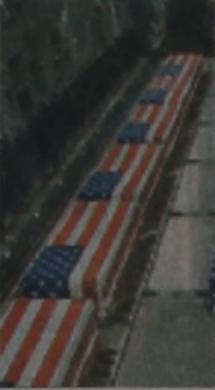
Casualties of War in Iraq 4,113 as of July 3, 2008



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Lubbock/West Texas Region

Obama Envisions Immigration Reform Before "First Term' Ends

By Alex Meneses Miyashita a priority in their first 100 days in said, "my campaign was written ary Clinton in the primaries but is

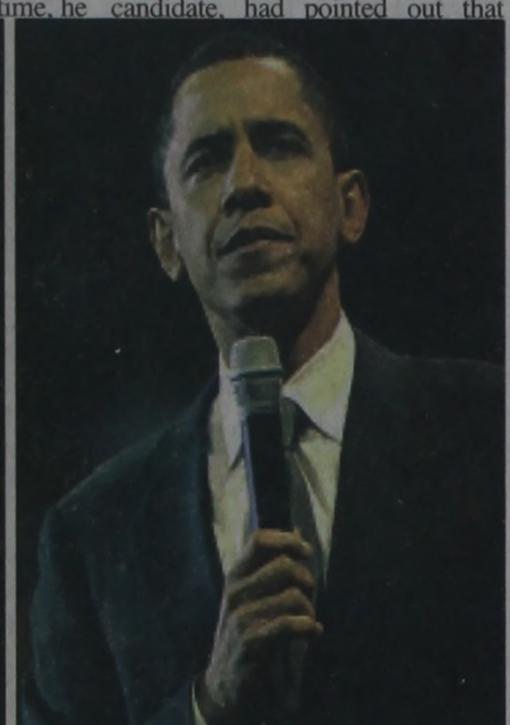
Speaking on July 8, he criticized presumptive Republican opponent John McCain, who had spoken a few hours earlier, for "abandoning" a comprehensive immigration bill that McCain had cosponsored with Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) two years earlier.

term as president.

At the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials conference in the capital the week before, both candidates promised to make immigration reform

Addressing hundreds of Hispanic office.

promised to push to ensure that emphasizing that he worked with laraigosa, traveling to Washington, economic stagnation." comprehensive immigration reform Kennedy to try to get a compre- D.C., to promote the Democratic



off as a lost cause. I did so not just now rallying Latino support for activists during the 79th annual When the National Council of La because I believed it was the right Obama, said McCain's policies are convention of the League of United Raza held its annual conference in thing to do for Hispanic Americans. as full of "division and distraction" Latin American Citizens in Wash- San Diego July 10-14, both candi- It was the right thing to do for all as those of the Bush administration. dential candidate Barack Obama responded to Obama's charge by dential candidate Barack Obama responded to Obama's charge by larging to Washington economic stagnation."

He added that it will lead to "four more years of in Play"

This November, analysts say the By Abel Cruz passes before the end of his first hensive bill passed. At the time, he candidate, had pointed out that Hispanic vote could hit ten milwrapped up one of his speeches Marsha Sharp Freeway. by beseeching the crowd, "Now is among Hispanic registered voters, Since that time; residents have been wondering at what stage the process 59%-29%.

> winner already. The nation's political leaders have finally recognized the importance of the Hispanic

> (Alex Meneses Miyashita, based in Washington, D.C., is a correspondent with the daily El Universal in Mexico City, Reach him care of editor@hispaniclink.org.)@2008

Guadalupe Association Sets Up Tests

After working on the project for over a year, the examine their policy of blowing the train's horn sentative; in this case Linda DeLeon. when approaching intersections. Much of the research concerning options about what could be done about the issue was done by recently elected officer Ray and Alice Lozada.

Obama said the nation needs a to test a new system of warning. Lile Medina reform when it becomes politically eter and also would provide excellent safety for of 2009. unpopular." He said it is time to oncoming traffic. The tests were conducted on Email: acruztsc@aol.com bring the 12 million undocumented the two major crossings on 2nd and Ave. P and immigrants out of the shadows and 1st and Ave L and was moniter by both City and

after they pay a fine and go to the In the past the Guadalupe Association has been back of the naturalization wait line. responsible for the continuing cleanup of the McCain stated it is necessary to Arroyo and the removal of steel fencing of Fal-

Jackson Neighborhood: Possible Rezoning Still

A couple of years ago; Councilwoman Linda DeLeon organized a comlion, two million over that of the munity meeting in the Jackson Neighborhood to inform residents of the last presidential election. Obama possibilities of some rezoning initiatives along the northern border of the

At the time; residents were surveyed about their preference to rezone or the time to vote." A Gallup Poll in not rezone the area from Ave. Q to University Ave; located between the June showed him leading McCain Sharp freeway service road north to 3rd street.

is in. After receiving some inquiries from some residents; El Editor con-The presidential race has one sure tacted Randy Henson the Planning and Zoning Director for the city of Lubbock to get an update on the rezoning/redevelopment.

Henson says that the area was not rezoned from residential to commercial; a view which had been held by the residents we talked to. He says that certain things have to happen before any rezoning takes place. What did happen last year is a "policy change" or future land use change which calls for the possible rezoning if private developers take certain

steps and meet certain criteria. According to Henson; "the city is not involved in the commercial development; but if a private developer expresses an interest in obtaining at least a full one or two block area then the city will enter into discussions

about rezoning from residential to commercial. But Henson was very careful to point out that the area in play is only from University to Ave Q between the service road and 3rd street. He says that Guadalupe Neighborhood Association has real- all areas within University and Ave Q north of 3rd street are not impacted. ized another projected goal by having the rail- Henson says that if a resident is approached about selling their property road that runs through the Guadalupe Barrio to for commercial development that they should contact their council repre-

To explain the concept what the area might look like if rezoning does come about; Henson points to the area just east of the South Plains Mall. He says that prior to that development; the area was zoned residential. When a developer decided to develop the area commercially they bought up the residences and developed the areas bordered by Slide Road from the Loop north. The area is one block in width. Henson says that the corrithrough the middle of residential streets and are dor in the Jackson neighborhood might look similar to that if a developer expresses interest. In addition; there will be provisions made for fencing

Neighborhood residents will also be pleased to know that Henson espresident who "won't walk away Quirino, president of the Association, she said timates that the construction of the Sharp Freeway is ahead of schedule from comprehensive immigration that she hoped new system seem would be qui- and the completion date for that particular area may be as early as the end

Now Celebrating 31 years.

that occurs, there are "economic NCLR Challenges McCain and Obama To Republicans claimed Obama has Rein in Party Rhetoric on Immigration

national Latino civil rights and advocacy organization today challenged presumptive presidential nominees Senators Barack and charged rhetoric on immigration in their this fall. The challenge comes just days be-

San Diego, CA-The country's largest fore they are both scheduled to address the National Council of La Raza's (NCLR) Annual Conference in San Diego.

"Senators McCain and Obama have both Obama and John McCain to rein in offensive been leaders in the immigration reform effort and have urged a thoughtful and well-informed respective parties' congressional campaigns debate on this difficult issue," said Janet Murguía, NCLR President and CEO. "But others in their respective political parties are using inaccurate and inflammatory language to inspire fear and resentment against immigrants for the sake of advancing their political campaigns."

Murguía pointed to campaign brochures and television advertisements by both parties, including a Democratic Campaign Committee leaflet and a blog posting on the website of North Carolina Republican Senator Elizabeth Dole. The materials that

A charged leaflet by the Missouri State low traffic sign depicting a running family; the through its website, www.WeCanStopTheHate. leaflet attacks Representative Sam Graves (R-MO), charging him with allowing five million "illegal immigrants" into the country.

Second Congressional District, which condemns languages other than English and shows brown hands in handcuffs and shadowy images crossing into the United States.

A personal blog from the website of Sena-Federation for American Immigration Reform of immigration in North Carolina; FAIR has white supremacy.

bate," said Murguía whose organization- half say that they have personally experienced

org-has been decrying the growing influence of hate groups and hate speech on television and radio and in political campaigns. "What A Republican television commercial by passes for debate on this issue is often little Senator Harri Anne Smith from Alabama's more than a demagogic attack designed to inflame Americans rather than enlighten them. Our political leaders can stop it," she said. "They should stop it."

