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Texas' Oldest Hispanic Owned Newspaper

El Editor

Celebrating 36 Years of Publishing

"El Respeto al Derecho Ajeno es la Paz" Lic Benito Juarez

VOL. XXXV No. 27

Week of April 26 thru May 2, 2012

www.eleditor.com

Lubbock/Midland-Odessa Region

Ybarra and Reyna Respond to Candidate Questions

As a public service to our readers and as our contribution to the political discourse, El Editor is publishing a Q&A with LISD School Board candidates. You will find questions sent to the rest of the candidates on Page 2.

But, the District 1 LISD trustee position is somewhat different than the others in that the office holder represents a majority Hispanic district. Therefore, El Editor decided to send a different set of questions to candidates Gwen Reyna and Mario Ybarra, than going to the other candidates.

While issues like funding cuts affect all students, there are certain issues which impact the Hispanic student more. We therefore formulated our questions to these two candidates on that basis.

District 1 Candidate Ornela "Lala" Chavez, did not respond to our invitation to participate.

Gwen Reyna
Q: Many people say that parents of high-achieving students do not get involved in their children's education; how would you motivate parents to get involved?
A: There are no easy answers, but we can create open communi-

cations, maybe a facebook page, or create a parent feed. We can also talk at other organization's meetings, and at PTA's. Always spread the words "there are spreads for."

Q: Why do you think the drop out rate for Hispanic students is so high and what can LISD do to improve its graduation rate?
A: Testing is hard now and I hear they are going to get even harder. 2. Broken Homes-single parent households, no one for the child to turn to or look up to.

3. TEEN PRESSURE-Bullying, Grades, home life, fitting in...
Q: If elected, how will you do things differently than the trustee who is in the District 1 position now?
A: I will communicate. Attend local meetings in District 1.

2. Be the voice for our kids. Go the extra mile for the best position in EDUCATION. Get

the word out to the community and the programs the schools offer, bring new ideas to the issues we face. There are no easy answers but the cause is worth fighting for.

Mario Ybarra

Q: Many people say that parents of Hispanic students do not get involved in their children's education; how would you motivate parents to get involved?
A: First, I do not agree with that statement that Hispanic parents are less likely to get involved with their children's education. In my work as trustee for the Lubbock ISD school board over the past 7 years, I have had the privilege of working with countless Hispanic parents who are involved at the school, who know and work closely with their child's teacher, who serve on their school's PTA, and who participate in fundraisers at the school. Hispanic parents

will frequently go to the school when they have a concern and discuss their concerns with the principal, or contact the LISD administration, or contact me directly.
Second, parental involvement is sometimes a question of socio-economics more than race since some of our citizens do not hold jobs that allow them to leave work, or they work multiple jobs. Can we get more Hispanic parents involved? Sure, and there is still work to be done. We have to support our school administrators in continuous improvement of the school by helping them to better understand the Hispanic community. Many times parents are not invited to participate or it is not clearly explained to parents why a particular meeting at the school is important. We need to work harder by training our employees to better understand the communities they serve. Schools should expand their focus on programs and events that celebrate Hispanic heritage to gain more participation from Hispanic parents. This can be done by focusing not only on the annual Cinco de Mayo celebration, but also by focusing on programs that help parents

feel empowered to work with the school. I would like to see more work done to offer classes to parents, such as computer classes, classes on personal finance, and other classes that would attract parents.

Q: Why do you think the drop out rate for Hispanic students is so high and what can LISD do to improve its graduation rate?
A: I want to be clear on the Hispanic dropout rate. The dropout rate is not only unacceptable for Hispanics, it is unacceptable for everyone. This is not only a problem that we need to solve for Lubbock, but also for across the state and the country. We need to continue programs in LISD like Expectation Graduation, our yearly walk to the houses of graduates, to invite them back to school and to reduce the dropout rate to have a higher percentage of students graduate. Through programs like our Expectation Graduation community walks, our dropout rate can be significantly decreased and the number of students re-enrolling in school who had previously dropped out of school will increase. We need to get the community more involved in making contact with

our dropouts.
Q: One of your opponents says that you did a poor job of communicating with the community about school closures; how would you respond to that criticism?
A: There are a few naysayers who say that I did not do enough to stop the school consolidations in District 1. I find this curious since both of my opponents were both present at a number of community meetings where I spoke in opposition to closing Tubbs Elementary, as well as other schools. In fact, one of my opponents was present when I cast a vote against closing Tubbs Elementary. School closures are very difficult on a school community, and that is why I voted against closing Tubbs.

El Editor thanks both Ms. Reyna and Mr. Ybarra for participating in our Candidate's Q&A. We strongly encourage you to vote for the candidate which you believe will represent your views the best.
El Editor will make its endorsements for both LISD and Lubbock City Council candidates in next week's edition.

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El Editor's LISD Candidate Q&A

According to the Lubbock Independent School District website, 55% of the student population in the LISD school system is of Hispanic descent.

That is probably a side product of the growth that the city has experienced during the last 10 years; and also due to the population shift which has seen many Anglo residents move farther south and southwest; and no longer living within LISD boundaries. Most of this population shift has resulted in student enrollment growth in Cooper and Freshup schools; where the Hispanic student population is increasing steadily.

LISD has also undergone drastic funding cuts by the state and has been forced to close at least 4 elementary campuses within the past two years and the majority of those closings have directly impacted a majority of Hispanic students and mostly Hispanic and black neighborhoods. At least one, the closing of Tubbs elementary, was the motivating factor behind Arnett Benson resident Gwen Reyna's decision to challenge incumbent Mario Ybarra for the District 1 position.

Couple the funding cuts with a bond election passed a couple of years ago to borrow money that has to be repaid in future years, and the challenges faced by the school board are many.

This year, there are 4 district and one at large trustee seats up for election. In order to better inform our readers about the issues and where the candidates stand, we offer this LISD Candidate Q&A.

The following 3 questions were sent to District 3 candidates Mark Blankenship, who was appointed interim trustee in January of this year and challenger Eddie Kirkpatrick; District 5 challenger Sara Duncan and incumbent Dan Pope; and At-large candidates, incumbent Melissa Collier and challenger Ruby Tanner.

No questions were sent to Verónica Woodes Holmes since she is running unopposed.

Question 1
Could you please discuss the drop out issue, why you think the Hispanic and black student

dropout rate is so high and what you as a trustee can do to try and improve on LISD's graduate rate?

District 3
Mark Blankenship
I think the drop-out rate is high due to lack of parental involvement in the children's education. I will vote to engender the current push to get drop-outs back into school. The graduation rate in LISD, has now exceeded the state and national average. I



would like to work to develop PTAs in schools with low parental involvement to get parents of at risk kids in for education on how to keep their children involved.

Eddie Kirkpatrick
Part of the reason we are seeing a high drop out rate is that we are pushing students toward a career in college when not all students want to go to college, at least straight from high school. I was one of those students who, by the eleventh grade was tired of school but went into a work-study program. I stayed interested in school, learned about the business world, and was on my way to making a good living.
I believe we, as a board and school district, need to appreciate that not all students want to go to college. We need to put more emphasis on vocational or work-study programs for jobs in the 21st century.

District 5 Seat
Sara Duncan

The dropout situation is one of the most challenging issues facing education today. Hispanic and Black students drop out at a significantly higher rate than other students, and with the burgeoning population of these two groups, the future of Texas hangs in the balance.

One of my good friends, Roger Setler, was appointed by School Board President Gary Boren to the Dropout Committee headed by the late Dr. Lauro Cavazos, the first Hispanic President of Texas Tech and later Secretary of Education under Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush. He told me that the committee focused on the cause of dropouts, and found that most students leave school in their late junior

or senior year. Peer pressure, maturity, disillusionment, desires for employment and starting families all play a role in this process. How do we address this? I believe that vocational programs, possibly centered in the Byron Martin Technology Center, might be established on each campus to identify potential dropouts. Once identified, the student could choose to participate in junior-senior year employment programs, in which academic credit could be given for actual work resulting in a paycheck. Traditional class participation and curricula could be eased for these students. The student could begin his or her career without losing the opportunity to graduate. Awards could be given for achievement in these areas, with support from minority media outlets.

