingent of American forces could be left behind if the Afghan government quickly signs a bilateral security agreement, a

prospect that looks increasingly uncertain.

Obama said the United States
"will continue to focus on
the Asia-Pacific" and called
the alliance with Europe "the
strongest the world has ever
known." Regarding the turmoil
in Ukraine, he said "we stand for
the principle that all people have
the right to express themselves
freely and peacefully, and have a
say in their country's future."

But most of his address was devoted to domestic issues, which weigh most heavily on the minds of Americans.

Obama said he is eager to work with Congress on measures requiring lawmakers' approval. "But America does not stand still - and neither will I. So wherever and whenever I can take steps without legislation to expand opportunity for more American families, that's what I'm going to do," he said.

saw their own approval ratings fall further in 2013, have also picked up the refrain of income inequality in recent months, though they have cast the widening gap between rich and

Republicans, who

In the official response to Obama, Cathy Mc-Morris Rodgers, a congressional leader, said the Republican Party

poor as a symptom of

cies.

Obama's economic poli-

"champions free markets - and trusts people to make their own decisions, not a government that decides for you."

Republicans have thwarted most of Obama's initiatives, including on gun control and climate change, and this year's elections make it even less likely that they will support his proposals. Still, the partisan fighting has eased somewhat from when Republicans shut down the government for 16 days last fall and brought the country to the brink of default.

Obama has some hope of winning support for an immigration overhaul, as Republicans try to build support among the country's growing Hispanic population ahead of the election.

But the White House sees a robust rollout of executive actions as the most effective way to show the public that Obama still wields power in the sixth year of his presidency.

"America does not stand still and neither will I," Obama said. "So wherever and whenever I can take steps without legislation to expand opportunity for more American families, that's what I'm going to do."

Obama only briefly mentioned the controversy over U.S. spy programs revealed by former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden. He pledged to reform surveillance programs, "because the vital work of our intelligence community depends on public confidence, here and abroad, that the privacy of ordinary people is not being violated."

The annual speech is accompanied by great pomp and ceremony, with Washington's most powerful figures in attendance, including Cabinet members, diplomats and Supreme Court justices.

It also drew an eclectic mix of visitors to the House visitors' chamber. Among those sitting with first lady Michelle Obama were two survivors of the Boston Marathon bombing, as well as Jason Collins, an openly gay former NBA player. Republican House Speaker John Boehner brought business owners from his home state of Ohio who say Obama's health care overhaul is hurting their companies. Two lawmakers invited the mother and sister of Kenneth Bae, an American citizen held by North Korea.

Jefe de Seguridad de EEUU apoya vía a la ciudadanía

El nuevo secretario de Seguridad Interior dice que una vía a la ciudadanía para los aproximadamente 11 millones de personas que viven sin autorización en Estados Unidos es un asunto de seguridad nacional.

Fue la primera vez que Jeh Johnson, quien tenía poca experiencia en materia de políticas de inmigración antes de ser nombrado, explica su enfoque sobre el tema.

Johnson, que fue el principal abogado del Departamento de Defensa, quien ha trabajado en las directrices sobre el uso de aviones no tripulados de Estados Unidos y ayudó a poner fin a la prohibición de que los gays sirvieran en las fuerzas armadas, dijo que ofrecer un camino a la ciudadanía a estas personas las alentaría "a salir de la sombras, a rendir cuentas, a participar en la experiencia del país".

En un discurso la semana pasada ante la Conferencia de Alcaldes de Estados Unidos, Johnson dijo que la inmensa mayoría de los inmigrantes que viven el país sin autorización llevan más de 10 años aquí y ófrecerles un camino a la ciudadanía es "un asunto (de) quiénes somos como norteam-



ericanos".

Johnson tomó el cargo como cuarto secretario de Seguridad Interior a finales del año pasado. Aunque ha visitado la zona de la frontera con México y se ha reunido con funcionarios policiales de inmigración, todavía no había ofrecido detalles sobre su opinión hasta este discurso.

Muchos consideraban que Johnson es una persona competente en materia de seguridad, pero otros cuestionaron sus credenciales en inmigración.

Durante su audiencia de confirmación en el Senado el año pasado, Johnson dijo que una "reforma de las leyes de inmigración con sentido común" estaban entre las prioridades del departamento, pero no ofreció detalles.

Impulsar la reforma migra-

Las breves palabras de Johnson sobre la inmigración son un reflejo de las de su antecesor y del presidente Barack Obama.

Obama y los legisladores federales demócratas han presionado desde hace mucho por una ley de reforma de las leyes de inmigración que, entre otras cosas, incluya una vía a la ciudadanía para los inmigrantes que viven sin autorización en el país y que no son una amenaza a la seguridad nacional o pública. El año pasado, el Senado, controlado por los demócratas, aprobó un proyecto de ley que incluye una cláusula que aumenta en casi el doble la cantidad de agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza.

Los republicanos han objetado que se permita dar la ciudadanía a los inmigrantes sin autorización antes de asegurar la frontera con México.

Johnson no dijo cómo planea dirigir los esfuerzos para hacer cumplir las leyes de inmigración.

En ausencia de una ley viable de inmigración en el Congreso, Obama

ha aprobado varias directrices que en lo fundamental blindan a varios grupos de inmigrantes de la deportación.

Un programa para impedir la deportación de personas que fueron traídas sin autorización al país cuando eran niños, anunciado poco antes de las elecciones presidenciales de 2012, es el más significativo y permite que muchos soliciten el permiso de trabajo y estén protegidos dos años contra la deportación.

Legisladores republicanos han criticado esos programas, calificándolos de amnistía, y han pedido a Johnson que prometa hacer cumplir las leyes de inmigración que hay en los libros en este momento, como la deportación de los inmigrantes que viven en el país sin autorización.

Obama relega el tema migratorio en su "Estado de la Nación"

Pocos esperaban una acción contundente en inmigración por parte del Presidente Barack Obama durante el discurso del "Estado de la Nación". ¿Pero cien palabras en un discurso de más de 6000?, el poco énfasis en el tema, tan importante para la base latina demócrata, sorprendió a algunos y por otra parte, pareció completamente lógico a otros observadores.

"Un pesimista diría que se ha resignado a que la reforma no sea parte de su legado", indicó Adrián Pantoja, profesor de Pitzer College. "Lo que dijo fue, desafortunadamente, lo mismo de siempre y esta vez, con mucho menor énfasis".

