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

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Lubbock, Texas

Democracy Rock Off 2008 Statewide Election Campaigns

By Abel Cruz
With high hopes and expectations, the Lubbock County Democrats held a spirited 2008 Statewide Campaign Kick Off on January 11. Hopes are high that the national election will produce a new Democratic President and local Democrats are excited that they may increase their chances of capturing local and state races, including that of United States Senator as they compete to wrest the seat from Senator John Cornyn.

Democrats came together Friday evening at the Holiday Inn Towers to unveil the local and statewide candidates who have filed to run in the March Democratic Primary. Long time Democrat Myrtle Bass served as master of ceremonies and each candidate was allowed 5 minutes to make their case as to why they are running for office.

The first candidate of the evening was John Miller who is unopposed in the March Primary and will take on Lubbock County Commissioner Bill McCay for the County Commissioner District 4 seat in November. Miller told the crowd that he is not running for the money but the county commissioner pays and that he "will not take a pay raise" while he is in office. He said money is not the job pays going in and will not accept any pay raises; unlike his opponent Bill McCay who this year voted to increase County Commissioner's pay to \$138,000.

Precinct 3 County Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez, seeking re-election to his second

year term, began by pointing out that he had marched with the union organizations last year in Austin during their lobbying day. He also reminded the crowd that he had stood "in solidarity" with Charlie Stenholm, the former Democratic Congressman from the 19th District; that he had stood with Chris Bell in his run for Texas Governor in 2006 and with Robert Ricketts in 2006 when he ran his unsuccessful campaign against Congressman Randy Neugebauer. Gutierrez also reemphasized his commitment to public service and said that he continues to stand for "limited government and low taxes."

Gutierrez' opponent, a 12 year Precinct 3 County Commissioner before losing his seat to Gutierrez in 2004, began by telling the crowd that he was a "die hard yellow dog Democrat" who would deal with Lubbock County issues only "I am a public servant and not a politician," said Flores, pointing out that "promises are made for politicians."

Flores said his focus would be to "keep the tax rate down". Flores also addressed the county's General Assistance Fund; the money allocated for helping county residents with services like housing, utilities and emergencies; saying that he was concerned that the general assistance program has "been neglected" and that \$250,000 that fund had been moved back into the county general fund. He said he would try to restore the money. (See follow up story on this issue.)

Flores also mentioned that he would not make promises that he could not keep and also stressed that as a public servant he

had "never embarrassed his community or his church". He said that the last time he had taken a salary for granted, he would not do that this time around; promising, as he wound up his speech, to "do the best I can".

The Precinct 3 County Commissioner's race has the potential of being one of the most intense and interesting races in the March Primary. Whoever wins the primary, will go on to face the Republican opponent in the November General Election. Republican Frank Gutierrez, a Lubbock native who has run for the position before, has announced his intention to run against the Democratic nominee for the office.

Also in attendance was District 85 State Rep Joe Heflin who received a standing ovation when he was introduced. Heflin faces opposition from Republican candidate Isaac Castro from Hamlin, Texas; who also serves as Republican Party chairman for Jones County, Texas.

Both candidates for the District 19 Congressional race were in attendance. Dwight Fullington, a Public Relations expert and Dr. Rufus Marks, an Oncologist, will compete in the Democratic Primary to see who will face Republican Randy Neugebauer in November. And both candidates acknowledged that they have the support and plan for them with Fullington telling the group that it was his job "to connect with local Democrats".

On the state level, Bolivar Cruz, an attorney from Dallas is running for seat on the Texas Supreme Court, Place 7, and says he is running because he is "tired of seeing Republicans run unopposed". Cruz is running from Puerto Rico and "wants to prohibit Texas Judges from accepting contributions from lawyers who have a case pending before them."

Perhaps one of the most impressive and well crafted speeches of the evening was the one by former Lubbock resident and Lubbock High School graduate Abel Hall. He is seeking the position of Texas Railroad Commissioner and his education credentials include obtaining his undergraduate degree from Baylor University and his Law Degree and MBA from Texas Tech. Hall's political credentials are impressive as well; as he was twice elected to serve as a city councilman on the San Antonio City Council in 2003 and again in 2005. Hall also pointed out that he ran for Mayor of San Antonio in 2001; saying that he finished 3rd place out of a field of 11. Hall is also a professor at "La Universidad Espiritual Santo in Guayaquil, Ecuador and speaks perfect Spanish. The San Antonio Business Journal also named Hall as one of their "Top 40 Under 40 Rising Stars"; according to Hall a campaign matter.

The position of Railroad commissioner is an important one to Lubbock residents; since it is this commission which rules for or against utility rate increases such as those filed by AT&M's Energy and other utility companies in Texas.

Also in attendance was Texas District Judge Susan Criss who is seeking a seat on the Texas Supreme Court, Place 8, and US Senatorial Candidate Ray McMurree who will challenge Texas State Rep Rick Noriega for the opportunity to unseat Republican Senator John Carls.

If elected, McMurree told the crowd that he would be the first "career teacher" to be elected and the first to go from "the classroom to the Senate". He pointed out that Democrats had not delivered on ethics reform or Iraq and that he is running in an effort to represent the middle class. McMurree also said that he had challenged Noriega to debate and looked forward to their campaign against each other.

Noriega was not in attendance; but State Rep Joe Heflin spoke on his behalf.

More information can be found at the following candidates web sites: www.athalbert.com; www.cruzfor7.com; www.judgcriss.com; and www.noriega.com

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Hispanic Women's Conference a Rousing Success

By A Cruz

"That all women have the same opportunity to be successful and a great leader, and to be persistent in what you believe."

That was the message Margie Olivarez heard from National LULAC President Rosa Rosales when Rosales gave the keynote address at the Hispanic Women's Conference this past Saturday at the Lubbock Civic Center. Olivarez is President of the Hispanic Association of Women and this week shared her thoughts with El Editor about the conference.

The association is celebrating 25 years of incorporation and Olivarez tells El Editor that this is the "year of Las Mujeres" or the year of the women.