Dan Pope
We are working diligently to improve the drop out or high school completion rate. Compared to

statewide numbers, our numbers are not significantly out of line. We are focusing on educating every student in LISD. Our charge at LISD is "every child, every day". It requires daily engagement between our teachers and administrators with every child to yield academic success.

One significant effort to close the drop out gap is our "Project Graduation". This is an organized effort that includes teachers, administrators, board members and community volunteers going door-to-door looking for drop outs and offering to help them get back into school with the idea of them earning their degree.

At Large Seat
Melissa Collier
Making sure that our students graduate is a top priority. I believe that we must encourage our administrators and teachers to be active in the lives of their students and search to find reasons that a student is missing school.

We need to offer support and better communicate the alternative methods that are available in helping them complete their courses. LISD offers many opportunities for credit recovery and acceleration. Through night school or online courses, many students will willingly take advantage of opportunity when they know it exists. But, we have to address individual circumstances and focus on guiding our students toward graduation. I have been very proud to support efforts of Expectation Graduation. This effort focuses on finding students who have dropped out and encouraging them to come back to school. There have been many success stories as a result. I believe this annual event will continue to improve our overall graduation rate.

Ruby Tanner
Years ago, Hispanic and Black families placed great value on their children getting a good quality education and they insisted that their children stayed in school until they at least graduated from

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Candidates Produce Lively Debate at Tejano Democrats Forum

Lubbock Tejano Democrats of Lubbock County hosted its first of two political forums this past Monday. The event was designed to inform voters about the candidates running for Precinct 3 Lubbock County Commissioner; along with candidates for County Constable.

And the debate was anything but dull. The forum was held at Cavazos Middle School and was moderated by local businessman Jose Luis Rodriguez. The questions were asked by TJ Patterson, Publisher of Southwest Digest; Christy Martinez Garcia, Publisher of Latino Lubbock;



and Olga Aguiro publisher of EL EDITOR.

First up to address the crowd of about 100 persons was Kenny Ketter, who is running unopposed in the Democratic Primary for Lubbock County Democratic Party Chair. Ketter asked the crowd to support President Obama's reelection efforts and urged them to help keep Obama in office.

Constable candidate Marina Garcia, trying to return to a position she once held, is running against Richard Mendez who did not attend due to personal reasons.

Garcia, who highlighted her 12 years of experience in the position, said she left to due health issues and to further her education. But she said she "is ready to come back and rebuild the trust within the department", adding that she is also dedicating this election to her father.
But the exchanges which produced most of the night's

fireworks were between two of the 3 Democratic candidates for Precinct 3 County Commissioner. If current Precinct 3 County Commissioner Gilbert Flores is to have a chance at another 4 year term, he must first win out against the two opponents; Lorenzo "Bubba" Sedeno who is retired after working for 27 years within state government, and Richard Calvillo owner of Calvillo Funeral Home in the Democratic Primary, scheduled for May 29.

Calvillo did not attend the forum due to personal illness.

One of the first statements made by Sedeno was that it was time to end Flores' run as commissioner

calling him a "career politician". Flores countered that he was not a "career politician" but a career businessman.
Some of the questions asked, 'dealt with whether one candidate was more qualified than the other to be county commissioner; and how each candidate feels about the formation of a joint city and county health department operation.

Flores responded to the "qualification" question by saying that he was the best candidate because he has "been self employed" most of his life; has been County Commissioner for 16 years; has done "budgets for 45 years"; and has dealt with employees. He indicated that running the county is much like running a business.

When asked why he wanted 4 more years, Flores said, "that's all I want is four more years... it's that easy."
Flores claimed that he isn't a "politician," that he "doesn't carry

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El Editor's LISD Candidate Q&A

However Supreme Court rules on immigration, numbers favor Obama

continued from front
High School. Dropping out of school was not an option. Parents believed a good education was the best assurance for a good future. Even today these feelings are still shared.

It is a fact that all students from all cultures deal with drop out problems. Because, the parity is not the same, it has caused Hispanic and Black Students to have a higher drop out problem than all other cultures. In other words, the age old problem of Social Divide, sometimes Social Injustice, Generational Cycles, and yes even, Economic Factors, effects many of these drop outs. The component of reasons and excuses are many, such as: Difficulty understanding the material, absenteeism, discipline and behavior problems, pregnancy, personal problems, in need of more money, peer pressure from others to drop out, no motivation to attend school, not liking their teachers, and many other reasons for dropping out of school.

Let us look at this issue in this prospective. How bless are those that are born with Gold, Silver and Brass Spoons, in their mouths? Their drop out rate from generation to generation has not been sky high as the Hispanic and Blacks. How about those that come into this life with problems already with Social Divide, etc., in their mouths? Do not think, by any means, that the Hispanic or Black kids do not have people born with Gold, Silver and Brass Spoons in their mouths. Also, both cultures have help to make this Great Country be the most Powerful Country in the world.

In my closing of this matter. A very good example of Social Divide and Social Injustice would be the LISD School District's Unfair Formula that has been served on a Silver Platter to LISD. The Formula claims that the LISD School District is the POOREST DISTRICT, there by, it will and has received the least amount of money, causing each student to receive \$4600.00 per student, whereas Austin receives \$6800.00 per student. How does that sound to the so called poor? Does this cause those that are considered poor to feel less than? Students that are not in poor districts does not have to carry this stigma nor the baggage.

Some solutions: It is imperative that we start educating our children before they reach the Kindergarten Class. We should enhance our Tutor and Interventionist programs by making it mandatory as well as weekly reports and test given monthly. Smaller classes with more individualized help and instructions. Better discipline when needed, with follow up in helping to resolve matters.

Question 2
What is the best way for the school board to deal with state budget cuts, cut teacher positions, cut services, or cut administration staff? If you could provide some ideas as to what steps you would suggest for dealing with funding cuts?

District 3 Seat
Mark Blankenship
The stock answer would be to cut administrative staff, but that would only be if one were not aware of the large reduction in force at central office in the last few years. Our administrative staff is falling in line with numbers when compared to other schools in the area. I am against cutting teaching positions. I think

we end up cutting services across the board, in relatively equal proportion, in order to maintain our programming.

Eddie Kirkpatrick
I believe that the best way for the board to deal with state budget cuts is to first work with our legislative delegation to equalize the school funding formula. Next, I would favor cutting upper administration staff. Another consideration is possibly renegotiating our contracts with service providers such as Sodexo and Armark.

District 5 Seat
Sara Duncan
Many areas exist that involve budgets: academics, athletics, extracurricular activities (Music, Theatre, Art, Vocational). For every campus, I support a committee composed of a building administrator and department chairs who would examine areas involving money and suggest budget reductions. Each of the areas is important, and none should be completely removed. The available resources should be used frugally and judiciously. When people see the need to budget, the system as a whole will benefit.

Dan Pope
I believe that any further cuts - if required - should be made with the idea of doing no harm to what happens in the classroom. We have taken that approach over the past two years. Most of the reductions that we have made have been first through attrition. We have also adjusted some programs. The most significant decision we made eliminated more than 85 positions in the LISD Central Office.

We work everyday to find better and more efficient ways to run our LISD business.

At Large Seat
Melissa Collier
While experiencing decreases in funding, our number one priority has been to protect the classroom. Through attrition, we have been able to reduce a number of positions while ensuring that no classroom teachers have lost their job. Appropriate student ratios are being maintained and the number of class size waivers even decreased during this school year. In addition, LISD is fortunate to have passed a bond package in November 2010. As a result, we have been able to realize some operational efficiencies, which has helped us to deal with the loss of roughly \$14 million dollars during the current biennium. Although I do not anticipate additional cuts to funding, I also do not anticipate any more money coming into the system. Therefore, we must continue working towards a more equitable division of the money allocated to public education.

Ruby Tanner
I would at all possible save the foundation of the school by trying to keep all teachers and administration, by cutting services. If this shoe string tight budget continues, than I would cut around the edges, such as cut certain sport programs that does not generate much money. Also, Life Living Skills programs and giving incentives to students who attend classes for the full 6 weeks to generate more revenue for the school.

Question 3
Please provide a brief summary

of your general overall experience, the experience that you would bring to the board; why you think you would make an effective LISD trustee.