Murguía said that the inflamed rhetoric has serious consequences for the Hispanic commutor Elizabeth Dole (R-NC), which cites the nity. She cited statistics showing a steep rise in the number of hate groups targeting Latinos as (FAIR) as a source of information on the impact well as a spike in hate crimes committed against Latinos. She also referenced a study published been designated by the Southern Poverty Law by the Pew Hispanic Center in which nearly Center as a hate group with ties to eugenics and two-thirds of Latinos say that the atmosphere for their community has become more negative "Hate has hijacked the immigration de- as a result of the immigration debate and one-

News Briefs Quirino Named VP of LCC Hispanic Business Division Jorge Quirino was recently named Vice President of the newly orga-

nized Hispanic Division of the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce. The new post came about as result of a merger earlier this year be-

tween the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Lubbock Chamber. The new division will be charged with supporting Hispanic owned businesses in Lubbock.

Quirino recently moved back to Lubbock with his wife and family; his whe sonya Castro-Quirmo is an executive with Covenant riospi-

According to local media reports; Quirino has a Bachelors of Business Administration in marketing and general business. His work experience includes working for Toys R Us; Covergys; and Sam's Club. Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

One Bad Move is followed by another at Health and Human Services

When it comes to providing state services to individuals in need of healthcare or food stamps; Health and Human Services Commissioner Albert Hawkins just doesn't get it.

Now comes word out of Austin that the previous debacle by Hawkins when he signed a multi million dollar contract with Accenture to open call centers which led to over 900 state employees being let go; was not enough to convince him that if it isn't broken; don't fix it. The previous move by Hawkins nearly decimated the HHS workforce

and the Texans who depend on state services. The latest news out of Austin; according to an article in the Austin American Statesman is that Hawkins plans to "switch one million or

more needy people in the next year to a different application process for benefits; including Medicaid and food stamps".

According to the report: "The state says it intends to shift 953,000 elderly and disabled Medicaid patients into its problem-plagued "integrated eligibility" system by September 2009 - on top of its previously stated goal of moving in 288,000 more food stamp recipients by August 2009"

Representatives from the Texas State Employees Union; including local member Mike Torres, which has said an old mainframe-based system works much better than TIERS, denounced the plan. "It borders on irresponsible behavior," said union spokesman Will

Rogers. "They haven't worked out all the bugs with TIERS. You're playing with people's lives by doing that."

Mr. Hawkins has said the mainframe computer used for Texas benefit applications is one of only seven of its type left in existence. The old approach is outmoded and costly, while TIERS is being improved, he has said.

HHS Commission spokesman Geoff Wool, when asked by The Statesman whether the state was expanding TIERS too fast, said: "This proposal reflects a measured approach. We're going to monitor very closely the benchmarks that have been established and if there are indications of problems, we'll adjust the rollout."

Readers can see an open letter to Commissioner Hawkins in this week's "Freedom of Expression" section on Page 2 from the Texas State Employees Union.

LCCR CALLS ON PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TO LEAD ON EDUCATION REFORM AND SUP-PORT SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY

Email: acruztsc@aol.com

Washington, DC - The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR) today called on Senators John McCain and Barack Obama, the major parties' presidential candidates, to take the lead on school reform by supporting the accountability provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and repudiating legislation that would scuttle them.

"Now is not the time to turn back the clock on accountability for results in education," said Wade Henderson, president and CEO of LCCR. "New research shows that since the passage of NCLB the achievement gaps have narrowed significantly in elementary and middle schools.'

"While NCLB is a flawed law - and we have repeatedly called on Congress to make improvements through the reauthorization process - NCLB has been crucial in exposing the extent of the opportunity and achievement gaps plaguing chronically underperforming schools and creating an atmosphere conducive for fundamental education reforms," said Henderson. "Access to quality education is a fundamental civil right that should be guaranteed by the federal government for all children, regardless of their race, national origin, economic status, or disability, and since 2002, NCLB has been the primary federal law for ensuring that right."

having the contenders speak before NALEO, LULAC and NCLR showed "that the Hispanic vote is key.'

It did that and then some. It validated Hispanic organizations as important conduits to carry political Many of the crossings where the train blows messages to the 50 million Latinos it horns are at intersections that go directly now residing in the United States.

During the give-and-take over blown late a night. the three major Hispanic events, On Wednesday the railroad conducted a test on the north side of the redevelopment if other criteria is met. put them on a path to citizenship area elected officials.

show to the U.S. public that "we con Street located on Pave. P. can secure the borders first." After as well," he added.

yet to show any leadership on the issue of comprehensive reform the way McCain has.

Eric Rojo, national president of the Hispanic War Veterans of America, called McCain is the better choice for Hispanics because the GOP candidate knows the community well and shares its values.

Villaraigosa, who supported Hill-

Will Lubbock County go to Four Day Work Week?

By Abel Cruz

According to Lubbock County Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez; the "most important reason to forego a change in the hours of operations of the Lubbock County Courthouse is "lack of public support".

For the past couple of weeks; county residents have seen a debate on Murguía found offensive include: whether the county should go to a 4 day work week. But Gutierrez says that "There is no public call or demand to change the hours of operation. Democratic Committee, which shows a yel-The opposite applies in this matter. Citizens have expressed opposition to the change. Hours of operation should be in accordance with the will of the people of Lubbock County".

Nevertheless; this past week; County Commissioners appointed a committee to study the impact a 4 day work week; among other changes and how they might impact county residents and employees.

One idea being floated is the possible closure of the offices on Friday; and possible changes in hours of operation.

Gutierrez says that "Change in the hours of operation of the Lubbock County Courthouse is incompatible with the private sector. There are no indications of a move by the private sector to a 4-day work week".

"County Departments provide a wide-range of highly diverse services which are unique to each department. Many services are administered on a personal face-to-face manner. Change in hours of operation would detract from the flexibility of departments to perform their unique functions (example: Elections, Vehicle Registration)" adds Gutierrez.

"Emergency services such as a protective order for a battered spouse cannot wait until Monday".

Gutierrez's press release continues:

"The original purpose cited as justification to change the hours of operation is not valid. Savings on the Courthouse utility bill cannot be realized when there is no change to the total hours of operations. Any savings would be too small to justify such a radical change in current operations. Alternatives for energy savings are solar as LISD has proposed or wind power as Shallowater ISD has done. Both these technologies are proven for use on individual buildings. These technologies provide utility savings during all hours of operations (normal or curtailed)".

Gutierrez says a "public hearing is needed before this issue moves to committee. Stake holders have not had an opportunity to present evidence and state the facts on how the change would impact them". Among the more adverse impact on city employees according to Gutier-

rez is as follows: Child care would be more difficult for employees. It is already hard enough to get child care for an 8 hour day finding child care for a 10 hour

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Editorial

Politics and the Media

Although it is only July; we are only about 109 days from November 4; Election Day.

Will it be Obama or McCain? Who will each candidate pick for their VP slot? Will some out west; have brought about my youth. Obama have the political fortitude to pick Hillary Clinton? Will McCain go with Romney or an obscure young Governor from the mid west or will it be Governor Bobby Jindal from Louisiana to offset the Obama factor?

All good questions and all worth speculating about.

From what we hear and read in the national media; Obama may be in some trouble. are fortunate and pay close atten-Not because he is not the best candidate; but because that is the way national media works. The media is so powerful and manipulative at times that they can shape a political race; almost 100% of the time. And we refer to media both on the left and ert Frost wrote about and actually on the right. Problem there is more right based media than left.

For example here in our city; every story about our Congressman is a positive one. Radio; print; broadcast media all seem to be on the side of the Congressman Mexico, Arizona and far southwest representing the 19th District. Never mind that Randy Neugebauer to us represents Texas. My trip took me through the status quo and someone who has never looked out for the less fortunate in life. Interstate 40 and down to Phoenix Just take a look at his voting record; with through an honest lens and you might see and back to Lubbock through El what we mean.

Nationally, the media has been on the Obama trail and the candidate seems to be showing signs of wear and tear. McCain on the other hand seems to be getting a inviting travelers to visit our fair free ride.

For example; his comment last week that we export cigarettes to Iran in the hopes as some affectionately call it. There Look at the issues like domestic of killing Iranians was hardly reported. Of course the candidate was quick to point were plenty of billboards along out that he was joking.

But had Obama or even Clinton made the same statement both would have been visit other Texas cities like DFW; crucified by the likes of Rush Limbaugh; Bill Bennett and their ilk. Problem is con- El Paso; even Midland and Big and concern then? servatives have mastered the art of feigning outrage against Democrats and giving a Spring; but not Lubbock. free ride to their conservative brethren.

And a lot of it is the Democrat's own fault. Democrats in Congress like Nancy center. The LCVB might want to Pelosi and Harry Reed need to be more forceful in their message to the American start with some promotional billpeople. It seems like they are always playing catch up and reacting to the President and the minority Congress.

Another example; last week the President said he would open up off shore drilling. have to offer here; before building Like that is a big deal. Truth is most Americans have no idea what that action means; that Trojan horse which does absolutely nothing to address the high price of oil and gas; or the price we pay at the pump. But there was Bush telling us that it was Democrats who were standing in the way of progress.

