

El Editor

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

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News Briefs

By Abel Cruz

Gilbert Flores Announces Candidacy for Precinct 3 County Commissioner

Almost 4 years ago, then 12 year incumbent Gilbert Flores lost his seat to newcomer Ysidro Gutierrez.

Four years later, Flores has announced that he will try and regain the seat he held for 3 terms in next year's Democratic primary.

Flores announced his candidacy at a reception at Montelongo's Restaurant on Wednesday afternoon; bringing an end to endless speculation within the mostly Hispanic community and Precinct 3 about whether he would run against Gutierrez a second time.

Flores has been mostly out of the political spotlight since he was defeated by Gutierrez in a run off after neither candidate received more than 51% of the vote in the Democratic primary.

"Community is why I'm here. I still feel a calling and I still want to serve you", is what Flores said to supporters; according to a news report posted on the KCBD NewsChannel 11 web site.

Gutierrez, who announced his re-election bid months ago in September says that he is grateful to the people of Precinct 3 for "electing me as their representative".

For local voters, this has the potential to be one of the areas most hotly contested races in 2008.

Gutierrez himself has been under the political spotlight; most recently when he called for Lubbock City Councilwoman Linda DeLeon to resign from the Lubbock City Council in an open letter first published in El Editor. The open letter and subsequent story was widely reported in the mainstream media.

Whether this will hurt or help Gutierrez only time will tell. But already Flores is indicating that he will try to use the rift, or the divisiveness issue between Gutierrez and DeLeon to his political advantage.

Flores told the local Fox station in Lubbock that "There seems to be a division within the Hispanic community, and I don't think it's really the community that's split up. I think it's actually the leadership that's involved there. We need to set good examples. We need to be responsible for our duties as a County Commissioner".

Gutierrez issued a statement to El Editor in which he says that, "My reelection campaign will focus on my record of service to the people of Lubbock County. This campaign is an opportunity to communicate the differences between me and my opponent on issues important to the people".

The Democratic Primary will be held next March 4. The filing period runs through Wednesday January 2nd, 2008, and although some people had speculated that there would be more candidates seeking the Precinct 3 Commissioner's seat; only Flores has announced his intention to run as a Democrat.

Whoever wins the Democratic primary will then face a Republican opponent in the November General Election; should a Republican opponent choose to run for the office.

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Mayor Blames Former Councilmen for Soccer Fields Not Being Built

The fact that the Lubbock City Council has decided to let voters decide on whether they want to pay for new soccer fields in SW Lubbock wasn't the only surprise that came out of last week's council meeting.

Mayor David Miller also surprised most political observers by singling out former Councilmen Gary Boren and Tom Martin as being the ones responsible for the soccer fields not being built with the bond money approved by voters in 2004.

Miller was quoted in the local media; saying that both Boren and Martin had met privately with the architects for the sports complex and had pushed ahead with the softball and baseball fields instead of soccer fields. And that they had bypassed the city staff and Parks Board to do so. He also charged that Martin and Boren had instructed the architects not to discuss the complex's plans with any other city staff.

Since then, there has been speculation that the Mayor was making more of a political statement and attempting to make political hay more than anything else; since he will face Martin in next year's Mayoral election.

When asked about the criticisms and if he still stood by his statement; and given an opportunity to expound on it, Miller told El Editor; "I do stand by my statement, but do not need to expound on it. I don't play politics, but I do want the public to know the truth about such matters as this".

For their part, both Martin and Boren have denied the Mayor's charge. This past week Gary Boren told local NewsRadio 1420 that, "It's a city councilman's responsibility to meet with professional and experts, planners & architects; we do it all the time with major projects: Marsha Sharp Freeway, Gateway Passage, Milwaukee and water projects. It's a normal responsibility and something an elected official needs to do. To suggest there was something underhanded is inappropriate. If we had listened only to city officials then we'd be in a water crisis and LP&L would have bankrupted the city."

In that same NewsRadio 1420 story, Martin, who is hoping to unseat Miller in next year's Mayor's election is also quoted; saying that "The former City Council, led by Mayor Marc McDougal, hired the architects for the Youth Sports Complex on a unanimous vote, and approved the conceptual plan for the project, unanimously, after a unanimous recommendation from the Parks Board."

Our attempts to contact both Boren and Martin were unsuccessful.

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Lubbock County Democrats to Kick Off 2008 Campaign

The Lubbock County Democrats will hold their Campaign Kick Off on January 11th at the Lubbock Holiday Inn Hotel and Towers located at 801 Ave Q.

According to Lubbock County Democratic Party Chair Susan Barrick, "Democrats are enthusiastic about our fine Presidential contenders and proud to showcase our state and local candidates".

The kick off will begin with a reception at 6:00 PM, followed by a buffet dinner. Tickets are priced at \$60 per person for the general public and \$50 dollars per person for Lubbock County Democratic Party sustaining members.

According to Barrick, scheduled to attend are several candidates whom have already filed their intention to run; although Barrick added that the list of attendees was subject to change, since the filing deadline isn't until January 2, 2008.

Texas State Representative and candidate for US Senate Rick Noriega; who many people believe will win the Democratic primary and who represents the Democrat's best hope for unseating Texas Senator John Cornyn in his re-election bid; will either be represented by his wife or will appear via video due to an unexpected National Guard commitment. He had been scheduled to appear and Barrick says Noriega "promises to come to Lubbock at another time".

The other Democratic candidate, Ray McMurrey, who will face Noriega in the Democratic Party Primary, is also expected to attend.

Other candidates and offices which they are seeking includes: Texas Railroad Commissioner, Dale Henry and Art Hall; Texas Supreme Court Place 7; Baltasar Cruz and Sam Houston; Texas Supreme Court Place 8; Susan Criss and Linda Yanez; TX House 85th District; Joe Heflin; County Commissioner Precinct 1; John Miller, and County Commissioner Precinct 3; incumbent Ysidro Gutierrez and opponent Gilbert Flores.

Bymie Bass will serve as master of ceremonies and ticket information can be found at www.lubbockdemocrats.org
Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net or acruzts@aol.com

The Legend of Pancho Clos

by Bidal Agüero

The legend of Pancho Clos starts a long time ago. So far back that some say snakes used to walk.

One thing we need to make clear before we go on with the rest of the story is that a long time could mean one day, a year or maybe 1,000 years.

But anyway, in those times there lived a family named Santa Claus. The rest of this story might be a bit full of twists and turns but with a bit of imagination, we can find out how two cousins, primos hermanos, now work together to bring joy to all children.

The Claus family, Papa Santa and Mrs. Claus and a family of workers called elves made toys in a small town called the Land of Santa at the North Pole. The town was named after Papa when the elves, to whom Santa granted full civil rights, voted to honor his generosity of giving toys to children during fiestas.

Because he worked with the toys that brought happiness, Papa built-up magical powers then added the power of speaking all languages. These powers helped him expand his work to include making and giving toys to all the children of the world.

After Papa and Mrs Claus remained married for a long time, some say that snakes had even run into problems and were condemned to crawling instead of walking, they decided to expand their family.

As luck would be, they gave birth to twin boys. The tradition in those days was that the first-born would get the father's name.

Everyone in the town wondered what Papa would do.

Papa and Mrs Claus seriously thought about it for a long time. It was not an easy decision. They wanted both to be named Santa. Mothers always seem to have the right answers, so both were named Santa with the first being called Nicholas and the second Nick. This because Papa was sometimes called Nicholas or Nick in honor a kind man that helped people and lived at the North Pole many years ago.

As the sons grew, Papa Santa carried on his work delivering toys. Both boys went to school and learned how to read and make toys. Nicholas learned how to make traditional dolls and bicycles but Nick was more interested in inventing new toys and machines that

would make work easier.

Papa Santa grew older and both sons grew to be young men but also chubby enough not to be allowed to eat desert by Mrs. Claus.

Papa grew older and wanted to retire and let his sons take over his work. Because of the many hurdles of what was a non-profit business and because Papa Santa believed in equal rights, Papa let the elves vote and choose the next leader of the town and take Papa's job.

By that time, maybe a few hundred years, Nick had really already decided that he wanted to continue his work of inventing. He had already invented fax machines and was working with a guy named Gore on finding out how the internet worked.

Nick knew he needed more room than available at Papa's North Pole workshop. He needed his own place and thought this might

be the perfect time to let everyone know that instead of possibly becoming the new leader of the Land of Santa, he would make the elves job easier and move to the South Pole to set up his workshop at the South Pole.

Nick jumped on one of his inventions, a sleigh powered by engines that ran on reindeer manure, and started his trip.

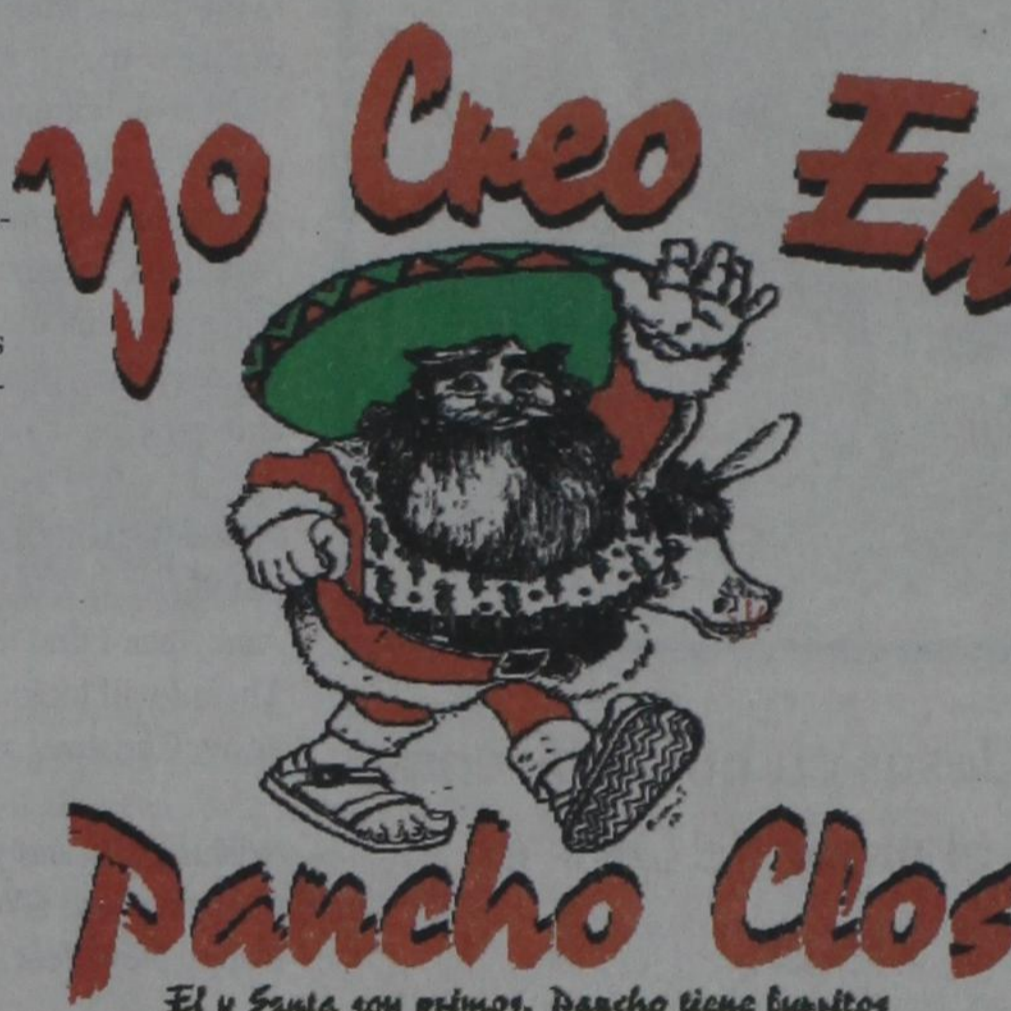
On his way he topped to do some fishing in Texas at Buffalo Lake. The Lake was named in memory of the many buffalo that were killed by an American soldier named MacKenzie. While there Nick met members of the American G.I. Forum who, to his delight, were also dedicated to helping less fortunate children. The Forum was having a fajita cooking contest trying to raise money for scholarships.