Aunque grupos activistas habían señalado que no esperaban una orden ejecutiva del presidente para detener las deportaciones o acciones radicales, el poco énfasis del discurso en el tema generó reacciones de profunda desilusión.

"Su política "de facto", de separación de familias, que los republicanos felizmente apoyan, le está ganando un lugar vergonzoso en la historia", dijo Kica Matos, de Fair Immigration Reform

Movement.

No obstante, otros observadores aseguraron que la poca mención de inmigración es una estrategia deliberada del Presidente para darle el espacio a los republicanos a que presenten sus principios de reforma, que se discutirán a partir de mañana en un retiro del partido en Maryland.

"Los activistas quieren fuerza, pero si Obama echaba en cara el tema a los republicanos justo antes de la lucha interna que van a tener en ese retiro, hubiera sido peor", dijo la analista política Sherry B. Jeffe.

Ali Noorani, de National Immigration Forum, dijo que la poca mención fue "deliberada e inteligente".

Activistas en las bases, sin embargo, recordaron que cada momento que pasa sin solución y sin que Obama actúe para proteger a ciertos grupos, "un padre, una madre, están siendo deportados, las palabras se las lleva el viento", dijo Ricardo Moreno, activista de la Iglesia Presbiteriana.

Our EDITORIAL Voice

Comments Questions and Observations

It looks like we're in for another few months of political drama in city politics with the anticipated announcement by District 1 resident Frank Gutierrez that he will challenge Victor Hernandez for the District 1 City Council seat.

According to media reports, Gutierrez held a press conference on Wednesday the 29th at city hall. El Editor did not send a representative to the conference simply because we did not receive an invitation or official notice like other media outlets

Our invitation must have gotten "lost in the mail" as they say. Or maybe the candidate just didn't want us there huh?

The announcement by the way came as no surprise to those of us who followed the Gutierrez's attempted political dismantling of Councilman Victor Hernandez. Frank Gutierrez was listed as Chairman of the Campaign to Vacate Victor political action committee and Ysidro Gutierrez was listed as Treasurer.

We suppose that the overwhelming Hernandez margin of victory in the recall debacle was not enough to convince Gutierrez that the voters of District 1, at least those who take the time to vote; are satisfied with Mr. Hernandez's representa-

Hernandez won by 264 votes; which by itself is not a large number. But when you consider the historically low voter turnout in the District, then it becomes

We still stand by the editorial stance we took on the recall; and that is that it sure was an expensive roundabout way to go just to end up where you wanted to be in the first place.

Would it not have made more financial sense to wait until Hernandez was up for reelection to challenge the councilman?

In his announcement, Gutierrez makes the following statement: "I support the financial integrity of the City's resources and the prudent use of those resources with efficiency and with fiscal responsibility...'

But was it a prudent use of the city's tax dollars to force a \$50,000 thousand dollar plus recall election just 6 months before Hernandez was up for reelection? Why not wait to challenge Hernandez in a regular election? Are these the kind of financial skills that Gutierrez is offering District 1 voters?

Could it be that Gutierrez felt that Hernandez would be more vulnerable if he could be politically damaged before the May elections? After all, Hernandez made it clear from the beginning that he would seek reelection in May even if he lost the recall election.

We'll just have to wait and see how this "novela" plays out. At least this election is a regular scheduled election and it will not cost taxpayers thousands of additional tax dollars this time around.

The US House of Representatives, the one where Randy Neugebauer serves as a bench warmer, passed a new farm bill on Wednesday after reaching a compromise with Democrats. And by compromise we mean that the Republicans and farmers won. The only ones that were compromised are the 850,000 American households that will lose food stamp benefits. Imagine how many school children and elderly will be impacted? As usual though, Republicans made sure that farmers were protected with an expanded crop insurance program.

According to media reports the changes to the program would eliminate about \$8 billion dollars from the SNAP program over the next 10 years. And while it also eliminates direct subsidy payments to farmers, they made sure there was a formula in place to protect them.

Instead of direct payments, subsidies will now be in the form of crop insurance in case of crop failures, drought or other natural disasters. You know, a social safety net that Republicans always want to tear down, unless it's in the form of corporate welfare.

We wonder just how much longer the Lubbock City Council, or those who voted for it at least, are going to continue to want to pay City Attorney Sam Medina while he resolves his legal troubles?

To be clear, we are not commenting on Mr. Medina's culpability or innocence here. That will certainly play out in our legal system, as flawed as that system is sometimes.

But what we are wondering, is how this decision affects things down at city hall going forward.

Does this action by the council set a precedent for all other city employees? Even the lower level, low wage hourly employees? How many times has a similar situation occurred before and was the employee allowed to go on paid leave while he or she worked out their legal problems?

Mayor Robertson told the AJ, "I struggled and struggled, but I can't treat one of our top employees with a different set of policies than I would for a police officer or someone who drives a truck for solid waste."

There have been cases of police officers being placed on administrative leave under certain circumstances. But has a police officer who has been accused of a crime been put on paid leave while they worked their legal troubles out? And would the city actually place a city employee, to use the Mayor's example, a truck

Opiniones Comentarios

driver, on paid leave after being accused of a felony crime? How about after a DUI/DWI charge?

We highly doubt that, but perhaps Mayor Robertson could answer that question for us.

Need another sign that rich Republicans could care less about people who are down and out on their luck?

Some 1.4 million Americans lost their unemployment benefits as of December 27 of last year due to Republicans like Randy Neugebauer voting against an extension. And they made sure it hurt, allowing them to expire just 2 days after Christmas. They make Scrooge look like Saint Nick.

When it came time to support those folks who have been caught in a changing economy and unstable job market, Republicans in the Senate showed their true colors and voted against extending a helping hand.

And by the way, these are the same Republicans who always vote against raising the minimum wage.

Another thing we wonder about is why there was never any substantial media coverage, at least that we are aware of, surrounding the arrest of former LISD District 1 school board member Erik Medina for domestic violence? If Mr. Medina was just a "regular joe" who had the misfortune of getting arrested, then no, we would not have the same expectations. But Mr. Medina is a former LISD School Board trustee, a previously elected official, who served for a year on the board before resigning.

We think it is news when a former elected official is arrested. Mr. Medina was elected in May of 2004 and served 1 year on the board before resigning in May of 2005; citing a move to Louisiana as his reason. We found it odd back then that the story published in the AJ did not mention the specific hospital or medical facility he would be working at and that he resigned in May for a job that did not start until October according to Medina. But as they say, that was then and this is now.

