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4,236 as of Feb. 5, 2009



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Leaders, Activists Lay Out Latino State of the Union

By Cindy Von Quednow

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Latino organizational, political and community leaders and activists gathered here from throughout the nation Jan. 19 to share in shaping their State of the Union statement for some 50 million Hispanics now residing in the United States. A few hundred participants spent the better part of the day listening and contributing to the second annual Hispanic roundtable on law, policy and civil rights at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Capitol Hill.

The event was hosted by the Mexican American Legal Defense and

Congress that Latinos helped choose is being seated and a new president whom Hispanics helped elect moves into the White House.

In excess of nine million Hispanics voted Nov. 4, a million more than in the 2004 presidential election. Two-thirds of them cast their ballots for Barack Obama.

Conclave speakers focused on how the Latino community can work with the dramatically altered national political leadership to accomplish its essential goals.

"We all have a duty and we must work with each other and the new ad-

"We have a number of things we have to accomplish," he said, emphasizing, "We need to push the Latino agenda forward now."

María Elena Salinas, co-anchor of Noticiero Univisión, moderated a discussion, about the priorities under the Obama administration and the incoming Congress. Contributing expertise were Ben Luján from New Mexico, the lone newly elected member to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus; Rosa Rosales, president of LULAC, Simon Rosenberg, president of New Democrat Network, and Trasviña.

In addition to immigration, they pressed on such issues as affordable healthcare, renewable energy, the job market, and availability to advancing technology for Latino students.

"If we keep doing what we're doing now, our kids are going to have even fewer opportunities than we had," said Luján, who also stressed the need for energy independence.

Guests broke into panels expanding on improving educational access and quality, countering growing hate-crime activity against Latinos and immigrants, and addressing the impact of the economic recession on millions of Hispanic families.

Kansas State Representative Delia García and representatives from NCLR, the U.S. Department of Justice, the Anti-Defamation League and the Maryland Department of Labor shared strategy proposals, including creating greater national awareness of the problem's Hispanic dimensions and inviting broader support from all segments of society.

"This is not a Latino issue. This is an American issue," said Clarissa Martínez De Castro, director of immigration and national campaigns at NCLR.

Thomas E. Perez, Secretary of the Department of Labor in Maryland, stressed, "Hate does not exist in a vacuum. Crime does not occur in a vacuum."

How to mobilize Hispanics nationwide to capitalize on a positive, new national mind-set drew focus in the special segment, "2009: Taking Back the Message to the Latino Community."

Their consensus message: Federal cooperation and community strength offer much to look forward to in the upcoming year, but not without some huge obstacles.

It featured charges by Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and U.S. Senator (D-N.J.) Robert Menéndez.

"Never before has the state of the Latino union been so close to the state of the nation," said Villaraigosa. "We have an administration that is willing to face our reality."



Educational Fund (MALDEF), National Council of La Raza (NCLR) and League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC).

Members of those three and numerous other organizations came together to define and refine the issues most affecting the burgeoning Latino community nationwide as a new

administration to make our agenda a reality," said John Trasviña, president and general counsel of MALDEF, who opened up the event.

To accomplish certain aspirations such as a truly compassionate, comprehensive immigration reform plan, Trasviña acknowledged, will require well-organized, unified efforts by the large and diverse Latino population.

Comentarios de Bidal

Well in the past week we have seen the City Council turn down the 34th Street repairs, decide to move the Buddy Holly statue to a new location, and decide to build a Visitor center in the Buddy Holly museum. Oh and I forgot that they are also moving and renaming the Buddy Holly Plaza that will be built where the South Beach Club was torn down. Our City Council representative Linda DeLeon voted against building the park perhaps because she wanted the Park to be named in her name since she was responsible for tearing down South Beach and making the vacant lot available to build the Park.

The Hispanic Business Division of the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce will host a Luncheon on Wednesday Feb. 25th. Admission is \$25 for members, I am still in limbo whether I am a member or not. I don't guess my lifetime membership doesn't apply. But it is good to see that they are doing something. No word or anything from LAMACC.

James Olmos is scheduled to be at Tech on February 19th. He is hosted by the Texas Tech Diversity Office and from what we hear he will also visit some Lubbock School. It is good to see that Dr. Muñoz is bringing good Hispanic speakers to Tech and that he is sharing with the Lubbock community. It is good because Tech has had a long history of just ignoring our community.

All for this week, until we meet again next week to talk a little bit more of politics. I los wacho...hasta la proxima semana. Have a good week!!!

Texan becomes first Hispanic to lead a major school system

A Mexican-American pediatric surgeon will become the nation's first Hispanic to preside over a major university system when Dr. Francisco Cigarroa takes the helm at the University of Texas System, which faces financial woes and complaints about diversity.

Cigarroa, a 51-year-old pediatric transplant surgeon from Laredo, looks at his new job as the system's new chancellor starting Monday as an opportunity to exceed expectations.

"Challenges really don't dissuade me from pursuing important opportunities," Cigarroa told The Associated Press. "If you're an optimist, you see opportunities, and that's the way I've been brought up."

Cigarroa, as the chief executive officer of the UT System, will help administer an \$11.5 billion operating budget and preside over 15 campuses with more than 194,000 students.

He faces complaints about soaring tuition costs, a growing battle over admissions policies and a hurricane-ravaged medical school and health center in Galveston.

To address those issues, the outgoing president of the UT Health Sciences Center in San Antonio will have to enter an arena far dicier than medicine: politics. The state Legislature granted school officials the power to raise tuition rates in 2003, but has been pressuring the school system to stop increases.

Cigarroa has refused to specify his views on tuition restraints but said school UT officials and legislators have to work together to resolve the issue.

He's more passionate about the prospect of changing admissions policies, which currently dictate automatic entry to state universities for students who graduate in the top 10% of their high school class.

UT wants the policy relaxed so it can have more say about who gets in the door. At UT-Austin, more than 80% of the Texas freshmen gained admission though the top 10% provision.

Cigarroa said the system could keep or even increase diversity in

the student body even if the top 10% law is modified or eliminated.

"I think we can find an appropriate balance where universities not only look at the top 10%, but they also look at those wonderfully competitive students who may have not made the top 10% but have done something incredibly special," Cigarroa said.

Cigarroa also must deal with the future of University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, which suffered \$1 billion in damage from Hurricane Ike.

Cigarroa said revitalizing the facility would be a top priority but he couldn't say what its "appropriate size" would be.

One of nine children born to a doctor and a disciplinarian mother in Laredo, Cigarroa recalls a childhood filled with trips to his grandparents across the border in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. He frequently visits his mother-in-law there.

The Yale graduate received his medical degree, with highest honors, from UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. His surgical prowess has earned him the nickname "manos de oro," or "golden hands."

State Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, a longtime family friend, called Cigarroa a "true renaissance man" who represented the changing demographics of Texas.

"Imagine the kind of role model he'll be for young students," she said. "Imagine how many parents will look at him proudly."

Texas ranks 29th in national education study

As students still fail to meet key testing measures, State legislative group targets new ways to fund education given tough economic times and state budget woes

WASHINGTON, DC—A majority of students in Texas public schools failed to meet proficiency levels in fourth- and eighth-grade mathematics and reading, and SAT and ACT scores stagnated, according to a new report by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC).

Using nationally recognized test results, the ALEC Report Card on American Education ranked the 50 states and the District of Columbia accordingly, one being the best and 51 the worst. Minnesota placed first in the unique ranking, Washington, D.C. last, and Texas 29.

"The Report Card on American Education clearly shows there is no correlation between educational dollars spent and student achievement in our traditional public school system," said Andrew T. LeFevre, author of the report and executive director of the Pennsylvania-based REACH Foundation. "At some point, state policymakers must ask themselves if more of the same is going to produce a different result."

The report also provides extensive data from 1986-87 to 2007-08 on state and federal funding, school resources, graduation rates, GED completion rates, and school-choice initiatives, including tax credit, scholarship, and charter school programs—alternatives to traditional public education ALEC supports.

With the federal administration expected to ramp up education spending through a host of new public programs, the evidence is undeniably clear: Further government funding does not necessarily produce corresponding results.

"States across the country have proved that through education reforms rooted in freedom and accountability, more can be done with less," said Jeff W. Reed, director of ALEC's Education Task Force. "But it is up to state lawmakers to give taxpayers a break and parents and students the opportunity to choose

Congress Stands Up for All Children

SCHIP Passes Senate with Immigrant Kids Provision Intact
Deployment of Immigration Wedge Strategy Fails Again

Washington, DC—Yesterday, the U.S. Senate voted to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), including a provision to expand access for legal immigrant children and pregnant women. The bill was approved by all Senate Democrats and seven Republicans. In the House, all but two Democrats voted for the bill, as did forty Republicans.

America's Voice praises Democratic Senators and Members, including Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), as well as Republicans like Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME) and Representative Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL), who fought to keep the immigrant children's provisions intact. Unfortunately, Republican Senators and Representatives filed amendment after amendment to gut these provisions and deny hundreds of thousands of Latino and immigrant children access to health care.