Then there was story posted on local NewsRadio 1420 with a quote from Randy Neugebauer. Here is an excerpt from the story:

Lubbock Congressman Randy Neugebauer says the majority Demo- ago. crats can't blame the President if off shore drilling doesn't start soon. "Now they're out in the open and know for sure now that what's keeping America you? from producing American resources off the continental shelf is not the President of the United States but it's the Democratic led Congress & Senate." Neugebauer says it's been too partisan for a long time.

Note that he says it has been partisan right after he engages in perfect partisanship against the Democrats.

He continues: "This is an issue that shouldn't be partisan. Quite honestly this ought street improvements. He also wrote to be something that Democrats and Republicans are locked arm in arm because this an editorial questioning where the is about not only our economic security...it's about our national security."

So everything is about national security now. Neugebauer's words come straight of that morning's Republican talking points.

And where was his Democratic opponent; Dwight Fullingim; nowhere to be seen or heard

Somewhere out in other parts of the country; the local Republican Congressman is saying the same thing to their local news outlets.

And sadly we note that there was no Democratic response from Democrats. Editorial are strictly the opinions of El Editor's editorial board which consist of Bidal Aguero, Olga Aguero, and editorial writer Abel Cruz. They do not represent the views of anyone else associated with El Editor or those of our advertisers.

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Unpaved Streets and Proposed Expenditures

The problem of unpaved streets in East Lubbock was the lead story in last have been getting lately. It seems week's El Editor. In an effort to get input from our elected representative El Editor to me that LISD is always running sent emails to Floyd Price and Todd Klein asking them to address the issue. Councilman Price was asked the following:

KCBD reported that the Mayor and at least one other council member said they youth. Issues like high drop out are in favor of spending \$30 million on streets in West Lubbock. What are your rates; teen pregnancies and sexufeelings on this?

Can you tell us how many miles of residential streets are unpaved in East Lubbock and how much money it would take to pave a one mile residential street?

Price answered as follows:

Bidal; to pave 82nd form I 27East to MLK BLVD. will cost \$8,900,000. MLK, From U.S. Hwy. 84th to 82nd South, Cost \$3,600,000. Cost to pave all dirt roads is not working. in Dist. 2, (approximately 25 miles) \$18,000,000. I hope this is the information you need.

Councilman Klein was asked the following:

How does this proposed street paving fit in with your concept of an equitable pregnancy problem; that too needs amount of money being spent throughout the City?

Will you support the effort? What can be done about getting some money for Districts 1, 2, and 3 for infra-

structure repair; and just plain paving of unpaved streets in District 2?

Here is Klein's response:

I can say that I do support further investment into the older parts of the city. That funding could be infrastructure projects funded as part of a general obligation bond package to be voted on by the public, or if we need to (due to timeliness concerns) through a certificate of obligation bond appropriation. However, it is important to understand that the Council is already working on the matter of an end if this city went wet. re-investment into the older parts of town; particularly in terms of water works

replacement of the aging pipes. No doubt we will have more to do as the city continues to age, and although our city's leakage rate of water is in keeping with that of other cities I believe the Council will continue to work to get out ahead of the issue of water.

As to the question of funding paving projects in the older parts of our city I support the on-going effort to have a strong street maintenance program, and a few weeks back I mentioned that as an important issue to me at the Council's first work session on budget priorities and philosophies.

As to concerns about where we are in terms of paving and infrastructure, I think rival of Stephen F. Austin; and there were American of Mexican descent named Guy the new mayor has been very clear in his desire to foster an open dialogue among not six flags over Texas, there were seven. Gabaldon. Council Members in order for us to move through the budget cycle in a more Unfortunately our history continues to be proactive and I believe productive manner.

Furthermore, I am confident that regardless of whether the money is derived distorted. from Gateway funds or bonds that we will see an emphasis on getting capital streets projects like 34th and other older areas of town taken-on and addressed ter, here in Austin. They wanted to know Tejas and the people called themselves Tejain the coming months, so candidly at this point in the new council's tenure I think how the Mexican American Community nos; and it was this Tejano community that some concerns and criticism might be unwarranted or at the very least pre-ma- felt about the exclusion of Hispanics from arose in insurrection in 1811 in the Casas ture at this point.

And to be clear I do not believe we will be immediately able to address all of that if I ever got to meet Mr. Burns that the Gutierrez-Magee Revolution of 1812, the pent-up needs of the older parts of our city given the worsening projected I would shake his hand and thank him for the four month siege of the presidio in Golieconomic forecasts and the existing constraints on family budgets. Nor will I add single-handedly doing what no Hispanic has ad, the Battle of Rosillo, the Battle of Alazan to the already difficult hardship many of our homeowners are having within their ever been able to do and that was to unite leading up to the biggest and bloodiest strug- Grounds. own family budgets by raising their taxes to make haste of street paving beyond the Hispanic Community. However, I was gle for freedom ever fought on Texas soil; the planned investments and specified projects proposed.

There will be new tax implications to any bond package, but I believe the voters one of the most highly decorated veterans of Tejanos were killed in this battle and its afwill support needed street capital projects. That is where the city can address much of our needed street improvements while also working to expand new streets year old Marine called "From Hell to Eter- unrecognized for their ultimate sacrifice. through the so-called Gateway funds; which under the current economic climate I nity," starring a tall, blond, blue-eyed Anglo would support in an effort to expand our tax-base through new housing develop- American. It portrayed how this heroic Ma- 6th 1813 Bernardo Gutierrez de Lara, flyments to hopefully help off-set possible losses in sales-tax receipts.

The intent of doing so in this manner is to help ward off future tax-hikes that nese soldiers and on one night alone, captur- Texas, read the first Declaration of Indepenwould hit all members of the community but most severely those on fixed incomes, ing over 800 Japanese soldiers; eventually dence. or in other words many of the residents living in the older parts of the city.

Lastly, I am quite pleased that we are about to embark on a much needed (and long overdue) new animal shelter, and we will be placing it in an older and central man and thinking, wow, these Anglos are tal grounds in Austin honoring our Tejano location in large part due to a recognition by the new council that we need to really courageous, only to discover, fifty Heroes. invest in all parts of our city and ensure that public facilities are accessible to all years later, that Hollywood chose to distort

members of the community. We thank both of these council representatives for their willingness to blue-eyed Anglo after all, but a short Chi- the purpose of planning and constructing a

On the Internet -www. eleditor.com

On Life's Highway

By Abel Cruz

learning about what makes our world go round and traveling some new experiences which have formed some observations about the roads we travel in this life.

tion we just might take that road less traveled; the one the poet Roblearn something.

Last week I traveled through New Paso and Interstate 10 and 20.

Not once did I see a billboard city; or the "Giant side of Texas" the highway inviting travelers to

boards along the highways and byways to let folks know what we gious fanatics.

I read where Tech will have to I suspect they are afflicted with the same financial malady which plagued the city just a few years

I read Bidal's story last week about street paving in west Lubbock and that Lubbock taxpayers will be footing all or part of the bill for a proposed \$30 million worth of critical souls. representatives from District I and 2 were as they seemed to be out of among us. the loop once again.

Voters in East Lubbock might want to note that the squeaky wheel gets the grease. Meaning that as long as people in these districts stay home on Election Day; and allow the status quo to remain in office; gonna happen. they get what they deserve.

just a fact. It is about time people

There are many issues which deserve way more attention than they under the radar. Yet we have some ally transmitted diseases.

When will the administration wake up and realize that sex education must be a part of the curriculum. This abstinence only nonsense

We will be addressing the high school drop out issue in a future series on these pages. As for the teen addressing and perhaps we will have to tackle that issue also.

Alcohol sales; yeah or nay you say? In reading some of the over zealous letters against alcohol sales in this city; which have appeared in the the others. local daily since Councilman Klein brought up the issue; you would think that the world would come to

Well I hate to the bearer of the egos. obvious; fact is Lubbock is already

These past few weeks; spent wet. It has been since the days of prohibition and days of bootleggers; some of which I frequented in

Look at Slaton and Wolfforth; Some are dead ends; but if we They didn't turn into Sodom and If we allow this trend of exclusion to continue we will forever be, as the title Alcoholism rates aren't up; and as Christianity to this land.

> What absolute nonsense and morgrounds. ulate the political system under the Dan Arellano, Author/Historian, Austin, Texas guise of religious values.