Olivarez says that the highlight of the conference were the keynote speakers. "To be sitting in a room full of local Latinas and to hear our guest speakers speak out to the audience in bilingual form reminds us that we have the best of both English and Spanish culture."

The conference was a cooperative effort between the Hispanic Association of Women and the LULAC Commission for Women "who reached out to assist us with this conference," said Olivarez. Although it has been a few years since the association hosted the conference, plans are already underway to hold the event again next year.

The conference brought together participants from all over the Lubbock region and attracted approximately 250 attendees. Besides LULAC National President Rosa Rosales; other speakers included Jodi Valenciano Perry, Texas LULAC Director for Women and former Lubbock resident and attorney Maria Luisa Mercado.

The main topic of the day was Leadership Development and Empowerment; followed by Higher Educational Opportunities; Women's Wellness; and Financial Planning.

Olivarez was one of the mod organizers for the financial planning session;

"It was great to see that audience, composed of all ages, and all women (married, widowed, single, and divorced) had questions regarding their financial status."

"Learning that in Texas, a will was legal as long as it was completely written and dated by the individual was a topic that sparked much discussion" among the full house which attended that particular session said Olivarez.

She also says that "our members took a lead role in all aspects of organizing the event and focused on making sure that this event would be a success and that no women would be turned away from attending."

The women's association is also holding its second annual "Winter Gala" on Saturday January 19 at the Holiday Inn and Towers on Ave Q beginning at 7:00 PM. That event will be followed

up by their annual banquet in April. Olivarez says the organization "will also continue to provide programs and networking opportunities monthly to all the Lubbock mujeres that have the same vision as H.A.W."

Awareness is the key to our success, says Olivarez. "We must all take advantage of these events"; Olivarez says that the organization will continue "to provide education opportunities to all women work with the youth and make a difference in the community. Adelante!"

More information about the Winter Gala, photographs from the conference and other general information can be found at the association's web site at www.hispanicassociationofwomen.org

News Briefs

"Pull Em Up" Campaign Addresses Saggy Pants

When District 3 Lubbock City Councilman Fiodi Klein announced his intention to introduce a city ordinance to enforce just how low pants can sit in the city, or as it became known the "saggy pants ordinance," most Lubbock residents thought that perhaps Klein was wound too tight in "his jeans".

That now common word courtesy of the Dallas Morning News that the Fort Worth City Council is "scheduled to vote on the resolution this week supporting the crusade against the popular fashion trend."

The crusade the story is referring to is the PR campaign that has been waged by the city council in Dallas called the "Pull Em Up" Campaign.

Stopping just short of passing an ordinance regulating how low pants could be worn without exposing the person's underwear.

Dallas Deputy Mayor Peter Trentham, District Chair for Fort Worth and also a member of the legislature of the ordinance part to that and consequently carryway came up with his "Pull Em Up" campaign. And it has paid off, word of the Campaign will be a guest on a future show on Dr. Phil.

The Fort Worth resolution will support the campaign through the use of billboards around the city. The effort is sponsored by a nonprofit group called Halp Hop City.

And people thought Klein was "out of his jeans" when he suggested he might bring the issue up before the council.

Maybe Klein was on to something after all?
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Lubbock County's General Assistance Fund Becomes Precinct 3 Campaign Issue

At last week's Democratic Campaign Kick Off, Democratic Candidate for Precinct 3 County Commissioner, Gilbert Flores told the audience that he was concerned that the \$250,000 County funds which had been allocated to the county's General Assistance Fund "when he was a commissioner had been "burned back" to the general fund.

Based on the information received, in 2007, county commissioners budgeted \$197,666 dollars for general assistance expenditures. Gutierrez points out that "there has been no overall decrease in benefits" in his last 3 years in office. Which is correct, but does not reflect the fact that in the separate categories of expenditures for Food, Shelter, Utilities, and Emergencies; all an increase in 2007 when compared to 2004, Flores' last year in office.

We sent Gutierrez a request for clarification and Flores a request for comment on this issue and will follow up on this story in next week's edition.
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Racial Slurs Aimed at Fort Worth Family

A Hispanic family in Fort Worth's Benbrook neighborhood, an area in far southwest Fort Worth, has been forced to temporarily move from their home after becoming the targets of racial slurs and epithets; according to a story in The Dallas Morning News.

Sofia Bara told the newspaper that "someone tried to break into the home a week ago through her 10-year-old granddaughter's bedroom and that the vandals painted the words "White Power" and racial epithets on the family's home.

According to the family the incidents have taken place at night and security lights have been placed on the property in an effort to find out who is responsible for the vandalism.

The incident has prompted the Dallas Police Department to issue a "order" to offer the grant of assistance to the family. Reyes told the newspaper that "we're going to have a vigil for them on Sunday. We want to open a bank account to provide them with funds to fix the damages done to their property."

The City Owns It; The Federal Government "Takes It" Away

What is worse: when the federal government takes away your land or when they take it away and you find out about it from news reports?

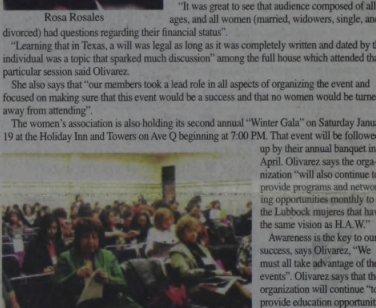
That's exactly what happened recently to the city of Eagle Pass, Texas after a U.S. District Judge Alisa Moses Ludman ordered the city to "surrender" 235 acres of city property so that the federal government could build the long awaited border fence along the Texas and Mexico border. The fence has been a point of contention between the city which opposes the fence and Bush Administration officials.

At first the city had resisted the Justice Department's efforts to take the land; prompting the department to this suit against the city; naming the United States of America as the plaintiff.

According to an Associated Press story in the Austin American Statesman, the "order was made" without a hearing and without representatives of the city present." Eagle Pass Mayor, Chad Foster called the government action, "a little heavy handed" and said that he learned about the order when he was contacted by the Associated Press.