District 3 Seat
Mark Blankenship
I have been on the Board for about 3 months. Many of the issues that the Board faces today have legal implications, and my background with degrees in Education and in Law give me a new perspective to add to the Board. A Board member must be a consensus builder. I have training in consensus building, having worked the majority of my years as a partner with my firm on our business management and operations committee, in both good and bad economies. I am used to making decisions in a committee setting, and having to get a consensus to make a decision. On the school board, it takes four votes to take action. My business experience is critically important today that lack of funding continues to loom over the district. Finally, I believe I have the trust and respect of the other Board members, which is critical to being effective. They unanimously chose me from a field of five candidates after going through open public interviews to fill the vacant position.

Eddie Kirkpatrick
I have been married to Dede for almost 32 years and have two daughters Morgan, who is a teacher at Cavazos, and Kelsey, who is an RN. We are all graduates of LISD.

We became interested in our kids' education at an early age. We joined PTA and I served in almost every position on the board, including two years as Smylie Wilson PTA President. I coached my daughter's softball team for six years and have umpired Little League Baseball for ten years. My experience substituting teaching for two years with LISD gave me an inside look at the day to day routine for teachers and students.

I spent 28 years as a firefighter for the Lubbock Fire Department, ten years as 1st responder liaison for the "Shattered Dreams" program. I am one of the founding members and have served as the commander of the Lubbock Fire Department Honor Guard since its inception.

I spent 14 years as a member of the Texas Guard, I teach at South Plains College and Wolfarth Fire Academy, and have been a student and an instructor at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

I believe I would be an outside voice for not only district three but all of the students, teachers, parents, and administrators of Lubbock. I am willing to devote the time needed to the job and will listen to the people I serve.

District 5 Seat
Sara Duncan
Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) at Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana; Master of Arts (M.A.), Texas Tech University; English Department Chair, in charge of budget; Implemented highly academic programs (LEAP and IB); Taught in LISD & TTU Summer Programs; Currently employed at South Plains College.

Awards:
"Outstanding High School Teacher of Texas" (1992), awarded by Governor Ann Richards; "Outstanding Teacher of the Humanities" (2000), awarded by the National Endowment of

the Humanities; "Educator of the Year", District 17 PTA (2003)

Memberships: Active member of the Texas Retired Teachers Association. For over thirty years, I have been my neighbor living in the Tech Terrace Neighborhood, just south of Texas Tech. I have lived in Lubbock for over forty years. I have a daughter who now lives in Logan, Utah, teaching at Utah State University. I have had the privilege of teaching your children writing and world literature at Lubbock High School for over thirty years. Currently, I am teaching at South Plains College. I love teaching and the enrichment of our children. I would deeply appreciate your vote and support on May 12th.

Dan Pope
I feel that my experience as a small business owner (18 years), a parent (two children presently in LISD schools), community volunteer and LISD Board member for the past five years has provided me the right perspectives and skills to be a productive and effective trustee.

At Large Seat
Melissa Collier
I have served for two years as a Lubbock ISD Trustee At-Large. I serve on the finance committee and act as chairperson of the ad-hoc technology committee.

Our Board was named Outstanding School Board of Texas for 2011. I am a lifelong resident of Lubbock and a proud product of Lubbock ISD. My husband is also a Lubbock native and an LISD graduate. We have two children that attend LISD. Our family is deeply rooted in Lubbock and we are committed to the success of children across this community. I currently serve on the LISD Foundation for Excellence Board and act as Board Secretary to the Children's Home of Lubbock. I enjoy volunteering in the classroom and serving on the Honey Elementary PTA. I am a self-employed CPA and have the financial background necessary to understand the financial challenges that affect public education. I have the time and energy necessary to devote to this worthy work. I pledge to continue working to ensure that we are fulfilling our mission of focusing on "Every Child Every Day".

Ruby Tanner
I made the decision to move to Lubbock, Texas 16 years ago, after both of my daughters graduated from Texas Tech University. I am a proud Grand Mother, who has a grandson that goes to Roscoe Wilson Elementary. I am deeply committed to educational programs that help vulnerable children meet their full potential. I have taught in Summer School Enrichment Programs, as well as, being a Youth Church Counselor. By me being born and raised in Alameda, California it has given me great exposure to different cultures. I believe my sensitivity to the needs of a diverse student population will add an important perspective to LISD academic programming decisions.

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By David Horsey
Just as the U.S. Supreme Court begins to hear arguments about Arizona's hard-line immigration law, a study pops up that says illegal immigration from Mexico is a diminishing problem.

According to a report released by the Pew Hispanic Center, the massive

Arizona and several other states argue that they need to be able to conduct their own crackdowns on illegal immigration because the feds under President Obama's leadership have failed to do the job. Theirs is a states-rights argument. Obama administration lawyers will insist this is a usurpation of the federal



wave of Mexicans entering this country illegally is subsiding and a rising counter current of Mexicans returning to their homeland has brought net migration to a statistical equilibrium.

This trend began about five years ago, according to the report, and the number of undocumented Mexican nationals in the U.S. has fallen from 7 million to 6.1 million. At the same time, the number returning - or, as Mitt Romney would put it, "self-deporting" - has jumped significantly.

One big factor in this is something demographers have anticipated for years. Starting in the 1970s, birth control became much more widely available in Mexico. Where once Mexicans had one of the world's highest birthrates, that rate has dropped to a level almost on par with the United States. As a result, the cohort of young Mexicans who might want to head north for work has grown smaller.

Another big element in the immigration shift is that Mexico's economy is putting along rather well. There are more jobs south of the border, while the prolonged U.S. economic slump has made employment scarcer to the north. The result is that, for some Mexicans, there is more economic opportunity to be found at home than in places such as Arizona, where they are less and less welcome.

Adding to the incentive for Mexicans to stay put are the heightened dangers along the border, beefed-up border enforcement and a sharp increase in deportations under the Obama administration. (A record high 400,000 people were deported last year alone.)

All of this does not make the case before the Supreme Court superfluous, but it may alter the political climate in which the ruling will be made.

responsibility to set immigration policy. They argue that targeted enforcement, not random stops of Latinos to ask for their identification papers, is the best approach to the challenge.

Now, they may also be able to argue that what they are doing is working and no aggressive targeting of suspected border-jumpers by local police is necessary. Nevertheless, Obama's attorneys will be fighting the usual uphill battle against the court's conservative majority.

Those five justices have already upheld another Arizona statute that revokes the business license of any employer who knowingly hires illegals. When their ruling comes down in June, it will not be surprising if they also decide in favor of the states' right to round up suspicious characters with brown skin and Spanish surnames and demand to see their papers.

Just as will be the case if the Supreme Court strikes down all or part of "Obamacare," a court decision in the Arizona dispute will land the issue squarely in the center of the presidential election debate. Romney has declared himself a fan of the Arizona laws and an enemy of any Dream Act-like legislation that would provide a path to citizenship for young people who have grown up on this side of the border illegally. His tough stance may have boosted his conservative credentials in the Republican primaries, but it is losing him thousands of votes among Hispanic Americans.

As this plays out in the campaign, Obama will have numbers on his side: high poll numbers among Hispanic voters, the high number of deportations his administration has done and, now, the numbers showing that illegal immigration may be a problem that is slowly but steadily going south.

El Editor
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These resolutions were submitted and accepted during the Lubbock County Democratic Convention that was held this past Saturday at Cazanos Middle School. The event was a all day event. It was attended by different democrat throughout the convention and Lubbock Texas Democrats was part of the process during the event. Resolutions were also submitted by the group as well. Delegates and at Large delegates to attend the State Democratic Convention to be held in Houston in June were also selected during the event.