Wake up! Look around you and look at what is happening to our and Human Services of Texas youth and address those issues. violence; and 20% of our citizens who live under the federal poverty level; where is your compassion

I suspect I am not alone here. And they say we need a visitor's There are plenty of people here who have relocated from other cities and do not share the moralistic attitudes exhibited by some reli-

I have lived in many cities which were wet; including our nation's capital. I could walk a block from pay Whitmore money to leave; the capitol building and buy all the booze I wanted. Beer and liquor the White House; I know because I would buy it there sometimes and You remember Lou Fox don't God didn't rain down His wrath on me!

> And these people are worried about corrupting our morals.

Please; get a life and start worrying about how to save your hypo-

OK; I've calmed down now...

Let me wrap this up with one

For those of you who are waiting for the new Mayor and certain council members on the city council to misstep and completely forget about those areas of the city which need attention; hear this; it ain't

What we have now on the coun-Harsh you say. Not harsh; that's cil are reasonable people who with the best of intentions will do just started paying the "Price" of inef- fine. Two of them may be named fective representation; yes pun in- Thomas and Paul; but they cannot perform miracles I'm sure. So we have to be patient and give them a chance to do what they do best.

Now I will signal out Mayor Martin and council members Todd Klein; Paul Beane; and John Leonserious issues associated with our ard as our best hope for the future of this city. I still think Gilbreath sits on the fence and the other two; well I've already vented enough.

> I sincerely believe this new council will make a positive difference. I think back to the last administration and realize that things cannot get any worse. I believe the aforementioned elected officials' elected by a majority of voters have come along at just the right time; to guide and lead this city in a common sense way; with vision and compassion at the same time.

> Now for those who may not believe me; trust me; I would rather hang my hat with these guys than

> And if I am wrong; and I do not think I am; at least they will not embarrass this city or pay lip service to the community to satisfy their

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Back of the Bus

The Ken Burns Documentary and the exclusion of Hispanics in his WWII they went wet and they seem to be Documentary, the State Board of Education and the exclusion of Tejano History doing just fine. Nothing happened. on the curriculum and now the Tejano Monument.

Gomorra overnight. They don't of historian David J. Weber's book reads "Foreigners in Their Native Lands." have drunks lining their city streets. We are the descendants of the original inhabitants; our ancestors brought

far as I know voters who voted in After neglecting Tejano Heritage for over 150 years and after seven years of favor of going wet haven't gone to raising funds for the much- anticipated installation of the Tejano monument, we are now expected to accept a hidden location on the back corner of the capital

alistic garbage. Sorry; but I am fed Call or write the Governor and other elected officials and tell them this is an up with residents who try to manip- outrage. We will no longer go to the back of the bus.

darellano@austin.rr.com An Open Letter to Commissioner Albert Hawkins; Director of Health

Out of concern for the future of the services administered by the Health and Human Services Commission, we ask that immediate action be undertaken to rebuild the crumbling eligibility program. To rebuild, HHSC must hire more staff, stop rolling clients into TIERs until it is ready, and close the ineffective

private call centers. We have received many calls from the clients of our local HHSC offices who are frustrated and desperate with the delays in their Food Stamp, Medicaid and TANF benefits. Particularly those clients who are part of the TIERS program have reported lengthy delays and obstacles to receiving benefits.

In the last legislative session, the legislature gave your Commission the authority to hire substantially more HHSC staff. They also granted the agency the freedom to use the money formerly intended for the contract with Accenture, or other private vendors, to return functions to state staff. We applaud the decisions of the past years to cancel all state lay-offs and hire all temporary workers as permanent employees. However, the current staffing levels are still clearly inadequate to the needs of the citizens of the Texas. We ask that, in your role as Executive Commissioner, you act now to increase staffing levels to meet

We have watched with concern as the TIERS program continues to fall short are sold a couple of blocks from of our expectations of it. We oppose plans of any further rollout of the program until these programs are fixed. We were relieved to hear that you do not have plans to start the next phase of the TIERS rollout until the problems are solved. We have learned that, unfortunately, many clients are being rolled into TIERS when they apply for the Women's Health Program. This change results in delays in their cases. There must be some way to keep these clients in the SAVERR system until TIERS is fully operational and has met all the benchmarks for improved performance. We urge you to make that possible.

Finally, we are chagrined by the continued use of privatized call centers for service delivery. This approach has been both very costly and very frustrating to clients. It only serves to increase the number of people with whom the client needs to communicate and, as a result, delay the final correct disposition of the case. The promises of the private call centers – to save taxpayers money and final message to the non believers to make access easier for clients - have been broken. The original authorizing legislation for the call centers, HB 2292, required that HHSC make a convincing cost benefit analysis case for the call centers. What is the cost benefit justification of continuing this approach? In light of the lack of cost-savings from private call centers and the aggravation they cause our citizens, it is time for us to abandon them and reinvest those monies in building a system that belongs to and serves Texans.

> Editor's Note: This letter was submitted to El Editor by the Texas State **Employees Union**

An Open Letter to Congressman Joe Baca; Democrat (CA) Dear Chairman Baca,

We are extremely concerned about the number of people sickened by Salmonella saintpaul outbreak, as well as the economic loses and potential liability of the Mexican restaurant owners. This issue has now reached a critical point. As Mexican restaurant owners we share the goal of providing safe food to the customer and support FDA's efforts to do so when their actions are based in sound research. As citizen I ask you to investigate the actions of the FDA as in this case we feel that there has been lack of responsibility and much unjustifiable finger pointing at produce that is the core of our livelihood, without the evidence necessary to back it up.

We understand that the Salmonella outbreak is real as at this time there are more that 1,000 people in the United States suffering from this situation. It is bad enough that we have these conditions; however, we feel the FDA has failed to do their job and through epidemiology properly establish the source of the contamination. It is inconceivable that in four months FDA has not been able to isolate the source of this outbreak and has made communications based on speculations which has undermined consumer confidence in both the safety of ALL produce, our industry and our government.

Instead of fixing the problem, the FDA has left consumers scared, about the safety of fresh tomatoes and now about the safety of jalapeño peppers, cilantro and onions, the very basic ingredients of our cuisine. Despite loses of millions of dollars already experienced by our industry and the damage to consumer confidence, we are concerned the FDA and the CDC are NOT actually protecting the public health and we are the taxpayers at the end of the chain who are suffering for the consequences of this irresponsible behavior. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call, I can be reached at (214)463-0408, and I will be waiting to hear from you about this important

Roberto R. Alonzo, Texas State Representative; District 104, Dallas "Freedom of Expression" is a weekly feature of El Editor. We invite readers to submit their letters, commentaries and opinions for publication. All submissions will be subject to our editorial policies and practices; and may be edited due to space limitations. Ideas and opinions are strictly those of the writer and do not represent nor reflect anyone else's views and opinions. Submissions may be sent vie email to eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Commentary: The Tejano Monument Project

Sincerely.

By Dan Arellano

Texas history does not begin with the ar- cano from East L A. He was one of us, an

capturing more than 1500 enemy soldiers. the truth. This Marine was not a tall blond organization that was created in 2001 for

By the 1800s the community had forged a concealed, excluded and sometimes outright regional identity. In those days there were no Hispanics, no Mexican Americans, no Lati-I was asked to speak at the history cen- nos and no Chicanos; this place was called Ken Burns WWII Documentary. I told them Revolt and it was a continuous affair with disappointed that he did not even mention The "Battle of Medina." Over a thousand WWII. A movie was even made after this 19 termath that to this day remain unknown and

After a year of bloody fighting on April rine went night after night capturing Japa- ing the Emerald Green Flag, the 7th flag of

These were our ancestors, but do not I remember seeing this movie as a young look for any monuments at the State Capi-

The Tejano Monument Inc is a non-profit

monument to be placed on the front lawn of the Capitol in Austin; and after seven years reached its goal of 1.6 million dollars.