The Mayor is a leading opponent of the fence which is being built by the Homeland Security Department and leads a group of border mayors, business owners and lawmakers known as the Texas Border Coalition. It is expected that the Justice Department will file lawsuits against 102 landowners to gain access to their property so that fencing and other barriers may be erected on the land. And while some other landowners along the Texas border have given in to government demands that they turn their land over, several others in other border states have refused, thus the lawsuit.

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Rosa Rosales

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photos from web sites

Sin el Latino Invisible, Sigue Adelante la Camaña Demócrata

Raúl Reyes
Voy a echar de menos a Bill Richardson. El gobernador de Nuevo México pasó por un momento a favor de su carrera, mostrándose en el papel de ser extremizado para el empleo de ser presidente - y siendo rechazado por ser demasiado calificado para el puesto. Después de que se hiciera caso omiso durante una sesión de preguntas en un foro público en Iowa, causó risas cuando preguntó al "mexicano" qué hablar. Y en el debate retirado de Nuevo Hampshire, el diplomático alegó el idioma al notar que había participado en "negociaciones por liberta a rehenes que fueron mucho más civiles que este debate".

Como representante con los candidatos delatados, nada cuestiona que si Richardson calza bien o si cuenta con experiencia. Sin embargo, no tenía el reconocimiento del nombre de Hillary Clinton, ni el carisma de Obama, ni el no sólo dejó de lograr un enlace con los votantes antes de retirarse de la campaña, Richardson tampoco tuvo mucho éxito con los latinos. El año pasado un sondeo de USA Today halló que seis de cada diez hispanos no habían oído nunca del exgobernador, embajador a las Naciones Unidas, y miembro del Gabinete.

En inicio que presuntamente le dejó de retener Richardson que la campaña por presidente se transfiriera al estado de Nevada, donde los latinos constituyen el 12 por ciento del electorado. El mismo día que Richardson abandonó la campaña, Hillary Clinton se encontraba en un barrio hispano de Las Vegas, tocando puertas y visitando un restaurante mexicano.

Tengo apuro por los esfuerzos de la señora Clinton por coquetear el voto hispano. Si alguna de campaña es latina, y ha recogido respaldos de figuras nacionales como el alcalde de Los Angeles, Antonio Villaraigosa y senador por el estado de Nueva Jersey, Bob Menéndez.

Hasta el momento, Hillary por mucho ha sido la candidata preferida entre los demócratas latinos. El sondeo de USA Today, alabó su apoyo en 59 por ciento, mientras que Obama venía en segundo lugar, con sólo 13 por ciento, aunque este

aviso de Obama venía en primer lugar en Iowa y New Hampshire. En Nevada, Obama se hizo presente en el respaldo de dos sindicatos claves, lo cual podía ayudar con la difusión del voto latino en las reuniones de comités.

Sin lugar a duda, los votos hispanos son críticos a los candidatos demócratas. El nuevo calendario de primarias implica que los estados con grandes poblaciones de hispanos votarán antes que lo normal.

Lo que es más, los latinos vuelven en masa al partido demócrata. Según el Centro Pew, el 57 por ciento de los hispanos votaron por finesca tendencia, mientras que ahora sólo el 23 por ciento se identifica como republicano. Esto resulta en invertir lo ganado por el partido republicano en años recientes. Pero atribuye el cambio a la situación severa de los republicanos en cuanto a la inmigración.

Uno está de acuerdo que realizó Pew halló que casi dos tercios de los latinos creen que el fracaso de llegar a una reforma comprensiva [del sistema de inmigración] ha complicado la vida para todos los hispanos. La mayoría teme la deportación o de sí misma, un amigo o una amiga, o un pariente. Los votantes latinos bien podría ser de gran influencia en determinar la elección general. En el 2004, George W. Bush se llevó Nuevo México, Florida, Nevada y Colorado - todos estados con un electorado hispano importante - con márgenes de cinco puntos o menos.

Cual sea el resultado de la campaña para presidente del 2008, yo recordo al gobernador Richardson como una presencia agradable. Desde el comienzo hasta el fin, su campaña se basó en mensajes positivos. Mientras que demostro que un latino podía calificar para presidente, quiso ser el candidato de todos los estadounidenses.

Sentí mucho orgullo de él cuando terminó su campaña agradeciendo a cada uno de sus rivales y a Dios los bendiga. Estas fueron palabras muy afables de un verdadero héroe hispano.

Raúl Reyes es abogado que vive en Nueva York. © 2008

Racial slurs, vandalism drive Hispanic family from Benbrook

A Hispanic family in Benbrook has temporarily abandoned its home after it was vandalized and racist slurs were spray-painted on the family car.

Sofia Bara said that someone tried to break into the home a week ago through her 10-year-old granddaughter's bedroom and that the vandals painted the words "White Power" and a racial epithet on the family's Isuzu SUV. The vandals also destroyed a trampoline in the back yard.

"My granddaughter is very afraid and missed a few days of school because of what's happening," said Mrs. Bara's husband, Severino Bara, noting that the vandalism began before construction on the house was completed.

The Baras said that all the incidents have taken place at night and that they installed surveillance cameras outside to catch a glimpse of whoever is responsible.

Tarrant County sheriff's spokesman Terry Graham said the vandalism "is something that we are taking very serious." He said the agency, which has received 18 calls from the family, has made some progress in the case, though he would not elaborate.

Joe Garza, Mrs. Bara's son-in-

law, lived in the home for three months with his wife, Rebecca, their daughters and his in-laws. He said that one night recently he realized someone was approaching their home and went out to confront them. He was driven back when the perpetrators began throwing rocks and sticks at him, he said.

Laco Reyes, civil rights chairman for District 21 of the League of United Latin American Citizens in Fort Worth, said he learned of the incident from a newscast and decided to contact the family to help.

"We're going to have a vigil for them on Sunday. We want to open a bank account to provide them with funds to fix the damages made to their property," Mr. Reyes said.

The vigil will be at 5:30 p.m. Sunday at the family's home.

Green Gray, one of the family's neighbors on Bucking Bronco Drive, said she thinks the vandalism is a prank and hopes the family stays in the neighborhood, which she called multiethnic and nonviolent.