According to Frank Sharry, Executive Director of America's Voice: "SCHIP was the first test on immigration for the new Congress, and there are some clear winners

and losers here. Winners include the Democratic majority and key Republicans who made good on a promise to America to work together towards progress and solutions. Losers include the many Republicans who fell back on their old playbook, beating up on immigrants as a way to try to undermine legislation they have no plans to support in the first place.

"We were disappointed to see that a number of Republican Senators and House Members are still in denial about the lessons of the November 2008 elections. Americans voted for change because they want the parties to come together to solve tough problems, not continue down the path of polarization and politicization. Nowhere is this truer than in the immigration debate.

"The illegal immigration 'wedge' issue was a colossal failure in the elections of 2006 and 2008, and it has failed again in the SCHIP debate. Many Republicans have talked about the need to 'reach out' to Latino and immigrant voters, but it is clear the Party has yet to learn the lesson."

NCLR APPLAUDS SENATE LEADERSHIP ON CHILDREN'S HEALTH BILL

Washington, DC— Legal immigrant children in the U.S. are today one step closer to accessing critical health care services. The Senate approved the "Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act," (SCHIP) a bill that will provide more health insurance opportunities for approximately four million children in the U.S. and includes legal immigrant children and pregnant women in the scope of its coverage. The National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest Latino civil rights and advocacy organization in the U.S., fought to end a five-year waiting period for legal immigrant children and pregnant women that has shut hundreds of thousands out of Medicaid and SCHIP for a decade. The bill was passed by a vote of 66-32. The bill's passage affirms President Barack Obama's recent actions and statements supporting healthcare for every child in the U.S.

"Including legal immigrant children in the reauthorization of SCHIP affirms American values. America is not a country that chooses which children get health coverage and which do not," said Janet Murguía, NCLR President and CEO. "Latino children continue to be the most uninsured ethnic group in the country. Yesterday's vote provides a strong signal that the new Congress is committed to addressing the issues that affect the Latino community."

Murguía also lauded the leadership of several Senators who helped advance the legislation in spite of receiving public criticism for their support of the bill. "We are glad that Congress chose not to play games with the health care of America's children. Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and Assistant Majority Leader Richard Durbin (D-IL), and Senators Jay Rockefeller (D-WV), Olympia Snowe (R-ME), and Robert Menendez (D-NJ) should be especially commended for their sustained efforts in the fight to achieve healthcare for our littlest ones," noted Murguía.

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Obama Signs Children's Health Insurance Bill

WASHINGTON -- President Barack Obama claimed the second major legislative victory of his young administration Wednesday, signing a bill to provide federally funded health care to an estimated 4 million children.

President Obama says the SCHIP bill is a downpayment on his "commitment to cover every single American."

The final version of the new law, which expands the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) by roughly \$35 billion over the next five years, passed a sharply polarized House of Representatives earlier in the day, with almost every Democrat voting in favor of the expansion and most Republicans opposing it.

With the bill, Obama said at a White House ceremony, "We fulfill one of the highest responsibilities that we have -- to ensure the health and well-being of our nation's children."

The president said the bill was a downpayment on his "commitment to cover every single American."

The SCHIP expansion is Obama's second major legislative win in less than a week. The first was Thursday's approval of the Lilly Ledbetter Pay Equity Act, which makes it easier to sue employers for wage-based discrimination. Learn more about the SCHIP program »

The expansion is also a sign of the strength of Washington's new Democratic majority. Former President George W. Bush vetoed two similar health care bills in 2007, arguing that the legislation would encourage families to leave the private insurance market for the federally funded, state-run program.

Before the bill's passage, SCHIP covered almost 7 million children whose parents

earn too much to qualify for Medicaid -- the federal health insurance program for the poor -- but who can't afford private insurance.

The new law boosts total SCHIP funding to approximately \$60 billion. The expanded program will be financed with a 62-cent-per-pack increase in the federal tax on cigarettes.

"This is a day worthy of celebration. There can be no greater cause ... than protecting the well-being of our nation's children," New Jersey Rep. Frank Pallone, the legislation's primary House author, said shortly before the bill's final passage on a 290-135 vote.

Passing the health program's expansion is "morally the right thing to do by our children," said freshman Rep. Tom Perriello, D-Virginia. "At a time when the cost of health care is crushing America's families ... this is an important lifeline."

Opponents of the legislation argued that, among other things, it will allow undocumented immigrants to illegally access taxpayer-financed health care, and is insufficiently funded.

"This will go out of control just like all the other [entitlement] programs have, and our children will pay," Rep. Jack Linder, R-Georgia, warned during the House debate Wednesday.

Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, ripped the bill as a "foundation stone for socialized medicine in the United States," arguing that raising the income limit for SCHIP eligibility will serve as the basis for a massive expansion of government-run health care.

The Senate passed the expansion Friday in a 66-32 vote. All those voting against the bill were Republicans, though nine Republicans voted in favor of the measure

On the Internet -www. eleditor.com LULAC Supports President's Economic Recovery Package

White House Releases State-By-State Economic Plan on Impact of American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan
Washington, DC - The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) commends President Barack Obama with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan and urges Senators to support it. The White House released a state-by-state data detailing the jobs impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan. This plan would create jobs, stimulate the economy, and foster long-term economic growth.

"We need to immediately jumpstart job creation and President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan will help those who have suffered the most during this economic crisis," said LULAC National President Rosa Rosales. "Our economy is in the midst of an unprecedented crisis and we need to act now."

In addition, LULAC would like to see funding programs that benefit English language learners (ELL) under Title III and the elimination of the E-Verify provision that risks more than 1 percent of legal workers from losing their jobs.

Obama's plan will create 3-4 million jobs over the next two years. See below for state-by-state data detailing the employment impact of the recovery plan.

The League of United Latin American Citizens advances the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs operating at more than 700 LULAC councils nationwide.

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CHOOSING THE PERFECT ST. VALENTINE'S GREETING

(Editor's note: This puppy-love Valentine was written for Hispanic Link News Service 24 years ago. Author Elsa and boyfriend Paul have been married for nearly two decades now -- but not to each other; they ended up choosing different spouses. Elsa and her husband Darryl Wong reside in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., with their young son and two teenage daughters, who find their mother's early romance amusing and now have added Chinese to their cultural heritages to pick and choose from.)

By Elsa Ericksen-Mendoza
Hispanic Link News Service
Boy, boy, girl, girl, boy. I was No. 4, the youngest daughter. Three of us were short, dark and stocky like our mom. Two turned out more like

our dad, lighter and taller.

Our Anglo father usually spoke to us in English. Our Mexican mother used Spanish. But on one matter, I found it hard to believe them in either language.

Endlessly, they told us how lucky we were to be their kids. More than a thousand times -- maybe 10,000 -- they told us, "You're double lucky. You've got two great cultures to choose from. You get to pick and choose the best of each."

To know that it wasn't true, all I had to do was look in the mirror. Along with two of my brothers, I had the dark skin, the short, stocky body and the chubby cheeks. No-body had offered me a choice. I was one of the "Mexican" ones.

While we were growing up in

California, I wanted so much to look like my older sister. I was jealous of her fair skin, her high cheekbones and her slim body. I envied her for the friends she had and the boys she attracted.

Regularly, I shared my adolescent agony with my mother, who would assure me that my brown skin was beautiful and that my day would come. "Paciencia," she would counsel. Patience.

It took till after high school for me to lose my baby fat. I grew a few inches, to my present five-feet-one-and-a-half. The chubby cheeks will probably stay with me till I die. Time and diet helped mollify my physical concerns, but still I was bothered by "differences."

Whenever I visited the homes

of non-Hispanic friends, I was uncomfortable. Maybe it was the bread on the table, instead of tortillas. Maybe it was the orderliness of their houses and the formal, almost impersonal way they spoke to each other.

In college, I became adept at shifting back and forth culturally -- to be a Chicana in Chicano crowds and to act Anglo among Anglos.

In my sophomore year, when I started dating a tall, breadstick-shaped Anglo named Paul, I'd just put on my Anglo face to relate.

But it didn't work when I took him home to meet the family. In our home, Hispanic culture rules. Paul was engulfed with tortillas and abrazos and the noise and outrageous jokes that I grew up with. He wasn't allowed to stand back and observe. He was grabbed by his blonde hair and thrust into our family by my brothers and parents and their compadres. They teased him mercilessly about his pale color, his basketball height, his "white" mannerisms, even his inability to gulp down jalapeño peppers.

He survived the initial culture shock. The tortillas he liked right away. He learned to dance Chicano-style, displaying the same enthusiasm and lack of rhythm that are my father's trademarks.

He came back for more. At college in Sacramento, after an afternoon of studying together or a movie, instead of going to McDonald's for a hamburger, we'd go to the nearest kitchen and prepare ourselves huevos con chorizo. He continued to eat chorizo even after reading the list of ingredients on the label.