From what we can tell, the only media outlet that carried the story concerning the domestic assault which happened in April of 2013 was the Avalanche Journal. But the story we found was not published until January 14th of this year. To their credit, the AJ did publish the story albeit 10 months later.

Here are some parts of the story taken directly from the Lubbock AJ web site which left us scratching our head:

1) Online court documents for Erik Medina's domestic assault case show a Lubbock police report number, but the report number is not recognized in the Police Department crime report database.

2) A booking sheet shows Erik Medina was arrested about 1 a.m. March 16 at his listed residence on 61st Street.

3) Phone numbers for people called by the inmate from jail, which are usually listed for inmates, are not listed on Erik Medina's booking sheet. Instead, the document states "both calls complete."

4) Sheriff's Lt. Bryan Taylor said it is normal policy for Lubbock County jailers to document inmate phone calls and phone numbers, but added errors happen and sometimes the numbers aren't reported.

5) The omission, he said, should not be seen as favoritism. "We don't care who he is," Taylor said. "Whoever they are, they're going to be treated like they're any

Sometimes, circumstances surrounding actual events just lead to more questions.

The way this city's mainstream media works, is a prime example of why when there is a coup or a revolution, the first objective is to seize control of the media or communications system. If you can control the media apparatus, then you can control the message.

And that dear readers, is exactly what happens in this city.

Last week's sexist and male chauvinistic story in the Dallas Morning News concerning Wendy Davis, brought out many of her supporters who took to Facebook and Twitter and other social media to support Ms. Davis. National and state publications weighed in and El Editor wrote a strongly worded editorial supporting her.

Yet absent in the whole affair was our very own Lubbock County Democratic Party's voice. No press release condemning the news article, no comments from the Chairman Kenny Ketner, NADA!

If you ever wonder why Democrats never get even close to winning an election here or why Democrats running for state office don't get very excited about coming to Lubbock, you might want to start at the LCDP to look for answers.

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Guest Editorial Just Who is Washington DC?

Have you seen the latest political television ad staged in a car garage from "Randy Republican" where he comes out dressed in what looks like a never before worn work jacket and jeans and opens with the following line: "Washington DC has declared war on West Texas".

Oh really? Has anyone got word to Judge Tom Head; wonder if he's rounded up his militia yet?

Please, where has Congressman Randy Neugebauer lived since 2003 if not in Washington, DC?

Two sided politicians like him always use the generic term "Washington" to try and fool people into thinking that they are not part of the Washington, DC they rage against. And come election time, they stage these phony baloney commercials thinking that we are a bunch of idiots and will actually believe them. When do you think was the last time millionaire Randy worked on his car in his garage?

When you have been on the government's payroll as long as he has and earn \$174,000 tax dollars per year, is it really fair to say that you are not part of the government that you continually blame for this country's problems?

And wasn't that Randy in Washington, DC at the World War II Memorial back in October of last year, belittling and bullying a US Park Ranger who was just doing her job during a government shutdown that Republicans were responsible for? And wasn't that him in the House chamber yelling "baby killer" during a debate on the Affordable Care Act back in 2010?

And wasn't that him having surgery at John Hopkins Medical Center in Baltimore, 35 miles from Washington, DC in 2009 instead of coming to his beloved West Texas to have surgery at UMC or Covenant Hospital? I guess he just didn't trust West Texas doctors huh?

Here's what he said shortly after the surgery: "I am grateful to live in a country where the very best health care and treatment options are available, including early detection and screening."

Yeah, available only if you are an American politician like he is or can afford it. Whether he claims it or not, he is part of the Washington DC culture that he says is the problem. Having lived and worked in the Washington, DC area for close to 12 years, trust me, I recognize a Washingtonian when I see one. And I can also recognize a two sided politician; one that tries to deny that he is part of the Washington establishment unless it benefits him in some way. For example, he sure did throw his weight around and act like a Washington politician when he confronted that park ranger. Or was he acting like a West Texan then? Randy has been part of the obstructionist Tea Party faction of the Republican Party that has opposed every piece of legislation that either the Democrats or the President try to pass.

Raise the minimum wage Randy? Of course not. Extend unemployment benefits? No way.

Provide health care for those who cannot afford it Randy? Hell no! Give tax breaks to wealthy corporations and banks Randy? Absolutely!

He is also part of a group of Ted Cruz followers which forced the federal government shutdown last October. Then as we all know, he had the audacity to bully that park ranger who was just doing her job at the World War II Memorial. He aligns himself with people like Representative Louie Gohmert from east Texas who says things like poor people should pay more taxes and use the money from the social services they receive to do so.

What is also interesting about the ad is why he is attacking President Obama, who he never refers to as President and just calls him "Obama" throughout the commercial. Why is he not attacking his real opponents; the equally if not more noxious Donald May; and the more moderate (if you can call him a moderate) Chris Winn.

They are his real opponents in the Republican Primary and he must get past them to win the nomination. Unless of course, he has determined that they do not represent a threat to his 10 plus year do nothing record.

Instead he has decided to continue on his boring old discourse that President Obama is out to destroy his America. You know which America, the one where people like me don't belong. The one where people similar to me are told to go back to where we came from. The America where we are all supposed to kneel down before Republicans and give thanks for the meager crumbs they leave for the rest of us while they take care of their corporate donors with tax breaks. The America where Republicans try to control our lives yet swear up and down that they don't and that less government intrusion is what they want.

Oh yeah they do. I cannot find a clearer example of a more intrusive government than the one headed by Republican Rick Perry that dictates what a woman can or can't medically do with her body. Or how about passing laws that force certain people to prove their citizenship when voting? Or passing laws forcing intrusive drug tests just because you're down and out and need certain social services? Intrusive enough for you?

And while I am on the subject of Randy Neugebauer, he made national news again a few weeks back when it was reported by www.opensecrets.org that more than half of the members in Congress are millionaires. At least 268 out of a current 534 members have no money worries at all; other than to make more and more of it.