Nick loved the taste of fajitas. After eating as many fajitas as his chubby stomach could hold, Nick jumped back on his sleigh and started back on his trip.

Nick did run into one problem in México, not many reindeer manure around. Now he had to figure out how to power his sleigh. Then was when he ran into a herd of burritos grazing on nopalitos, in English called "prickly pear".

Nick by then had discovered his Dad's magical powers of talking different languages. He found out that he could also speak to animals. While chatting with a burrito named Cleto, he told Nick that these burritos were a prize-winning herd with extra long ears. Nick snapped and knew that if he really put his mind to it, he could invent a way to make the ears spread out straight. Nick figured that he could use his manure powered engines to boost the burritos up into the air, they could then glide to wherever needed.

(continued on page 10)



El y Santa son primos. Pancho tiene burritos
cuvez de venados y no dice ho, ho, ho pero quite a-jual

Voters Will Decide on Bonds for Soccer Fields; Dumbauld Wants \$90 Million More

By Abel Cruz

How to raise the funds to pay for new soccer fields in southwest Lubbock was the Lubbock City Council's key focus at Friday's council meeting.

While the council could have decided to fund the \$10.2 million dollar soccer field's price tag with Certificate of Obligation bonds, apparently they decided that they would take a risk and let voters decide; General Obligation funds require voter approval; CO bonds do not.

And in a surprise move, City Manager Lee Ann Dumbauld recommended that the council also let voters decide on an over \$90 million dollar additional bond package which would include money for other infrastructure projects.

While this may not sit well with all Lubbock taxpayers since in all likelihood it will result in a substantial property tax increase per year on properties valued at more than \$100,000, voters may be moved to vote yes, especially if the bond election for the soccer fields money is coupled with the over \$90 million funding for other projects since the impact will be felt by different sections of the city.

Targeted areas for infrastructure improvements include the downtown area and the 34th street corridor between Ave A and Slide Rd; an area long in need of street repair. The proposal also includes money for other street projects in several areas of the city; from East Lubbock to the growing areas in southwest Lubbock.

But the council is taking a risk on getting voter approval from an electorate that just this past summer collectively said a loud no to a gargantuan bond election proposal in the public arena even before being asked to cast a vote.

Considering the mood of an electorate that has become increasingly impatient with a tax and spend city council; it is very unlikely that any bond projects would pass at this point without first becoming a referendum on the council's ability to manage the

increasing debt this council has managed to accumulate.

Throw in the lack of credibility most voters have in the council, and chances are that a bond proposal might have about as much of a chance of passing as some people give to Mayor David Miller's chances of getting re-elected next year.

And with the proposed bond election taking place at the same time as next year's city council elections, some on the council who are up for re-election may have voiced their approval for a bond election in an effort to keep from alienating soccer moms and dads; a constituency which usually votes in fairly high numbers; and a voting constituency which will make their voice heard loud and clear during next May's elections.

And to confirm their commitment to seeing that the soccer fields become a reality, Billy Babcock who serves as President of the Lubbock Soccer Association was quoted in the local newspaper as saying that "You will see Lubbock soccer working very, very hard to pass this bond".

Bond money approved by voters in 2004 has been used to build a sports complex at FM 1585 and Milwaukee; but the complex presently does not have soccer fields. The group advocating for the new soccer fields charges that the council broke its promise to build the soccer fields with money from the 2004 bond election.

By going with General Obligation funds and seeking voter approval; the council seems to be banking on issues which affects residents who are seen as a "significant" segment of the city's electorate; and a business segment along 34th street who will surely welcome repairs to the streets fronting their businesses. Add to that the fact that the new fields will be located in a growing part of the city and the council was not likely to want to raise the ire of so many potential voters by voting not to fund the fields at all.

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Members Say "Si" to Merger with LCC

When it was all said and done; and when the dust from a brief dustup involving at least one person in attendance had settled; 26 members said yes to the proposed merger between the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber and Lubbock Chamber of Commerce.

Whether it will become a reality or not, is now up to Lubbock Chamber of Commerce members who must vote to approve the merger before the plan goes forward.

While 26 members voted in favor; a total of 18 voted against. And while some people in attendance questioned whether there were enough members present to constitute a quorum; in the end it was decided that a little over 10% of the membership was present and that was enough to hold the vote.

Does the vote represent a new direction for the chamber or the end of the road for an organization that at one time represented this city's Hispanic business community? Is it "the end of COMA and the chamber" as Gilbert Flores, one of the meeting attendees put it?

Not if you ask Board Chair Velma Medina. "If we look at this right, it will be a new start, going to the next level. Now it will be up to us to make this organization work."

One of the primary issues surrounding the proposed merger had been the Hispanic Chamber's inability to raise enough operating capital to be self sustaining as it has been in the past.

If the merger is approved, the Hispanic Chamber will be in line to receive much needed funding from the LCC so that it may continue its program of work; or its programs and projects it currently works on throughout the year.

"I'm disappointed after so many years," said Efrain Villanueva another of the current members and past president. "But I guess it will be an opportunity for us to quit making excuses about not having enough funds to concentrate on bringing in more new members and providing better services for them."

And according to another current board member Alex Martinez, there were not very many options for the Hispanic Chamber to pursue. "We basically (had) three options" said Martinez. "We merge with the Chamber, have to come up with \$100,000 in new monies to continue our program of work for next year or continue the way we are going."

Martinez also said that the new monies would be equivalent to those needed to provide better services to the membership by adding more staff.

But not all went smoothly as only those members whose dues were paid 30 days prior to the meeting date were allowed to vote.

That created some controversy as a few of those in attendance, some of whom were past members, were there with money in hand ready to join and vote. "If those people had been allowed to vote, it would have definitely been closer and perhaps might have failed," said Paula Montoya.

Whether that would have changed the outcome or not is something that will probably never be known. What is known is that an organization founded 33 years ago primarily to serve the needs of the Lubbock Hispanic business community will no longer exist in its present organizational format if the merger is approved by the LCC.

And while the LCC vote may not be unanimous, the proposal is expected to pass when the LCC members meet to vote on the issue. LCC President Eddie McBride has been in attendance at the previous Chamber forums and discussions and has indicated that he is in favor of such a merger.

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Editorial

A Christmas Wish for You

By Abel Cruz

I Will Look Within

This Christmas, I will look within I will look within and see the memories of Christmas' past.

I will look within and see my Mom and Dad's Christmas spirit and the way they shared it with their family when they were with us

I will look within and realize just how much I am blessed

I will look within and ask God to take care of those less fortunate than I

I will look within and see the faces of the people who have helped me along the way and I will be filled with gratitude

I will look within and see the faces of family and friends who are no longer of this earth

I will look within and reflect on the many Christmas memories we made and shared together

I will look within and miss them; but remember that their spirit and their memory lives on in the faces of their children

I will look within and seek inner peace

And when I find it this Christmas

Then; I will look outward and offer it as my Christmas wish for you

Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Wonderful and Happy New Year

Abel Cruz
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"Freedom of Expression" An Open Forum Where Readers Express their Views and Opinions

Send to eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Washington Doesn't Listen

All I hear from all the candidates is we will be forced by yet another law mandating we pay for insurance, just as we are mandated by law to carry it for our cars. That move put more hardship on a lot of people and the Insurance companies eventually raised premiums anyway.

I am on Disability with a limited income each month and struggle to pay my bills now. I automatically get almost \$100.00 taken out of my Medicare check each month for something I can barely use. Not a lot there I need to have covered and dropping it is next to IMPOSSIBLE.

I am on a Texas State funded program that covers the medication, so I can afford to pay that deductible. Jumping through a hoop each month to get a prescription refill each Month is a different matter.

I do not understand why America cannot adopt an already proven system as those in Canada, Great Britain and most if not all of the EU. Stories of long waiting periods for Treatment are exaggerated as I have often chatted with people abroad.

It just seems to me that if we are mandated by a law to carry Health Insurance we will just be putting money in the pockets of the Insurance Industry and leaving those that cannot afford to pay a Premium each month outside the hospital doors.

It just really seems that Washington must be wearing EAR PLUGS, because they do not listen to what the PEOPLE want.

Sincerely,
Tim Shirley, Lubbock via Email

I See Dead People

Having been born and raised in Lubbock, I know a lot of people and a lot of people know me. And quite frankly, I like knowing a lot of people, especially during this time of year when feelings of happiness and goodwill slowly creep into your heart and soul (albeit, into some slower than others). I know, I know, it seems contrary that Acid Tongue (that's me by the way) would have the warm and fuzzies about anything, much less about her fellow woman. It's just that school will soon be out, Christmas is just around the corner, and we're starting to have a bit of weather which signals the coming of winter as well. Nice, isn't it?

And yet, feelings of melancholy also abound. According to Dictionary.com, the definition of melancholy is, "Sadness or depression of the spirits; gloom: 'There is melancholy in the wind and sorrow in the grass'..." I like the way that sounds, "There is melancholy in the wind and sorrow in the grass," although, I know not what it means. I do know however, that I am in a saddened state, not for myself or mine in particular, but for those who are all around us daily and yet, who we fail to see.

There's a Bruce Willis movie entitled, "The Sixth Sense" which, according to Wikipedia, "tells the story of Cole, a troubled, isolated [ten year-old] boy who claims to be able to see and talk to the dead" Of course, the little boy is alive and has the gift of actually "seeing" troubled ghosts. But more so, he has the ability to help those lost souls with their afflictions and thus, allow them to proceed onto the next life.

Am I saying that I can see the dearly departed? No! What I am saying is that many of us, nay; I would venture to say almost all of us, who are "alive," will not see those around us who are suffering, in pain, disillusioned. We refuse to acknowledge the existence of those who are living, breathing, sapient "creatures" and instead, we choose to ignore them, dismiss them, or far worse, we pretend that they do not exist, that they are invisible. So, sadly ever so sadly, it seems to me that, by being ignored, by becoming "invisible," by being non-existent to us, they are as good as dead.

Who specifically do I feel so sad for? It's the bell ringer at the store who we make it a point to avoid on the way out. It's the occasional beggar we run across and can't even look in the eye. It's the family member who's down on their luck and whose phone call we won't answer. It's the stranger we see walking in the ice cold, freezing weather and who we change lanes to get further from. It's the family who suffered a house fire and who we shake our head in dismay and yet, still do nothing. It's the local food drive who already has a few truckloads, so why do more? It's your neighbor who had their natural gas cut off but that's their problem.

I don't have to go on do I? We all know who we treat as the living dead. We all know who we make it a point to have disappear before our very eyes. We all see dead people, don't we?

How did we get so callous in our thoughts, our words and our actions? I know what you're thinking, "Look who's talking? Ms. I Bad Mouth Everyone". And while it's true that I spew venom, I recognize a distinction between those who can defend themselves and those who cannot. And I especially note a distinction between those in positions of power and responsibility toward others (whether elected officials or not) and those of us who are merely passengers on the train. Or are we merely passengers? Could it be we all have the innate ability to effect change, even if it is one person at a time?

There are many more who I would consider to be the living, walking, breathing ghosts of today. Just look around you, I say. Open your eyes and maybe more importantly, your heart, to those who are living in misery right before your eyes. I don't care what part of town you live in, there are people in need. And the need can be physical (hungry, cold, sick, homeless, jobless, etc...) or can be spiritual (Godless, alcoholism, drug addiction, divorced, lonely, depressed, and suicidal). What will it take for people to open their eyes, just for a moment, and notice the people around them? Notice the person living on the street or on someone's couch, hearing the rumbling of a child's hungry stomach, seeing the mother who's been beaten by a boyfriend or husband, seeing a drug addict in an alley, watching someone sobbing quietly in a corner, or seeing a teenager with the look of hopelessness in their eyes.

Or could it be that it's alright to accept a person's personal plight of misery? Besides, if I should help one in need, two others will take her place, right? Or could it be that we have, as human beings, the duty, the responsibility, the moral obligation to help the poor and needy: our brothers and sisters, our neighbors, and yes, maybe most importantly, the strangers amongst us. Maybe we shouldn't avert our eyes, shouldn't say we'll help tomorrow, shouldn't pretend that people who live in misery do not exist, and shouldn't treat the living as dead.