He enrolled in Spanish class and developed an interest in Hispanic issues like bilingual education and affirmative action, and in our history and culture. A good student, he'd take extra pleasure in correcting my Spanish when I would use poor grammar or the wrong tense. Sometimes I wondered who was the native speaker.

Still etched in my memory is the void he would occasionally describe to me "growing up as an all-American boy." He'd say how fortunate I was to grow up part Mexican, too. He'd tell me:

"You're so lucky, you have culture."

Sometimes I wonder if I took Paul a little too far and a little too fast with his initiation into my second culture. Today he walks around the University of California, Santa Barbara campus claiming to be mexicano. He signs his letters "Pablo" and answers to "Huero." Whitey.

Now I'm in Washington, D.C. He is still in California. Our Valentine's greeting to each other will be in Spanish, I know. It's a language better suited to express love. "Te quiero mucho," we'll tell each other.

For my parents, I'll get a card with a special bilingual message. That way they'll know that they don't have to give me the "pick and choose" lecture anymore. My friend Paul/Pablo has convinced me. (Email the writer care of editor@hispaniclink.org) ©2009

Republicans, don't patronize Hispanics

By Leslie Sanchez
As the members of the Republican National Committee prepare to choose a party chairman to serve for the next two years, the calls for new "Hispanic outreach" initiatives are flying -- in my view, unnecessarily.

It is probably true that President Obama's election marks the beginning of a post-partisan, post-racial America, or at least a time when these issues are less divisive than in years past. But will the two political parties be as able to look beyond the stereotypes of Latinos and what the Latino experience is in this country, as they have for other ethnic and racial groups? As Republicans, we need to win at least 35 percent of the Hispanic vote to win the presidency. In 2008, John McCain got 31 percent, slightly exceeding the average for the past eight presidential elections. We've had our high points (George W. Bush 2004, 44 percent) and low points (Bob Dole 1996, 21 percent).

Ten years ago, as an RNC press aide, I was given the responsibility for developing a team that would design a multimillion-dollar ad strategy to appeal to the nation's emerging Latino electorate.

We conducted seminal research on Hispanic voting patterns that is still of value today. For example, we identified a "GOP Upside" of another 25 percent of Hispanics who were voting Democrat on the generic presidential ballot question but would be interested in voting for a Republican who offered a campaign agenda focused on family, education and job-creation issues.

So it is mystifying to me to hear the ongoing references to the party's need to find "a new way" to speak to the nation's largest minority bloc. It's like being asked to reinvent the wheel.

This isn't just a Republican problem. Democrats do this too, relating to Latinos as if we're primarily poor, immigrant or both. It doesn't work anymore, if it ever did. And although the anti-immigrant rhetoric spouted by Tom Tancredo and others was offensive to Hispanics and projected a "We don't want you here" image for the GOP, the fact is that it was offensive to a lot of other people, too.

In the age of Obama, that kind of exclusive message is just not marketable.

If Republicans truly want to develop a winning strategy for appealing to Hispanics, they need look no further than Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush. They appealed to them not as Hispanics or immigrants but as Americans with an equal stake in the future of the country. What Hispanics want, and what we as Republicans want them to want, is to be included in the American experience.

During the period in which Hispanics constituted a small minority of the overall nation, efforts like Richard Nixon's to ensure that they were counted in the national census were important because it meant inclusion.

When people believe that they are already part of a community, such patently obvious efforts come across as patronizing. Hispanics, especially young professionals like me who were born and raised here in the United States, believe that we deserve more than a couple of high-profile meetings and a few Spanish-language ads.

That was certainly true during the 2008 presidential campaign, which had little to interest Hispanics at all. McCain trumpeted his record as a champion of comprehensive immigration reform to Hispanics, while his campaign tried to make him more palatable to Republican

conservatives by de-emphasizing his record as a champion of comprehensive immigration reform.

McCain was hurt among Latinos by the perception that he caved in on immigration enforcement and abandoned his own bill.

Obama's campaign message to Hispanics, though delivered largely in Spanish through his campaign Web site, was patronizing. In the summary of issues for his Latino Blueprint for Change, Obama talked about a narrow group of issues that, in my view, are important to only a small percentage of Latinos.

For example, on education, his message focused largely on English as a second language and in-state tuition for undocumented students. On immigration, he tried to counter the Republicans. On jobs and the economy, he highlighted the minimum wage.

These issues, which may have been important to a majority of Hispanics when Cesar Chavez was leading striking farm workers, are not at the top of the list for Hispanics today.

To remain largely focused on them is to patronize millions of upwardly mobile Hispanics who are not immigrants and who don't think of themselves as hyphenated Americans. Which is probably why Obama's echoing of Chavez's "Sí, Se Puede!" during his concession speech after the Texas primary was met with silence and blank stares.

Hispanic political sophistication is increasing alongside Hispanic economic progress. A new HispanTelligence Research report suggests that the number of Hispanic-owned businesses in the United States will increase to 4.3 million over the next six years.

We need to appreciate that it is not the message as much as it is the audience. Speaking past Hispanics or down to Hispanics is not the way to invite them into a long-term relationship. We no longer see ourselves as hyphens or as members of the Hispanic community only; we see ourselves as Americans, with a broad array of interests.

Before the development of the virtual world, communities were defined by geography, ethnicity, religion, income, race and other elements that were as apparent to those inside a community as outside it.

Now, through social networking tools like Facebook and Twitter, which the Obama campaign exploited to new degrees of success, people are developing their own communities of common interest. Hispanics want to see the political parties realize that they do, in fact, belong to the larger community called "America" as well as myriad interest groups.

We may choose to define ourselves as part of certain "ethnic" or "interest" groups. It's not the job of a political party to define us.

"Freedom of Expression"

An Open Forum Where Readers Express their Views and Opinions

Dear Editor,

Packing hope and joy into 10,198 gift-filled shoe boxes, Lubbock residents gave children around the world a reason to smile this Christmas season and beyond. Shoe box gifts filled with meaningful yet simple toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest Christmas project, are now being distributed to children living in desperate places around the world.

In spite of an unstable economic climate in 2008, giving was generous to this project of Samaritan's Purse, as 7.9 million shoe box gifts were collected from caring families, churches, individuals, businesses, and community groups. On behalf of our community, I would like to thank the local collection sites, the volunteers, and everyone who packed a shoe box gift. For many needy children, their packed shoe box will be the first gift they have ever received.

Thank you for the Lubbock drop-off locations are closed until November 2009, there is still time to pack a shoe box. Gifts are received year-round at Samaritan's Purse, 801 Bamboo Road, Boone, N.C., 28607. To get involved, go online to www.samaritanaspurse.org or call 1-800-353-5949. Thanks again to everyone who participated in this project. The joy of Christmas goes far when it is packed in a shoe box gift!

Sincerely,

Mark Cooper Regional Director/Operation Christmas Child

We Don't Care About Your Children's Health Is this the New GOP Latino Outreach Strategy?

In SCHIP Debate, Republican Party Reverts to Anti-Immigrant Talking Points
Washington, DC -- Following the 2008 elections, when Latino voter turnout and support for Democratic candidates <http://www.immigration08.com/press_releases/entry/latin_american_immigrant_voters_swing_from_republicans_to_democrats/> reached historic highs, a number of notable Republican leaders and strategists <<http://www.americasvoiceonline.org/gopquotes/>> began to signal that the Party's handling of the immigration issue was a serious misstep with severe electoral consequences. As Senator Mel Martinez (R-FL) said on "Meet the Press" <http://amvoice.3cdn.net/12f982032cea5b345d_c9m616b9j.pdf> "[T]he very divisive rhetoric of the immigration debate set a very bad tone for our brand as Republicans...there were voices within our party, frankly, which if they continue with that kind of rhetoric, anti-Hispanic rhetoric we're going to be relegated to minority status."

His words were echoed by many others, from Karl Roze to Senator John Ensign (R-NV) <http://amvoice.3cdn.net/12f982032cea5b345d_c9m616b9j.pdf>, former chair of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, who was quoted in The Hill <http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/a-familiar-mccain-back-on-old-stomping-ground-2009-01-07_2.html> saying "We have to reach out to Hispanics."

Yet in the first test of the Republican Party's new Latino outreach strategy, GOP leaders are reaching for their old talking points. As reported by National Public Radio today, <<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=99884425>> Ensign and other Republicans are voicing strong opposition to provisions in the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) bill that would allow legal immigrant children to access health care without a five year waiting period. As Ensign put it <<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5JHQJTroL4umFZ2mR1XoLAUwjrMawD95NSGD00s>>: "It would seem to me that we are giving more incentives for folks to come to the United States, not just to participate in the American dream, but to get on the government dole. And I think this is exactly the wrong direction we should be going with this legislation." His colleagues, Senators Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT), have already filed amendments to gut the provisions.

According to Frank Sharry, Executive Director of America's Voice: "It is hard to reach out to Latino voters on the one hand while opposing health care for hundreds of thousands of legally-resident Latino children on the other. This is one Latino outreach strategy that's doomed to fail. At a time of national need, Republicans are playing politics and blocking progress on a solution to an important problem: health care for children."