As for Randy, his net worth as of 2012 filings ranges anywhere from \$5,812,079.00 to \$14,657,998.00. That friends is a lot of digits. Imagine being worth close to \$15 million smackers while claiming to be a public servant and earning just \$174,000 dollars per year? How does that happen? If someone is working full time (for the good of all West Texans" as he is so fond of saying) for \$174,000 per year, how does he become a multi millionaire in such a short

Folks, what we have here is just a good of West Texas boy, who just happens to be the 44th richest member of the House of Representatives. And if you're wondering why his net worth is in a range only and not an exact figure, that's because some oily politicians in Congress found a way to get rich off of their position and not have to give an exact figure.

Here's one last fun fact for you; did you know that in 2009 Randy who clearly wants us to believe he is not part of Washington received a ruling from the Federal Election Commission that allowed him to raise campaign funds on his 52 foot family yacht harbored in Washington, DC?

I guess Buffalo Lake in West Texas was just not good enough for him huh? But the fact that he is so rich now, could serve to explain his political stances? Have you ever met a multi millionaire West Texan who cares more about poor people than he does about making more money? Neither have I.

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COMUNIDAD: Distribuyendo comida, luchando contra el hambre

Por Arlette Rodríguez Corresponsal de Tú Decides en

La comida es esencial para sobrevivir y para que uno esté bien. Eso por eso que con el apoyo de la comunidad, Northwest Harvest está ayudando a alimentar a muchas familias y personas a lo largo y ancho del estado de Washington.

"Básicamente, Northwest Harvest es un distribuidor de bancos de alimentos sin fines de lucro," explica Sheri Bissell, especialista en acercamiento con la comunidad en Northwest

a todos los bancos de comida de Washington, incluyendo algunas escuelas necesitadas en todo el estado.

"Hemos estado trabajando desde 1967."

Por más de 40 años, este banco distribuidor ha estado colaborando de cerca con las comunidades del estado para proveer de alimentos nutritivos a los bancos de alimentos. Es una tarea que la organización no

podría realizar sin tanto apoyo por parte de la comunidad.

"Básicamente, nos apoyamos en la comunidad tanto para fondos como para la colaboración de voluntarios," dice Bissell.

Y es justo ahí donde el trabajo

de Bissell se enfoca. Su trabajo incluye encargarse de todos los eventos y de la recaudación de fondos, además de acercar a la comunidad a Northwest Harvest. En verdad, ellos dependen de la comunidad para obtener fondos y para obtener donaciones de alimentos. Alrededor del 60 por ciento de la comida que distribuyen es comida que ha sido Northwest Harvest distribuye donada. El resto de la comida se compra usando los donativos monetarios y el dinero juntado en eventos de recaudación de fondos.

> Bissell subraya que la nutrición es algo que les importa mucho, por lo que se aseguran de que los alimentos distribuidos a los bancos de alimentos sean variados y nutritivos. Ella también menciona que Northwest Harvest apoya lo "cultivado en casa", por lo que muchos de

sus productos vienen de granjas locales.

"Los agricultores del estado son verdaderamente fabulosos con nosotros," ella asegura. Más aún, las personas que

clasifican y re-empacan los alimentos son, en su mayor parte, voluntarios de la comunidad.

"No podríamos hacer lo que hacemos sin estos voluntarios." El año pasado, voluntarios

de todo el estado apoyaron a la institución con 110,000 horas. "Esta comunidad es in-

creíble," dice Bissell.

Verdaderamente, Bissell disfruta mucho de su trabajo. Por casi 25 años, ella trabajó en como estaciones de radio y de televisión. Después de decidir trabajar para Northwest Harvest, donde ahora está acercándose a la comunidad. A ella le gusta la respuesta positiva que las comunidades de Washington tienen

"La comunidad es genial, y siempre obtenemos muy buena respuesta," ella afirma.

para Northwest Harvest.

El año pasado, 30 millones de libras en alimentos fueron distribuidas a partir de las tres bodegas que tienen ubicadas en Yakima, Spokane y Kent. Familias de todas partes del estado de Washington se benefician de los esfuerzos que Northwest Harvest hace por recolectar y distribuir alimentos a los bancos de alimentos, y de los esfuerzos generosos de todos aquellos que donan comida, productos o su tiempo a Northwest Harvest.

Para todos aquellos que requieran beneficiarse de la ayuda brindada por los bancos de alimentos y por Northwest Harvest, favor de llamar al #211 para medios de comunicación locales, una lista de todos los bancos de alimentos a los que Northwest Harvest distribuye en su área. probar algo diferente, comenzó a Para todos aquellos interesados en dedicar algo de su tiempo como voluntarios, llamen a Debbie Rhoads, la Coordinadora de Voluntarios, al 509-453-4407. Finalmente, todos aquellos que quieran organizar un evento de recaudación de alimentos, favor de llamar a Sheri Bissell al 509-453-4407.

EL EDITOR is a weekly bilingual newspaper published by Amigo Publications in Lubbock and Midland/Odessa Texas. El Editor has been published on a weekly basis since 1977. Our physical address for overnight delivery is 1502 Ave. M in Lubbock, TX 79401. El Editor is available on the internet at http://www.eleditor.com and is distributed throughout West Texas in retail outlets. Opinions expressed in El Editor are those of the individual writer and not necessarily those of the publisher or the advertisers. Advertising information available by emailing us at eleditor@sbcglobal.net or by calling us at 806-763-3841 Opinions and commentaries are welcome and can be sent to the same email address. All opinions and letters to the editor must contain the writer's name, address and phone number but name can be withheld at the writer's request. Address and telephone number will not be published.

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Obama on Minimum Wage: America Needs a Raise

President Barack Obama says it's time to give American a raise.

Obama is at a Costco warehouse in Maryland to promote higher minimum wages the morning after announcing a new executive order in his State of the Union address. Obama's action will raise the minimum wage for new federal contract workers to \$10.10.

Obama says no one who works fulltime should ever have to raise a child in poverty. He says he's choosing to make 2014 a year of action because too many Americans are struggling just to get by.

Obama is calling on
Congress to raise the federal
minimum wage for all workers to \$10.10. He says raising
the rate doesn't require new
federal spending and it
would help Americans make
ends meet.

President Barack Obama is promoting his newly unveiled plans to boost wages for some workers and help Americans save for retirement — no action from Congress necessary.

Obama on Wednesday
was to flesh out the details
of measures he says will
help restore a lost sense of
economic opportunity in the
U.S. In his State of the Union
address Tuesday night,
Obama urged Congress to
act in tandem but vowed he
would circumvent Congress
wherever he could during his

final years in office.