"I hope the family decides to stay, because they have a beautiful home and worked so hard to get it," Ms. Gray said.

Bush aprueba envío adicional de 3,200 tropas a Afganistán

El presidente estadounidense George W. Bush aprobó la recomendación del secretario de Defensa, Robert Gates, de enviar unos 3,200 militares adicionales de refuerzo a Afganistán, anunció ayer el Pentágono.

"El secretario de Defensa ha hecho la recomendación y el presidente aprobó el despliegue de tropas adicionales en Afganistán para la primavera del 2008", señaló el Pentágono en un comunicado.

"Este despliegue extraordinario involucra unos 3,200 militares", que entrarán a las fuerzas aéreas que combaten a los rebeldes talibanes, explicó el organismo militar.

Jiap de Hugo Scheffer, secretario general de la OTAN, agradeció los refuerzos y destacó que esperaba que este despliegue suplementario de soldados estadounidenses fuese seguido por el despliegue de fuerzas "de otros países", declaró ayer un portavoz de la OTAN.

"Como miembro de la OTAN, Estados Unidos aporta su contribución para asegurarse de que la

ISAF (Fuerza Internacional de Asistencia a la Seguridad) tenga



las fuerzas necesarias", dijo ayer el Pentágono en su comunicado, en una clara referencia a sus aliados que piensa ingresar de nuevo de aquí a la próxima cumbre de la Alianza en abril en Bucarest. La decisión de reforzar las tropas estadounidenses en Afganistán tiene lugar en medio de la creciente inquietud por el aumento de la violencia y la

agitación en el vecino Pakistán,

y cuando la confianza en el gobi-

Asistencia de Seguridad (ISAF) conducida por la Nato, cuyo contingente asciende a las 40,000 soldados.

En Afganistán, el vocero del Ministerio de Defensa, General Mohamed Zahir Azimi, le dio la bienvenida a los nuevos soldados, que llegarán luego de una temida y esperada ofensiva de la milicia Talibán para la primavera.

"Actualmente necesitamos fuerzas extranjeras para mantener la paz e incrementar la seguridad. Saludamos el incremento de tropas y armamento", le dijo Azimi a la AFP la semana pasada.

La solución a largo plazo es que necesitamos apoyo para incrementar las fuerzas afganas tanto en cantidad como en calidad, para que puedan asumir la responsabilidad en su país".

Desde la caída del régimen radical talibán a fines del 2001, Afganistán ha sufrido descensos en la actividad de las milicias rebeldes en invierno y un resurgimiento en la primavera.

Violencia en México continúa imparable

Acribillados, encobijados, inocentes abatidos en cruces de yver, además de narcomensajes: ayer al menos 29 personas fueron asesinadas y se suman al centenar de muertos por narcotráfico en México en lo que va de enero.

En Tijuana, Baja California, asesinaron ayer mismo a tres jefes policíacos de la Secretaría de Seguridad Pública Municipal y a la hija y la esposa de uno de ellos, en medio de una balacera, donde civiles que se encontraban en el lugar milagrosamente salvaron la vida.

En el Distrito Federal fueron localizadas dos cabezas humanas en bolsas de plástico en una colonia adosada al Aeropuerto Internacional de la Ciudad de México, en donde recientemente fueron también decapitados agentes de la compañía aduana Jet Service, que habían decomisado droga.

Sin embargo, la Procuraduría de Justicia local descartó la relación entre ambos casos y aclaró que los recientes hallazgos están relacionados con ajustes de cuentas entre narcomensajistas del barrio de Tepito, uno de los más peligrosos de la metrópoli.

En Simalou, una de las zonas más permealadas por el narcotráfico, asesinaron también ayer a balazos al cantante de corridos norteños Jorge Antonio Sepúlveda. "El Cocuyillo de Simalou", en donde recientemente fueron también decapitados agentes de la compañía aduana Jet Service, que habían decomisado droga.

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La policía municipal informó que en el lugar donde se encontró el cuerpo había una camioneta calcinada, siete casacaletos calibre 9 milímetros y 16 de fusil automático R-15.

A un año de que el presidente Felipe Calderón declarara la "guerra" a la delincuencia organizada, el año 2007 finalizó con más de 2,700 muertes.

Ahora, las dos primeras semanas de 2008 apuntan a que la violencia continuará a un ritmo creciente: en este mismo periodo del año pasado hubo 90 asesinatos.

El recomado al interior de los siete carteles que se dividen el comercio de la droga, los decomisos de cocaína y la incapacidad de los gobiernos federales, estatales y municipales para formar una policía eficiente son las principales causas, coinciden especialistas.

"Los estados y municipios de apenas se están acercando al combate al narcotráfico y por eso terminan siendo los eslabones más vulnerables en el proceso", asegura el analista Jorge Fernández Menéndez.

Violencia en México continúa imparable

Por otro lado, en Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, cuatro narcomensajistas murieron acribillados a balazos.

Más al sur del país fueron asesinados dos personas en Michoacán. Una de ellas, fue maniatada con cinta cañita, y en su cara colocaron un pedazo de cartoncillo con la siguiente leyenda: "Entienda, nosotros no queremos secuestradores, ni gente abusiva. Aparentemente Grupo Tarasco".

"Los mensajes han dejado de ser cifrados y buscan sembrar la división en una confrontación que, necesariamente, es integral y debería ser asumida como tal por todas las fuerzas del Estado en todos sus niveles", destaca Fernández Menéndez.

Para Jorge Chabát, investigador del Centro de Investigaciones y Docencia Económicas (CIDE), es justamente la ofensiva del gobierno la que ha desencadenado a las bandas y, en consecuencia, éstas se han dividido.

"Al incansable la droga, los jefes deben de buscar culpables, y entre ellos, se cree que puede haber traición", comenta. "El ataque directo a los sicarios del cartel del Golfo, los Zetas, también ha sido otra estrategia de combate al crimen organizado que está teniendo sus consecuencias".