"Moreover, the politics behind this strategy have already backfired big time. Didn't Republicans in Congress get the memo following the November elections? Latino voters generally, and Latino immigrant voters especially, fled the GOP and ran into the arms of Democrats in record numbers. <http://amvoice.3cdn.net/e16250c6337b91d5_qm6bxc7l.pdf> Evidently, telling people you don't like them, you don't respect their contributions, and their relatives should be deported doesn't help you win their votes."

Where does the GOP get the idea that beating up on the fastest growing group of new voters is smart politics? Interesting. On Thursday, an event at the National Press Club will feature luminaries from the anti-immigrant right, making the case for a renewed Republican anti-immigration strategy. Entitled "Immigration and the 2008 Republican Defeat," the event will feature Bay Buchanan, Jim Pinkerton, Peter Brimelow, and Marcus Epstein, and will chart a roadmap to take the GOP further into the political wilderness. Stay tuned.

America's Voice -- Harnessing the power of American voices and American values to win common sense immigration reform.

NCLR E-NEWS

Tell Congress: Stop Playing Politics with Measures that Risk Putting Americans out of Work!

Instead of working toward speedy economic recovery, some members of Congress are playing politics, and hard-hit American workers are going pay the price for their missteps. The House economic recovery bill contains an amendment that would require all entities receiving money from the stimulus package to use the flawed E-Verify system to screen their workers. E-Verify relies on faulty databases to prove work eligibility, which has resulted in well-documented <<http://capwiz.com/nclr/utr/1/BRKSJRAAIB/JTSVJRAAWU/2832962836>> cases of discrimination and employer abuse.

Call Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (head of Democratic leadership) at (202) 225-0100! Tell her to strip the E-Verify provision from the economic recovery package because:

A provision in the stimulus package for E-Verify irresponsibly undercuts the bill's objective and will be counterproductive for American business, workers, and the economy.

Real solutions to our economic problems and immigration reform should be approached seriously and separately.

E-Verify's faulty databases will wrongly deny eligible workers their jobs.

An economic recession is no time for a massive expansion of a flawed program that puts Americans out of work. Time is running out to rid the stimulus bill of harmful amendments, so call today!

This month.

Education: NCLR's recommendations were reflected in the recently finalized regulations for Title I of the No Child Left Behind Act, which now holds schools accountable for increasing graduation rates for all students, including Latinos and English-language learners.

Health: Great news! Last week, the House reauthorized the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), ending the five-year waiting period for legal immigrant children and pregnant women to access Medicaid and SCHIP. Now it's the Senate's turn to do the right thing and provide meaningful opportunities for children to gain access to health care. Tell them to pass the SCHIP bill with health care provisions for legal immigrant children intact!

Immigration: Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) introduced a "placeholder" bill for immigration reform signaling it as one of his ten priority areas on the Senate side. While the details of this placeholder will be determined, visible support and active participation will be required to make sure that a good bill gets to the floor.

Juvenile Justice: Learn more about how the NCLR Latino Juvenile Justice Network addresses racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system at www.nclr.org/ljin <<http://capwiz.com/nclr/utr/1/BRKSJRAAIB/NZQJRAAWV/2832962836>>.

Wealth-Building: More than half of TARP funds-\$350 billion-have been distributed to financial institutions while conditions for homeowners facing foreclosure have not improved. NCLR's President and CEO warns Congress: "Don't leave homeowners out of remaining bailout funds." Click here <<http://capwiz.com/nclr/utr/1/BRKSJRAAIB/FZM-WJRAAWV/2832962836>> for more details.

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Cisneros: First Hispanic U.S. President 'Has Already Been Born'

The future of the United States is in the hands of the Latino community, former politico Henry Cisneros, the author of "Latinos and the Nation's Future," told Efe Monday, adding that the country's first Hispanic president "has already been born."

Cisneros, a native of San Antonio, Texas, emphasized the importance that the Hispanic community - which Census Bureau data indicates includes one quarter of the U.S. population - will have in the next 40 years.

"This country cannot move forward if we (Hispanics) don't move forward," he said, adding that he felt it was necessary that his own community mobilize itself to attain the improvements in education, health and labor conditions "that will permit them to continue in the middle class and be owners of their own homes."

One week after President Barack Obama assumed office, a landmark event given that he is the nation's first black president, Cisneros said he was certain that in a few years there will also be a Latino president.

"I don't know if he or she's in elementary school or in law school or is already elected ... to public office, but I believe that that person is already alive and we're 20 years or less away from having a Latino or Latina president," he said.

Cisneros emphasized that the demographic increase in the United States is going to provide a great opportunity for the country and will be "a great advantage



in the markets and in global economic growth, but only if we integrate the Latinos."

Hispanics, in addition, will be in large measure the next U.S. generation, and he emphasized that it's necessary to be prepared for that, and so he said that education is one of the key policies for attaining the integration and development of the community "with more scholarships and opportunities to open up the universities."

He also asked for health guarantees for the Hispanic community, noting that Latinos are the minority with the greatest difficulties in getting access to health services.

"American society has to make the decision to open the doors to the middle class to Latinos," he said, but also "we have to be the ones who chart the course with determination."

Hispanics have let their voices be heard in past elections, not only in traditional areas where they live in large numbers, like California and New York, he said, but also in states like Florida, Virginia, Ohio, Nevada and New Mexico, all of which have been traditionally Republican.

Immigration is Losing Urgency as Top Issue

The punches keep coming from both sides, but the slugfest over immigration may be losing some of its urgency.

As activists try to ratchet up pressure on President Barack Obama to halt deportations and work on comprehensive immigration reform, political experts predict he won't take dramatic action anytime soon because of the economy, the war and need for healthcare reform. A poll by the Pew Hispanic Center suggests that even Latinos are pushing immigration down their list of priorities.

The December survey of 1,007 Latinos nationwide said only one in three people identified immigration as an extremely important issue. On a list of the nation's most pressing issues that was led by the economy and followed by education, healthcare, national security and the environment, immigration ranked sixth.

"Immigration is very important, but it's not as important as stabilizing the economy and the leadership of the country," said Julio Gomez, a real estate agent from Oxnard who sees immigration protests as more of a reminder than a call for immediate action. "Don't let politicians forget about it."

Gomez, who was born in Ecuador, is a citizen who legally came to the U.S. in 1987.

Activist Still Seeks Changes Alicia Flores, director of Hermandad Mexicana community center and advocacy group in Oxnard, contends some of the Latinos who are pushing immigration down their list of priorities are third- and fourth-generation immigrants. She said they're buffered from the daily injustices of immigration enforcement: deported parents separated from their children and young adults who can't go to college because they're not eligible for financial aid.

Flores helped to organize a drive in which 5,000 Ventura

County residents signed a letter to President Obama urging his support for immigration reform. They asked for an immediate halt to deportation and workplace raids.

"The Latino community overwhelmingly came out in support of your candidacy," the letter reads. Flores attended Obama's inauguration, shivering in the Washington, D.C., cold with more than 1 million other people. The next day, she carried an immigration reform sign at a rally aimed at the new president.

"Obama said on the day he won the election I'm not going to do the change, you have to do the change," said Flores, who believes applying pressure is the way to make sure change happens.

Many immigration activists say providing a path to legal residency would help the economy by reducing the illegal immigrants who are compensated in cash and don't pay taxes. Flores, director of the Hermandad Mexicana advocacy group in Oxnard, thinks reform will spur spending through a domino effect as simple as enabling illegal immigrants to get drivers' licenses and buy cars and insurance.

Some Want All Immigration Slowed

But as groups like the League of United Latin American Citizens say they want comprehensive reform on the table within three months, others cite the economy as justification for stopping the flow of illegal immigration.

"It seems to me if American labor is hurting, the single best way to get Americans back to work is to tighten up the labor market," said Michael Lief, a Ventura lawyer who advocates more enforcement of existing immigration laws. "That happens by not bringing millions of foreign citizens into the job market to compete with unemployed

Americans." A group called NumbersUSA is pushing Obama to take what it calls a timeout not only on illegal immigration but also on the flow of people who come here legally.

"How can it make any sense for the American people's own government to be approving more competitors for a dwindling number of jobs?" the group's leader, Roy Beck, said in a letter to Obama.

Groups courting the new president's favor are trying to capitalize on the theory that Obama will have a honeymoon period that enhances his ability to push through legislation, said Tom Hogen-Esch, political science professor at CSU Northridge.

"Their battle is to get to the top of the queue," said Hogen-Esch, who thinks the economy will push the issue to a backburner.

Professor Says Obama Needs a Win

Kareem Crayton, political science professor at USC, said Obama wants to build momentum by backing issues that he knows will win congressional support. Immigration reform is too volatile.

"He needs a win, and it's not quite clear that immigration is a sure winner," Crayton said.

It's more likely that Obama will concentrate on immigration changes that can be enacted without Congress, Crayton said.