The last step needed was for Governor Rick Perry to call a formal meeting with the State Board of Preservation, who has decided that the monument will be placed in the back N.E. corner of the grounds where there has never been any traffic and no one will ever see it. We are outraged at this callous and indif-

ferent attitude of the members of the State Board of Preservation and demand a place of honor on the front lawn of the Capitol

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Publisher Bidal Aguero **Business Manager** Olga Riojas Aguero Contributing Columnist Abel Cruz

LULAC Receives \$1 Million Grant From AT&T

"The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and the AT&T Foundation, the corporate philanthropy organization of AT&T Inc. (NYSE: T) announced today that LULAC will receive a \$1 million grant from the AT&T Foundation's Aspire initiative, to implement LULAC's Adelante America program, which will provide academic classes, mentoring and student leadership development for underserved,

at-risk Latino teens in grades eight through 10. "This important educational initiative in our community will help ensure that our nation's rich high-tech future and digital empowerment is within reach of our Latino youth," said LULAC president Rosa Rosales. "A good education is the key to a successful future. And

as a long-time leader in broadband and mobile communications, and a longterm dependable partner of the Hispanic community, AT&T is once again demonstrating their corporate leadership by keeping the American Dream accessible to Latino students all across the country." The \$1 million grant will be spread out over two years and will serve a total of 910 at-risk participants in the eighth through the 10th grade. The Adelante America program will develop services and activities that will link classroom learning with the challenges that students face in post-secondary education and the workplace of the future. The goals include increasing rates of on-time promotion to the next grade; improvement of academic performance as measured by grades and test scores; improvement of interpersonal relationships between the children and their peers, teachers, family and other adults;

reduction of the dropout rate, delinquency and gang involvement; and achieving a higher graduation rate for its participants. "As one of the most well-respected advocacy organizations in the country, LULAC will help ensure that Latino students have the tools they need to live up to their maximum educational potential," said Susan Santana, assistant vice president, External Affairs, AT&T. "We are honored to play a small part in



helping today's Latino youth become tomorrow's world leaders." The AT&T Foundation's Aspire program was launched earlier this year, in an attempt to address the fact that nearly one-third of U.S. high school students drop out every year, which amounts to one student dropping out every 26 seconds — a disproportionate number of whom are Hispanics. The \$100 million philanthropic effort announced in April reflects AT&T's commitment to help to strengthen student success and workforce readiness. Currently, Latinos are vastly underperforming when compared with other groups. The percentage of adults over the age of 25 that has earned a bachelor's degree or higher, is 27.2 percent. Among Latinos, that percentage is only 12.2 percent. In addition, Hispanic secondary school students have the highest dropout rates of any ethnic or racial group in the U.S.

Es una medida que bloquea recortes de pagos a médicos WASHINGTON, D.C. - EI cámaras para anular un veto. Congreso revocó ayer el veto El voto en la Cámara Baja fue que horas antes formuló el

Se trata de un volátil asunto de año electoral y de hecho, los republicanos, conscientes de ello, se unieron a los demócratas primero para avanzar el proyecto y luego para anular el veto de Bush.

Los ben-Medicare incluyen aproximadamente 44 millones de ancianos, discapaciatados y

de 383 sobre 41 y en el Senado fue de 70 sobre 26. Año electoral

eficiarios de militares.

La medida bloquea la reducción de 10.6% a

los pagos que reciben los proveedores de Medicare.

El recorte automático surge de la ley de presupuesto balanceado de 1997 que exige

las reducciones si los gastos por concepto de Medicare sobrepasan el tope impuesto por dicha ley.

Cada año el Congreso aprueba medidas que impiden los recortes y que pueden resultar en que los médicos dejen de atender a miles de beneficarios.

Hispanics mixed on McCain's compassion for migrants

Republican John McCain made a dramatic plea for Hispanic votes on Monday, reading from a roll-call of some of the hundreds of illegal immigrants who die each year crossing the border from Mexico.

presidente George W. Bush del

proyecto de ley que bloquea el

recorte de casi 11% a los pagos

que reciben los aproximada-

mente 600 mil médicos que

rios de Medicare.

en vigor ayer.

Advantage.

proveen servicios a beneficia-

Es la tercera vez que el Con-

greso anula un veto de Bush en

el transcurso de su presidencia.

Al anularse el veto, la medida

se convierte en ley. Se supone

que el recorte de 10.6% entrara

Bush vetó la medida porque

contiene un aumento de 1%

a las cuotas que reciben los

doctores y para pagar por el

alza, reduce los pagos a los

médicos privados que acep-

Se requieren dos terceras

partes de los votos de ambas

tan los planes de Medicare

"Maria Hernandez Perez was No. 93. She was almost 2. She had thick brown hair and eyes the color of chocolate," McCain said in an address to the Latino advocacy group the National Council of La Raza, in San Diego, California.

"Kelia Velazquez-Gonzales, 16, carried a Bible in her backpack. She was No. 109.

"John Doe, No. 143, died with a rosary encircling his neck. His eyes were wide open."

Curbing Illegal immigration has become a hot button topic in the United States in this election year, and striking the right note with Hispanic voters on the issue is tricky for both McCain and Democrat rival Sen Barack Obama.

Both candidates need to

achieve a balance between reassuring many voters who want secure borders, while not alienating Hispanics, the fastest growing block who make up nine percent of the electorate.

Latino voters in the fatal corridor of southern Arizona, which bears the brunt of the several hundred illegal immigrants who perish each year as they cross from Mexico, were mixed in their response to Mc-Cain's compassionate outreach on Monday.

"If these people were horses dying every day on the border, they'd be doing something about it," said Lionel Urcadez, the proprietor of a bar a few yards from the rusty border fence in Naco, who welcomed the Arizona senator's words.

"These are human beings, they are trying to better themselves. John McCain cares and that matters to me," he added.

TRAILING SUPPORT McCain's support among

Hispanic Americans is lagging behind that of Obama, who backs comprehensive immigration reform and has attracted many Latino voters who had supported Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton.

McCain got in trouble in 2007 with Republican hardliners for pushing a proposed immigration law that would grant millions of illegal immigrants a path to U.S. citizenship.

He had to change his tune when the legislation collapsed in the U.S. Senate.

McCain now argues for securing the U.S. border with Mexico first and then embarking on legislation to allow illegal immigrants to work legally in the United States, although some Hispanics in his home state said they are wary of him.

"We are very grateful for his feelings. ... My only concern is that if he gets elected he is going to be surrounded

agrega un nuevo Paquete de Mensajería de

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by people in his party who don't believe that," said Bob Fernandez, vice mayor of Douglas, a border town a few miles east of Naco.

Fernandez, a former Republican supporter, said he now leaned toward the Democrats, who are less divided on the issue of immigration.

Other Latinos in the sunscorched corridor said worries over high fuel prices and the delicate state of the economy were more important to them when it came to choosing a candidate than compassion for illegal immigrants.

"McCain is from Arizona, and I know he cares for Hispanics, but what I want to see are some changes around here," deliveryman Tony Pizano said at a gas station in the old mining town of Warren, a mile or so from the Mexico border.

"Diesel is more than \$4 a___ gallon ... and I like Obama on the issues."

Mogul Has Cure for 'Suicidal' Need for Oil

The "Pickens Plan" is the sort of thing that happens when gasoline tops \$4. America teetering on recession needs ideas like this.

Boone Pickens, the Texas billionaire, proposes -- and not for the first time -- fueling millions more vehicles with natural gas, not gasoline.

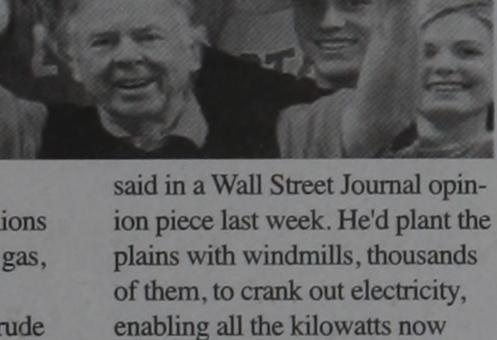
The latter derives from crude oil. And a shocking 70 percent now is imported. Eventually that will kill the economy, says Pickens, 80.

Natural gas is domestic. America has plenty. It's under Western Pennsylvania. And under Texas, where Boone Pickens' BP Capital Inc. undoubtedly owns a piece of it. Under many other deserving states and counties, too. No need to import the stuff. Just switch the wheels of commerce from burning too much gasoline to much more natural gas.

Pickens is right. But so are other schemes that would lessen our suicidal dependence on imported oil. We spend \$700 billion a year on it, hemorrhaging and cheapening the dollar. We should use more coal and nuclear power, drill for oil offshore and in Alaska, and refine oils from shale and tar sands not controlled by shifty foreign "friends." More wind and solar energy make sense here and there, too. Plus, less waste.

But all those ideas are racing ahead now, thanks to \$4 gasoline and scary imports.

Pickens - remembered in Pittsburgh as the guy who chased Gulf Oil Corp. out in 1984 with a takeover threat -- actually favors quite a bit of wind. The center of America from Texas to the Canadian border has been called the "Saudi Arabia of the wind," he



Then he'd use the idled gas for transportation. Fleets of trucks and buses could run on the invisible stuff, he said (though environmental purists would say that even the cleanest burnable fuel emits carbon

national supply, to be backed out.

produced by natural gas-fired

generators, 22 percent of the

dioxide "greenhouse gas"). His major claim, however, is that the wind-gas switcheroo could cut oil imports "by more than one-third in the next five to 10 years."

Not clear is how he'd handle wind's worst defect as a power source: it doesn't blow all the time. Research on batteries and energy alternatives obviously is needed.