El caso es que ha habido decesos en casi todo el país: el lunes se registraron 17 víctimas en el Estado de México, Michoacán, Guerrero, Chiapas, Guajalajara y Simalou.

Uno de los ámbitos más vulnerables en México ha sido en los últimos tiempos el de los cantantes de música tradicional, que han sido asesinados supuestamente por asuntos relacionados con el narcotráfico.

En diciembre pasado murieron Sergio Gómez, del grupo K-Paz de la Sierra; la cantante Zayda Peña, vocalista de los Zayda y Los Culpables; y el trompetista José Luis Aquino, de la banda Los Andino.

En ajustes de cuentas tampoco han escapado los políticos: han sido asesinados alcaldes en Michoacán, Oaxaca y Tamaulipas. También intentaron matar a un diputado federal: Horacio Garza.

"Se ha comprobado la participación de los Zetas en los recientes procesos electorales en Tamaulipas para tratar de mantener el control y el poderío, para tener el comercio que exhiben sobre esas otras zonas del estado", destaca el especialista Fernández Menéndez.

Se calcula que los carteles mexicanos obtienen ganancias anuales de cerca de 20,000 millones de dólares por tráfico hacia Estados Unidos y ventas de consumo interno.

Border homesteading

Imet Marta Sanchez at her office, in a strip center next door to El Paraiso café, in Alton, just north of Mission, Texas. She leads La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE) in Alton, a nonprofit organization of the United Farm Workers union.

It provides outreach services to an area originally conceived by Cesar Chavez for rural communities. I am here at the invitation of the Annie E. Casey Foundation looking into issues affecting families.

The office is a whirlwind of activity. Today, Sanchez is dealing by phone with the aftermath of a scam by Malcolm L. Webber (aka "Grand Chief Thunderbolt IV"), who sold "Kawah" Indian tribal memberships to undocumented immigrants. Sanchez says perhaps 200 to 300 people in the county were offered \$400 memberships, but I was told some may have paid as much as \$1,200.

The scheme worked through evangelical church networks. The marks were allowed to believe tribal enrollment would allow them to apply for U.S. citizenship. The LUPE office has heard from

about 100 people in Mississippi, Georgia and California taken by the fraud.

Over coffee at the Pic N Pac, Marta tries to characterize her work in the rural colonies. These are the subdivisions her constituents have homesteaded, even though they lack many services. We agree on "innocent," in the Spanish sense — meaning lacking street smarts. "Viven de la palabra," she adds. They still take people's word for it. Her words are reminiscent of the observation of Robert D. Putnam, who wrote in "Bowling Alone" about how a lack of trust contributes to declining membership in civic associations. Sanchez's mission seems to be to re-establish it.

She hears from employees who have been shortchanged or who go altogether unpaid by contractors. Often workers simply lack an understanding about what recourse they have. Eaterio, for instance, who is now an office volunteer, learned how to take his complaint to small-claims court. He prevailed and now teaches others about their rights.

Eaterio's point is that an injustice gets an appropriate response.

Those abuses are in abundance, Sanchez says, and explains the advocacy and education role played by LUPE. Recurring are problems that arise from contracts to buy colonia lots and the circumstances around which people lose their investments.

Texas had about 1,400 colonias as of 2002. Broadly speaking, they are neighborhoods and subdivisions — mostly platted land, but not always — along the U.S. Mexico border. The term is used mostly to mean the underdeveloped communities that represent a modern-day homesteading movement.

About 400,000 people from El Paso to Brownsville call a colonia home. Most of them are in the Rio Grande Valley, one of the poorest parts of the United States. These rural, unincorporated communities of 20 or more dwellings are physically isolated from urban areas and mostly don't benefit much from tax-based improvements administered by towns and cities.

Colonias also face water-related problems, such as availability,

affordability and even access to clean drinking water, drainage and sewage disposal. This multiplies the already serious, if not critical, lack of adequate health care, education, low-cost food and other necessities. These property owners half their own trust.

Politically, the late, legendary House congressman Henry B. Gonzalez, then chairman of the House Banking Committee, drew attention to colonias in 1988. He brought the Democratic presidential candidate, Michael Dukakis, to the border to sway public opinion and Texas' 29 electoral votes.

During the 1990s, Texas congressman Alberto G. Bustamante, as a member of the House Select Committee on Hunger, drew attention to nutritional problems in colonias. As recently as November 2006, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited colonias in nearby Laredo as part of a visit to the border and the international bridge there.

This election season, let's see if any of the nutritional considerations have the courage of conviction to address issues of border security by addressing the colonias.

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Orquillo Patrocinador de:

Expert to lecture about historical background for Our Lady of Guadalupe

In honor of the 1531 appearance in Mexico of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a nationwide speaking tour by Father Eduardo Chavez, a renowned expert on the Guadalupe apparitions and the pontiff of Saint Juan Diego's cause for sainthood. He is also the author of the book, "Our Lady of Guadalupe and Saint Juan Diego: The Historical Evidence (Rowman and Littlefield, 2006)."

More than 1,500 people recently heard Father Chavez speak at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles and, on January 27, 2008, he will bring his presentation to Lubbock. Entitled "Our Lady of Guadalupe: The Woman who Changed the Face of the Hemisphere," the fascinating 90-minute talk and accompanying slide show is both scholarly and accessible. It tells the story of Saint Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe, and shows how Our Lady of Guadalupe provided the "perfectly inculturated" example of evangelization that has helped to build the future that all nations share in the Americas.

The lecture will be presented on Sunday, January 27 at 5:00 p.m. in Lubbock's Catholic Renewal Center, Fourth Street and Toledo Avenue. Participation

is free-of-charge and open to all people of good will. "We are honored to have the opportunity to bring the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe and her message to people throughout the United States," said Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson. "One cannot understand our Catholic hemisphere without understanding the role played in creating it by Our Lady of Guadalupe."

Father Chavez's presentation provides the historical context at the time of the apparition highlights its effects on the evangelization of the Americas, and shows the way in which this event facilitated the unprecedented conversion of the indigenous cultures. Father Chavez also explores the rich symbolism of the various aspects of the apparition, including the image itself, and shows how one humble man -- with help from the mother of Jesus -- was able to bring the Gospel of Christ to an entire continent.