A steel plant near Pittsburgh and a Costco wholesale store in suburban employers don't offer retirement plans — about half of all U.S. workers, according to the White House.



Maryland were the venues for Obama to tout the new measures Wednesday. Vice President Joe Biden was to amplify Obama's message with a round of television interviews and a speech at a community college in New York state.

It's a tradition for presidents to travel after delivering their annual address to Congress, pitching grand legislative goals for the year ahead. But this year, facing a Congress consumed more by midterm politics and gridlock than a hunger to advance his agenda, Obama was carrying a more modest set of executive actions as he prepared for the two-day trip.

Treasury Secretary Jacob
Lew will be on hand at a
U.S. Steel Corp. plant in
West Mifflin, Pa., as Obama
directs the Treasury to create a new savings program
geared toward those whose

The idea is to offer a
"starter" account to let people
start saving even if they can't
afford the large initial investment often needed for a private, commercial retirement
account. Savers can start
with just \$25, and could opt

to have contributions of as

cally from their paychecks.

low as \$5 deducted automati-

Dubbed "myRA," the program will operate like a Roth IRA, so contributions to the plan will be made with after-tax dollars. That means account-holders could with-draw the funds at any time without paying additional taxes. The funds would be backed by U.S. government debt, similar to a savings option available to federal employees.

Initially a pilot program, the accounts should be available through some employers by the end of 2014, the White House said. Investors can keep the accounts if they switch jobs or convert them into private accounts.

Obama is also preparing to

sign an executive order raising the minimum wage for workers carrying out new federal contracts to \$10.10, up from the current \$7.25. Although the measure will only help a limited number of people, it's intended to boost Obama's repeated call for Congress to raise the federal minimum wage for all workers to \$10.10.

The stop at a Costco in Lanham, Md., will also give Obama an opportunity to highlight efforts that many states are undertaking to try to improve wages for their workers. Maryland's Democratic governor is pushing to raise the state's minimum wage to \$10.10.

On Thursday, Obama will visit a General Electric gas engines facility in Waukesha, Wis., not far from Milwaukee. He'll also speak at a high school in Nashville, Tenn.

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¿Que Pasa?

Cavazos Robotics Teams Advance to State

Two teams of students from Cavazos Middle School have qualified for the state Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA) robotics competition, April 12, at Deer Park ISD in Deer Park, Texas. The teams qualified for the state meet by winning first and second place, respectively, at the TCEA Robotics Mindstorm 2014 "Rubble Trouble" at Lubbock High School January 25.

The competition challenged students to build and program a robot using only Lego pieces and simulate how robots can be used to save lives and deliver supplies in the wake of tragic events (i.e. natural disasters) where there is building rubble and debris preventing access to stranded or injured persons.

The Cavazos teams were competing in the Intermediate Arena category against 22 other teams from around West Texas. The first-place Cavazos team members are Jaime Perez, Marco Medina and Esteban Garza. The second-place team members are Miguel Martinez, Miguel Andrade, Sy Reyes-Trevino and Immanuel Sosa. Their teacher is Margo Knobloch.

Twenty-ninth LISD String Fling Tickets Available From Students

Orchestra students from across Lubbock ISD will take to the stage of the Civic Center Theater on Tuesday, February 4, at 7 p.m. for the 29th annual LISD String Fling. Concert goers will be treated to a wide variety of music that ranges from popular music, both past and present, to recognizable classical favorites.

Special guest artist for this year's string fest is the Texas Tech Tango Ensemble.

Including the massed-orchestra finale, a total of 18 separate groups will perform including string musicians from all LISD high schools and middle schools.

Tickets are \$5. Due to seating limitations and an expected sell-out, tickets are available only from LISD orchestra students in advance.

Drummer to offer clinic Tuesday at South Plains College

LEVELLAND – Jazz and rock drummer Chad Wackerman will conduct a drum set clinic at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday (Feb. 4) in the Tom T. Hall Production Studio on the South Plains College campus. The visit, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by the Creative Arts Department.

Wackerman's drumming combines the power and conviction of rock with the sensitivity and finesse of jazz. His playing is remarkably free of predictable patterns and licks, relying instead on invention and interplay with the musicians around him.

For more information, contact Brian Tate, instructor in Commercial Music in Drum Set Studies, at (806) 716-2290.

February First Friday Art Trail at the Buddy Holly Center

On the first Friday of February, the Buddy Holly Center invites the community to participate in Lubbock's First Friday Art Trail, an event held on the first Friday of every month in venues around the city. Galleries, restaurants and businesses open FREE of charge to display local and regional visual and performing art. A free trolley service to and from venues will be offered.

The First Friday Art Trail works to promote art and outreach within the community of Lubbock by providing an opportunity to enjoy fine art and entertainment. On Friday, February 7, 2014 the Buddy Holly Center will be open from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. for patrons to view its exhibits. There will be FREE admission and refreshments. For more information on the First Friday Art Trail visit www.ffat.org.

OUE PASA?

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1810 34th Street (806) 762-2460



Nancy Lauran White, 60, of Burkburnett, Texas, died on Friday, January 25, 2014.

A memorial service will be conducted at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 2, 2014, at the First United Methodist Church of Burkburnett with Rev. Liz Talbert and Rev. Don Pellikan officiating. Interment will be at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, February 3, 2014, at Seagraves Cemetery in Seagraves, Texas, under the direction of Owens & Brumley Funeral Home of Burkburnett.

Nancy was born on April 28, 1953, in Seagraves, Texas. She was a social worker.

Nancy was preceded in death by her father, Lonnie Dunson and a brother, Rodney Dunson. She is survived by her mother, Mary Dunson, of Arlington, TX; sons, Tom White of New York, Lawrence White of Ohio and Michael White of California; a sister, Rebecca Reed and husband, James, of Burkburnett; and four grandchildren.

For those desiring, memorial contributions may be sent the First United Methodist Church of Burk-

Condolences may be sent to the family at:

www.owensandbrumley.com.

Técnica de células madre contra diabetes y párkinson

Un sencillo tratamiento de laboratorio puede convertir células ordinarias de ratones en células madre, según el resultado sorpresivo de un estudio que insinúa un nuevo modo de cultivar tejidos para tratar enfermedades como diabetes y párkinson.

Investigadores en Boston y Japón expusieron células del bazo de ratones recién nacidos a un ambiente más ácido al que están acostumbrados. En pruebas de laboratorio ese proceso las convirtió en células madre, con versatilidad suficiente como para producir los tejidos de un embrión de ratón, por ejemplo.