Pass the Budget Rule and End the Bush Cuts for the Wealthy to Make Taxes Fairer and Reduce the Debt
Whereas it is common knowledge that Warren Buffett, Barack Obama and Mitt Romney pay less in Federal Income Taxes as a percentage of their income than their secretaries and most Americans, and
Whereas the Budget Rule would require that millionaires pay at least 30 percent on their income including interest income and dividends, and not just wages, and
Whereas the Budget Rule would raise an estimated \$10 billion over ten years but would not make an appreciable dent in the national deficit, national debt or provide a lot more revenue for essential programs and significantly reduce the debt caused by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan which are not included in the Budgets passed by the Congress for the last eight years, and
Whereas letting the Bush-era tax cuts expire for taxpayers making more than \$250,000 a year, as the President has also called for, would raise \$800 billion over ten years, and thus significantly provide more revenue for national needs including applying meaningful payments to reduce the national debt over time,

Therefore be it resolved that the Lubbock County Democratic Convention urges the State Democratic Party to not only support the Budget Rule, end the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy and make corporations pay their fair share who pay no taxes on income earned overseas to pay their fair share too, and
Further be it resolved that passage of the Budget Rule not be used as a substitute for ending the Bush tax cuts, and
Further be it resolved that this Resolution to State Democratic Chair Boyd Richie to put on the Agenda of the State Convention in Houston, and
Precinct 23
Support the Student Loan Forgiveness Act of 2012 and Help Stimulate the Economy
Whereas outstanding student loan debt in America is expected to exceed \$1 Trillion this year, and
Whereas millions of hardworking, educated Americans are being crushed under the combined weight of their educational debts, mortgage or housing payments, and the costs of raising children, while the economy continues to grow very slowly out of the Bush recession, and
Whereas the average tuition for a 4-year college education has increased an astounding 82% since 1980. Yet, since 1999, average student loan debt

has also increased by 511%, and
Whereas total outstanding student loan debt now exceeds total outstanding credit card debt in America for the first time ever, and
Whereas reasonable minds can disagree as to the solution, they do not disagree on the existence of this ever-growing crisis that also affects the ability of recent graduates to buy automobiles, homes and afford health care for themselves or their children, and thus affect the recovery of the economy since the housing bubble burst, and
Whereas Rep. Hank Clarck of Michigan has introduced H. R. 4170, the Student Loan Forgiveness Act of 2012, directly addressing the enormous burden on the neck of millions of college graduates aspiring to go into or stay in the middle class, and
Whereas Title 4 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a 10/10 Loan Repayment Plan that allows borrowers of Federal Family Education Loans (FFELs) and Direct Loans (DLs) to limit their monthly payment on such loans to one twelfth of 1% of the amount by which their adjusted gross income and that of their spouse (if applicable) exceeds 150% of the federal poverty level, and
Whereas the Act establishes a 10/10 Loan Forgiveness Program to borrowers who, after the date that is 10 years before this Act's enactment, have made 120 monthly payments, amended the public service employment loan forgiveness program to forgive the Direct Loans of participants who have made 60 (currently 120) monthly payments of primary care physicians in medically underserved areas in the public service loan forgiveness program, and establishes a cap of 3.4% on new Direct Loans, and
Therefore the Lubbock County Democrats urge the Texas Democratic Party to support the Student Loan Forgiveness Act of 2012 by urging Texas Lawmakers in the Congress to pass the legislation and President Obama to sign the legislation into law, and
Further resolves that County Chair Pam Brink communicate this resolution to State Chair Boyd Richie to be placed on the Agenda of the State Convention in Houston.

Resolution Condemning Rep. Neugebauer's Vote to Slash Food Stamps
WHEREAS Lubbock Congressman Randy Neugebauer joined the Republican Majority on the Agriculture Committee of the United States House of Representatives to slash the appropriations by \$8 billion in the federal budget for fiscal year 2013-14, in so-called move to reduce the budget deficit and the federal debt Wednesday, and
WHEREAS there are 39,561 people enrolled in the Texas Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, commonly known in Texas as the food stamp program, or approximately 1 out of every 6 Lubbock County residents, and
WHEREAS the average family in Lubbock County receives \$292 per month in food stamps benefits or \$3,500 per year, and
WHEREAS the cuts in the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) would hurt the most vulnerable people in our community and would also reduce the amount of food

purchase from Lubbock grocery stores, such as Lowe's, United Supercenters, and Wal-Mart, reducing Representative Neugebauer's attempt to recognize as contributing to reducing consumer spending and thus slowing down the economic recovery in the Lubbock and South Plains area,
WHEREAS BE IT RESOLVED the Lubbock County Democratic Party condemns the vote by Representative Neugebauer and urges the Texas Democratic Party to support registration of the budget cuts in the upcoming U.S. budget, and
FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Chair Pam Brink communicate this resolution to State Chair Boyd Richie to put it on the Agenda for the State Convention and for him to communicate this resolution to members of the Texas delegation in the U. S. Congress,

Support for the Establishment of Community Colleges in Counties with 10% or More Growth in Minority Populations
Whereas in many parts of the State of Texas, minority populations have experienced 10% or more growth than the majority population in the past decade per the 2010 Census and where they are now a majority minority population in a county, and yet there is no Community College, and
Whereas the establishment of a college in a four year institution are beyond the means of most minority populations,
Be it resolved that the Texas Higher Education Board establish criteria for the resources needed to create more Community Colleges in those counties and regions with substantial recent and future population growth, and
Be it resolved that County Chair Pam Brink communicate this resolution to State Chair Boyd Richie to be placed on the agenda of the State Convention in Houston.

Resolution in Support of Substantive Immigration Reform
WHEREAS college students born in Texas to the parents of undocumented immigrants and undocumented children brought to Texas by their parents are eligible to attend public Texas colleges and technical schools and whereas they have often contributed significantly to the economic, intellectual and social growth of Texas, and
WHEREAS the children of undocumented immigrants are either subject deported back to their country of origin or have to hide from law enforcement if they stay
BE IT RESOLVED that the Lubbock County Democratic Party support the opportunity of these college students to legalize their stay and apply for United States citizenship as part of an overall reform of immigration legislation - including bills the President has pushed upon common sense and reflecting our ideals as a country of opportunity and a land of immigrants

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Chair Pam Brink communicate this resolution to State Chair Boyd Richie to put it on the Agenda for the State Convention and for him to communicate this resolution to members of the Texas delegation in the U. S. Congress.
The Economic Stabilization Fund or so-called Rainy Day Fund Should Support Public Education and Nursing Homes Not Budget Gimicks
Whereas Governor Rick Perry has asked his fellow Republicans this week to sign a Budget Compact to continue to cut public education and other essential public services and refuse to tap the The Economic Stabilization Fund or so-called Rainy Day Fund even in dire emergencies, and
Whereas the past and future Perry budgets use budgeting gimmicks to delay payments to state employees and therefore push off current costs to the next Legislature, and
Whereas these accounting gimmicks zero-out funding for seniors in nursing homes, and
Whereas Perry and his Republican colleagues cut \$5.4 billion from public education despite having money in Rainy Day Funds, and
Whereas thousands of teachers have lost their jobs, neighborhood schools are closing, more children are being shoved into already over-crowded classrooms and children in several school districts are now being forced to pay hundreds of dollars to ride buses to their schools and then home, and
Whereas it is shameful for the Governor to ask lawmakers to sign an oath that hurts kids and seniors, and
Whereas Gov. Perry Lt. Governor Dewhurst and other Republican Legislators tout the continued growth of the Texas Economy including sales tax revenue,

Therefore be it resolved that the Economic Stabilization Fund or so-called Rainy Day Fund be used to meet the shortfalls in the 2011-2012 Budget, and that the State fund legislative budgets out of current anticipated revenues carried by the Texas Comptroller, and not push off future costs to future legislatures, and
Further be it resolved that County Chair Pam Brink communicate this Resolution to State Democratic Chair Boyd Richie for to be put on the Agenda of the State Convention to be held in Houston.