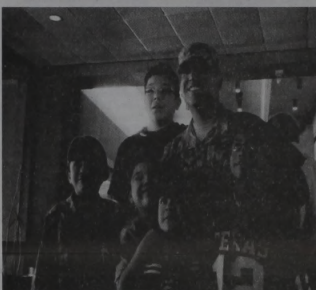
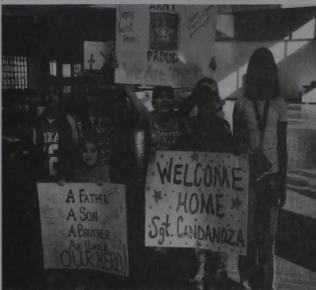
The lecture will be delivered in Spanish, with a simultaneous English translation. With more than 1.7 million members, the Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Roman Catholic fraternal service organization. Founded by Father Michael McGivney in the United States in 1882, it is named in honor of Christopher Columbus and dedicated to the principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.



Welcome Home, Soldier!

Alex Candanzo had an opportunity to come home this past week from Iraq. He was welcomed by his parents Andres and Nancy Candanzo, his son Alec Candanzo. He has two other children who were not able to be present but the family would like them to be mentioned. They are two twin boys Nathaniel and Nicholas Candanzo.

The family is really a super proud of Alec. His sister Michelle said that each day they put him in the hands of the Lord. All other soldiers both men and women continue to be supported by the Candanzo family.



In picture, his son Alec Candanzo on the far left, all in picture are his nephew and nieces Andrew Garza, Matthew Everett, Joshua Acosta, Adrianna Acosta and Mia Garza.

Items owned by 'Queen of Salsa' bring Celia Cruz exhibit



The Life and Music of Celia Cruz

A sweet touch of the late "Queen of Salsa" has made its way to San Antonio.

The Celia Cruz exhibit runs through April at the Museo (moo-SAY-oh) Alamedra, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution.

She's celebrated in 'Azucar' (ah-SOO'-car) The Life and Music of Celia Cruz." Azucar in Spanish means sugar.

When Cruz died in 2003, curator Marvette Perez knew it was time to begin work on an exhibit chronicling the life of the woman

who helped revolutionize Latin music.

Perez, who'd met the flamboyant Cruz, also knew that the exhibit could not consist simply of photos and videos of the Cuban entertainer.

Some of the singer's dresses, shoes and wildly colored wigs were needed to fully illustrate who Cruz was and how she developed as a performer. Perez says Cruz was perhaps the most important Latino singer of her generation.

¡La combinación perfecta!

Como uno de los productos nuevos de mayor impacto en los mercados de California y Texas, y después de un tremendo éxito en Arizona, Colorado y Nebraska, Budweiser Clamato Chelada y Bud Light Clamato Chelada llegarán a las tiendas de conveniencia, supermercados y tiendas de comestibles de todo el país a partir de hoy.

Los latinos, específicamente los de origen mexicano, acostumbra mezclar la cerveza con Clamato desde hace décadas. Budweiser Clamato Chelada y Bud Light Clamato Chelada rinden homenaje a esa tradición, combinando las cervezas rubias estadounidenses clásicas de Anheuser-Busch con el sabor picante y revitalizador del cóctel de tomate Clamato, fabricado por Cadbury Schweppes American Beverages (CSAB).

Después de su tremendo éxito en los mercados de prueba, los adultos de todo el país han hecho sentir su clamor por esta bebida práctica y de gran sabor. "Es una receta que combina culturas y sabores", señala Ana Vitran, gerente de producto de Anheuser-Busch, Inc. "Budweiser, Bud Light y Clamato son todas marcas sumamente respetadas que, al combinarse, producen el auténtico sabor que les encanta a los latinos. ¡Es la combinación perfecta!"

Una cerveza llena de sabor, Budweiser Clamato Chelada y Bud Light Clamato Chelada fueron creadas pensando en el consumidor adulto. Budweiser, una cerveza dorada clásica estilo Americano, y Bud Light, una cerveza dorada ligera clásica estilo Americano, son las cervezas de mayor venta en el mundo y los hispanos disfrutaron el gran sabor de Clamato desde su lanzamiento en 1969.

Según estimaciones, un 60 por ciento de todo el Clamato vendido se compra para mezclarlo con cerveza, por lo que la combinación de las tres marcas significa que el consumidor

adulto puede disfrutar con más facilidad de una

receta que ya es de su agrado. Para disfrutar mejor Budweiser Clamato Chelada y Bud Light Clamato Chelada, gire suavemente la lata helada una vez antes de servirlo. Luego, sívala fría o sobre hielo en una copa tradicional.

con una tajada de lima o tallo de ajo. Agregado sal al borde del vaso o un toque de salsa picante a la cerveza se puede personalizar aún más el sabor de Chelada. Las cervezas también pueden combinarse con platos latinos tradicionales como ceviche, enchiladas de pollo y tamales.

"La combinación de Clamato con Budweiser y Bud Light proporciona una bebida refrescante, que los entusiastas de Clamato vienen preparando desde hace siglos", señala Andrew Springate, vicepresidente de mercado de CSAB.

"Esta es una manera práctica de disfrutar del sabroso y auténtico sabor que tanto ansiamos".

El nombre Chelada es una forma abreviada de la expresión "michelada" utilizada en español, que significa "mi cerveza helada". Para pedir Budweiser o Bud Light Clamato Chelada, se puede decir: "¡Una michelada con Clamato, por favor!". Para hacerlo más corto, pero dejando en claro que se trata de la receta tradicional, Anheuser-Busch se decidió por el nombre Chelada para su cerveza.