But alas, maybe you are right. A venomous snake has no right to give advice which consists of telling others to open their hearts and help those in need. It could be that I've lost that right by being so mean and hurtful to others. But you know what, I'm going to do what I can anyway and I'm going to continue to encourage others to do what they can as well. I refuse to turn the living into the dead, the beings who walk in front of me into ghosts, people into cold statistics.

May God bless you and your family and your friends and your neighbors and the strangers around you. And may the Spirit of the season fill you with generosity, love and the willingness to help the poor and needy.

Merry Christmas!
RMS, Lubbock via Email

Good Riddance, LHCC!.....Overton Lights.....Precinct Chairs

"We ourselves must set us free!" -Unknown poet

Last Thursday, the "Hispanic" Chamber of Commerce voted to merge with the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce by 60%-40%. If approved by the Lubbock Chamber, this would effectively put LHCC out of existence, and it would become part of the bigger Chamber which many of their members worship.

When BIDAL AGUERO, the Editor of El Editor, and his allies formed COMA many years ago, it truly represented Mexican-American business efforts. Then the "Hispanic" crowd hijacked COMA, and the well-dressed "Hispanic" Chamber wannabees fell all over themselves backing Lubbock business boondoggles, rather than assisting the folks they were supposed to serve. When I attended a meeting a few years ago, and watched the "Hispanic" Chamber "honor" a man who had destroyed a Chicano neighborhood (DELBERT McDOUGAL), I knew that these people were beyond hope. Many of these folks are VENDIDOS, "sellouts", and the Lubbock Chamber is where they belong! Now, the opportunity exists for a REAL CHICANO business association to emerge.....perhaps COMA could rise from the ashes like a Phoenix!

LHCC, you are not going to be missed!
Several months ago, the Overton Neighborhood Association asked Mayor DAVID MILLER to repair the street lights in Overton South and Broadway. Over the years, many of these lights had been damaged or destroyed, and the Mayorships of WINDY SITTON and MARC McDOUGAL totally ignored pleas for the proper maintenance of these lights. Of course, LINDA DeLeon was silent as usual. To his credit, DAVID MILLER kept his word, and almost all of the lights have been fixed. The neighborhood thanks the Mayor!

Next week, ONA shall announce the neighborhood awards for residential Christmas lighting for Christmas 2007 in Overton. More homes than ever have participated in the festive program, and some of the lighting displays are spectacular, and worthy of any neighborhood in Lubbock! It is with great sorrow that we note the passing of DAN FOGELBERG, a folk singer-songwriter who achieved great success in the 1970 and 1980s. His soft, tender ballads helped define the period, along with his kindred spirits JOHN DENVER, JAMES TAYLOR, and the EAGLES. Next week, I shall write a few words on the passing of FLOYD RED CROW WESTERMAN. CHARLIE DUNN, a longtime Lubbock attorney and frequent contributor to El Editor, penned an excellent column [22 November 2007] about the need for Precinct Chair and Democratic County Chair candidates. Many of us believe that JOHN STEINMETZ, in his first term as GOP Chair, has reached out to develop more diversity in his party, and should be heartily commended for these efforts! However, newly selected [not elected] Democratic County Chair, SUSAN BARRICK, opened her tenure by dealing inappropriately with a resolution condemning the free speech exercised by the highest-ranking Democrat in Lubbock, County Commissioner YSIDRO GUTIERREZ. He deserved better than this slanderous resolution, which should never have been accepted by the Chair, or voted on at all. This is particularly ironic since YSIDRO has been the ONLY voice for sanity, fiscal responsibility and good government on the Commissioners' Court. He opposed irresponsible tax increases, unreasonable salary demands, and unneeded expansion of County government. After initially supporting Super Precincts, he now opposes the erosion of voting security and accountability that has taken place since the creation of the Elections Office. If you are interested in helping rebuild the concept of genuine neighborhood representation on the Party committees, and election reform in general, WE NEED YOU as a Precinct Chair, be it Democrat, Republican or Libertarian. The deadline is 5 p.m. on January 2nd.....not that far away. IF you would be interested in the County Chair position, please make yourself known!!! All of us here sincerely hope that you and yours have a most MERRY CHRISTMAS!!! "God bless us every one!" -A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

Roger Quannah Settler, El Indio, Lubbock via Email

The "Freedom of Expression" section appears every week in El Editor. The views and opinions expressed here are strictly those of the writers and do not represent the views or opinions of El Editor or its advertisers.



Recibamos al Niño Jesús en nuestros corazones y celebremos el amor de Dios en nuestras vidas.

Let us welcome the Christ Child into our hearts and celebrate God's love in our Latinos' support of GOP is falling, poll finds

Report says Hispanics side with Democrats on immigration issues

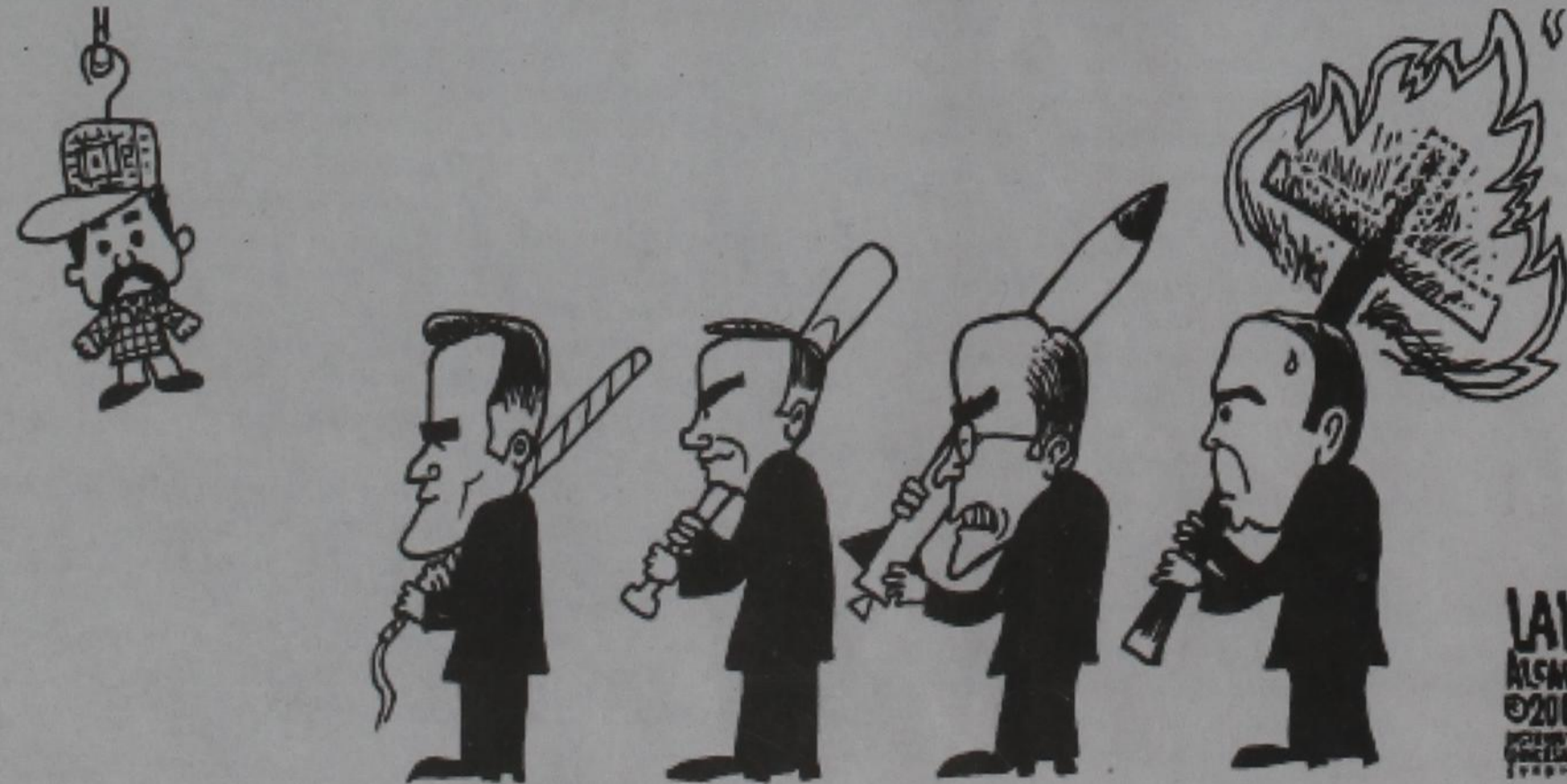
By OCTAVIO RIVERA and DIANNE SOLÍS Al Día
Hispanic voters' support of the Republican Party is sliding, according to a Pew Hispanic Center poll released Thursday. About 57 percent of Hispanic registered voters call themselves Democrats or say they lean toward the Democratic Party, while 23 percent call themselves Republican or say they're supportive of the GOP. President Bush received 40 percent of the Hispanic vote in 2004, but that was before illegal immigration became the subject of a national debate.

"A plurality of Hispanics view the Democratic Party rather than the Republican Party as the one that shows more concern for Latinos and does a better job on the issue of illegal immigration," says the Pew report, "Hispanics and the 2008 Election: A Swing Vote?" "The almost violent position of the Republican Party in the immigration debate is enough reason for the Latino community to offer political loyalty to the Democratic Party," said Roberto Calderón, an assistant history professor at the University of North Texas. Steve Gonzales, chairman of the Dallas County Republican Party's Hispanic Leadership Council, said it would be best to wait to see the results in general elections. "The Republican Party has excellent candidates for the presidency," he said. "I don't see how we can lose the Hispanic support we had in 2000 and 2004."

The Pew report says Hispanics make up 15 percent of the U.S. population, but their electoral participation does not coincide with their demographics. For example, in Dallas' 32nd Congressional District—currently represented by Republican Pete Sessions—about 21 percent of the eligible voters are Hispanic. That's the highest percentage for a congressional district in North Texas. But the 32nd district's population is 43 percent Hispanic, according to 2006 Census data. The number of eligible Hispanic voters could rise if the federal government reduces a backlog of citizenship applications. In the last fiscal year, Citizenship and Immigration Services was deluged with nearly 1.4 million petitions. Last month, agency officials said it could take up to 18 months for petitions to be processed. Such a delay will mean that many won't be able to vote in the presidential elections. And that's brought complaints and even lawsuits from the ACLU and others. "We are very disappointed in the backlog," said Alberto Ruiz, who works on a national citizenship drive in the Dallas area. "We thought that the government would be pleased and inspired a little bit" by the national effort to galvanize legal permanent residents to file for naturalization, Mr. Ruiz said. "To have to wait more than nine months just to receive a response that the government has received your documents is ridiculous," he said.

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Creating Action
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IALO
MAY 2007

50th anniversary Grinch among kids' holiday books

Shelby 'Scrooge' taken to task on 'Dr. Phil' TV show

The Grinch is a half-century old.

To celebrate, Random House has released a retrospective of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" that includes the original text plus 32 pages of commentary compiled by Charles D. Cohen, a Dr. Seuss expert.

From Dr. Seuss' Grinch with his

heart two sizes too small to Lemony Snicket's screaming latke and a chicken named Minerva who follows Santa down the chimney, plenty of delightful characters are featured in holiday children's books this year.

Here's a sampling of child-oriented works:

• "How the Grinch Stole Christmas: A 50th Anniversary Retrospective." Written and illustrated by Dr. Seuss (ages 4-8; Random House Books for Young Readers). Did you know the Grinch was initially black and white with pink eyes? Or that the song the Whos were singing was different the first time Seuss composed it?

"Who noo neebu!
"Who doo deebu!
"Welcome, Christmas! Christmas cheer!
"Nuh who norbick!
"Duh who dorbick!"

Fortunately Dr. Seuss was a perfectionist for words, and he

reworked the song. These tidbits of info from Dr. Cohen make the Grinch story even more precious.

• "The Latke Who Couldn't Stop Screaming: A Christmas Story."