OK, who pays?

Pickens says equipping 25,000 U.S. service stations to fill 'er up with compressed natural gas (two tanks in an auto trunk) would cost \$10 billion. That sounds like the beginning of a subsidy plea, though he claims "private investment" principles all the way.

It also can't be forgotten that the persuasive Texan touted natural gas-driven automobiles in Pittsburgh way back in the early 1990s. Gas was dirt cheap then and he was a prophet without honor and a lot of undervalued gas reserves. At \$4 gasoline, he looks smarter and smarter.



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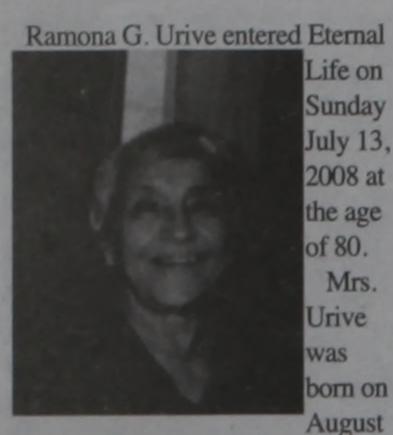
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Obiturary: Ramona G. Urive



14, 1927 in Pflugerville, TX to Josefa Rendon and Santiago Gonzales; both preceded her in death.

On December 28, 1944, she married the love of her life Guadalupe Urive Sr. and moved to Lubbock. She retired from Methodist Hospital after working for 19 years as a nurse's aide. Prior to that Mrs. Urive had worked at the Lauf Clinic and Porter Hospital; both historical Lubbock medical institutions.

She was a longtime member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, a Guadalupana, Cursillista and Eucharistic Minister. In the early '60, she also served on the PTA board for Sanders Elementary.

Rosary for Ramona G. Urive will be at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 15, 2008 at Guajardo Funeral Chapels. Mass of Resurrection will be at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 16, 2008 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church with Celebrants Rev. Cornelius Ramirez, Rev. David Cruz, Rev. Ernesto Lopez, Rev. John Chero and Rev. Rudy Crasta.

Burial will be at Peaceful Gardens Memorial Park under the direction of Guajardo Funeral Chapels.

Mrs. Urive was also preceded in death by three sons; Santos, Gilbert and Alfredo; a daughter, Janie; a brother, Ben Gonzales; six sisters, Dora Gonzales, Lucinda Gonzales, Rebecca Lozano Rutherford, and Margarita Lopez; and Virginia Cuebas and a grandson, Jaime Urive.

Survivors include her husband Guadalupe; five sons, Lupe Jr. (Elida), Robert Sr. (Lupie), Jim (Yolanda), Jerry (Cynthia), Albert (Pat); three daughters, Linda Sosa (Joe), Terrie Herrera (Jessie) and Penny Morin (Deacon Joe) all of Lubbock; two sisters, Angelita Nava and Ernestina Medina of San Antonio; 25 grandchildren, 46 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Tony Urive Sr., Harvey Sosa, Jeremy Garcia, Robert Urive Jr., Brandon Andrade, Marcelino Herrera and Jason Torres.

We extend our love and thanks to the staff of The Plaza of Lubbock and Vista Care Hospice for their loving and tender care. Her family and friends will miss her beautiful smile and loving touch.

The family suggests memorials to St. Patrick's Catholic Church of Lubbock.

Life Lessons From Life to Everlasting Life

By Abel Cruz

It is extremely difficult to write about death or the loss of a loved one.

Death is not something we seem to handle well for obvious reasons. For me; perhaps it's because I was once on the precipice. But that is a story for another day...

This past week has been one filled with emotion due to the loss of someone who made a difference in life. And after all that is something most of us strive to do while here on earth.

A couple of weeks ago we wrote an editorial about our greatest generation; it was about the loss of those who raised us and sacrificed their entire life so that we could enjoy the fruit of their labor.

Back in the 1950's and 1960's we were fortunate to grow up with parents who cared not only about our physical well being; but also our spiritual growth.

them yielded. In our Catholic tradition;

the fruit that the tilled soil in

Tuesday evening; I witnessed

when a loved one dies; we hold

a prayer service in which we pray a Rosary. A Rosary is our way of asking Blessed Mother Mary to intercede on our behalf with God and to ask Him to enjoin our dearly departed into His Kingdom as they enter into Everlasting Life.

As I sat there at the Rosary for Ramona G. Urive; a dear friend of my parents and by extension the siblings on both family sides; I was moved by the people around me. As we recited the prayers which we were all taught at an early age; at least those of us of an earlier generation; I couldn't help but notice the deep Faith coming to life; as we said goodbye to another blessed person of our greatest generation.

I watched as people recited the litany's and prayers from their hearts; never stumbling; never wavering; never having to look at a book. The words are engrained in their hearts and at the appropriate moment; the words come alive as they ask God to give comfort to the grieving family members.

Every week; we seem to

lose someone who has made an impact in our life; someone who has contributed to our society in ways most people will never know. They are the ones who endured the struggles; they are the ones who made sure that life for us would be easier and fruitful.

That was their main focus; they were unselfish. And that can be seen in the way the people who came to the Rosary prayed.

It is never easy to lose someone you love and who has played a major role in your life; be it a friend; a spouse; a child or other.

But there is something unique about the loss of a mother. She is the one who bore you; she is the one who nourished you and quenched your thirst. She is the one, who healed your wounds; who stayed up late to make sure you were ok; she was the one who wrapped her arms around you and your heart and felt every pain you experienced.

She is the one who knew your soul and your very being.

She is the one who through God and your father gave you life and sustained you through your trials and tribulations and also the good moments in your life.

It is really an extraordinary experience when we stop and think about what our mothers do for us.

Ramona G. Urive will be

missed greatly by those who knew her and loved her; her children; her many grandchildren and granddaughter Ramona who I'm sure will carry her name in the same dignified way her Grandmother did. She too will teach her own daughter about her greatgrandmother and prepare her for the future with the same values her mother and grandmother have taught her.

For it is the little ones; the young generation which represent our future's best hope.

The family will hurt; but perhaps they will find comfort in the fact that Ramona G. Urive was one of those rare individuals who definitely left this world a better place than when she entered into life on this earth.

She is resting and at Peace now; that much; our Faith teaches us

Email: lifelessons@clearwire.

"LifeLessons" is a page 3 feature which addresses life issues and tries to do so in a meaningful way. I would love to hear what you think of the column; or just to get some ideas on what topics are of interest to our readers. Please email me at the above email address; all correspondence is confidential unless we agree otherwise and you allow me to use information in a future column or story.

Have a good week!

A Cruz

New Smokeless Tobacco **Prevention Campaign** Urges Texas Youth to Spit It Out

LUBBOCK, Texas—The Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) Office of Tobacco Prevention and Control unveiled a new campaign July 15 called Spit It Out, designed to prevent the use of smokeless tobacco, sometimes referred to as dip. The new campaign launched at the Texas FFA Convention, which attracts about 10,000 teens from across the state.

The campaign targets teens because while only 4 percent of Texas adults use smokeless tobacco, 8 percent of Texas youth use it.

"Texas teens are susceptible to the intrigue of smokeless tobacco, and oftentimes it is tolerated as an accepted form of tobacco use, even though it's illegal for teens, and it can cause cancer just like cigarette use can," said Dr. David Lakey, DSHS Commissioner. "The average age a teenager in Texas begins using smokeless tobacco is 13, and Spit It Out was created to resonate with young Texans by placing an emphasis on health risks and how it negatively affects their social lives."

Spit It Out consists of TV, radio and online advertising, which will run in markets throughout the state in July and August. Additionally, a new Web site at SpitItOutTexas. org went live today that features interactive elements to engage teens, statistics and facts about smokeless tobacco. Texas youth will also get first-hand experience at an interactive outreach booth at the Texas FFA Convention today through July 17. The booth will feature live demonstrations every hour of the harmful ingredients in smokeless tobacco and their adverse health effects. Convention attendees can also receive prizes and play games, designed to reinforce messages about the consequences of using smokeless tobacco.

"Even though I saw friends using smokeless tobacco, it still seemed like a gross habit to me," said Austin Jung, a Lubbock high school sophomore. "At first I was concerned about bad breath and having it stain my teeth, but after I did an Internet search for smokeless tobacco, I found out that the health concerns were much more serious. I'd never use it."

While other areas of the state will receive the Spit It Out campaign message, it kicked off today in Lubbock. Speakers at today's event included Lubbock teenager Austin Jung; Barry Wilson, DSHS deputy regional director; and Tom Maynard, Texas FFA Association executive director.