Las células de piel, músculo, grasa y otros tejidos de ratones recién nacidos parecieron experimentar el mismo cambio, que puede desencadenarse exponiendo las células a cualquiera de una serie de situaciones estresantes, dijeron los investigadores.

Los científicos esperan controlar las células madre



para reemplazar tejidos defectivos en una variedad de enfermedades. Al crear las células madre del mismo paciente eliminan el problema de rechazo de trasplantes.

Las células humanas son ahora transformadas rutinariamente en células madre llamadas "iPS" (células madre pluripotentes inducidas). Involucra la reprogramación de una célula ordinaria introduciendo genes o sustancias en el núcleo. El nuevo método, por el contrario, permite que la célula modifique su pro-

pio comportamiento después que los investigadores la someten a un ambiente externo estresante.

"Es muy sencillo. Creo que podría hacerse en un laboratorio escolar", afirmó el doctor Charles Vacanti del Brigham and Women's Hospital en Boston, autor de dos estudios que publica el miércoles la revista Nature.

Facilita la clonación hu-

Vacanti también admitió que si la técnica funciona con las células humanas podría permitir una vía

potencial para la clonación de seres humanos. Aseguró que no tiene interés en hacerlo, pero lo consideró un motivo de preocupación.

Otro autor, Haruko Obokata del Centro RIKEN de Biología Evolutiva en Kobe, Japón, dijo que los investigadores estudian si la técnica funciona con células humanas. Agregó que es prematuro compararla con la tecnología iPS en cuanto a sus usos médicos potenciales.

Expertos no vinculados al estudio dijeron que los resultados son sorprendentes y que es demasiado pronto como para conocer sus implicaciones prácticas.

"Hasta que se demuestre que funciona en seres humanos, es difícil saber cuál será la aplicación", advirtió William Lowry, biólogo evolutivo en la Universidad de California, en Los Angeles. "Por ahora, la cuestión de si es una curiosidad de laboratorio o un gran beneficio médico está por verse".

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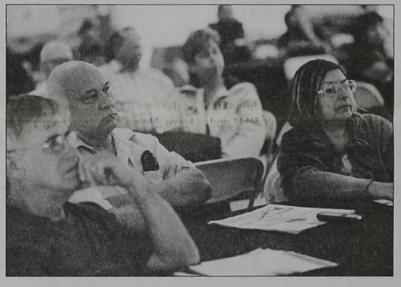
Unos tres millones de personas inscritas en Obamacare

Cerca de tres millones de personas han elegido hasta ahora un plan de cuidado de la salud en el marco de la reforma sanitaria impulsada por el gobierno de Estados Unidos, afirmó este viernes la secretaria de Salud, Kathleen Sebel-

La funcionaria confirmó durante una conferencia en Jacksonville (Florida) que unas 800,000 personas se han inscrito este mes en los seguros médicos, sumándose a 2.2 millones que habían elegido planes entre octubre y diciembre.

La Ley de Cuidados de Salud a Bajo Precio (ACA), promulgada por el presidente Barack Obama en 2010, tuvo un arranque complicado en octubre cuando el portal del Gobierno Federal, plagado de inconvenientes técnicos, impidió el acceso y trámite rápido de miles de solicitudes.

El gobierno de Obama esperaba contar con unos tres millones de matriculados a fin de 2013 y todavía mantiene la esperanza de obtener siete millones para



el 31 de marzo, cuando vence el plazo para la inscripción antes de que entren en efecto las multas que la ley estipula para quienes no compren un seguro.

Sebelius dijo que si se

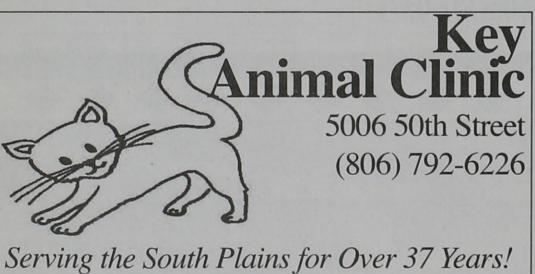
mantiene el ritmo actual de matriculaciones enero sobrepasará a diciembre como el mes con más inscripciones.

Pero el gobierno no dio detalles de cuántos de esos tres millones de personas

que eligieron un seguro bajo ACA han completado realmente su matriculación haciendo el primer pago de una cuota.

Sebelius, quien visita diferentes partes del país para promover la ley ACA, dijo que hasta fin de diciembre "más de 158,000 residentes de Florida se habían inscrito, esto es una de cada ocho personas inscritas en todo el país, pero queda mucho por hacer".

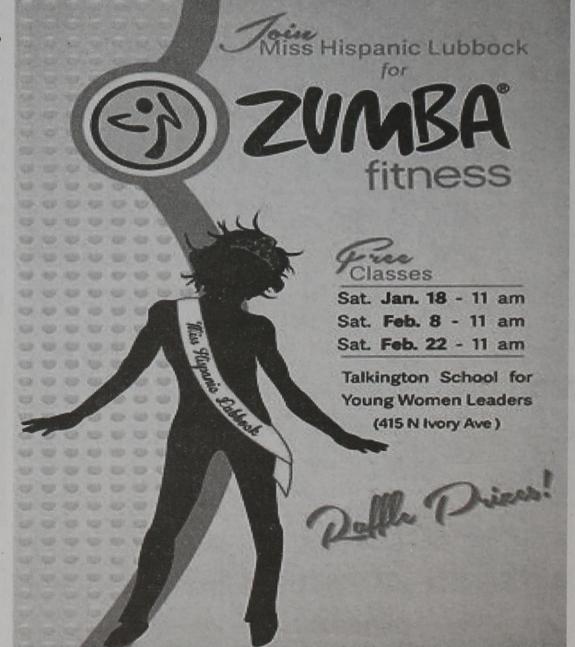
"El 23 por ciento de la población no tiene seguro y es elegible para un seguro médico, esto es 3.5 millones de personas de las cuales 203,000 viven aquí en Jacksonville", añadió.



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Russell Wilson: Spurned savior



If was starting an NFL franchise right now, Russell Wilson would be one of the first five players I'd pick. Despite that, it hasn't been all that easy for Wilson to latch onto a permanent football home.