By Lemony Snicket with illustrations by Lisa Brown (ages 6-9; McSweeney's). Knowing the author is the creator of the "Series of Unfortunate Events" sets high expectations for his first picture book, and Snicket delivers.

At first the latke is screaming because he's put in hot oil to fry, but, after he escapes he screams in frustration at the misunderstanding about his holiday, which is definitely not Christmas.

Readers know the eventual ending because Snicket sets up the book with, "This story ends in someone's mouth ..." but his dark humor along the way makes a fun tale with a bit of learning thrown in.

• "Olivia Helps With Christmas." Written and illustrated by Ian Falconer (ages 4-8; Atheneum). Waiting for Santa passes quickly for Olivia (sort of) when there are so many things to do in preparation for his visit.

Falconer relies on his own childhood traditions to illustrate his familiar black-and-white pig dotted with patches of green and red in holiday activities.

• "The All-I'll-Ever-Want Christmas Doll." By Patricia C. McKissack with illustrations by Jerry Pinkney (ages 4-8; Schwartz & Wade). Nella wants a Baby Bet-

ty doll for Christmas, but she and her sisters don't dare wish for anything that extravagant during the Depression. So 7-year-old Nella secretly writes a letter to Santa.

When Baby Betty arrives, Nella claims her. She soon finds out that sharing with her sisters is more fun than a boring old doll that just sits there. Beautiful watercolor images and realistic conversations make this book a holiday treasure.

• "Minerva Louise on Christmas Eve." Written and illustrated by Janet Morgan Stoake (ages 3-6; Dutton Juvenile). Minerva Louise is not exactly the brightest hen in the barnyard, so young readers will be delighted to be in on the joke when Santa arrives at the farm house. Simple drawings in bright colors will encourage readers to enjoy the story more than once.

• "Russell's Christmas Magic." Written and illustrated by Rob Scotton (ages 4-8; HarperCollins). Santa's sleigh breaks down in Firefly Wood, so Christmas may have to be canceled. Not if Russell the sheep has anything to say about it! Russell turns a junker car into a new sleigh and joins Santa on his magical trip. Scotton's whimsical illustrations of the bug-eyed sheep and his sidekick frog are full of details plus text that winds around the images.

• "N is for Navidad." Written by Susan Middleton Elya and Merry Banks with illustrations by Joe Cepeda (ages 4-8; Chronicle Books). This alphabet book uses the Spanish alphabet, so there are 30 letters to illustrate the traditional Hispanic holiday season that begins Dec. 16 and continues to Jan. 6, when the three kings arrived to greet Jesus.

A simple glossary in the back of the book explains the words, although most of them are self-explanatory from the vibrant illustrations by Cepeda. The delightful book reinforces the alphabet and teaches about other customs.

• "Angela and the Baby Jesus (Children's Edition)." By Frank McCourt with illustrations by Raul Colon (ages 4-8; Simon & Schuster). Pulitzer-winning author McCourt's first Christmas book is a wonderful story about family based on a memory from his mother, Angela, when she was 6.

Little Angela thinks baby Jesus must be cold lying in the manger, so she takes

him home to warm him up. This children's version with luminous illustrations by Colon is being published simultaneously with an adult edition - same words, different illustrator.

Television psychologist Dr. Phil McGraw helped a Shelby man with a Scrooge complex see the light.

Jose and Tammy Lopez's opposing beliefs about Christmas gifts made up the opening segment of the "Dr. Phil" show Wednesday. This fall, Tammy Lopez answered a query posted on the "Dr. Phil" show's Web site, asking fans whether they knew anyone who lacked the holiday spirit.

She e-mailed a reply describing her husband.

Tammy Lopez said Jose was kind of a "Grinch or Scrooge" - reluctant to give gifts, and stingy when he did.

One time he gave her a stuffed animal. When she told him she thought it was cute, she learned he'd fished it out of a Dumpster. Another time, when she yearned for a \$30 silicone bakeware set, he got her a cheap substitute.

Valentine's Day isn't recognized either, and she has paid for her own birthday dinners, she told the Dr. Phil staff.

Almost before Tammy could blink twice, a TV crew was on the couple's doorstep on Marvin Street. Interviews lasted from early morning to late at night. Later, the couple flew to Hollywood to tape an interview with Dr. Phil.

More than 20 friends and family members joined Tammy on Wednesday in the Lopez's living room, munching on brie, coffee cakes and fruit as they watched the show.

Jose, who works at Copperweld, would get a chance to watch the 5 p.m. airing, later in the day.

Jose, a Hispanic Jew who became a Christian convert in the 1970s, told Dr. Phil he never felt comfortable with commercialized aspects of Christmas. He considers it important to pay rent and bills first, and doesn't have spare cash to buy extravagant gifts.

"I respect his beliefs," Tammy Lopez told Dr. Phil. "But I have a problem when he spoils Christmas for everybody else. He says it's religious. I disagree. I think he's cheap."

Dr. Phil told the couple he learned something about giving in 31 years of marriage.

"You aren't stepping up and honoring her," he told the Shelby man. "My opinion is that Christmas is a lot about relationships. It's about finding a comfort zone for the family."

At the end of the show, Dr. Phil surprised Tammy with a set of Rachael Ray pots and pans. He gave Jose and Tammy each a \$500 gift card, with instructions to Jose to spend nearly every penny on his wife.

"I think he's going to be a lot better. This will give you a running start," McGraw said.

Tammy Lopez says her husband took Dr. Phil's advice to heart.

"When we came home, he bought Christmas presents, wrapped them and hid them. He was all secretive and he really enjoyed it."

"He was like a little kid." Jose went shopping for a Christmas tree that wouldn't go up until Hanukkah ends. He bought her almond chocolates for Hanukkah, an unexpected surprise.

Both Lopezes enjoyed shopping this year for "a ton of things" for their 10-month-old daughter Selena, a baby they never thought they'd have.

Tammy said her husband wasn't upset with her. Coworkers already called him "Ebenezer Lopez."

Tammy said Dr. Phil was genuine and easy to talk to.

"His staff makes you feel like you've known them all their lives," she said. "I gabbed with everybody there. I took Christmas cards for the staff and for Dr. Phil and (his wife) Robin."

Jose Lopez said he has put a lot of thought into his religion, and still believes many people attach too much significance to holiday traditions created long after Christ's death.

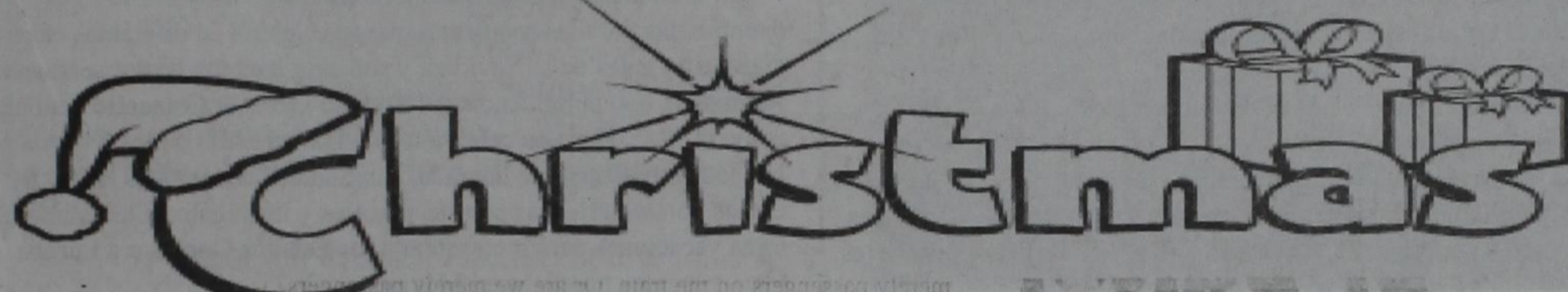
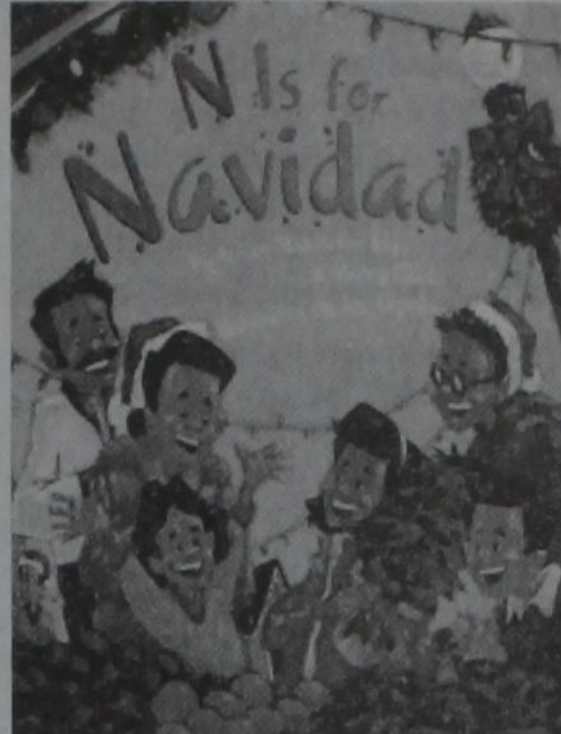
"Christmas is what it is because of the Roman popes. Jesus was born in September. He wasn't born in December."

But Dr. Phil reminded him that gifts are a good way to honor people you love.

Friends watching the 10 a.m. airing included the Rev. Jeff Shaull of Discovery Church in Lexington. It can be a struggle to get into the holiday spirit for many people, especially where loss of a loved one occurs close to the holidays, Shaull said.

"It's the thoughtfulness of that gift that speaks. It's not the expense, but the trouble you go through to personalize that, to show that you really care for that person," Shaull said.

Tammy Shaull said her husband tells her he loves her through unexpected giving. Her eyes glowed remembering times that occurred.



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Tradiciones Mexicanas para La Navidad

La Navidad es una festividad religiosa entre las familias tradicionales y en las zonas rurales.

La Navidad significa el nacimiento de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Para prepararnos para ese día en que celebramos simbólicamente Su Nacimiento, tenemos Posadas. Estas posadas son una "Novena" o nueve días antes de la Noche Buena, que es el 24 de diciembre.

Las Posadas son una actuación de la penuria que pasaron San José y La Virgen María para encontrar posada o albergue en su viaje a Belén para cumplir con el Censo de acuerdo con las Escrituras. En español les llamamos "Los Santos Peregrinos José y María". Cada familia en un barrio se turna una noche y celebra con una posada en su casa; empiezan 16 de diciembre y terminan el 24 en la Noche Buena.

En cada casa hay un Nacimiento. Los anfitriones representan a los hosteleros y los niños del barrio, así como los adultos, representan a "Los Peregrinos" quienes piden posada con un cántico simple a sus versos. Todos llevan en sus manos velitas encendidas y se escogen cuatro adolescentes para que carguen a Los Peregrinos, que son dos pequeñas estatuillas de San José jalando a un burro en el cual va montada de lado la Virgen María. La procesión va guiada por una vela dentro de un "farolito", que es como un acordeón de papel de colores con una apertura arriba y una vela adentro.



Los Peregrinos piden posada en tres diferentes casas pero solamente la tercera les dejará entrar. Esa es la casa a la que le corresponde la posada esa noche. Cuando los hosteleros les permiten pasar, el grupo de invitados entra en el hogar y se arrodilla alrededor de el Nacimiento y reza el Rosario. El Rosario es una oración católica que consiste en 50 Ave Marías, 5 Padre Nuestros, 5 Glorias, y la Letanía, que es una serie de alabanzas para la Virgen María, además también se cantan canciones tradicionales de Navidad, como Noche de Paz, en español ¡por supuesto!

Después de todos estos rezos, sigue la fiesta para los niños. Se les celebra con una Piñata, la cual está llena de cacahuates (maní), naranjas, mandarinas, cañas de azúcar, y a veces caramelos envueltos. Por supuesto, también hay cánticos para entonar mientras que el niño en turno trata de romper la piñata con un palo y con los ojos vendados.