Resolution Urging President Obama to Direct the IRS to Investigate the Tax-Exempt Status of the American Legislative Exchange Council
WHEREAS ALEC - the American Legislative Exchange Council - is a secretive and powerful front group of corporations that are investing millions of dollars a year to write business-friendly legislation at the expense of the middle class; and
WHEREAS ALEC - the American Legislative Exchange Council - has drafted more than 800 model bills for state legislatures - including bills to make it more difficult for citizens to vote, and even a resolution in support of the reprehensible Citizens United decision, which opened the floodgates for corporate money in our elections; and
WHEREAS ALEC - the American Legislative Exchange Council - is lobbying in state capitals across the country, all while claiming to be

members of the Texas delegation in the U. S. Congress.
Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that it is a charitable organization that is a charitable organization that is receiving certain tax benefits.
WHEREAS BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Democratic Party of Lubbock County, Texas, meeting in Convention on April 21, 2012, urges President Obama to direct the IRS to launch an immediate investigation to determine whether the tax exempt status of ALEC should be revoked.
Precinct 28
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
Whereas NO taxes go to the support of the United States Postal service and millions are employed, including preferences for veterans, and
Whereas the postal service provides the oldest and most widely available infrastructure for personal communication and the conduct of business, especially in rural areas, and
Whereas the current crisis is caused by an act of the Republican controlled Congress in 2006 requiring the postal service to fund 75 years of pension benefits in 10 years leading to countless closings and lay-offs,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party will make it its task to overturn that requirement and act to strengthen the United States Postal Service by adding services it may offer such as public notices, packaging aid and other services it now prohibits from offering.
Precinct 118
RESOLUTION FAVORING THE DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN IN THE TEXAS TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM
WHEREAS many school districts across the State of Texas especially have difficulty in attracting teachers to their districts, thus depend upon the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) benefits to help them fill their teacher vacancies and reduce teacher turnover, and
WHEREAS over the last 25 years and through some of the worst economic downturns in this country's history, the TRS fund's overall rate of return is 9.2%, and
WHEREAS the TRS Pension Fund earned 15.5% in 2011, and now outperforms 75 percent of other investment funds around the country, and
WHEREAS the present TRS is projected to have enough funds to pay for benefits for its annuitants well beyond the year 2100, and
WHEREAS the 82nd Legislature reduced contributions to the lowest level in their history since the Constitution, and
WHEREAS groups of private financiers and the Texas Public Policy Foundation seek to alter the Texas Teacher Retirement plan by substituting a Defined Contribution Plan, such as a 401(k), for the existing successful Defined Benefit Plan, and
WHEREAS retired teachers may outlive their livelihood under the Foundation's proposed Defined Contribution Plan, and
WHEREAS over 800,000 school employees do not contribute to

Social Security.
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Texas Democratic Party urge the Governor and Legislature of the State of Texas to maintain the Defined Benefit Plan in the Texas Teacher Retirement System.
Precinct 62
REPEAL RIGHT TO WORK IN TEXAS
WHEREAS the so called "Right to Work" law in the state of Texas has done only damage to the blue collar workers, who are the back bone of the economy, as well as all the working class in Texas.
WHEREAS the so called "Right to Work" law has enabled the wealthy companies in Texas to keep wages in Texas far below the national average
WHEREAS the so called "Right to Work" law has made it difficult to organize the working class, and to improve wages, benefits and working conditions for workers in the state of Texas.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Democratic Party of Texas supports the repeal of the current "Right to Work Law"
Precinct 141
Democrats Support Women Who Work and Raise Children. They Do Not Engage in a "War on Women"
Whereas Republican state legislatures and Governors in Texas and many states have cut funding for health care by state agencies and non-profit groups such as Planned Parenthood which are allegedly provide pre-natal, post-partum and child care services as well as prescriptions and pills for other reasons than to avoid pregnancy, and
Whereas a recent survey conducted by Mom Center Consulting, mothers-regardless of their age-said they would forego a larger paycheck to spend more time with their children if they had equal pay for equal work and more affordable health care and housing, and
Whereas former New York Times financial reporter Ann Crittenden, in her best-selling book The Price of Motherhood, details numerous ways women are economically discriminated against when they leave the work force to raise children including the often unspoken upon fact that for each year a woman does not earn an income, it reduces her Social Security payment upon retirement, and
Whereas a 2009 study conducted by AARP and the National Care-giving Alliance found that women as not only the main caregivers for sick families at both ends of the life cycle: 66% of family caregivers are women; the typical family caregiver is a 49-year old woman caring for her widowed 69-year old mother who does not live with her, is married and employed, and 38% have children or grandchildren under 18 years of age living with her and her husband, and
Whereas current law does not count low-income stay-at-home parents who are raising young children as meeting the temporary Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) work requirement which bans states from counting these individuals toward that state's work participation rate, which can result in financial penalties if not met, and
Whereas the New York Times and others have reported that TANF is only serving 27% of families living in poverty, compared to 68% when the

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continued on page 4

continued on page 4

continued on page 4

Assistant Music Director: Resp for all rehearsals, review & purchase music egpmt, assist Music Pastor in rehearsals, directing, planning & recruiting, including Sunday Worship if necessary, assist the orchestra in finding & securing music, instruments & egpmt, assist in directing & leading if necessary, advice on which songs merit consideration, listening for sound tehology, musical integrity & levels of difficulty. Reqmts: Must have a Master's deg in Music. Apply to: Bacon Heights Baptist Church, 5110 54th St, Lubbock, TX 79414

PAUL R. BEAUNE FOR City Council District 4 Early Voting April 30 / Election Day May 12

A New Direction GLEN ROBERTSON FOR MAYOR 2012 glenformayor.com SERA ODA.

MAY 29, 2012 DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE!!! Only the Best for your business...EL EDITOR! #1 in news & information Call 806-763-3841 Questions? Comments? email us @ leditor@bcglobal.net

Resolutions from page 3, program was enacted in 1964 during the Clinton presidency, and thus pushing more children into poverty and destitution, and

Whereas many women and men who spend every few hours at a public school can see that continuing budget cuts coupled with out-of-control mandates that do not increase funding or improve discipline, and instead create adversarial relationships between parents and teachers who work low-income parents or single working mothers do not spend as much more time taking care of their children at home as do middle-class or upper class parents with more education and leisure time, creating more pressure on families that need help.

Be it resolved that the Lubbock Democratic Party supports the passage of the Women's Option to Raise Kids (WORK) Act introduced by Rep. Pete Solis (D-Cal) which would recognize that all parents who stay home to raise young children such as Ann Romney are, in fact, doing important and legitimate work, by amending the TANF law to recognize the critical job of raising children three or younger as work, allow them to receive job training, search for work or raise their children until they are school-aged without fear of losing TANF support and being pushed deeper into poverty.

And be it further resolved that the Chair Pam Brink commends the reason to State Chair Boyd Richie to put it on the Agenda for the State Convention and for him to communicate this resolution to members of Congress in Houston in the U. S. Congress.

Equal Pay for Women and Increase the Minimum Wage

Whereas the average working woman in America make only 80 working for every dollar a man makes, and

Whereas it is much worse for women of color African-American women who earn \$0.65 for every dollar and Latinos only \$0.54, and

Whereas these gaps can add up to \$24,000 in lost wages every single year, and

Whereas mothers make up 40% of the primary breadwinners in this country and therefore it is not just women who are affected by this discrimination but entire families, and

Whereas there is no wage increase in America where a worker on current federal minimum wage can afford to rent a two-bedroom home or apartment, buy auto and family health insurance, working a standard 40 hour week, and have any significant income left for vacations, religious contributions and college tuition, and

Whereas the high unemployment rate that was a legacy of the collapse of the economy in 2009 during the Bush administration has put enormous downward pressure on wages as employers have not felt the need to offer competitive wages to existing or new employees, and

Whereas Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) has introduced the "Rebuild America Act" which calls for raising the minimum wage from the current \$7.25 per hour to \$9.80 an hour—35 percent increase—over the course of two and a half years and then index it so that it rises automatically in the future with the cost of living.

Therefore be it resolved that the Lubbock County Democratic Convention urges the State Democratic Party and Members of Congress to bring an end to pay discrimination by closing a set of loopholes in current labor laws by supporting both the Equal Pay Act and the Rebuild America Act.

Further be it resolved that this Convention urges County Chair Pam Brink to communicate this resolution to the Democratic Party Chair Boyd Richie for to be put on the Agenda of the State Convention in Houston, and to communicate this resolution to members of the Texas Delegation in the House of Representatives and senators Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn.