Spit It Out conveys to teens that no matter its form, all types of tobacco contain nicotine, which is highly addictive. An additional key element of the campaign is to convey to teens health risks they may see early on as a result of smokeless tobacco use. Research

shows immediate health effects resonate with teens more so than long-term effects. Spit It Out will emphasize those immediate health effects, including that smokeless tobacco stains teeth a yellowish-brown color, gives you bad breath, and can cause bleeding gums and sores that never heal.

July 4-6

Texas State)

(West Texas State)

Midwest National (Men's E)

Guarantee) USSSA

Sept 26-28*

Oct 31- Nov 2

USSSA

Women's State

Men's E State

July 11-13

August 1-3

Aug 8-10

EyeCare America Asks Hispanic Families to Share History of Glaucoma

Hispanics are at a disproportionately higher risk for developing glaucoma and Hispanic women are almost twice as likely as men to have glaucoma. In fact, approximately six percent of Hispanics 41 years of age and older have glaucoma and as high as 12 percent of Hispanics 80 years old and older. And among Hispanics with glaucoma, 38.8 percent are men and 61.2 percent are women.

In the fight against blindness caused by glaucoma in the Hispanic community, EyeCare America asks people to get their Family Glaucoma Snapshot by following these three, simple steps:

1. ASK: "Does anyone in our family have glaucoma?"

2. CALL: 1-800-391-EYES (3937) to see if you qualify for a FREE exam.

and the Fastpitch Girls Games

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1st Annual Lubbock

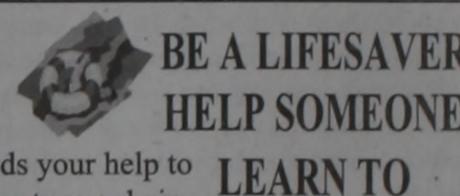
\$300

gional Championships USSSA

3. TELL: Your family if you have glaucoma.

The Family Glaucoma Snapshot campaign is intended to raise awareness about the risk factors for glaucoma among Hispanic communities. EyeCare America encourages people to call its Glaucoma EyeCare Program at 1-800-391-EYES (3937) to find out if they are eligible for a free glaucoma eye exam.

Additionally, EyeCare America is providing DVDs of the "Glaucoma: A Guide for Latinos" video, featuring boxing champion Oscar De La Hoya, free of charge to those interested. The 30-minute educational video has been developed to increase glaucoma awareness, diagnosis and treatment among Latinos. Those interested in receiving a DVD can call 1-877-887-6327.



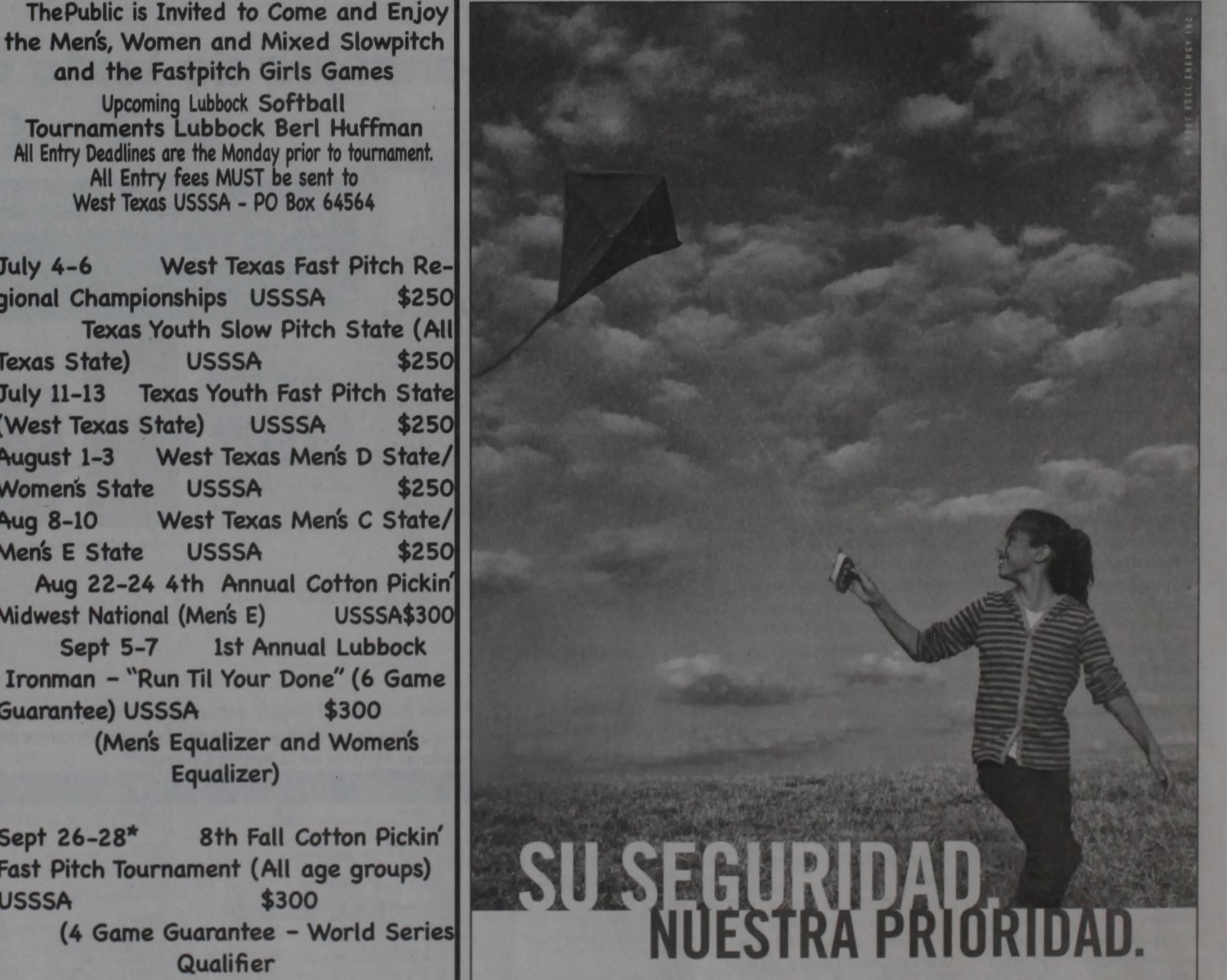
Literacy Lubbock needs your help to teach the 54,000 illiterate people in Lubbock to learn to read.

READ.

We will have a volunteer training session on Saturday, August 16th at 9:00 am in the Community Room at Mahon Library 1306 9th Street.

PLEASE COME AND LEARN HOW YOU CAN BE A LIFESAVER.

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Texas Tech Institute Earns \$1.08 Million NIH Grant to Encourage Minority

Three researchers at The Institute of Environmental and Human Health at Texas Tech recently received a \$1.08 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to implement the Plains Bridges to the Baccalaureate Program with South Plains College.

Groups

Institute researchers Jaclyn Cañas, Stephen Cox and Trey Brown received the five-year grant. The program will partner with educators and minority science students at South Plains College to help those students transfer successfully from the college to Texas Tech.

"Our goal is to help minority science students succeed in college and stimulate them to the point where they want to continue pursuing a career in science," said Cañas, who will serve as program director. "We want them to go to South Plains College, come to get their bachelor's degrees at Texas Tech, and then hopefully continue on to graduate school."

Cañas said institutes for higher education must develop programs to help minority students overcome the challenges they face in pursuing university degrees especially in the sciences.

While African-Americans, American Indians and Hispanics comprised 13 percent, 1.5 percent and 12.5 percent of the 2000 U.S. population, the 2005 Graduate Enrollment and Degrees Report found that they comprised only 12 percent, 1 percent and 7 percent of all graduate degrees.

Cañas hopes to encourage more minority students to pursue more science-based graduate degrees. They hope to have 48 students pass through the program in the next five years. The first 12 students in the program will begin this fall at South Plains College.

Jay Driver and Philip Anderson, professors at South Plains College, and Texas Tech faculty members John Zak, Jorge Salazar-Bravo, Juan Muñoz and Zenaida Aguirre-Muñoz also aided in securing the funding.

Pedro Fernández celebra 30 años de carrera artística con "Dime mi amor", su disco 37 Pasaron 30 años desde que el

actor y cantante mexicano Pedro Fernández asomó al mundo de la farándula con su actuación en la película "La niña de la mochila azul", en la que su nombre era Pedrito. "Hoy día la mochila ya no es tan azul, se le está acabando el colorcito", dice Fernández entre risas. "Han sido años maravillosos y de éxitos. Sólo de pensar en otros artistas que duran uno o cinco años y después no se vuelve a saber de ellos, y yo he llegado a tres décadas haciendo lo que me gusta. Eso es para agradecer", agrega para el Daily News vía telefónica desde Miami, refiriéndose a la aparición de su disco número 37, "Dime mi amor".