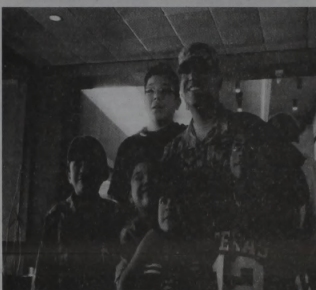
"Con sólo ver la lata uno se puede dar cuenta de que se trata de la bebida tradicional. Budweiser y Bud Light mezclado con auténtico Clamato", señala Vitran. "Es una cerveza con un sabor salado que resultará atractiva a los

adultos que beben cerveza, particularmente a los que les gusta mezclarla con Clamato". Elaborada en la planta de Anheuser-Busch en St. Louis, Budweiser Chelada contiene 5 por ciento de alcohol por volumen y Bud Light Chelada 4.2 por ciento. Está disponible en latas individuales de 24 onzas y de 16 onzas, en paquetes de cuatro.

AMERICAN STATE BANK "BEST OF SHOW" IN COMMUNITY

American State Bank was selected for "Best of Show" honors in the annual Best of Community Banking Awards judged by the Independent Bankers Association of Texas (IBAT). The announcement was made during IBAT's 33rd annual convention in Fort Worth. Presented were the Gold and Silver Awards in the Marketing Category, and as well as the coveted "Best of Show" honor. The Gold Medal and "Best of Show" honor recognized development of a successful program aimed at the growing Hispanic population by placing branches in areas of high Hispanic population, increasing involvement in Hispanic events and organizations, implementing a Spanish language mass media campaign and offering relevant products to the targeted

market. The Silver Medal was for a "To Us...It's Personal" campaign featuring representatives from board members to bank room personnel from 34 locations in the 18 communities ASB serves. The annual awards recognize IBAT member institutions in several categories for service to their communities. Winners are judged on innovation and creativity, number of people benefited or affected and the success in fulfilling a community need. "We are very proud of our independent banks and use the Best of Community Banking Awards to showcase the outstanding initiatives taken by our members each year," IBAT President/CEO Chris Williston said. IBAT is the largest state community banking organization in the nation with a membership of more than 2,000 banks and branches in Texas.



In picture, his son Alec Candanzo on the far left, all in picture are his nephew and nieces Andrew Garza, Matthew Everett, Joshua Acosta, Adrianna Acosta and Mia Garza.

WalkAmerica es ahora March for Babies

WalkAmerica, el mayor evento de recaudación de fondos de March of Dimes, que recaudó US\$117 millones en todo el país el año pasado, ha tenido un cambio de nombre para ser ahora March for Babies. El nuevo nombre indica con claridad de qué se trata March of Dimes -- la salud de los bebés.

"El nombre de nuestro evento ha cambiado, pero nuestra misión sigue siendo la misma -- trabajar hacia el día en que cada bebé nacera sano," dijo la Dra.

Jennifer L. Howe, Presidenta de March of Dimes. "Esperamos que el nuevo nombre traerá más gente a bordo para ayudar a que ese día sea una

realidad". Además de un nuevo nombre, March for Babies tiene un nuevo sitio Web. Los interesados en participar como caminantes y los donantes pueden visitar <http://marchforbabies.org> o llamar al teléfono gratuito 1-800-525-9255 para registrarse como particular, comprar un equipo corporativo, familiar o de amigos, o donar para ayudar a que los bebés nazcan saludables.

El nuevo nombre del evento principal es parte de una iniciativa más grande de March of Dimes centrada en todos los bebés -- ambos los nacidos saludables y los que necesitan ayuda para sobrevivir y desarrollarse bien. March of Dimes también ha dado a conocer una

nueva campaña publicitaria de servicio público y está ofreciendo a las embarazadas y a las madres

correo electrónico, podcasts y mensajes de texto.

La Dra. Howe enfatizó que la misión prioritaria de



nueva información médica por medios que se adaptan a sus estilos de vida activos, tales como

March of Dimes es combatir la creciente crisis de prematuros.

"Los nacimientos prematuros son la principal causa de muerte de recién nacidos, y estamos comprometidos en reducir dicha mortalidad," agregó la doctora. "Al sumar a más personas a nuestra misión, y educar a más mujeres embarazadas y madres sobre la salud de los bebés, esperamos llegar al objetivo con más rapidez."

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Packers' Charles Woodson admits he was hesitant to play in Green Bay

Although it all worked out in the end, the truth is that Charles Woodson didn't really want to play in Green Bay.

Yes, the veteran cornerback came to the Packers of his own free will, signing as a free agent before the 2006 season. But as Woodson divulged on Wednesday, as the Packers prepared to play the New York Giants in the NFC Championship on Sunday, that was only because he didn't have another choice.

Everything Woodson had heard from others about the league gave him a negative opinion of playing - and living - in the NFL's smallest market.

"The talk is always this is no just for a black man, and that's just how it was," Woodson said. "And you get all those reports from people who've played here and those were the thoughts going through my mind when Green Bay kept calling."

Instead, Woodson wanted to go to Jacksonville or Tampa Bay. But those teams apparently weren't interested in a cornerback who was near age 30 and had missed the last 10 games of the previous season because of a broken leg, so Woodson's options were limited: Green Bay or bust.

"Every time I talked to my agent, when I'm asking about all these other teams, he's saying 'Well, they haven't said anything but Green Bay called again, so what do you want to do?'" Woodson said. "And it was almost like this is where I had to play. You know, either come to Green Bay or just sit at home and just continue to wait."

Woodson came to Green Bay, but he certainly didn't fit in right away, feuding with new Packers coach Mike McCarthy.

"You come here and everybody has their own set of rules," Woodson said. "You have Green Bay tradition, so a lot of those talks after practice weren't necessarily good talks. But we talked through them, and we made a couple times in private and tried to talk through things. I and he got some finks and that sort

of thing." "So what was he fined for?" "Everything," Woodson chuckled.

A year later, Woodson says everything - the town, the people, the organization - has worked out better than expected.

He has reached an understanding with McCarthy that includes allowing him to often sit out mid-week practices to rest his nagging injuries.

"I think he understands that for me, during the week, no matter what's going on - you know, whether I'm hurt, whether it's a turf toe, whether it's a knee or any other situation that's going on in my life or with the team - on Sunday I'm coming to play," Woodson said. "I think he understands that."