Why is that? Wilson's a savior now -- but no one really seemed desperate to lock him down until the Seahawks came along. His path to the NFL's as remarkable as his constant enthusiasm. And even Seattle wasn't all in on him from day

"I think they want him now!"
Elliott Avent, Wilson's baseball coach at North Carolina
State joked on the phone last
week. "I don't think the Seattle
Seahawks will ever let him
go. They probably can't wait
to wrap him up with a big
contract after next year. I think
that's a thing of the past -- he's
proven himself every step of
the way. But the point of the
matter is he always had to
prove himself.

Carroll's vision with Wilson pays off for Seahawks

"There was never one day, even when he was here, that he didn't have to go out and prove himself. Russell doesn't have a grudge, he's not that type of guy. But I'm sure he used it for motivation that every day he had to go out and prove himself."

Avent doesn't get nearly enough credit for Wilson's journey. Avent's the guy who called then NC State coach Chuck Amato and told him about the "really interesting" high school shortstop in Virginia who was an even better quarterback. Wilson's height, which caused him to fall into the Seahawks lap in the third round of the 2012 NFL Draft,

was an issue then as well. "I picked up the phone and called Chuck and asked him what he knows about Russell Wilson and one of his recruiting guys said Russell's a really good player but everybody thinks he's a little short," Avent said. "So I immediately got a hold of Marc Trestman when I got back and I told Marc he needed to get this guy into camp. And Marc's the first guy I think to really notice Russell -- he compared him to [Rich] Gannon as one of the best throwing quarterbacks he's

"They got Russell into camp and then when you learn about Russell's discipline and his whole background and who he is, he's just so impressive. So it was very, very easy at that point to offer him a scholarship and they did."

Trestman, now the coach of the Bears, never got a chance to work with Wilson. He, along with the rest of Amato's staff, were fired before Wilson ever became the All-ACC quarterback and Wolfpack fan favorite who went undefeated against the Pack's hated in-state rival North Carolina.

Wilson almost never got a chance to do that, though. John Bunting, who coached the Tar Heels prior to Butch Davis' arrival in Chapel Hill, tossed on his hindsight goggles last week

and told 99.9 the Fan in Raleigh that he believes Wilson would've

ended up at Carolina.

"I really do believe he would have been a Tar Heel if we had not already made a commitment and a commitment made back to us by a guy that had a little more star power at that time," Bunting said. "A guy by the name of Mike Paulus."

How laughable does the notion of ditching Wilson for Mike Paulus -- who attempted 13 total passes for UNC in his career -- sound now? But it was a recurring thing then for people to use height as an excuse for ignoring Wilson. Bunting did the same thing.

"We knew that Russell Wilson was a good quarterback. We watched his tape. He had all the great mechanics that great quarterbacks have," Bunting said. "We brought him to our camp. His high school coach told me in 10th grade that we want to have this guy. And Frank Signeti worked him out and said 'That is the best workout I've ever, ever seen. He wants to come here, we've got to get him.' I said what do I do about Paulus? We had a little staff meeting. I take Russell Wilson and throw Michael Paulus under the bus? The 6'3", 6'4" star power guy and bring in this two-star guy who's 5'11" and 200 pounds?"

Sound familiar? It should: Tom O'Brien, who replaced Amato in Raleigh, made a similar choice that resulted in Russell bolting NC State and finishing his college football career at Wisconsin.

That's a nearly impossible-toexplain situation that's not nearly as cut and dry as most people think it is. O'Brien recruited current Buccaneers quarterback Mike Glennon to Raleigh as his next-gen version of Matt Ryan.

Wilson turned into a superstar and when he was drafted by the Colorado Rockies with a year of football eligibility remaining, O'Brien had to make a call. If he stuck with Wilson, there was a good chance that Glennon -- who handled the situation with incredible aplomb -- would transfer. If he did and Wilson succeeded at baseball, O'Brien might be staring at a situation that involved having all of his eggs thrown out of the basket.

O'Brien, at Virginia now and made available via conference call, wouldn't specifically confirm that Glennon would've left if Wilson returned. But he didn't deny it either.

"Michael would have graduated that year," O'Brien said. "He could move on if he wanted to at the end of that year. That was all part of the decision making process that had to happen.

"You could have one quarterback, two quarterbacks or have no quarterbacks."

Going with Glennon didn't seal O'Brien's fate at N.C. State (he was probably gone after 2012 with anything less than an appearance in the ACC Championship Game). But it sure wasn't a good look for him when Wilson came a Kirk Cousins Hail Mary short of Wisconsin playing for a national title. And it definitely doesn't make him look smart with Wilson about to start for the Seahawks in a Super Bowl. Still,

no regrets, etc.

"I'm not clairvoyant. I can't tell the future," O'Brien said. "The thing that you do and that you always do is you make decisions based on the facts that you have at that time. Certainly, with the facts and situation that it was [with baseball], we parted on great terms. Russell went his way." Avent, Wilson's

"other" coach, doesn't see it that way and called the decision to move on "a little personal."

"It's always easy to see it in the rearview mirror when you see how everything panned out. And Coach O'Brien had to do what he to do," Avent said. "For me ... it was a little personal to me."

Avent's point, too, is that Wilson -- known by all his teammates and the media as one of the nicest guys in football -- gave everything to the program and the program didn't give back.

"Russell Wilson, in a day and age when college athletics are full scandal and full cheating ... every day we sit here and talk about student athletes and what they do," Avent said. "A lot of college athletics is full of scandal and not very good things. And you get a guy to come along and he has all those [good] qualities? He's this, that and a third. He's everything. I just don't understand, no matter what the situation was ... this is a guy who tore his knee up and he's at every workout at 5 o'clock in the morning. Always the first guy to workout and the last one to leave. First guy in the film room, last one to leave. He's playing two sports. He graduates in three years. He's a great teammate. He has the committment to do everything at the highest quality. He was all these things and more. If you can get 25 percent of the college athletes to have the qualities that Russell Wilson has, college athletics would be much better.

"So to have that guy and not let him finish his career where it started, where he meant so much to the program and the fans ... I don't know all the things that went into the decision but I just think there had to be a way to keep Russell Wilson here and finish at NC State."

There are plenty of NC State fans who agree with Avent's passionate stance. (Although Brett Bielema probably appreciates O'Brien's decision.)

But letting Wilson get away isn't just a Wolfpack thing. Every single team in the NFL passed on Wilson -- at least twice -- and the Jaguars, desperate for a franchise quarterback, even took a punter

instead of grabbing Wilson.