Aunque la Piñata es originaria de Italia, se ha convertido en una tradición mexicana para cualquier tipo de celebración en la cual hay niños. La Piñata se hacía con un jarro de barro y se decoraba con papel crepé de diferentes colores. Hoy en día, las piñatas están hechas de cartón y de papel maché y se decoran con papel crepé. Este cambio fue hecho para evitar que los niños se cortaran las manos cuando se tiraban al suelo a recoger las frutas y los dulces al quebrar la Piñata ya que los pedazos de barro rotos eran peligrosos. Hay todo tipo de diseños, además de la estrella, que es la piñata tradicional de Navidad.

Para los adultos siempre hay "Ponche con Piquete", es una bebida caliente hecha con frutas de la estación con trozos de canela y con un poco de aguardiente (ron, tequila, mezcal, cognac, jerez, etc.). Un buen sustituto en Ohio es la sidra de manzana con frutas, sin "piquete".

En la Noche Buena, el 24 de diciembre, todos van a la Misa de Noche Buena que es a las 12, o a la medianoche. Después de la misa, todos se van a sus respectivas casas a la Cena de Navidad con su familia y cualquier amigo que carezca de familia, siempre es bienvenido a participar en la celebración, pero lo más importante, es poner al Niño Jesús en el pesebre en el Nacimiento.

Los regalos no se reciben en la Navidad porque la Navidad es la celebración del Nacimiento de Nuestro Salvador.

La noche del año nuevo, hay una Misa de Gallo, se celebra a la medianoche también. Algunas familias optan por ir a la iglesia

al anochecer para dar gracias por todas las bendiciones recibidas durante el año.

La celebración en la cual los niños reciben los juguetes no es sino hasta el 6 de enero, "el día de Reyes" o Los Reyes Magos. Fueron los Reyes Magos quienes le llevaron los regalos al Niño Jesús, por consiguiente, son ellos quienes traen los regalos a los niños y a las niñas que se han portado bien. Los niños ponen sus zapatos cerca de la ventana para que los Reyes Magos le pongan el regalo en su zapato. Si el regalo es más grande que el zapato, entonces lo ponen al lado. Varios niños reciben un par de zapatos (calzado) nuevo como regalo.

El día Reyes se celebra con una merienda que consiste de chocolate caliente y la Rosca de Reyes La merienda se lleva a cabo entre las 5 y las 7 de la tarde y no es una comida pesada, sino algo así como lo equivalente al "High Tea".

La Rosca de Reyes es un pan en forma de guirnalda que está hecha con muchos huevos y es muy grande, está cubierta con frutas cristalizadas y azúcar encima, pero adentro hay una figurita de cerámica que representa al Niño Jesús. La persona a la que le toque la pieza del pan con la figurita, tiene que ser el Padrino o la Madrina del Niño Jesus en el Día de la Candelaria, el dos de Febrero.

El día de la Candelaria es el día de la Luz, el día de la Purifi-



cación. Ese día se recoge el Nacimiento con una fiesta organizada por la persona que se sacó el Niño Jesús en la Rosca de Reyes. Dicha persona es responsable por hacerle el Ropón al Niño Jesús. Se acostumbra a celebrar ese día con una cena con Tamales. (Los tamales son un platillo típico de México que se hace con masa de maíz y se rellenan con carnes en salsa o con pasitas y se le agrega azúcar para hacerlos dulces y se envuelven con las hojas del elote).

En la actualidad, estas tradiciones han sido modificadas. Por ejemplo, las posadas son fiestas que se celebran en diferentes casas nueve días antes de la Navidad, y son simplemente fiestas seculares. Asimismo, con la influencia del Tratado Libre de Comercio conocido como el TLC, ahora se celebra la Navidad al estilo de los Estados Unidos entre la gente adinerada, con Santa Claus y todas las tradiciones norteamericanas con sus platillos y los regalos. Otra gente se toma vacaciones para ir a esquiar a los Estados Unidos o a Europa, o viaja a lugares turísticos en México.

Todas las instituciones educativas tienen vacaciones por tres semanas y no regresan a las clases sino hasta después del 6 de enero. Asimismo, las oficinas de gobierno y sus dependencias cierran durante esas dos semanas.



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Re-Elect Ysidro Gutiérrez

Lubbock County Commissioner Pct. 3

THIS IS MY RECORD

of Service to the People of Lubbock County

RE-ELECT A PERSON WITH THE QUALIFICATIONS TO LEAD

EDUCATION

Texas Tech University
College of Business Administration
Masters of Business Administration
May 1999
B.B.A., (Management) August 1993

MILITARY SERVICE

Served our nation
HONORABLY
for 20 years as a Senior
Noncommissioned Officer
in the US Army Medical Department

One of only three in the specialty field to
achieve the rank of Sergeant Major
in under 20 years.

A graduate of the
US Army Sergeants Major Academy;
the Army's premier leadership school.

Selected as the
Health Services Command
NCO of the Year for 1983.

RE-ELECT A PERSON WHO CARES ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY



Commissioner Gutiérrez gives a helping hand. Lubbock County Commissioner Ysidro Gutiérrez poses with local elderly couple in front of a new 65,000 BTU heater. The elderly couple's old heater broke down in Feb 2007. Commissioner Gutiérrez appealed to the citizens of Lubbock for financial support to repair the heater. As usual, the people of Lubbock responded generously and the heater was repaired but in Oct 2007 the old heater broke down for the final time. Just days before the first freeze, the elderly couple contacted Commissioner Gutiérrez asking for help once again. The National Weather Service forecast warned of a hard freeze on October 23, 2007. Commissioner Gutiérrez said, "We had to move fast. An elderly couple froze to death last year. We can't allow this to happen again in Lubbock." He and an anonymous donor purchased and had the new heater installed in the couples home. "We appreciate Ysidro, his help came just in time," said the couple.



Lubbock County Commissioner Ysidro Gutiérrez presented a cashier's check to Bailey County Commissioner Juan Chavez during the annual celebration of Mexican Independence Day, commonly known as Fiestas Patrias. "When we heard that Ysidro was going to donate his pay raise to charity, we called to ask him if he would give it to the Comite Patriotico building fund," said Commissioner Chavez. Ysidro said, "The people of Muleshoe were the first to ask." The money will be used to help pay for the groups community center. "Our building is used mainly by the children," said Commissioner Chavez. "They are the ones who will benefit from the donation." Commissioner Gutiérrez says the building will serve the people of Muleshoe for many years. "It's a great way to use the money," he said.



Re-elect a Person with a Record of Community Service

- DJ, La Vida Católica Diocesana Radio Ministry
- Co-Director, RCIA at Our Lady of Grace Church
- Member, City of Lubbock Policy Review Committee
- Member, City of Lubbock Citizens Advisory Committee
- Chair, Lubbock Boys and Girls Club National Kids Day
- Director, Viva Aztlan Music, Dance, and Mariachi Festival
- Chancellors Community Minority Advisory Council
- Chancellors Pastor's Forum
- President, Raiders Rojos National Alumni 2001
- Director, Raiders Rojos National Alumni 2002
- Member, LISD Bond Steering Committee 1999
- Organizer, Community Youth Development for 79415
- MDA Toast of West Texas



South Plains Chapter Lubbock

RE-ELECT A PERSON WITH A POSITIVE RECORD OF SERVICE FOR THE PEOPLE OF IDALOU

Economic Development

- New Dairy at ECR5800 and NCR3600.
- Annual increase of \$4 million of new economic activity, direct and indirect.
- Marks the return of milk production to Lubbock County after a 25 year absence.
- 21 New Jobs will eventually be created.
- \$8 million added to County Tax Base.

Quality of Life for the People of Idalou

- New Lubbock County Idalou Community Club House.
- New Parking Lot for the Lubbock County Idalou Community Club House
- New Bleachers for the Lubbock County Idalou

Community Baseball Field.

- Painted the exterior of the Lubbock County Idalou Senior Citizens Center.
- Added \$3,200 as annual support for the Idalou Public Library.

County Roads

- 25 Miles of improved County Roads from 2005 to 2006.
- A one-time ear-mark of \$95,000 for caliche for Idalou area for 2007.
- Annual increase of \$1 million with \$250,000 for Idalou area.
- New Consolidated Road System with increased efficiency and productivity.

Public Safety

- Increased annual funding for the Volunteer Fire Department to \$59,925.
- \$4,080 emergency allocation in 2006 to respond to summer wild-fires.

Future Projects:

- Resurface Basketball Court at the County Park.

Future Goals

- Double funding for the Idalou Volunteer Fire Department.
- Double funding for all Lubbock County Volunteer Fire Departments.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2008

On March 4, 2008 Vote in the Democratic Primary and Re-Elect a Capable, Qualified and Caring Person to Lubbock County Commissioner Pct. 3

Ysidro Gutiérrez

Visit our web site at www.ysidrogutierrez.com

Paid for by Re-Elect Ysidro Gutiérrez Campaign Committee - Magdaleno Hernandez, treasurer

Teach Holiday Songs to Children

Give Your Child the Gift of Music this Holiday Season with Tips from Certified Music Teacher

SCHENECTADY, NY
- December 18, 2007 - With the holidays fast approaching, parents are often trying to find age-appropriate songs to teach their young children. But according to one certified music expert learning songs can be difficult for young children. The key is to teach using techniques that focus on movement, tempo, and rhythm rather than complicated words and phrases.

"There is no better time to start teaching your child easy and effective methods to help build a strong singing and music foundation," says Carol Jurs, owner of Music Box Arts (www.musicboxarts.com) in the Capital Region. "For kids under the age of five, learning through rhythms and movement help simplify the song and make singing fun for the whole family."

Jurs, a certified children's music teacher who focuses on teaching children music through experience to develop richer lives, shares tips on how

to choose the right "learning" songs for your child.

1. Start with Chants. "Chants are good because children do not have to think about two separate elements, the language and music," says Jurs.

2. Keep it Simple. Jurs suggests that children tend to get frustrated with songs that are too difficult, which complicates the learning process. "Choose songs that are simple and that have the ability to teach children about tonal and rhythmic concepts, dynamics (loud/soft), tempo (fast/slow) and steady beat," she says.

3. Add Movement. "Movement is important in learning music whether it be finger play or small and large movement," Jurs says. "Some children learn by moving, known as 'kinesthetic' learners."

4. Limit the Range. "Look for a song with a limited range that fits within the child's singing range, which is actually higher than the untrained adult range," she says.

5. Limit the Words. "Few words or no words are also important," says Jurs. "Children are bogged down and frustrated by learning so many words."

From the bottom of my heart

By ALAN SCOTT NOBLITT from the Daily Citizen

Submitted On the first posada, children do a play of the Christmas story.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is one in a series of holiday stories being written by the Daily Citizen staff that uses a Christmas song as a theme.

Feliz Navidad

Feliz Navidad

Feliz Navidad

Prospero a?o y Felicidad

I want to wish you a Merry Christmas

I want to wish you a Merry Christmas

I want to wish you a Merry Christmas

From the bottom of my heart

The lyrics are simple and repetitive, yet the tune has already become a classic holiday song. Even those who speak no Spanish know the two words for Merry Christmas — Feliz Navidad.

As the Daily Citizen looks at how Christmas songs are connected to the community, no song better gives a reason to consider an ever-growing population in the area; the Latino community is estimated to be around 2,000.

A Beaver Dam resident in touch with the Hispanic community in the city is the Rev. Carlos Florez, an associate pastor at St. Katharine Drexel Parish. He described the Latino Christmas as a religious time when people pray and go to church.

"The celebration of Christmas in the Spanish-speaking community is made of up the 'posadas,'" Florez said. The posadas are a nine-day period that begins on Dec. 16 and ends on Dec. 24 with nine houses to be visited — one each day. On each day, a group visits a home chosen to hold the posada and asks for a room inside, much in the same way that Joseph and Mary did on Christmas Eve.

"People knock on the door asking for lodging at each place," Florez said. At the outset, the answer is invariably a rejection, that the owners have no have room.

"But we keep asking and asking and asking, and eventually, the owners say, 'OK, we do have room,'" he said. "Once we are in the home, we bless the house, we

pray together and then we feast and play music."

What is important, Florez said, is the symbolism of the gesture. "The family opens the door to God who comes to live in that house."