Mark Krikorian predicted the new president will reduce the number of deportations and workplace raids as a way to appease people pushing for immigration reform. He may push the voluntary E-Verify online systems designed to help employers check on a worker's

immigration status. It's too politically dangerous for the president to push for comprehensive reform that includes a path to residency for illegal residents, said Krikorian, leader of a Center for Immigration Studies think tank that advocates more enforcement against illegal



immigrants. But he does think Obama may support smaller bills like the DREAM Act, which offers legal status to young adults who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children.

"He's going to throw some bones to the pro-amnesty crowd," Krikorian said.

Some of the people walking to their cars outside an Oxnard Wal-Mart aren't looking for bones. They want amnesty for illegal immigrants.

"I see more U.S. citizens who are here for welfare and there are these hardworking people who are getting sent back," said Amber Arroyo, who is 26 and cleans houses for a living.

Others think Obama's priority list should have one item: "The economy, of course," said a Filipino woman who offered this solution. "Improve it. Do something."

Jose Hernandez, a 26-year-old cook from Oxnard, is in the middle. He thinks people living here illegally need to be able to come out of the shadows. But he thinks the key to virtually all of the country's problems is marked by dollar signs.

"Once we get the economy, everything will be fixed," he said.

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'Sin Nombre' Seeks Box-Office Payday in Sundance

Salute to Day the Music Died: Valens, Holly, Bopper

Focus Features' "Sin Nombre"



won critical praise and the best-director prize at the Sundance Film Festival this month, beating 15 other films.

The next challenge is to convince English speakers to turn out for the violent, R-rated picture, filmed in Spanish with a cast of little-known actors from Latin America.

Focus, part of General Electric Co.'s NBC Universal Inc., plans to market the movie to U.S. Hispanics and the art-house audiences that helped turn Spanish-language "Pan's Labyrinth" and "Maria Full of Grace" into money-makers.

Oscar-nominated "Slumdog Millionaire," which uses subtitles for portions recorded in Hindi, gives cause for optimism, Focus Co-President James Schamus said in an interview.

"People are ready," Schamus said. "You get the word out to the core audience and really let the movie do a lot of the magic for you."

"Pan's Labyrinth" took in \$37.6 million in U.S. and Canadian ticket sales for Time Warner Inc. — the most for a Spanish-language

film, according to box office researcher Media By Numbers LLC. The 2006 release cost \$19 million to make and generated worldwide ticket sales of \$83.3 million, according to Box Office Mojo LLC.

"Maria Full of Grace," released by Time Warner in 2004, took in \$6.5 million domestically and \$12.6 million worldwide.

Like "Sin Nombre" ("nameless" or "without a name"), those films had "R" ratings and serious storylines. "Pan's Labyrinth," directed by Guillermo del Toro, followed a girl in fascist Spain who escapes into a fantasy world. "Maria Full of Grace" told of a poor Colombian woman who swallowed capsules of cocaine to smuggle into the U.S.

"Dark, Subtitled" "On the face of it, an R-rated, dark movie that's subtitled doesn't call out, 'Box office hit!'" said Media By Numbers President Paul Dergarabedian.

"For any foreign-language films to do more than \$5 million is an achievement."

Fairfield, Connecticut-based General Electric fell 59 cents, or 4.6 percent, to \$12.13 at 4:01 p.m. in New York Stock Exchange composite trading. The shares have dropped 65 percent in the past 12 months.

"Sin Nombre" traces a young man's flight through Mexico to the U.S. after he runs afoul of a violent gang, Schamus, who

helped to produce Oscar nominee "Brokeback Mountain" and director Ang Lee's Chinese-language "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," wouldn't say how much the movie, filmed in Mexico, cost to make.

Test Screening "Maria Full of Grace," shot in the U.S. and South America and also lacking big-name stars, cost \$3 million, according to IMDb.com, which tracks film industry statistics.

Focus held a test-screening before a Hispanic audience in Los Angeles before taking "Sin Nombre" to Sundance, Schamus said. Focus plans to open the movie in a handful of cities on March 20 and expand gradually, advertising in newspapers and on television.

"The foreign-language part is not such a challenge," "Sin Nombre" first-time director Cary Joji Fukunaga, 32, said in an interview. "Films like 'Slumdog' have warned audiences to watching movies with subtitles."

With a production budget of about \$15 million, "Slumdog" has taken in \$87.1 million worldwide for distributor Fox Searchlight, according to Box Office Mojo. The movie, nominated for 10 Academy Awards and directed by Danny Boyle, tells the story of a Mumbai orphan who seeks his fortune on a television quiz show.

Hoodlum on the Run "Sin Nombre" stars Edgar Flores as Willy, a young hoodlum who goes on the run after a deadly clash with fellow members of Mara Salvatrucha, a street gang with members in

Mexico, Central America and the U.S. Willy reluctantly takes responsibility for a Honduran girl, played by Paulina Gaitan, who is separated from relatives during a journey to the U.S. The film was inspired by newspaper articles Fukunaga read about the risks immigrants take to reach the U.S., he said. To research the film, he traveled three times from Mexico's southern state of Chiapas to the U.S. border.

Many of the characters were based on immigrants the director met while riding atop freight trains, or by real Mara Salvatrucha members he talked with in a Mexican prison, Fukunaga said. Fukunaga filmed on location in Mexican rail yards, recruiting locals to climb aboard a rented train for scenes, he said. On his first trip, a man was murdered by bandits in the car ahead, Fukunaga said. The experience informed one of his movie's pivotal scenes, in which Mara Salvatrucha members terrorize northbound immigrants atop a moving train.

Focus Features agreed to the make the movie after executives saw a short film Fukunaga brought to Sundance in 2005, said Schamus.

"We loved his short film and just felt this guy had the humanity and the vision to do something completely original," said Schamus. "We're hopeful the word-of-mouth supported portion is going to grow the film."

It fell from the snowy sky 50 years ago. A single-engine Beechcraft B35 Bonanza plane carrying Ritchie Valens, Buddy Holly, and Jiles P. Richardson, the "Big Bopper," plunged into a cornfield north of Clear Lake, Iowa, on Feb. 3, 1959, killing the three stars and their pilot.

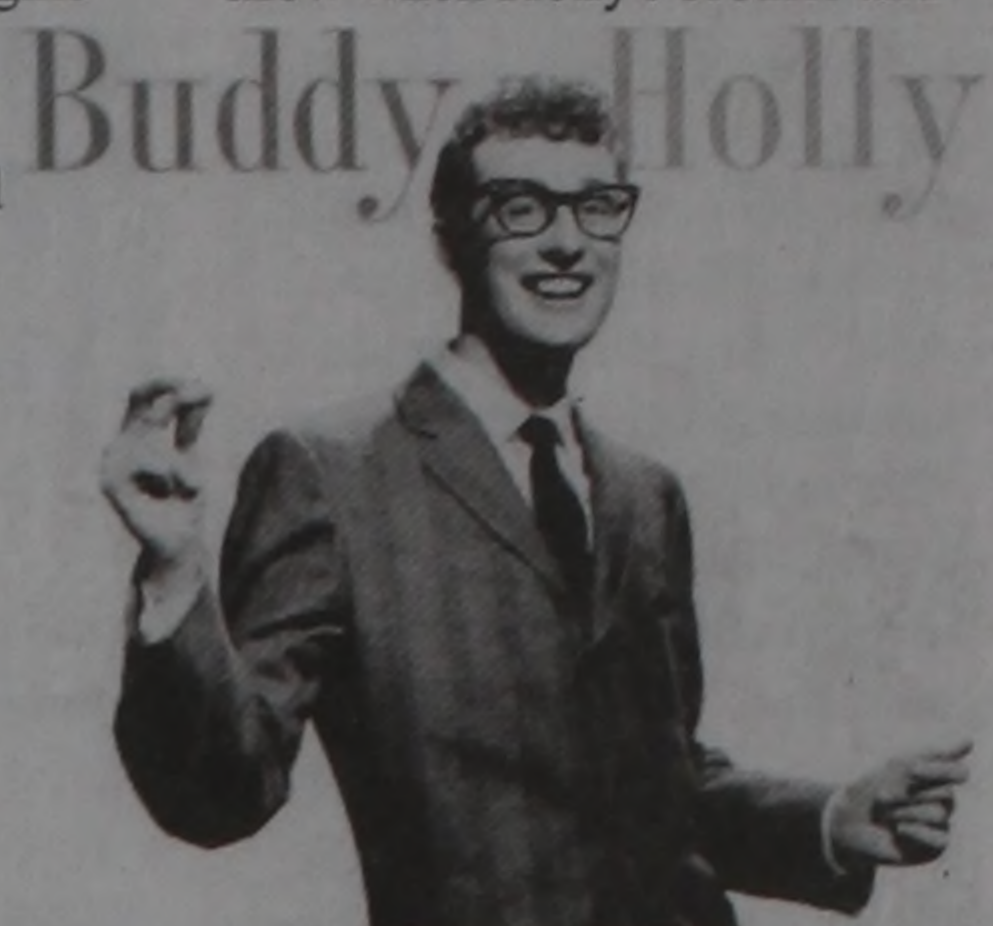
The Surf Ballroom, where the three did their final show hours before the crash, was last week named a historic landmark by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Thousands have converged there over the last six days to remember what folk singer Don McLean dubbed "the day the music died" in his 1971 hit "American Pie."