The Seahawks look smart for stealing him, and Pete Carroll and John Schneider look like geniuses for starting Wilson out of the gate. But, again, it wasn't always that cut-and-dry.

Wilson struggled out of the gate for the Seahawks. He completed 60 percent of his passes in the first four games of his career but he threw four interceptions against four touchdowns and only averaged 5.94 yards per attempt through the first four weeks of 2012.

Before the Seahawks played the Panthers in Week 5, Mike Lombardi — then at the NFL Network and now the GM of the Cleveland Browns penned a column calling for the Seahawks to bench Wilson and start Matt Flynn. Seahawks coach Pete Carroll is 3-1 vs. Broncos QB Peyton Manning
Super Bowl XI VIII won't mark would play be threw three in Indianapolis raced out to a 28-7

Super Bowl XLVIII won't mark the first time that Seattle coach Pete Carroll has coached against. Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning. It won't mark the second time or the third time either — It's actually happened four times before.

Carroll has a 3-1 record against Manning, but the two haven't faced off in almost 15 years. The last time a Carroll-coached team went up against a team quarterbacked by Manning came in December 1999 when Manning's Colts beat Carroll's Patriots 20-15. That was Manning's one and only win against Carroll.

Manning didn't have a lot to say about his first four meetings with Carroll on Wednesday, but he definitely remembers them, "I know Pete Carroll. Pete was the head coach of the Patriots my first two seasons with the Colts," Manning said. "They were in our division. I knew him then."

Here's a look at all four games. Sept. 13, 1998: In only the second game of Manning's career, Manning played exactly like you'd think a rookie quarterback would play, he threw three interceptions as Carroll's Patriots beat the Colts 29-6. Of the 240 regular season games that Manning has ever played in, this is one of only 17 games where Manning has thrown three or more interceptions.

Nov. 1, 1998: When New England and Indianapolis met up again in Week 9, Colts coach Jim Mora came into the game with a new strategy: Let Manning throw the ball on every play. Manning threw 52 passes in the Colts 21-16 loss. If that sounds like a lot of pass attempts for Manning, that's because it is. In 15 seasons as an NFL starter, that number is still tied for the sixth most passes Manning has ever attempted in a game. Manning finished 30 of 52 for 278 yards and two touchdowns.

Sept. 19, 1999: If the Super Bowl is half as entertaining as this Week 2 game between the Colts and Patriots was in 1999, then we're all in for a treat. Manning threw two touchdown passes to Marvin Harrison as

Indianapolis raced out to a 28-7 halftime lead over Carroll's Patriots. The lead wasn't big enough though for Manning to pickup his first career win over New England. Patriots quarterback Drew Bledsoe threw three second half touchdown passes to tie the game at 28. Then Adam Vinatieri did what Adam Vinatieri does: Vinatieri hit a 26yard field goal with 35 seconds left to give New England a 31-28 win. Manning finished 18 of 30 in the game for 223 yards and three touchdowns, but Manning also threw two interceptions.

Dec. 12, 1999: Twenty days before Y2K, Manning finally picked up his first win against Carroll, but the Colts almost blew another big lead before it happened. Thanks to two Manning touchdown passes, Indianapolis jumped out to a 20-6 lead. The Patriots trimmed the lead to 20-15 in the fourth quarter, but their comeback attempt eventually came up short. Manning finished the game 15 of 27 for 186 yards and two touchdowns. The 186 yards is the 13th lowest total of Manning's career in a game where he threw 25 or more passes.

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TEXAS-



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Invitan a Los Tigres del Norte a participar en "Camelia la Texana"

El director Carlos Bolado dijo que el grupo Los Tigres del Norte podría participar en algunos capítulos de la serie "Camelia la Texana", que en breve se estrenará en Estados Unidos, con las actuaciones estelares de Sara Maldonado y Erik Hayser.

La serie basada en el clásico corrido titulado "Contrabando y traición", que interpreta la agrupación mexicana Los Tigres del Norte, en breve comenzará a transmitirse en Estados Unidos, aunque aún no tiene fecha para su estreno en México.

El grupo de música norteña ha mostrado mucho interés por el proyecto e incluso ha accedido a realizar algunos promocionales de para la Unión Americana.

"Los Tigres del Norte han estado muy cerca del proyecto, ellos son los que inventaron el personaje y sin su aprobación no sería posible esto, ellos han hecho la publicidad en Estados



Unidos", comentó Carlos Bolado a Notimex durante un receso de la grabación de la serie en un cementerio del Estado de México.

Destacó que están en pláticas para que los intérpretes de temas como "Golpes en el corazón" y "La puerta negra" realicen unas escenas en una gran fiesta y donde ellos estarán tocando.

"Es un proyecto que ellos

avalan", dijo Bolado al reconocer que ha sido un reto esta historia, debido a que se ubicará en la década de los años 70 y 80, entremezclando el contexto político, social y económico que envuelve a "Camelia".

"Es importante saber qué ocurrió en la vida de Camelia para que se transformara. Es como un western, donde predomina el

mundo masculino, pero aparecen figuras femeninas, como "Camelia la Texana", que es la parte de esa liberación femenina que se está dando", indicó el realizador, quien ha estado viajando de México a Estados Unidos en busca de locaciones idóneas.

Agregó que si bien el corrido no detalla mucho de "Camelia" y "Emilio Varela", en la serie sí lo harán, por ello el interés de saber su contexto, "este personaje surge en 1973, es una historia muy mexicana y es parte de la cultura". Asimismo, Bolado ha encontrado en Sara Maldonado a la perfecta "Camelia", que refleja en los primeros capítulos una total inocencia y que después madura, hasta volverse esta leyenda de la que habla el corrido.

"Este personaje le da a Sara un nuevo reto", aseguró el director, quien también dirige en este proyecto a Dagoberto Gama, Claudette Maillé, Arcelia Ramírez y Paty Garza, entre otros actores.

Newly Elected Officers for Lubbock **Tejano Democrats**



Left to right: 2014 Lubbock Tejano Democrats new officers. Chairman - Victor Hernandez, Lubbock Dist 1 City Councilman; Arnold Alaniz Youth Chair; Patsy Cardona Secretary; Melodia Gutierrez Vice-Chair; Kathy Flores- Treasurer. Congratulations to them all on behalf of the members

They were elected on Jan. 11, 2014.

of the organization!

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