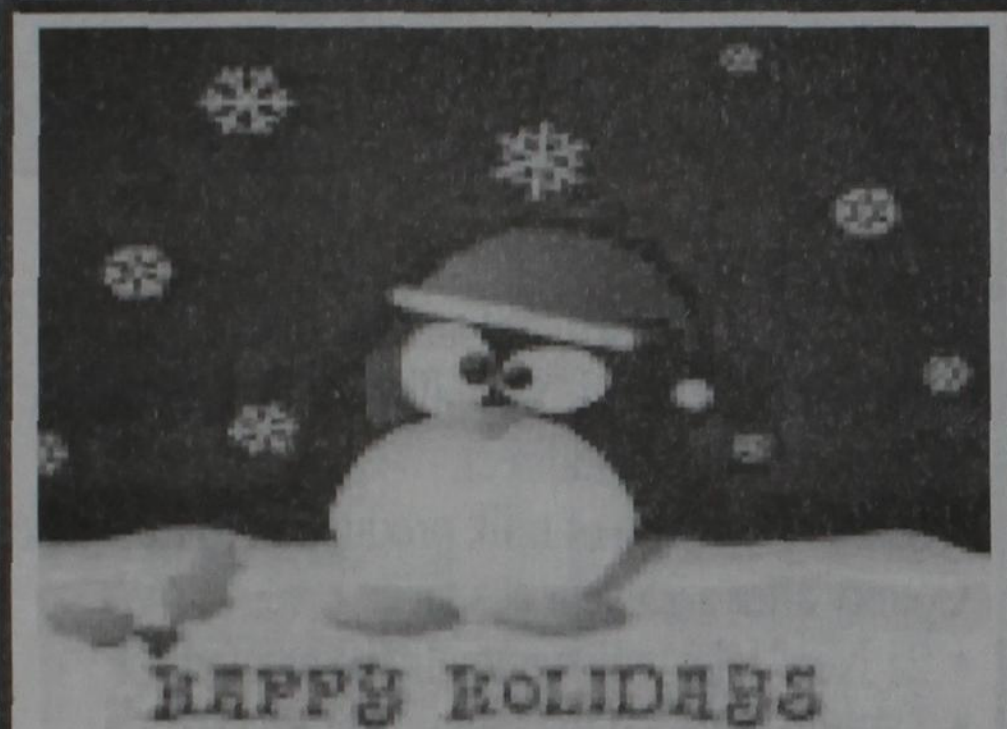
Florez said. Dec. 29 is the "vigil night" and Jan. 6 is the celebration of the three kings (known as the feast of the Epiphany in the Catholic Church).

"We select three men from the community who have to invite others into their homes. We bless their house, pray and we eat," he

orated as anyone else would do.

The commercialization of Christmas affects Hispanic traditions, he said, but the holiday is, after all, a religious one.

"When we do the posada, we emphasize that the main meaning of Christmas is be together, to worship together and to know that



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Feliz Navidad y Prospero Año 2008

"On the ninth day, we go to the church, knock on the door and ask for lodging, and again, those inside say, 'No, we don't have room,'" Florez said. "But the other group keeps insisting until they are let in. Once they are in, we pray together, we bless the church and again, the celebration of food and music starts."

Hortensia Garcia, who originally comes from Guadalajara, Mexico, and has been here for six years, described the day.

"The most important of all is to place the baby Jesus in the manger in the nativity scene at midnight. (Then) we sing and share presents."

There are two other days in the Latino celebration of Christmas,

said. "Then these three men go to church and bring gifts for all the children in church."

That means there are actually two days when children may get presents.

"Our kids usually got presents from the three wise kings, but now Santa is becoming popular and our kids are asking Santa for presents," said Garcia.

Although the idea of Santa Claus is used as well in the Latino community, Florez said, it is not emphasized as much. He admits that many children in the Hispanic community simply belong to American culture and naturally recognize Santa Claus.

As for the Christmas tree, many houses have one and they are dec-

God is with us."

Still, it is a festive time of year.

"We have food, pinatas and gifts, music and dances," he said. "They do have a lot of fun."



Holiday Greetings



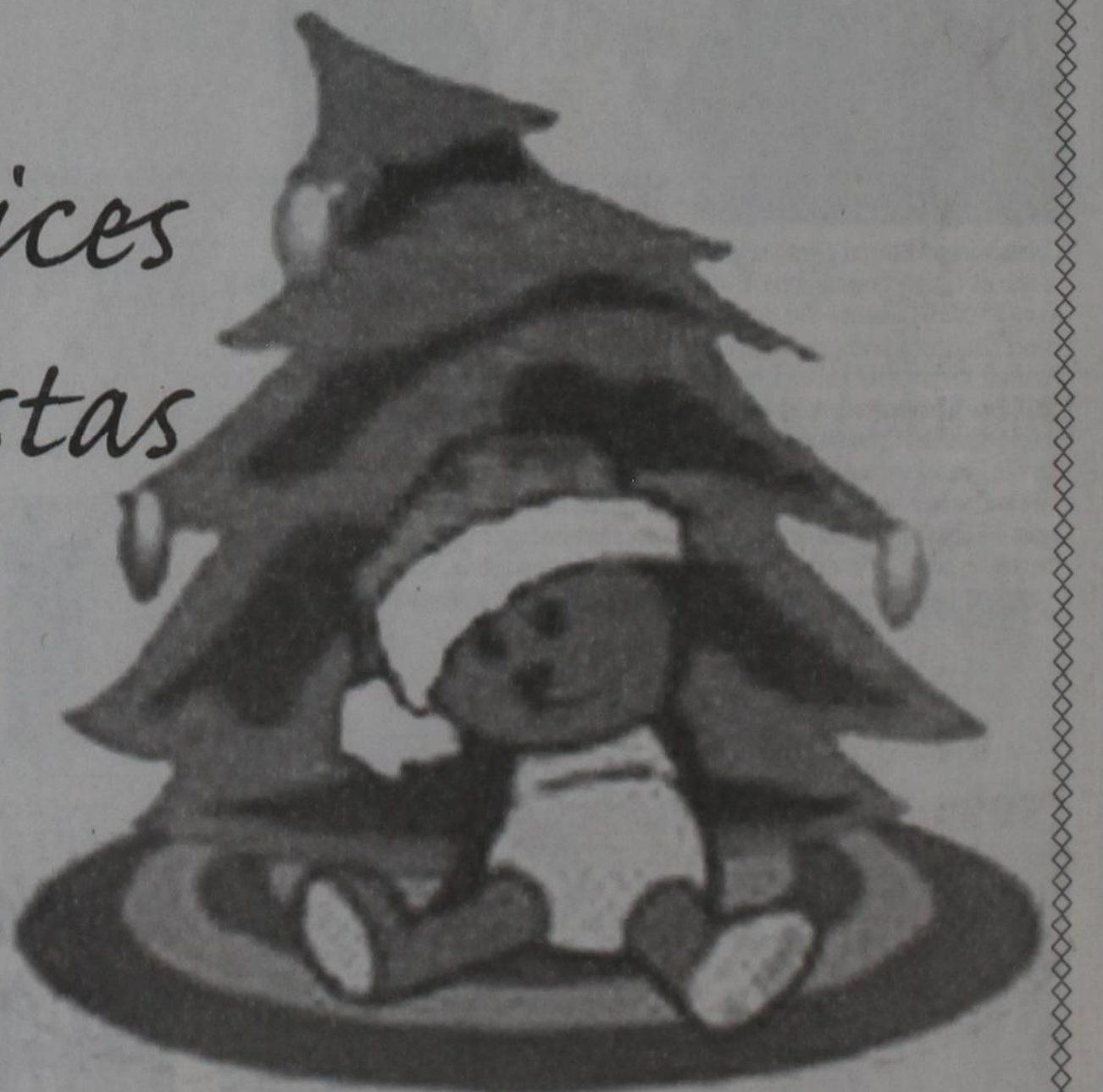
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Mexican Traditions for Christmas

Christmas for Mexicans, in traditional homes and rural areas, is a religious holiday.

It is a celebration of the Nativity. This means the birthday of Our Lord Jesus. In order to prepare for the day of symbolic commemoration, we have the "Posadas". These celebrations are a "Novena" or nine days before the 24 which is the "Noche Buena" or "Holy Night".

These Posadas are an enactment of looking for lodging of St. Joseph and Virgin Mary, called The Pilgrims going to Bethlehem for the Census according to the Scriptures. In Spanish we called them: "Los Peregrinos, San José y la Virgen María". Each family in a neighborhood, will schedule a night for the Posada to be held at their home, starting on the 16th of December and finishing on the 24th on Noche Buena.

Every home will have a Nativity scene. The hosts of the home are the innkeepers, and the neighborhood children and adults are Los Peregrinos, who have to request lodging through singing a simple chant. All carry small lit candles in their hands and four teenagers of about the same height are chosen to carry Los Peregrinos, which are two small statues of St. Joseph leading a donkey, which Virgin Mary is riding sidesaddle. The head of the procession will have a candle inside of a paper lamp shade that looks like an accordion but open at the top and it is called a "Farolito" or little lantern.

The Peregrinos will ask for lodging in three different houses but only the third one will allow them in. That will be the house that is supposed to have the Posada for that evening. Once the innkeepers let them in, the group of guests comes into the home and kneels around the Nativity scene to pray the Rosary. The Rosary is a traditional Catholic prayer, which consists of the following prayers: 50 Hail Mary, 5 Our Father, 5 Glory and the Litany, which is a series of Praises for the Virgin Mary, plus singing traditional songs like Holy Night in Spanish of course!

After all the prayer is done, then it comes the party for the children. There will be a Piñata, (pronounce Pignata, for it has an ñ instead of an n), filled with peanuts in the shell, oranges, tangerines, sugar canes, and seldom wrapped hard candy. Of course, there will be other types of chants the children will sing while the child in turn is trying to break the Piñata with a stick while he/she will be blindfolded.

Although the Piñata was originally from Italy, it has become a Mexican tradition for celebrations where there are children involved. The Piñata was made out of a clay pot and decorated with crepe paper in different colors. Today's piñatas are made out of cardboard and paper mache techniques and decorated with crepe paper. This change was made to prevent the children from cutting their hands when going for the fruit and candy when the Piñata was broken and the clay piece would become a hazard. They would have all kinds of designs besides the traditional star.

For the adults there is always "Ponche con Piquete" (sting), which is a hot beverage or "Punch" made out of seasonal fruits and cinnamon sticks, with a shot of alcoholic spirit. A good substitute here in Ohio is hot apple cider with fruits, without the "spirits".

On Noche Buena, December 24, everybody goes to Misa de Noche Buena which is at midnight. After the Mass, everyone goes to their respective homes to have dinner with family and any friend who does not have a family is always welcome to be part of a family celebration, and most important of all to place the Baby Jesus in the manger in the Nativity scene.

The presents are not received on Christmas, for Christmas is a celebration of Life of Our Savior.

The New Year's Eve, there is a Misa de Gallo, (Rooster's Mass) that takes place at midnight also. Some families go to church earlier to give thanks for all the blessings received during the year.

The children's celebration of receiving presents is not until January 6th, "el día de Reyes", the day of the Kings, or the Wise Men Day. It is the Magi who brought the presents to the Baby Jesus, thus, they bring the toys to the boys and girls who have been good. The children place their shoes by the window, so the Magi place the present in the shoe. If the present is bigger than the shoe, it will be placed next to it. Many children, get a new pair of shoes for a present.

El día de Reyes is celebrated with a "Merienda" consisting of hot chocolate and "The Rosca de Reyes". "La Merienda is the meal that takes place any time between 5 P.M. and 7 P.M. it is not a heavy meal but the equivalent of "High Tea".