President 23

Resolution to Repeal Texas Sonogram Law HB 15

WHEREAS, The only way to reduce the need for abortion is to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies. The state should support the proven family planning programs which were cut during the legislative and now nearly 300,000 Texas women are being threatened with the loss of reproductive health care and

WHEREAS, Texas law already requires that 24 hours before an abortion procedure the woman must be provided with information about the procedure, risks, and alternatives. Medical standards of care already require physicians to perform a sonogram before most reproductive health programs. WHEREAS, 63% of women seeking an abortion are already mothers and understand the significance and impact of the procedure; that is, six out of ten women seeking an abortion have previously given birth, and more than half of those women

have given birth two or more times.*

WHEREAS, parts of this law violate the First Amendment, which guarantees patients' privacy in the medical setting and protection from unwanted speech. A woman in utero, undergoing a vaginal probe sonogram cannot be expected to just get up and walk away if she does not want to hear the description of the fetus.

THEFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Lubbock County, Texas, meeting in Convention on April 21, 2012, supports the right of a woman to choose not to undergo an invasive vaginal probe after she has discussed the state of her pregnancy with her physician or nurse practitioner prior to her potential delivery.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party supports efforts in the Courts to reject this requirement as a violation of her rights of privacy.

PRECEDENT 141

*Department of State Health Services, Texas Vital Statistics, 2008 Annual Report.

Texas Needs to Encourage Citizen Voting Not Suppress it with Voter Photo I.D.s

Whereas the Texas Legislature passed SB 14 on March 24, 2011, which would require voters to present photo identification like a Driver's License, a Concealed Handgun License, a U.S. Passport, a U.S. military identification card, or a state identification when they go to the polls in order to cast a ballot, and

Whereas a birth certificate, a utility bill or a bank statement would no longer be accepted as photo identification in order to vote, and

Whereas supporters of the bill allege that the Bill, signed by the Governor, is needed to prevent voter fraud, and will continue to be a vital source of our Nation's oil and gas derived energy, it be resolved that the TDP ensure that energy policies to present a viable research program to ensure that the state of Texas is a leader in formulating energy policy and in responsible energy production and use. Consequently, the Texas Democratic Party (TDP) must push Texas to adopt a comprehensive energy plan where sound energy principles strengthen our energy supplies, diversify our energy mix; provide jobs and economic growth with reliable, safe, and affordable energy sources; and support a long-term solution to global climate change.

Development of Alternative Sources of Energy

Whereas, electricity is one energy carrier that can satisfy most energy demands and can be easily produced by alternative energy sources, be it renewable or non-renewable, and

WHEREAS, the Texas Democratic Party's executive committee has repeatedly called for equal rights for all people, and

WHEREAS, the Texas Democratic Party's executive committee has repeatedly rejected the inclusion of a marriage equality platform on the 2012 primary ballot, and

WHEREAS, the Texas Student Democrats find that such actions against marriage equality run counter to the beliefs of the Democratic Party, and

WHEREAS, the Texas Student Democrats are directly involved in the Lubbock County Democratic Party and the Texas College Democrats, therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Texas Student Democrats call for full marriage equality to be adopted in the platform of the Texas College Democrats and the Lubbock County Democratic Party during the upcoming conventions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Texas Student Democrats call that full marriage equality be adopted at the next available point in the Texas Democratic Party.

Resolution Honoring Attorney Dan Benson 1936-2011

Whereas, Daniel H. Benson, a Lubbock Attorney who fought for civil rights for many people passed away December 28, 2011, and was honored in a Memorial at the Texas Law School April 18, 2012, by the Lubbock County Bar Association, in a ceremony which received little notice other than the legal community, and

Whereas Dan Benson was a participant in many historic events for two significant achievements that altered not only the political landscape of Lubbock but the fabric

of Lubbock society including those who might be considered the lowest of the low, those inhabitants of the Lubbock prison system, and

Whereas Dan Benson was born in Lubbock, Texas on July 7, 1936, the eldest son of W. D. Benson, Jr. and Mattie Mae Benson, earned his B.A. and Law Degrees from the University of Texas at Austin in 1958 and 1961, and an M.A. from Texas Tech University in 1974, and

Whereas Dan Benson was commissioned a First Lieutenant in the U. S. Army Judge Advocate Corps during the Viet Nam War and served on active duty and in the Army Reserves from 1961 to 1970, followed by further service to his country in the U. S. Department of Justice, and

Whereas he joined the Texas Tech Law School Faculty in 1973 for what would be a distinguished 38 year teaching career and participant in several significant events that opened up a segregated and unjust community because of his beliefs in a nation "with liberty and justice for all," committing himself to the following events:

1. Support for the public banning of African American and Mexican American children to previously all white elementary schools and of white elementary children to Guadalupe and Ella Iles School as part of a groups Texas Tech faculty, Lubbock, and ordinary Anglos who supported the desegregation and integration of the Lubbock schools, and

2. Running for the Texas Legislature as a moderate Republican and breaking a tradition if not a state law that faculty and staff at state institutions of higher education were prohibited from running for public office and if they ran they faced dismissal from their university position, and thus establishing a precedent for faculty, staff and their spouses to run for public office, and

3. Being the lead attorney in a case in U. S. Federal District Court in 1982-1983 to provide single-member district for city councils and school board districts following the precedent of Baker vs. Carr at the Congressional level, Midland County, Texas, vs. Ernest Avery at the County level. Supported also by Attorney Tomas Garza, Albert Perez, and Gene Gaines, Benson persuaded U. S. District Judge Herbert O. Woodard to rule in March 1983 that the city's at-large election system was unconstitutional, and

4. Offering pro-bono legal assistance on behalf of Lubbock residents who were beyond help or did not have the money to afford legal services, perhaps most significantly filing a law suit over crowded and inhumane conditions in the Lubbock County Jail that led to the building of a new jail facility.

In all things, he was known among friends, associates and opponents for standing for what he believed was right. Therefore

Be it resolved that the Lubbock County Convention of the Democratic Party this 21st Day of April, 2012, stand in solemn silence to honor his memory and support those causes for which he set a shining example, and that a copy of this Resolution be sent by County Chair Pam Brink to his wife of 51 years, Patricia Benson, and his son and daughter in law, Stephen D. Benson, Svetlana Zorya of Colorado Springs, who would bring this message of respect and honor to his three grandchildren Peter, April and Mary.

PRECEDENT 23

Resolution Thanking LISD and the Administration and Staff of Lauro Cavazos Middle School

WHEREAS, Lubbock Independent School District and the Administration and staff of Cavazos Middle School have graciously provided us with the use of the building and facilities of the school, and

THEFORE BE IT RESOLVED THE Lubbock County Democratic Party meeting in Convention this 21st of April, 2012 would like to thank LISD and the administration and staff of Cavazos Middle School for their generosity in allowing us to hold our convention here.

PRECEDENT 15

PUF fund resolution for LCDP Convention

WHEREAS the resources of the State of Texas fund the PERMANENT UNIVERSITY FUND (PUF) of the State of Texas, and

WHEREAS all students enrolled in State-supported universities should be treated equally by the State and the State Legislature.

THEFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Legislature of the State of Texas cause the PUF to be distributed in a fair and equitable manner to all State-supported universities so that all students attending State-supported universities can benefit from the resources of the State of Texas.

airborne pollutants, geological stability or a drought-stricken water table.

WHEREAS hydraulic fracking has already unleashed polluted wells, flammable tap water and geological instability in states like Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS hydraulic fracking has taken funds, tax incentives, research dollars and human resources that would go toward the development of wind and solar energy.

THEFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Lubbock County, Texas, meeting in Convention on April 21, 2012, supports the banning of hydraulic fracking.

PRECEDENT 27

Resolution Calling for Marriage Equality

WHEREAS, the Texas Democratic Party is an organization which has repeatedly called for equal rights for all people, and

WHEREAS, the Texas Democratic Party's executive committee has repeatedly called for equal rights for all people, and

WHEREAS, the Texas Democratic Party's executive committee has repeatedly rejected the inclusion of a marriage equality platform on the 2012 primary ballot, and

WHEREAS, the Texas Student Democrats find that such actions against marriage equality run counter to the beliefs of the Democratic Party, and

WHEREAS, the Texas Student Democrats are directly involved in the Lubbock County Democratic Party and the Texas College Democrats, therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Texas Student Democrats call for full marriage equality to be adopted in the platform of the Texas College Democrats and the Lubbock County Democratic Party during the upcoming conventions, and

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In all things, he was known among friends, associates and opponents for standing for what he believed was right. Therefore

Be it resolved that the Lubbock County Convention of the Democratic Party this 21st Day of April, 2012, stand in solemn silence to honor his memory and support those causes for which he set a shining example, and that a copy of this Resolution be sent by County Chair Pam Brink to his wife of 51 years, Patricia Benson, and his son and daughter in law, Stephen D. Benson, Svetlana Zorya of Colorado Springs, who would bring this message of respect and honor to his three grandchildren Peter, April and Mary.