"This truly was the first modern tragedy of rock 'n' roll," said Jeff Nicholas, an Iowa farmer whose family owns the 210-acre field where Holly's plane crashed and who also is president of the nonprofit that operates the ballroom. Fans, many weeping, still leave trinkets at the crash site, which has become a memorial to rock's first geek god.

Norridge resident Johnny Rogers, 37, a Buddy Holly impersonator who tours with Tommy Allsup, one of Holly's original guitarists, was scheduled to take the Surf Ballroom stage Monday night. It will be the final performance on a somewhat surreal re-creation of the ill-fated Winter Dance Party tour — this one organized by Beverly Records owner Jack Dreznas.

"It's just going to be wild to be in the same place that Buddy was 50 years ago," said Rogers, who wears the same model glasses Holly wore, vintage clothes and even the same 1958 Omega watch. He dropped plans to take a

chartered flight after the Monday show when Holly's brother and



others asked him not to.

"I said, 'Forget it, I'm not flying in no plane in Clear Lake, Iowa,'" said Allsup, 77, who famously tossed a coin with Valens to see who would get a seat on the flight 50 years ago.

The deaths of three young stars 50 years ago didn't end the tour. The following Sunday, Allsup was playing as scheduled at the Aragon Ballroom, with Waylon Jennings singing Holly's songs.

Rogers was a 15-year-old Lincoln Park High School student when he first heard Holly's "Rave On" and, he says, "a switch flipped." He started dressing like the bespectacled singer — which didn't win him many friends in the Guns N' Roses era — and first performed as Holly at an open mic night put on by the Old Town Folk School of Music.

Today, being Buddy Holly is his full-time job. He and Allsup, a prolific session guitarist who produced Willie Nelson's first two albums, are embarking on a 30-concert tour of England later this year.

But last week, Rogers simply enjoyed celebrating the singer's legacy in Iowa.

One night, Rogers said, he sang karaoke with some of Ritchie Valens' siblings, their voices rising together on the joyous lyrics of "Oh Boy."

J.L. Guerra grabaría con Juanes



Juan Luis Guerra reveló que desea grabar duetos con el rockero colombiano Juanes, el grupo neoyorquino Aventura y el dominicano El Prodigio. "Me

gustaría grabar con El Prodigio para seguir impulsando la música típica dominicana, y con el grupo Aventura, aunque no he tenido conversación con ellos", manifestó el astro dominicano de la bachata. Sin embargo, es con Juanes con quien ya tiene un proyecto más adelantado, adelantó Guerra durante un encuentro de prensa la noche del

lunes, sin revelar más detalles. El intérprete de "La bilirrubina" cantará el 14 de febrero en el estadio olímpico de Santo Domingo, con capacidad para 50.000 personas. Entre otros temas, descartó incursionar en la política, pero no censuró que colegas como el panameño Rubén Blades sí participen. Sus creencias cristianas las evidenció al responder una pregunta sobre la

crisis socioeconómica global citando a Salomón. "Cuando no se ejecuta inmediatamente la sentencia de un delito, el corazón del pueblo se llena de razones para hacer lo malo", expresó. Tras su concierto el Día de San Valentín, Guerra tiene previsto viajar en marzo a Argentina, Chile, Colombia y Costa Rica.

New Mexico Artist, Teacher Honored During Cultural Center Show

Margaret Herrera Chavez was breaking glass ceilings when they were made of vigas and adobe. A Mora native who died at 80 in 1992, Herrera Chavez belonged to a collection of early New Mexico artists who worked "sin nombre," without recognition, in the early to mid-20th century, though her work eventually won her wide acclaim.

On Feb. 6 and continuing through June 21, the National Hispanic Cultural Center will showcase Herrera Chavez's expressionist paintings, watercolors and prints in a new series of one-person exhibitions at the center: "Nuestros Maestros" (Our Teachers.)

That's not just a title of respect sometimes lent to a person of great influence; Herrera Chavez actually was a teacher. She began teaching in 1945 in the Albuquerque Public Schools, and later taught in rural elementary schools in Las Vegas, N.M., and other areas until she retired in 1978.

Even as she worked in virtual anonymity as an art teacher, Herrera Chavez was forging a widespread reputation as one of the state's leading artists in the 1950s and 1960s, said exhibition curator Tey Marianna Nunn.

Prolific and experimental, Herrera Chavez became well known for her expressionist landscapes paintings of New Mexico mountains and villages, as well as for her modernistic urban scenes of Albuquerque, Nunn said. She also created watercolors, pastels, woodcut prints, textiles, ceramics and sculpture.

"By the 1950s, '60s and '70s, she was nationally and internationally known in the artistic community," Nunn said.

Herrera Chavez was one of the few New Mexico women artists listed in Jacinto Quirarte's groundbreaking book, "Mexican American Artists," in 1976.

"Though she had been ex-

tremely prolific and active over the years, it was the first notice of her publicly as an important artist," Nunn said, adding that Herrera Chavez was inspired by New Mexico.

"What is extraordinary is the way she used the sky, the land and the buildings to create this sense of place," Nunn said.

"She liked to paint churches and spires, but she didn't do it in the typical way of many other painters," she added. "She might be painting a tin roof, but she was experimental in that you might see a very cubist modernist view that was abstract, not super pictorial."

Noted Albuquerque painter Frank McCullough said his mother was friends with Herrera Chavez when both lived in Las Vegas, N.M.

"She was a strong personality," McCullough said. "She made the best out of an art scene that had hardly any professional galleries."

"I remember really liking her work, particularly her prints, and she had some really fine paintings."

Herrera Chavez received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1951 from the College of St. Joseph in Albuquerque, and received her master's degree in fine arts and painting in 1953 from New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas.

Herrera Chavez is the first artist to be featured in the National Hispanic Cultural Center's Visual Arts "Nuestros Maestros" series of one-person shows highlighting the legacies of deceased New Mexico artists, Nunn said, adding that about 35 of her works will be on display during the exhibition.

A collection of the artist's diaries, sketches and other personal papers is housed in the cultural

center's History and Literary Arts Department archives, and can be viewed by appointment by the



public, Nunn said.

An opening night free public reception from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 6, in the art museum will also feature the opening of a second exhibition from the cultural center's permanent art collection: "Aqui Estamos! Works from the Permanent Collection."

This collection comprises more than 2,000 works of art, including paintings, sculptures, fiber arts, furniture, drawings, installation art, metal work, prints photographs and mixed-media works.

A series of public programs also is scheduled to coincide with the exhibitions, including a free program on Saturday, Feb. 7, "Cartas y Corazones." Participants can make a block print card, from noon to 3 p.m. in the cultural center Salon Ortega.

Also offered will be a free curator's tour at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8, a free roundtable discussion on the life and work of Margaret Herrera Chavez at 6 p.m. March 6, and a free curators tour of the Permanent Collection exhibition at 1:30 p.m. April 19. If you go

What: "Nuestros Maestros" series featuring Margaret Herrera Chavez and "Aqui Estamos: Works from the Permanent Collection"

When: Feb. 6-June 21.

Where: National Hispanic Cultural Center, 1701 Fourth SW

How Much: Art museum admission \$3 adults, \$2 seniors and free for children 16 and younger.

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Abuchean a Barrera Ward

El regreso de Marco Antonio Barrera a Guadalajara luego de 17 años no fue

tal y como lo esperaba. Primero porque se enfrentó a un rival contratado a última hora y que no mostró nada y, segundo, porque el combate concluyó en el tercer round, y no porque el tres veces campeón mundial haya ganado por nocaut, sino porque el cubano Freudis Rojas le propinó un cabezazo que le cortó la frente, por lo que Barrera triunfó por la vía de la descalificación. En un esplendoroso escenario como el Auditorio Telmex, que por primera ocasión albergó un evento deportivo, Barrera decepcionó a los casi tres mil aficionados que asistieron al inmueble, quienes abuchearon al tres veces



campeón mundial y lo despidieron con gritos de "¡fraude, fraude!".