The Rosca de Reyes is a big oval wreath made out of egg bread (like an egg bagel, but huge) with dry fruit decorations

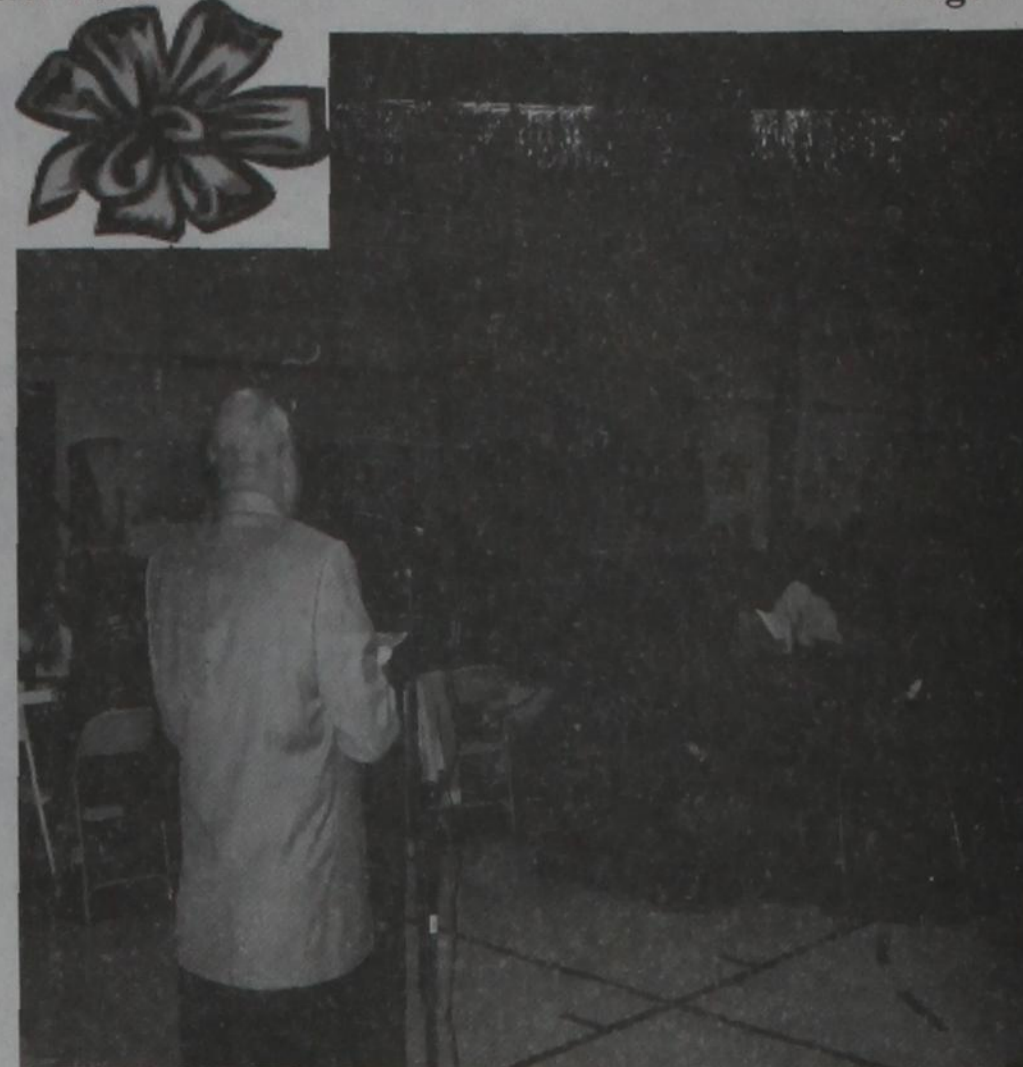
and sprinkled sugar on top, but inside, there is a little ceramic doll which represents the Baby Jesus. The person who gets the piece of bread with the Baby, must be the Godparent of the Baby Jesus in the celebration of the Candelaria, on February 2nd..

"El día de la Candelaria" is the day of the Candle or Light, known as the Day of Purification. That day, the Nativity scene is put away with a party given by the person who got the Baby Jesus in his/her piece of bread during the Rosca de Reyes celebration. He or she will be responsible for making a "Rocon" or christening gown for Baby Jesus. Generally, they have a Dinner with Tamales (Tamales are corn bread filled with meats in a sauce or raisins wrapped in corn husks).

Lately, these traditions have been modified. For example, the Posadas are now nine parties that are celebrated in different friends homes before Christmas. Also, with the North American Free Trade Agreement, known as NAFTA, Christmas is now celebrated the American style, with Santa Claus, the meals and presentes, mostly among the affluent people. Others take trips to sky resorts in the United States or Europe, or travel to turistic places within Mexico.

All the education institutions are on vacation during the holidays, they do not get back to school until after January 6th. Also, the government offices and the other institutions connected with the government close during those two week

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Y
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Año
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Richard Lopez president of Guadalupe Economic Services held their annual xmas party at St. Joseph's Catholic Hall last week. Food and refreshments were served at the event.



Feliz Navidad

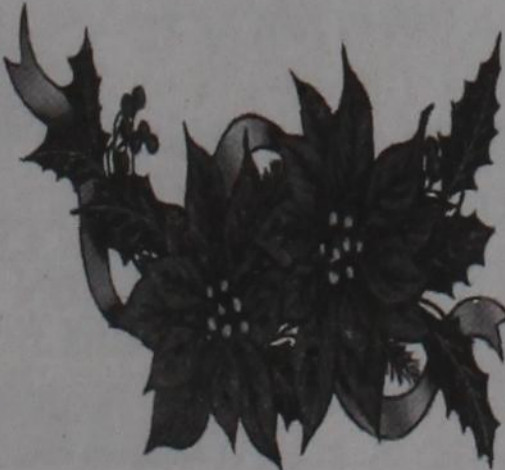


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Keeping Family Traditions is hard work

When everything Christmas comes with a shortcut - the pre-designed Christmas card, the pre-decorated tree, even cookies already cut because who has time for slicing - the high-maintenance homemade holiday tamale is facing grim times, indeed. Tamales are a beloved icon of local culture, but those lovely, luscious bundles can take three days to prepare. The recipe has to be extracted from generations of memory: Many of those nans refused to write it down. And assembling the precious dozens requires a horde of helpers who must eke a spare Saturday out of December's insanity. All of this, and you can get a dozen from the drive-through for \$18. The cultural sellout is tempt-

ing: You'd still have tamales for Christmas. But there would



saving a fading tradition.

"We make ourselves do them," says Margaret Macias, 53, of Phoenix, who has pared her yearly 35 dozen tamale tradition to a trim 20 bundles. "It was just too much. Nobody likes to do it anymore. It's just a lot of work. It can be fun. . . . And then it's like I still make 'em because I don't wanna lose that knowledge." Then, when the cooking is done, "you have so many pots to wash out, and it's 'Oh, my God, who's gonna do the pots?' But we all enjoy that day, even if we're dead tired." In today's rapidly merging Hispanic and American cultures, "there are a lot of traditions that kind of dissipate," says Abelardo de la Peña Jr. of Los Angeles, a strategist

be guilt. And disappointed children. And somewhere, up in heaven, a disgusted nana shaking her head. Some Latino families now sacrifice the homemade tamale to modern times, buying a few dozen or picking up pre-made masa and mixed meat from the market. But others pony it up and slug through the kitchen fest in the name of preserving their rapidly assimilating culture and

with Iconoculture, a consumer research group. "The use of Spanish as a primary language, the telenovelas. But (tamales) are something that can be passed on in a cultural way, a culinary way, in an authentic, real fun way of passing on food and party and enjoyment." Of course, this "passing on" means that you get yourself to a kitchen and you watch and help and learn. The first ingredient in this recipe is time, and the rest is absorbed just by being there and getting your hands into some dough. Twelve-year-old Lorena Ledezma of Phoenix has been haunting the kitchen at tamale time for as long as she can remember. She can't wait until it's her turn to learn - maybe this year, her mother says. She loves being in there with her mother and all of her aunts, everybody focused on making morsels of joy.

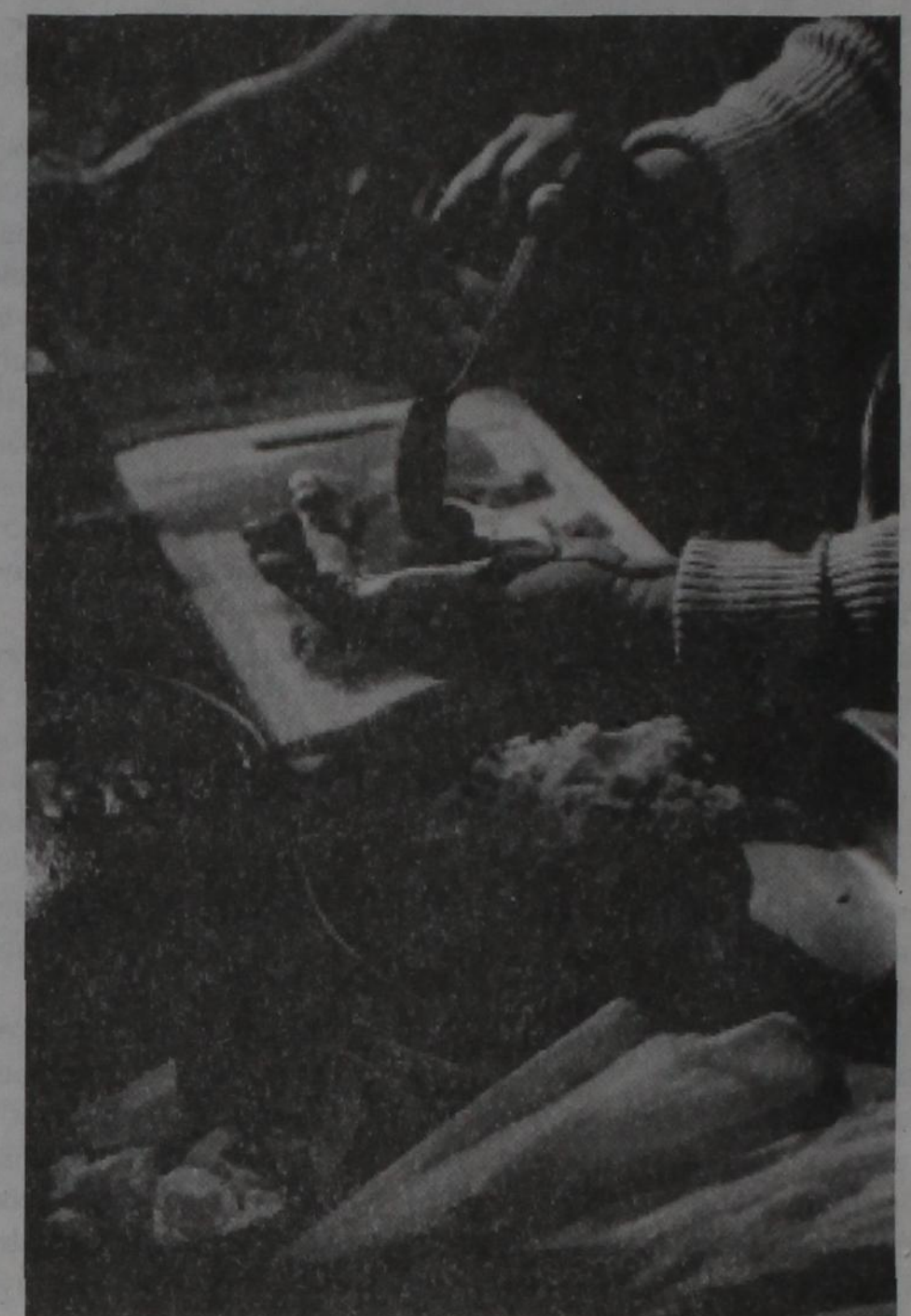
"Everybody's all talking and talking and making tamales and it's 'pass me the meat' and 'pass me the chile,' and I'm in charge of cleaning up the leaves," Ledezma says. Ledezma walks with agility between her two cultures. She loves Hello Kitty and Rebelde, translates Spanish into English for her parents at home, and worships Jack in the Box. But the tamale is something she plans to hold dear. "So that when I grow up, I'll be able to make some for my children. So I won't have to be like, 'Mom, what's the recipe? Will you help me make them?'" Tamale-making is learned by rote. After 40 dozen, you've figured out the right ratio of masa to meat. You've memorize how to fold the corn husks into neat packages after doing it again and again. Being there is how this custom is carried on, and there is immense pressure, even if you're working, even if you have kids and a household, to be at tamale day and uphold your culture. "If you don't go, you hear it from everybody," says Stephanie Gonzales, 27, a receptionist in Phoenix. "It's 'Where were you? Where were you? Where were you?'" And if you're not there, well, there may be no tamales for you. The handmade tamale is a rare treat, a labor of love, and doled out accordingly. The temptation to horde is strong. "My husband promises everybody tamales," says Rosie High-tower, 50, of Phoenix. "We grind the masa, boil up the chile, the whole works. We'll make 25 dozen, and I think there's two dozen left for us. And I'll say, 'OK, that's it, we're not going to do any more of this.'" So the official word this year is that she's not making any at all. "If I say I'm not making any, they'll leave me alone," High-

tower says. "If I just make 15 dozen, it won't be so bad." "You've gotta keep 'em going," she adds. "It's too easy, too easy to just buy 'em. It's about the feelings that you put into it when you're making 'em. You think of who you're making them for and how they appreciate the tamales." Specifically, she thinks of her husband's friend, who got his hands on a dozen of her tamales and in his glee ate all 12 on his drive home. The tamale was almost lost in Anita Luera's family. Her mother died about a year and a half ago, and she "was the glue who used to hold the tamales together." In their sadness, Luera and her siblings were tempted to just let it go, but instead "it's developed into a family rebuild-

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ing effort," the 51-year-old Tempe woman says. Their dedication to the tamales involves considerable schedule wrangling, and they all have to be there because no - but in the end, it really doesn't matter. "Being from a big family," Luera says, "the best blessing is that we can all come together for this tradition."