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THEFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Legislature of the State of Texas cause the PUF to be distributed in a fair and equitable manner to all State-supported universities so that all students attending State-supported universities can benefit from the resources of the State of Texas.



This past Saturday La Fuerza' a political non-partisan organization that was founded since October 2011 made some local endorsements for some election races. The event consisted of a small reception for members with its friends and family members. Julian Montoya who is the director of the group made available their endorsements: Oralia "LaLa" Chavez for LISD Dist. 1 candidate; Lorenzo Bubba Sedeno for Lubbock County Commissioner Pet. 3 candidate; and Glen Robertson for Mayor for City of Lubbock. La Fuerza hold meetings every month and extends an invitation to everyone.

VOTE Eddie Kirkpatrick for District 3 Lubbock ISD Board of Trustees Early voting starts April 30 Election day - May 12

Position on needs in the district:

- "Maintain discipline in schools"
- "Increase teacher morale and parental involvement"
- "Place additional focus on vocational training programs"

For more information, visit www.eddiekirkpatrick.com

Pol. Adv. paid for by the Eddie Kirkpatrick Campaign, Tommy Ford, Treasurer

In Memory of Dan Benson



By Victor Hernandez

Inevitably, with the passage of time, communities forget the names of those who cast the pebble into mill waters, causing ripples which we feel every day.

I've often stated publicly how much I admire the countless hours which people donate to worthy causes in this city. For the most part, it is a parent or grandparent or other individual who has a direct connection to the particular activity involved, such as little league or soccer or their child's school or even the family church.

But every so often, an individual (or individuals) do something that has lasting impact on society in general.

Most people know that my wife and I were born and raised in El Paso, Texas. And, most people know that my being accepted to the Texas Tech School of Law was what brought me to Lubbock. Soon after, I married my high school sweet heart and she transferred to Tech. I started my graduate studies at the law school while she continued her undergraduate degree in nursing. The year was 1984.

Little did I know, that in the same law school which I attended, there existed a law professor who altered, not only the political landscape of Lubbock, but the fabric of Lubbock society as well. Although not alone, local Lubbock attorneys, Tomas Garza and Albert Perez were co-counsel. Dan Benson took the lead in the case.

Finally, in March 1983, the veteran jurist [U.S. District Judge Halbert O. Woodward] ruled the all-large system unconstitutional, and he carved the city into six single-member districts that would elect representatives beginning with the April 1984 election. The mayor would

continue to be elected on a citywide basis." Lubbock Avlanceho-Journal, Court Order Alters Lubbock's City Council, April 27, 2008

The first District 1 Councilmember was Maggie Trejo and the first District 2 Councilmember was TJ Patterson, both elected in 1984.

I finished law school in 1987, I started my private law practice, went through officer basic training in the United States Army and started my reserve duty with the 0413th Civil Affairs Unit here in Lubbock.

After having been a lawyer for 6 years and after having served as a Captain with the 0413th Civil Affairs Unit in Iraq/Iraq (Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm), I decided to not go to court. I served and continue to serve as District 1's city council representative from 1993 to 2004 and 2010 to the present.

Yesterday, April 18, 2012, I attended the Lubbock County Bar Association's Memorial held in honor of Professor Dan Benson. The courtroom at the Texas Tech School of Law was packed but other than lawyers, I did not see members of the community. I took Maria, my seventeen year old daughter with me.

Although a professor at the law school which I was there, I cannot say that I knew Dan Benson very well. I'm sure I must have taken a class of his however, I cannot recall what it was.

I attended the memorial out of respect for the man and for what he had done in the past but I had not planned to speak. And yet, I did rise and speak. I was overcome with emotion and I tried my best to thank his wife and son for what their husband and father had done. I explained that through his efforts, an opportunity had been created for me and for all, like my daughter, who by this time, I had called to my side. I went father and told all in attendance that Lubbock was a better place because of his efforts.

That the political scene was better because of the different viewpoints brought forward by a diverse council. That the community in general had benefited from his efforts as well in that, people who were able to get to know each other personally will eventually accept each other because I continued and thanked them because of the personal benefit gained, both directly (me) and indirectly (those that we serve and those who will serve the public in the future). I was overcome with emotion and I suspect I did a poor job in trying to convey my thoughts.

I concluded by once more thanking Mrs. Benson and her son for their husband and father's efforts, not only on my behalf, my daughter's behalf but the community in general's behalf. (And so not to be vague, I am referring to Dan Benson's efforts in saving the City of Lubbock and ensuring that a single member district system of electing city council members was put in place.)

After I left, I tried to understand why I had become so emotional. By all accounts, Dan Benson was a wonderful husband, father, teacher, practicing attorney. Man! But I really did not know Dan Benson very well.

I know there are people in this world who sometimes recognize for what they have done. For an invaluable service provided to the community which so greatly impacts how we interact with each other as human beings. Dan Benson was that man.

What I learned in listening to others at that memorial was something that I had not realized. Dan Benson endured ridicule, captivation and threats on behalf of his beliefs, his stance and on behalf of us, the entire Lubbock community. I am still so naive that I was taken aback by such revelations.

Dan Benson was a person who cast a pebble into still waters. The ripples emanating from that one stone continue outward, having originally included Maggie Trejo and TJ Patterson and continuing to expand outward to include a handful of others, including myself. As time goes on, more and more people will be included, possibly my children, definitely the children of others.

I think I became so overwhelmed because I was the only one there from the community at large to say thank you.

I know I would be understood what he did as a lawyer for those who could not do for themselves. Dan Benson saw an injustice and did something about it. He didn't do it for the accolades or rewards. He did it because he knew it was right.

Unfortunately, Dan Benson's efforts will be forgotten. Single member districts will continue but very few, if any, will remember who and what it took to get to where we are today. Maybe it's best that we forget because sometimes the injustices and accompanying hurt feelings of the past get in the way of moving forward as a community. I'm not sure we should forget, but in a sense we will.

On behalf of the entire Lubbock community, I wish to thank Dan Benson for having taken on the just cause, for having won the just cause and for, allowing this

community to be the better for it.

By Eliseo Solis
First of all, Victor, thank you so much for such an eloquent and heartfelt tribute to a man you describe above to the "T". I was able to arrange housing with Josie's help in San Antonio for a series of chemotherapy at the Audie Murphy VA hospital until June (it was a hassle having to go to Amarillo). As such, I was unable to attend the memorial for Dan, which I deeply regret. I was fortunate to be able to know him, though. He was the antithesis of what is referred to now as the "Me" generation. Very down to earth, in spite of his genius and did not dwell on superficial issues unless they became serious and needed a good fighter and warrior.

The enclosed quote is about a lawsuit Garza, Alberto Perez and Pat Aheya. It

involved various overt violations of the election code in a runoff in 1980 that the Democratic Party allowed to occur. When Jessie Rangel and I presented the data to the above warriors, they essentially agreed that we had a lawsuit because of what they saw documented. Examples of violations included, (1) People in Southwest Lubbock coming to vote in Idalou, (2) People allowed to register to vote and voting on election day, also in Idalou, and (3) Republicans who had voted in the first primary, now voting in the runoff. The margin was 126 votes, we were pretty sure that around 140 illegal votes were validated but the judge saw fit to only throw out 80 or so votes, which was not enough to overturn the election. The point was made though, and Dan reminded me last summer, 2011, of his thoughts on the issue which honored those who fit as involved.

Dan stated the following: "With respect to sources on racial discrimination in Lubbock, and the efforts to eradicate it, I think you should talk to Eliseo Solis, Neale Pearson, and T. J. Patterson. Each of these men can provide a wealth of information, and can direct you to other sources as well." We didn't win the case, but the case did bring about election reform in Lubbock, and the Texas Attorney General got involved in investigating the election code violations. Eliseo Solis has been involved in many other reform efforts, and has a wealth of information that he could give you.