Y es que Barrera consintió a Rojas, un rival que apenas había llegado a Guadalajara el viernes por la noche en reemplazo del dominicano Johnny Nolasco, quien sería el rival del capitalino, pero no viajó debido a que no contó con su visa. Irónicamente, el mejor golpe del "Barreta" lo conectó después de que finalizó el segundo asalto, un volado al rostro de Rojas, quien le pegó al ex campeón mexicano luego de que sonó la campana que puso fin al asalto. La acción prendió a un público que exigía a Barrera emplearse como en sus mejores tiempos. Pero al empezar el tercer asalto, de nueva cuenta el mexicano boxeo a distancia, hasta que llegó el cabezazo que puso fin al

combate. Al sentirlo, el capitalino hizo una rabietta que reflejó su enojo, ya que el 14 de marzo está anunciado para pelear en Inglaterra ante Amir Khan. Barrera, quien dejó su récord en 65 triunfos y 6 derrotas, fue conducido a un hospital donde le suturaron la herida. En otros resultados, el tapatío Jorge "Coloradito" Solís se convirtió en retador oficial del título mundial pluma de la Federación Internacional de Boxeo (FIB) luego de vencer al estadounidense Monty Meza-Clay. El "Coloradito" mostró habilidad, coraje, recursos y poder, derrotando a un escurridizo rival por la vía del nocaut, al minuto con 40 segundos del quinto round, con lo que, desde ahora, es aspirante al cetro de los 58 kilos.

Offseason storylines: Here come Vick, Brady, L.T. ...

As I walked out onto the Raymond James Stadium field late Sunday night, my shoes picking up pieces of confetti as I strolled out to do some post-game video work, my mind raced ahead. The 2008 NFL season concluded moments before with arguably the greatest Super Bowl of all time, a game won 27-23 in the final minute by the Steelers over the Cardinals. But I somehow was thinking about next season, trying to picture the two teams that might be in the game next February in Miami. How much game has Michael Vick lost the past two years and where will he be displaying it? Here we are just under six months away from the start of training camp and eight months away from the open of the regular season, and all we can do is act like the 31 teams that didn't win it this season, which is to think ahead to 2009. Before we get there, a lot of things must be sorted out. We have free agency. We have the draft. We have rules changes coming. We have -- as much as we hate to admit it -- a long offseason. There will be a lot of news and issues in the coming months. Here are 10 of them sure to grab your attention: Mike Vick's return to the NFL. Vick is expected to be free from his legal obligations by July at the latest. His sentence for his involvement in the dog fighting ring should be concluded by then, but it's up to the league to decide if he can return to the game. I say he should be allowed to play. How can they keep him out? A man has a right to make a living. He served his time, right? The only thing is to find an owner bold enough to sell Vick to his fans. We keep hearing the Raiders, but they have JaMarcus Russell playing quarterback. So who takes the chance? Does anybody?

The Falcons still own his rights, but he isn't coming within 100 miles of that team's facility. They want no part of him. Not after what he put them through. What some people are forgetting is just being released doesn't mean he's back. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell will have to reinstate him. Then there's his conditioning. What will a year away mean to his game? It's not like he got much of a challenge from the prison-yard game. I guarantee you somebody will take a chance on Vick. Here's hoping he's a changed man if they do. Prison can do that. Does Kurt Warner play again? The Cardinals front office expects that Kurt Warner will play again.



For how much is the question. Warner would not say if he planned to play after Sunday's game, but the word is he's leaning toward coming back. The Cardinals would like to give him a two-year deal in the \$18 million range. Warner is said to want to stay, but

what if he wants to test the market? Do the Cardinals put the franchise tag on him? I think both sides will come to the smart conclusion and Warner will sign a contract extension for two seasons. Arizona will be good again, and he likes his teammates, something he preached on the podium after the Super Bowl. Will Tom Brady be healthy enough to start on opening day? Indications are the Tom Brady is making good progress in his return from major knee surgery, following a season-ending injury on opening day last September. There were complications early in Brady's recovery, but he has picked up the pace, and the Patriots have to be thinking he will be there on opening day. To protect themselves, they are expected to put the franchise tag on Matt Cassel, who played so well in place of Brady in 2008. If Brady's recovery includes more problems, Cassel would be kept. If not, the Pats could trade him. I expect Brady will be the opening-day starter for the Pats next September. Does the economy have an impact on the NFL? In talking to league officials, there is real concern. Most of the tickets were sold last year before the economy went really bad. That's why there is worry. How can people justify buying tickets when the economy is so down? Many of the league's top sponsors are also having financial issues that will be felt. The NFL has to hope that the summer brings a brighter economic future or even it will face troubles ahead. I hope the overtime rules don't change. Why? If defense can win championships, why can't it win in overtime? How does the L.T. saga play out in San Diego? That one could get ugly. There is definitely some nastiness between LaDainian Tomlinson and general manager A.J. Smith, who crossed the line when he mocked L.T.'s statement about returning to the team. That was low. L.T. was said to be bitter about it. The Chargers might ask Tomlinson to take a pay cut after his disappointing season in 2008. At 30, he doesn't have the same burst and injuries have limited him in the playoffs the past two seasons. He has three years left on his contract. He is scheduled to make \$6.725 million in salary this season and has a cap number of \$8.79 million. The Chargers are trying to extend quarterback Philip Rivers and linebacker Shawne Merriman to long-term deals. That's why L.T. might be asked to take a cut. Could the Chargers actually do the unthinkable and cut the face of the franchise? I doubt it. But if he's unreasonable, could you blame them?

Nadal Defeats Federer in Another 5-set Battle Australian Open Tennis



It was not quite another tennis masterpiece. The much-anticipated rematch between Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer lacked the consistent quality and, above all, the crescendo finish of their five-act drama in fading light at Wimbledon in July. But this Australian Open final was certainly epic entertainment, too. It also lasted five sets and more than four hours. It also featured plenty of abrupt reversals of fortune and unexpected breaks of serve, and it also ended with Nadal triumphant and Federer devastated. Federer, the 27-year-old Swiss star, needed just one more victory to match Pete Sampras's record of 14 Grand Slam singles titles. But he faded badly in the final set on Sunday night and was then unable to keep his composure after Nadal's 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 (7-3), 3-6, 6-2 victory. In the post-match ceremony, Federer choked up after receiving the runner's-up plate from one of his idols, Rod Laver, and was unable to get more than a few sentences into his speech to the crowd before he began to cry in earnest. "God, it's killing me," he said, eventually backing away from the microphone. But this historic rivalry, one of the best in any sport, is also a friendly rivalry, despite all the power and spin these two well-mannered young men employ against each other when they are on opposite sides of a net. So it was no surprise that Nadal, the first Spanish player to win the Australian championships, was soon putting his left arm around Federer and helping him pull himself back together just long enough to finish the speech that he had begun. "I don't want to have the last word; this guy deserves it," Federer said. "So Rafa, congratulations. You played incredible. You deserve it, man." It is difficult to argue with that last sentence. To even reach the final, the top-seeded Nadal had to win the longest match in Australian Open history in the semifinals, a five-set, five-hour-and-14-minute classic against his compatriot Fernando Verdasco. He then had one day less than the second-seeded Federer to prepare for the 19th installment of their rivalry. He underwent intense physical therapy in an attempt to recover the freshness of mind and body required to repulse a man on a mission. "I knew it was not going to affect him a lot," Federer said of Nadal's abbreviated preparation. "It did not have any role to play in it, so I was ready for that." Nadal was not nearly so certain that he would be in fine shape.

After getting to sleep at 5 a.m. on Saturday after his Friday night marathon with Verdasco, he woke at 1 p.m. He practiced lightly that afternoon and again Sunday afternoon. "I was having a bit of trouble practicing," he said. "I felt a little nauseated when I practiced yesterday and today. I was pretty concerned, not being sure whether I could be in my best. It's tough feeling that way when it's your first final in Australia and you're not sure you're going to be 100 percent. But in the end everything worked out well for me." It was hardly a straightforward process, however. Nadal would need four hours and 23 minutes to finish off Federer. He would need to rally from 2-4 down in the first set and save all six break points he faced in the third set. He would also need Federer to serve much less convincingly than he had in his straight-set semifinal romp over Andy Roddick. The Swiss put only 52 percent of his first serves in play on Sunday, which was by far his lowest percentage of the tournament. Perhaps the most remarkable statistic from this remarkable match was that Federer managed to win the second set with a first-serve percentage of only 37 percent. "Perhaps I should not have been out there in the fifth set at all," said Federer, still red-eyed an hour after the match. "I should have won the first set and the third. The rest of the story, we all know it." Nadal, the swashbuckling 22-year-old from the Spanish island of Majorca, was considered a clay-court specialist early in his career. But he is now well on his way to becoming one of the game's great multi-surface champions. He has won the last four French Opens on clay, last year's Wimbledon title on grass and has now won his first Grand Slam title on a hardcourt, which gave Spain the only major tennis trophy it lacked. "It is a dream to win here," Nadal said. "I've worked very hard the last, well, all my life to improve the tennis outside of clay." Nadal also has helped win the premier team competition, the Davis Cup, for Spain as well as the 2008 Olympic gold medal in singles on a hardcourt in Beijing. The only major title he now lacks is the U.S. Open, where he was beaten in the semifinals last year. But Nadal, for all the fire and brimstone in his flashy left-handed game, is also a self-effacing champion. He has continued to affirm that Federer is the greatest player of all time even as he continues to build on his career edge against him. Once he took the microphone himself on Sunday, with the trophy in his hands, his first words were for his opponent. "Well, first of all, sorry for today," he said, turning to face Federer. "I really know how you feel right