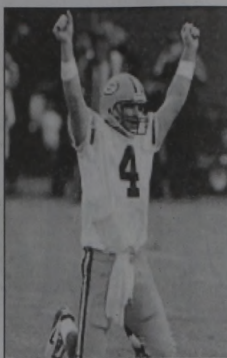
Woodson had four interceptions this season, second on the team to Atari Bigby's five, and has won teammates and opponents with his ability to play man coverage.

"It's just a new beginning for him, a new start, a new home," Packers safety Nick Collins said. "Right now, he's loving it, like we're one step away from the big dance. Him coming over here was a great asset to us."

For Woodson, the chance to play a key role on a winning team has allowed him to erase the hit his reputation took from his days with the Oakland Raiders.

"The talk coming out of Oakland was, 'This guy's lost a step. He can't play anymore, injury

prone,'" Woodson said. "Which I did not have the injuries, but if anybody wants to go back and look at any film of me playing at Oakland, I've



always played the way I'm playing now. But to be here and to be on a winning team again, people will start to notice again the way that I play the game and it's just kind of like people are getting the chance to know me as a football player again."

Woodson's even stepping out on the town in Green Bay these days, such as it is.

"I've been out and a lot of what I've heard about, it just hasn't happened," Woodson said. "Of course there's going to be situations where you're out and people want autographs and that type of thing, but from my experience being here, the two years I've been here, it's not been like people have told me it would be. I've been able to go out in restaurants and sit down and eat in peace and it's been great. So my story of Green Bay, the people, would be a little different than what was told to me."

Aging, inactive legends Trinidad, Jones ready for comeback clash

Felix Trinidad and Roy Jones Jr. will be fighting more than just each other on Saturday night at Madison Square Garden.

-- not the long layoff, fighting 188-pound frame down to fighting

They'll also be fighting perceptions that both are far past their primes.

Jones, considered the best pound-for-pound boxer for the better part of a decade, turned 39 this week. He showed up to a news conference on Tuesday with a beard that made him appear much older, though he promised to shave it off when he makes weight of 170 pounds.

He has fought only twice since losing an unanimous decision to Antonio Tarver in 2005, both lackluster decisions against lesser opponents. For Jones (51-4, 38 knockouts), this 12-round bout represents one last step before a potential super-middle-weight title bout - a road block to a ninth world title.

"A lot of them think I ain't got it anymore," said Jones, stealing glances at a flat-screen TV with footage of his past performances, including him becoming the first former middleweight champ to claim a heavyweight title in more than 100 years.

"This is a chance to show them I still got it."

Trinidad, meanwhile, was lured out of retirement after promoter Don King flew to his native Puerto Rico and promised him a bout with Jones. The five-time world champion has fought only twice since 2002, beating Ricardo Mayorga before sustaining a punishing 12-round loss to Ronald "Winky" Wright in May 2005.

Backed by an entourage 21 strong, Trinidad (42-2, 35 knockouts) defiantly said nothing would slow him down



at a weight 10 pounds heavier than ever before, or the high expectations that the large Puerto Rican fan base in New York City almost certainly will heap upon his shoulders.

"I'm feeling very good with a lot of passion," Trinidad said through a translator. "I trained and worked very hard to win, and this weekend we're really going to celebrate."

If nothing else, the two fighters are taking it seriously.

Trinidad had been training for the past six months in Puerto Rico, slowly putting weight on his slender frame while trying to retain the quick, heavy hands that have yielded a stunning 80 percent career knockout rate.

His father and trainer, Papa Trinidad, said Tito is "one of the best conditions of his life."

Then, turning to Jones and cranking his voice up a notch, the father added: "You are going to fight against the best Tito Trinidad that anybody has ever fought against."

Jones, in a departure from his norm, left Florida for a small, secluded training camp in Pennsylvania with longtime trainer Alton Merkerion. Slowly he chiseled a

weight, and bared a ripped midriff Tuesday at the behest of King.

"Unfortunately the only person I'm going to be facing is Tito. I really hate it I can't beat the dad, too," Jones said, smiling broadly to jeers from the opposing camp. "I can't even begin to tell 'y'all how raw I'm going to be on Saturday night."

Last week, Jones promised a fourth-round knockout, and didn't waver in his prognostication. He even spoke candidly of where his campaign will head after dispatching the Latino hero, which could mean a trip to Wales - some thing Jones has balked at in the past - for a shot at undefeated super-middleweight champ Joe Calzaghe.

In an odd twist, Trinidad said during an open workout Monday that he wanted a title shot against the Welshman after beating Jones. Maybe there's more than pride at stake when the two aging fighters meet after all.

"These guys have accomplished missions that most boxers haven't accomplished in their careers," Merkerion said. "Everybody that reaches their ultimate goal always has another goal they'd like to accomplish."

Marion Jones appears on Oprah Winfrey's show

Marion Jones said Wednesday seeing the pain her family

sion of their mistakes and then beyond that, what do I do about it?" Jones said via

tember 2000 to July 2001. "The clear" has been linked to



Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative, the lab at the center of the steroids scandal in professional sports.

Winfrey pressed Jones on the repeated, impassioned denials she made over the years. "You knew at that time, you knew were lying, right?" Winfrey said.

"I made a mistake. I made the choice, at that time, to protect myself, to protect my family," Jones said. "And now I've paid the consequences dearly."

Jones said she hasn't told her 4-year-old son yet that she's going to prison. She also has a younger son. She has until March 11 to surrender.

She admitted she was disappointed that she was not given a probation-only sentence, as she and her attorneys hoped for.

"I put myself in a position to have somebody else determine my immediate future," she said. "I made that decision. I have to live with it, my family has to live with it. With the grace of God we'll get through it and come out even better at the other

and friends endured after she admitted using performance-enhancing drugs outweighed the impact of returning her Olympic medals.

The former Olympic track gold medalist appeared on "The Oprah Winfrey Show," her first television interview since being sentenced last week to six months in prison for lying to investigators about steroid use and a check-fraud scam.

"I want people to understand that, you know, everybody makes mistakes. ... I truly think that a person's character is determined by their admis-

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