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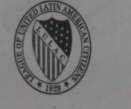


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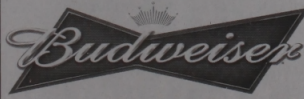
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Candidates Produce Lively Debate at Tejano Democrats Forum

continued from front page papers for politicians" and is a "self-made person and a self-made man".

Sedeno emphasized his 27 years of experience in state government and said he is the best candidate.

For 13 of those years, Sedeno served as District Manager and Legislative Assistant to former Texas State Senator and Texas Tech Chancellor John T. Montford.

Sedeno, who is 56 years old and retired, also highlighted his 14 years of experience as manager with the historically HUDrentalized Business, or HUB, program which works with minority contractors to give them an opportunity to bid on state contracts. "I stand for the people, the little people," said Sedeno. "I am here to serve and not to be served".

Sedeno also questioned Flores' budgeting skills by saying that Flores has been late in paying his property taxes for the past 6 years or so. He also believes that the only reason Flores wants another 4 years is to become eligible for his full retirement from the county.

As for his other opponent, Sedeno also claimed that Calvillo



doesn't even live in Precinct 3, yet wants to represent the precinct.

Flores denied the late tax payment charge, but was also challenged by an audience member who pointed out Flores had paid late for 7 years running.

County public records do show that Flores has been late in paying his Lubbock County property taxes for the past several years and has accumulated late interest charges. Flores maintained though that if you are 65 or older and meet certain requirements, you are eligible to pay taxes in quarterly installments.

As to whether Richard Calvillo meets the residency requirement or not, the question has been brought up before. Lubbock County Appraisal District records show that a Richard Calvillo has a residence in south Lubbock. The

funeral home is located on east 19th street in Lubbock.

As to whether Lubbock County should join with the city of Lubbock in providing health services for residents, Flores said that the process is "still in the works", with Sedeno adding that he would not have waited for the city to have to approach the county; he would have gone to the city first.

When asked how well the county communicates with residents, Flores said that he is proud of the dialogue the county has through its web site; Sedeno countered that Flores doesn't take into consideration "that not everyone in north or northeast Lubbock has internet access". "As your next county commissioner I will continue to develop a dialogue to reach and communicate through minority media and other avenues," said

Sedeno. The audience of approximately 100 was about equally divided between Flores and Sedeno; and both candidates were well received; with the applause level for both being about equal.

Sedeno came through as a strong, vocal candidate; as someone who is proud of his family history. Many Lubbock residents may remember that his father Lorenzo M. Sedeno Sr. was also actively involved in politics and once worked as a Legislative Aide for then Congressman Kent Hance.

Flores ended his appeal to the audience by saying that "I have never represented you in a shameful way" and pointed out that he had received several awards during his career. He also took credit for some progress made in the city's eastside; like the United Super Market on Parkway and the Sonic Drive Inn.

Rodriguez, the moderator, told El Editor that "it was a great turnout. Everyone there benefitted by the information being presented and the forum was very well organized. I salute Lubbock Tejano Democrats for this event." Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

El Editor's Week in Review

Hernandez Votes Against AAG Settlement

Shortly after attending a specially called Lubbock City Council meeting, Councilman Victor Hernandez sent out a statement giving his reasons why he voted against accepting the settlement offer with AAG.

Here is the councilman's complete statement: "I voted against the settlement with AAG et al. Three factors: 1) The public has a right to know the intricacies of this and related cases; 2) The sufficiency of the settlement amount (\$4 million); and 3) the release of the audit paid for and conducted by the city of Lubbock should have occurred. Rationale: The release of the audit should have been included as part of this settlement agreement. If the release of the audit had been included then, full disclosure could have been had to the public including the range of damages which the city was claiming thus, allowing the public to determine whether the \$4 million dollar settlement was sufficient. Also, just as AAG refused to include the release of the audit as part of the settlement agreement, the city could have refused to settle unless the audit was included as part of the settlement. As a further result of not including the release of the audit as part of the settlement agreement, the city continues to incur costs to have the audit released and according to Larry Wharton (outside legal counsel) the release, should it ever occur, could take years to accomplish." The council vote was 5 to 1 to accept the settlement.

Councilman Klein Proposes Tim Cole Memorial

District 3 Councilman Todd Klein will introduce a resolution at Thursday's city council meeting that calls for a fountain memorial to be built at McKenzie Park in memory of Tim Cole.

Tim Cole was a student at Texas Tech in 1985 when he was arrested, charged, and convicted of a rape crime; a crime he did not commit. DNA evidence later proved his innocence.

But after serving 13 years of his sentence, Cole died in prison in 1999 and in 2009, Governor Rick Perry issued a posthumous pardon. Last year, Cole's family tried to get the city to release evidence and witness interview records and processes used to convict Cole in 1986. Not surprisingly, the city refused the request. According to National Public Radio, in this last decade, "34 men in Texas... most of them black, have been exonerated by modern DNA testing".

Anti - Immigrant Arizona Law Under Supreme Court Review

On Wednesday April 25, the US Supreme Court heard oral arguments over whether Arizona's Immigration Law SB 1070 can be legally enforced.

The law allows local police to ask people suspected of being illegally to prove they are in the country legally. Immigration enforcement has always been a federal government function, and that is one of the central issues being debated; whether states can create their own immigration laws.

Opponents of the law argue that the law promotes racial profiling and makes even Hispanics that were born here suspects. There have been reports that residents in Arizona and other states like Alabama who are US citizens have been subjected to proving their legal status, just because of the way they look or dress.

Although it is difficult to say what kind of impact these laws have had, Immigration and Customs Enforcement states that more than 46,000 parents of US born children were deported in the first 6 months of 2011.

Intrivista de Kevin Rios de Carson & Barnes

Si vieras ha Kevin Rios en alguna tienda de paqueria como cualquier otro joven latinoamericano y casi lo es, pero hay algunas cosas fascinantes que lo hacen diferente. Por ejemplo, Kevin tiene dos nombres y tiene unas habilidades que maravillan a muchos. Kevin quien se apellida Rios, prefiere usar el apellido "Sadrak" cuando trabaja. Esto no es fuera de lo normal, porque Kevin, como docenas de otros latinoamericanos, es un artista del circo de Carson & Barnes.

Kevin Sadrak hace contorción, doblando y moviendo su cuerpo en una manera que deja su audiencia emocionados y en suspenso. Sus habilidades le han ganado la oportunidad de viajar por casi ocho meses del año a través de los EU. Aunque su trabajo con Carson & Barnes le da oportunidades que otros jóvenes no consideran él siente que de alguna manera también le impiden de ser un joven normal. Como cualquier trabajo, el circo tiene sus beneficios y tiene sus dificultades. Por ejemplo, uno viaja a través de un país bello y cada noche una audiencia le aplaude pero también hay muchos instantes en que los ar-

tistas tienen dificultades viajando por tormentas. Kevin explica que es importante recordar que la audiencia nunca tiene la culpa cuando algo le hace falta o se siente exhausto, uno tiene que salir cada noche y darle a la audiencia un espectáculo que no olvidarán. Aunque solo tiene dieciocho años, Kevin casi ha pasado su vida entera trabajando como un artista del circo y puede ofrecer muchos consejos hacia como uno puede encontrar motivación y pasión en su trabajo. Kevin comenzó a practicar contorción cuando cumplió tres años en Brasil y observo a algunos de sus amigos intentar. El encontró que la contorción era algo que no solo podía hacer, pero algo que le encantaba. Desde su descubrimiento él comenzó a trabajar con su padre en el circo. Su padre ayuda construir la carpa grande y su madre es artista. Después de viajar a través sur américa, la familia Rios encontró trabajo con Carson & Barnes y ahora Kevin le esta enseñándole a su hermano menor como retorcir su cuerpo. Kevin tiene una posición con

Carson & Barnes que le asegura trabajo y una carrera con el circo, pero él siente que necesita algo más seguro — una educación — que abrirá varias puertas y le dará un futuro lleno de oportunidades y opciones. Kevin esta estudiando para recibir su diploma de educación general en inglés — su tercer lengua. Eventualmente Kevin espera estudiar en una universidad, porque piensa que él debe poder ser flexible con sus planes de futuro como lo es con su rutina en el circo.

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