now. It's really tough. Remember you are a great champion. You are the best in history." Nadal then added that he was convinced Federer would beat Sampras's record. Perhaps Federer will, but for now, the man - respectful or not - who keeps blocking his path is Nadal. The Spaniard has now won five of the seven Grand Slam finals they have played, including the last three. His career edge overall against Federer stands at 13-6 and the only surface on which Federer continues to hold a statistical advantage is on grass, where the Swiss has won two of their three matches. This final was the first to go five sets at the Australian Open since 1988, when Mats Wilander beat Pat Cash. But the roar that was heard in Rod Laver Arena when Federer held serve to even the match at two sets apiece was soon replaced by the groans and awkward silences that accompany an anticlimax. Federer, suddenly looking tight and sluggish, was broken in the fourth game of the final set, blowing a 30-0 lead on his serve by losing four straight points - three with unforced errors from the baseline and another with a double fault. That gave Nadal a 3-1 edge, which he would never even approach surrendering. Federer won just two points on Nadal's final two service games as he kept missing returns with his one-handed backhand, a shot that blew hot and cold throughout the match. Serving to stay in the final at 2-5, Federer quickly fell behind 15-40. Although he would save two match points as Nadal made uncharacteristic backhand errors, he could not build on that brief reprieve. At deuce, Nadal hit a backhand winner, with Federer looking distracted by a shout of "out" from the crowd earlier in the rally. Pascal Maria, the French chair umpire, warned the crowd to please refrain from such behavior, but the point, in such cases, is not replayed. On the next and final point, Federer knocked a forehand long and Nadal dropped immediately on his back. He had never a truer No. 1. But as Nadal gradually began to grasp the degree of Federer's emotional distress, his moment of triumph also became a moment of reflection. "Of course it can happen to all of us," he said of Federer's breakdown during the ceremony. "It was an emotional moment, and I think this also makes sport grander, to see a great champion like Federer expressing his emotions. It shows his human side. But in these moments, when you see a rival who is also a comrade feeling like this, you enjoy the victory a little bit less."

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Juan Cervantez stands here beside a road that after almost 10 years of effort will finally be paved by the City. Cervantez received the notice of success in his efforts in a letter from Councilman Floyd Price.



Photo left to right: Alice Lozada-Parliamentarian; Lile Medina de Quirino-President; Carlos Quirino, Jr.-Secretary; Diana Vasquez-Treasurer; and not in photo Ray Lozada-Vice President. Guadalupe Neighborhood Association were the winner of the 2008 Neighborhood Association of the Year Award. The award was presented by LUNA in January 2009. On behalf of El Editor & staff, we would like to express our gratitude and congratulations on a job well earned by the group -- keep up the good work! The association welcomes more members, everyone welcome.

363 U.S. cities find unemployment rising



age points, the largest leap in the country. The second highest jump was recorded in Dalton, Ga., where the unemployment rate grew by 6.2 percentage points.

In total, 27 cities saw their unemployment rate jump by 4 percentage points or more, the report said.

Among larger cities in December, the greater Detroit area recorded the highest jobless rate with unemployment reaching 10.6 percent, the Labor Department said.

The lowest unemployment rates among cities with a population of 1 million or more in the 2000 census was in Oklahoma City, Okla. -- at 4.6 percent in December.

The highest rate in December among all cities was in El Centro, Calif. at 22.6 percent; the lowest was in Morgantown, W. Va. -- 2.7 percent.

Unemployment rose in 363 out of 369 U.S. cities in 2008, the Labor Department announced Wednesday.

As the recession sunk its teeth into the labor market, 40 cities reported jobless rates above 10 percent. Two reported rates under 3 percent, the report said.

In December, the nation's unemployment rate hit 7.1 percent, compared with December 2007, when it was 4.8 percent.

In one year, Elkhart-Goshen, Ind., beset by manufacturing sector layoffs, found its unemployment rate jump 10.6 percent-

Educación contra el maltrato



las tasas de maltrato infantil en comunidades enteras", añadió.

Nueve condados de Carolina del Sur, elegidos para el estudio aplicaron un sistema de niveles múltiples que incluye una gama amplia de mecanismos de apoyo para madres y padres, incluidos los medios de comunicación, seminarios públicos y consultas con personal capacitado en clínicas, escuelas, iglesias y centros comunitarios.

Cuando los padres y las madres tienen instrucción y apoyo para lidiar con los problemas que encaran todas las familias, disminuyen los índices de maltrato infantil, señala un estudio publicado en la revista Prevention Science.

Esos problemas, indicaron los autores, van desde las pataletas de los niños y niñas hasta las medidas para estimular una conducta socialmente aceptable.

El estudio, que recibió fondos de los Centros para Control y Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC, por su sigla en inglés), encontró tasas más bajas de casos confirmados de abuso infantil, de custodia de menores ordenada por los tribunales fuera de la casa de sus padres, y de hospitalizaciones y visitas a salas de emergencia en los distritos donde se ofreció la capacitación para padres y madres.

"Otros estudios anteriores han mostrado reducciones en los problemas sociales, emocionales y de conducta de los niños", dijo Ron Prinz, de la Universidad de Carolina del Sur e investigador principal de este análisis.

"Este es el primer estudio en gran escala que muestra que la provisión de ayuda y apoyo a todas las familias, y no solo a las que están en crisis, para que obtengan información y asesoramiento puede reducir

en inglés como Triple P, se sustenta en 25 años de investigación y desarrollo por parte de Matthew Sanders y sus colaboradores en el Centro de Apoyo Familiar en la Universidad de Queensland, Australia.

"La preparación para la crianza de hijos requiere que se promueva la flexibilidad, la adaptación y la capacidad para el cambio", según Ron Prinz, psicólogo de la Universidad de Carolina del Sur en Columbia.

El programa "complementa, extiende y agrega valor a lo que ya hacen los servicios de asistencia social y salud mental".

Los investigadores calculan que los resultados de este estudio podrían reducir cada año en 688 los casos de maltrato infantil, en 240 adjudicaciones de custodia en hogares temporales, y en 60 los casos de hospitalización o cuidado de emergencia de niños heridos, por cada 100 mil menores de ocho años de edad.

"La participación de los padres y las madres es un paso importante en los esfuerzos que se desarrollan para prevenir el maltrato infantil y promover relaciones seguras, estables y saludables para los niños de todas las comunidades", opinó Rodney Hammond, director de la División de Prevención de Violencia de los CDC.

Ley de cobertura médica, el primer paso



La ley de cobertura médica que promulgará hoy el presidente de Estados Unidos, Barack Obama, y que cubrirá a 1.5 millones de niños hispanos, es un "buen primer paso" hacia la reforma del sector de salud, afirmaron hoy expertos.

La ley federal, conocida por su sigla en inglés como SCHIP, extiende ese programa de asistencia médica a otros cuatro millones de niños pobres, para un total de once millones en los próximos cuatro años y medio.

Durante un discurso ante el pleno de la Cámara de Representantes, el líder de la mayoría demócrata, Steny Hoyer, dijo que esta ley ayudará a crear "una generación de estadounidenses más saludables", en momentos en que unos 45 millones carecen de seguro médico.

Se trata de la segunda ley que firma Obama durante sus primeros 100 días de mandato, tras promulgar otra de equidad salarial para las mujeres el pasado 29 de enero.

La ampliación de SCHIP, se financiará con el aumento de los impuestos federales al tabaco, fue aprobada por el Congreso el mes pasado en medio de agrias disputas porque elimina la espera de cinco años para niños y mujeres embarazadas con estatus migratorio legal.

Antes de la puesta en vigor de esta ley, unos 7.4 millones de niños en Estados Unidos estaban amparados por el

programa SCHIP, creado en 1997 y que otorga fondos a los gobiernos estatales para que a su vez mejoren la cobertura médica de su población de escasos recursos.

Entre los beneficiados por la ampliación del plan figuran 1.5 millones de niños hispanos, según cálculos divulgados hoy por la Alianza Nacional de Salud Hispana (NAHH, en inglés).

Aunque la ampliación del programa supone una cobertura médica para solo uno de cada dos niños sin seguro de salud en Estados Unidos, los expertos consideran que es un "buen primer paso" hacia una cobertura de salud universal.

La reforma del sector de salud, y en concreto la cobertura médica universal, fue una de las promesas que hizo Obama durante la contienda presidencial.

Jane Delgado, presidenta de la NAHH destacó que las organizaciones de base latinas en todo Estados Unidos jugaron un papel decisivo en la aprobación del proyecto de ley "que verdaderamente refleja los valores de nuestra nación".

El vicepresidente de la Alianza, Adolph Falcon, dijo que la firma de esta ley es importante "porque los niños necesitan acceso a servicios de salud, especialmente durante los primeros cinco años de vida".

Marielena Hincapié, directora ejecutiva del Centro Nacional de Leyes de Inmigración (NILC, en inglés) elogió "el liderazgo del presidente Obama para que nuestra nación le dé prioridad al cuidado médico de los niños".

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