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A Los 80 Años, Raymond le Escribe una Carta Especial a Papa Noel

Raymond Rodríguez
Papa Noel, al irme haciendo mayor, y más sabio (así espero), se reduce más y más mi lista de deseos de Navidad, mientras que crece más y más mi lista de cosas por las que doy las gracias. Este año habré celebrado ochenta veces la Navidad - toda una vida. Ya no deseo nada más para mí mismo. Eso sí, te voy a fastidiar con sugerencias de regalos que hacerles a los niños por todo el mundo. Los dones que recomiendo no cuestan casi nada, y sin embargo, siguen regalando durante el año entero.

Papa Noel, haz, por favor, que los papás y las mamás pasen más tiempo con sus hijos; que les den abrazos y los alaben. Que sepan hablar con ellos al nivel de madurez en el que se encuentran. Que con cariño los orienten y los disciplinen.

Papa Noel, haz que los papás les lean libros a sus hijos todos los días. Los deleites y las maravillas que en los libros se encuentran son alegrías que todo niño se merece. Un niño o una niña a quien le gusta leer nunca se aburre ni siente la soledad.

Papa Noel, que las mamás y los papás pasen más tiempo con sus pequeños en la cocina, ayudándoles a preparar pasteles y dulces. Es verdad que a veces ensucian, pero el resplandor de su rostro colma hasta el calor del horno.

Papa Noel, convence a los adultos que se pongan a jugar con los chicos en el suelo, sin importarles lo tonto que parezca el juego. Que jueguen por el simple placer de jugar. A veces la educación necesita un recreo.

Papa Noel, recuérdales a las familias que siembren algo, así sea en una maceta de barro. A los niños les fascinará ver crecer su plantita. Que ellos la rieguen y la cuiden. Quedarán encantados con verla echar brotes y florecer. Tal vez intuyan el milagro de su propia creación y desarrollo.

Papa Noel, anima a las familias a construir cosas juntos. La combinación de las destrezas de los adultos con el entusiasmo y la imaginación de los chicos puede transformar un pedazo de madera o una caja de cartón en algo mágico. No tiene importancia alguna lo que se construya. Lo que cuenta es sentir orgullo por haber logrado algo.

Papa Noel, que las familias no se olviden de compartir siempre las tareas caseras, porque así sienten los niños que juegan un papel importante en la familia. Los jóvenes que crecen con una familia que disfruta colaborando, rara vez se derivan de los valores que han aprendido en casa. Aprenden tanto por precepto como por concepto.

Papa Noel, no dejes de asegurar que alguien lleve a los niños a la biblioteca, al museo, a un concierto al aire libre o a otro evento social, para que aprecien la riqueza de su comunidad. Estas experiencias nutren la esencia de la persona que algún día serán.

Papa Noel, haz, por favor, que alguien lleve de paseo a los chicos al parque, a la playa o por un sendero rústico. Que los chicos mismos marquen el paso, y que los adultos se acucililen para ver lo que ellos ven, a su mismo nivel. Se sorprenderán de lo mucho más que verán al mirar el mundo por los ojos de un niño.

Yo sé que estás muy ocupado, Papa Noel, pero te pido que me revises la lista dos veces por si se me olvidara algo importante. Si falta algo, sírvete de tu gran amor y sabiduría y agrega lo que te parezca mejor. Y, por favor, recuérdales a los adultos que el amor, aquel regalo que más necesitan los niños, no se compra en una tienda. Del amor brota el amor cuando damos sin recelo de nosotros mismos todo el año.

Y lo mejor -- no hay que envolverlo.

What Are the Posadas?

Las Posadas is a traditional Mexican Christmas celebration that is quickly becoming a cherished custom of both Hispanics and non-Hispanics alike throughout the United States. Posadas traditionally takes place on the last nine evenings before

donkey, form a procession with the children and prepare to go in search of posada (shelter). The procession visits homes (usually three per night), which have been designated ahead of time. Mary, Joseph, and those in the procession approach the door of the first home, singing in Spanish: "Do you have lodging?" The



Christmas between December 16 and 24. The traditional Posada song tells the story of Mary and Joseph. The nightly procession is a way of reliving Mary and Joseph's search for shelter (cf. Lk 2:4-7). Posadas means "inn or lodging." How to Have a Posadas Those celebrating the Posadas gather together. Children can be dressed as Mary and Joseph. Adults, carrying candles and representations of Joseph and Mary (these are called los misterios), and in some places even the little

people inside the house respond by singing, "Go away. This is no inn." The procession moves to other houses, and again they are refused lodging. At the last house, however, the "inn keepers" relent and welcome the exhausted travelers. They sing, "Enter, holy pilgrims. Come into our humble dwelling and into our hearts. The night is one of joy, for here beneath our roof we shelter the Mother of God." Everyone enters the house and a celebration begins. There is usually food, beverages, and a

Las Posadas

The Posadas Song (English)

Outside
In the name of heaven,
I ask you for shelter
because my beloved wife
can continue no longer.

Inside
This is no inn,
continue on your way.
I am not about to open.
You may be a scoundrel.

Outside
Don't be inhuman.
Have charity.
For the God of the heavens
will reward you.

Inside
Now you can go
and don't bother us
because if I get angry
I will hit you.

2 Outside
We come exhausted
all the way from Nazareth;

I am a carpenter
by the name of Joseph.
Inside
I don't care what your
name is.

Let me go back to sleep,
I am telling you
I am not about to open.

Outside
The queen of heaven
is asking for shelter,
dear landlord,
just for one night.

Inside
Well, if it is a queen
who is asking,
how is it that at night
she travels so alone?

3 Outside
My wife is Mary,
she is queen of Heaven,
and she will be mother
of the Divine Word.

Inside
Are you Joseph,
your wife is Mary?
Come in, pilgrims,
I did not recognize you.

Outside
May God reward
your great charity, good
people,
and fill the heavens
with happiness.

Inside
Blessed the house
that shelters this day
the pure Virgin,
the beautiful Mary!

Final verse upon entering.
Enter holy pilgrims, pilgrims;
Accept this corner.
Although the dwelling is poor,
I give it to you with all my heart.
Let us sing with joy, joy.
Let us reflect together,
that Jesus, Joseph and Mary,
have come today to honor us. (Repeat)



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Feliz Navidad de Parte de Bidal, Olga, Marisol y Pinta

Paz

The Legend of Pancho Clos

continued from front page

A unique characteristic of Cleto the burrito was a copper tooth that according to legend was put into his mouth after a cave-in of a copper mine. Locals told the story of how Cleto rescued miners. His tooth would also later come in handy later. Cleto's story is also complicated and we can tell it later.

After inventing everything needed, Nick got hungry and craved more fajitas.

He went to a little Mexican restaurant where Nick met the cook, a beautiful girl named Bonita. It was love at first sight

She wanted to name her son after her father, Francisco.

Nick with his belief in equal rights for everyone and especially for women, he agreed with Pudi and their son was named Francisco or Pancho for short.

During that time Nicholas at the North Pole also had a son that he named Santa after Papa.

By then both Nicholas and Nick had started helping Papa deliver toys. Nicholas would deliver to kids of the northern part of the world and Nick to children of the southern part.

Pudi taught her son Span-

On the Internet -www. eleditor.com

with his primo hermano Santa, son of Nicholas.

Both sons grew up and soon because of a tragedy, that once again adds twists to our story and can be told later, both were called to take over for their fathers. Santa, son of Nicholas was now officially in charge of the northern part of world and Pancho, son of Nick, the southern.

Pancho never got over his love for fajitas so he made sure of was that he would have México as part of his area. One day he even traded in his sleigh for a carretón made of wood that was easier for burritos to pull.

While growing up, Pancho made several trips to Buffalo Lake to visit his father's friends in the GI Forum so his delivery area also included the Southwestern United States.

During Christmas time, Santa in the north carried on his father's tradition of wearing a red pajama hat, a red suit with white trimming and driving a sleigh pulled by reindeer. Pancho on the other hand started wearing a sombrero with mariachi trim on his red suit and zarape. His burrito powered carretón never failed and would easily carry him throughout the world.

As we said when we started, this legend might be hard to believe but one thing for sure is that when kids in San Antonio, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Albuquerque, Mexico and many other parts of the Southern part of the world hear the galloping hoofs of burritos on their roofs and you see a jolly man with a black beard

that for some unexplained reason stays a dark black regardless of Pancho's age, you can be sure that it is Pancho Clos delivering toys to the kids.

And as Pancho rides his carretón pulled by his burritos named Jaime, Santos, Clemente, Santiago, Herminia and of course Cleto, who you remember is different because of his bright copper tooth that lights the way for Pancho's carretón, you can hear him shout Feliz Navidad and viva la raza. And how can we forget to mention that instead of shouting ho, ho, ho, Pancho shouts the traditional Mexican grito de ajuua!

The original story about Pancho Clos was written in 1971 by Bidal Aguero and Jesse Reyes The Lubbock American GI Forum has promoted the Pancho Clos program to give gifts to Lubbock's children since then..

¡Ajuua!

Feliz Navidad



between them. After a long time, Nick talked her into marriage and joining him on his trip. Nick, trying to translate her name, called Bonita Pudi. Pudi Claus always spoke Spanish and Nick had no problem understanding

The two lived happily at the South Pole. Nick kept working on his inventions. He invented email, Barbie dolls and transformer toys. Soon, and by now you know how time runs in this legend - maybe a few months, a few years or a few decades, Nick and Pudi had a son. Nick wanted to follow the tradition of naming their son Santa but Pudi insisted a change was needed.

ish and all the traditions of her people in México. Pancho grew up fast to be a handsome young man who spoke Spanish, danced Mexican folklorico, sang Mariachi music and loved tortillas and beans.

As Pancho was growing up he made many trips to México, danced, sang, enjoyed the fun and even started to grow a black mustache. The people soon started to call him Pancho Clos mainly because in Spanish it was hard to pronounce the name Claus. Pancho grew to embrace the Mexican culture.

In following Mexican traditions, he kept in close contact

Los Amigos de Pancho Clos

Yo Creo En



Pancho Clos

El y Santa son primos. Pancho tiene dientes cueros de venados y no dice ha, ha, ha pero grita ¡Ajuua!

The American GI Forum would like to give thanks to the following sponsors and persons who have helped to make this year's Pancho Clos program a gigantic. This year we have visited senior citizens, children from the Children's Protective Services program, 3 different elementary schools and many other site in order to bring laughter and smiles to Lubbock children and others.

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Pancho Clos, Eliana and Azelia Reyes during his visit to Harwell Elementary School

La Virgen de Guadalupe statue at San Jose Church was decorated this year for "El día de la Virgen on Dec. 12 by Lile Quirino and friends of the Guadalupe Neighborhood Association.



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