El álbum con el que este artista de 38 años celebra su aniversario, tiene un estilo bastante romántico. "Es un sueño hecho realidad, en especial por la aceptación que ha tenido. La canción Dime mi amor es escrita por Tres Copas; Amiga por favor, que tiene tres meses

en primer lugar en las listas, es de Gilberto Gless; y Sana mi herida, con David Bisbal, ha sido bien recibida también", dice.

Al hablar sobre su familia,

Fernández prefiere omitir que

una de sus hijas, Karina, es la autora del tema Extraño tu mirar, incluido en el álbum. "Mi esposa y yo estamos felices por nuestras hijas adoslescentes. Karina de 16 quiere ser compositora, Osmara de 19 cantante, y Gema de 13 actriz", agrega. Pedro Fernández, nacido en Guadalajara y cuyo nombre verdadero es José Martín Cuevas Cobos, adoptó ese nombre en honor a sus ídolos Pedro Infante y Vicente Fernández: "En la calle la gente me dice Pedro o Pedrito, pero nunca me llaman por mi verdadero nombre. En el escenario soy Pedro, abajo soy un hombre normal, que le

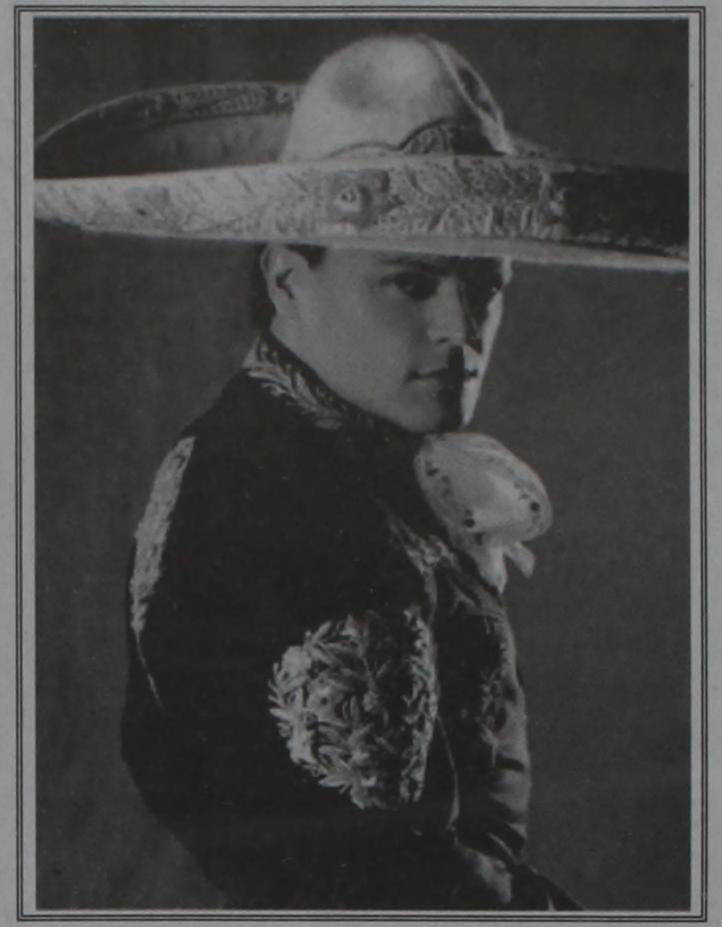
"El traje hay que portarlo con orgullo, con mexicanidad, y darle realce. A mi me gusta usarlo bien apretado porque eso de andar con uno aguado como que parece un saco con adornitos", dice, y agrega: "Una vez en Venezuela me tocó cantar sin él porque mis maletas se perdieron. Lo hice así porque el charro lo lleva uno por dentro".

Charro por siempre

Con 25 películas y cuatro telenovelas como actor, Fernández está en negociaciones para regresar al cine después de 14 años de su última película, Derecho de asilo. "Quiero volver al cine familiar. Le dije sí a una propuesta, y si pudiera ser con Lucero o con Edith González me encantaría, pero no depende de mî', dice.

Además, reconoce que cuando está de gira es extenuante y difícil para su familia: "Ellos son mi inspiración, mi estabilidad emocional, pero también hay que 'chambear'. No me puedo dar el

lujo de retirarme ahora porque hay que pagar las cuentas, especialmente todos los antojos de mis hijas", finaliza.



An interview with Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez, author of the 'Dirty Girls' books

Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez jump-started the Latina chick-lit movement when she published the best-selling Dirty Girls Social Club five years ago.

[Click image for a larger version] Anna Pena

Anna Pena

Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez is author of the Dirty Girls books.

Now she's back with a sequel, Dirty Girls on Top, which follows Lauren, Usnavys, Rebecca, Amber, Sara and Elizabeth as they navigate through marriage, kids, careers and boyfriends during their mid-30s.

It's easy to want to call the breezy, sexy book a Latina version of Sex and the City. But Ms. Valdes-Rodriguez says she doesn't like that comparison.

"It's good; it's just very different from what I do," she said recently. "With the first Dirty Girls, I was the Latina Terry McMillan. And with the second one, I'm the Latina Candace Bushnell. Hopefully by the third Dirty Girls book, I can just be me."

Here's more from the 39-yearold author, who'll sign copies of the new book tonight at Borders.

Lesley Téllez The first Dirty Girls book seemed to end on a pretty final note. Why did you want to write

a sequel? I did leave some story lines open, actually, by design in that book. I didn't feel like I was finished with those characters. I felt like I could just keep writing. I immediately wanted to do the sequel but was advised by my

publisher to do a few books in between. Which in retrospect, I'm not sure was the best choice.

encanta el fútbol y que le va a

muerte al América", revela.

It seems as if there's a lot more sex in this book. Is that true, and if so, why?

I'm not sure that there is, actually.

Or maybe I haven't read a sexy book in a while.

I don't know. I was more at ease with writing about it. I think that happens as you get older. One of the edits I get with every book I've turned in for St. Martin's – it's actually twofold, and I think that has partly to do with the genre that I'm in - it's always, "More sex and more shopping." It's like, "OK. I'll add that." But [wish] this one, I did want to explore the idea of sex as a metaphor for all that is going on with them personally. I think a lot of times society will detach one from the other. But they're pretty interrelated. Sex with the right person, or with the wrong person, being unfaithful - just trying to explore it in a lot of different contexts with women in their mid-30s.

Going back to you immediately wanting to write a sequel: Did your ideas change since then? Is this book totally different than what you originally had in mind?

That's such a good question. I actually wrote a sequel right away that is nothing like this

one. I've actually written three novels since the first book that all got the same reaction that the first Dirty Girls sequel did, which is that it was too dark and too literary. ... There's a part of me that's always tugged to the dark side and literary side, and I have to kind of keep it in check for now.

What's the chance this will be made into a movie?

It's a complicated story, and I don't know how much you have time for or want to hear, but the short version is yes, it's going to be a movie. And this week we're getting the paperwork from Paramount Pictures in the next couple of days, to finalize the legal stuff with them.

So there will be a third book? Yeah. What I want to do now is focus on just one of the characters, whose story is totally unresolved at the end of this book, which is Lauren. She's quitting her job at the end of this book and going to find herself. So I want to do a book that's kind of Under the Tuscan Sun - y. You know? In the book, she was planning to maybe go to Mexico, at the end of this one. But I'm thinking maybe Portugal. I just want to take her somewhere totally different, where she can be alone for the first time in her life and not focus on having men in her life.

Vicente Fernández tiene día propio

MEXICO (AP)- El gobernador de Nuevo México Bill Richardson declaró que cada 12 de julio se celebrará allí un día en

honor al legendario cantante mexicano Vicente Fernández.

El funcionario escogió la fecha para conmemorar el concierto que Fernández ofreció el sábado en la capital estatal, como parte de una gira por Estados Unidos, informó el miércoles el sello disquero Sony-BMG.

"Yo, Bill Richardson, gobernador del estado de Nuevo México, proclamo la fecha 12 de julio de 2008 como: "El día de Vicente Fernández", decretó el funcionario, según comunicado de prensa de la empresa.

El cantante ranchero se presentó en el Journal Pavilion de Albuquerque, la capital de ese territorio estadounidense.

Al hacer el anuncio el gobernador dijo que el cantante "ha impuesto su presencia dentro de los Estados Unidos con una estrella en el 'Hollywood's Walk Of Fame' (paseo de la fama de Hollywood), enriquecido por una multitud que hasta la fecha ha

roto todos los récord de asistencia en dicho evento".

Resaltó su origen pobre y cómo se superó hasta llegar al éxito

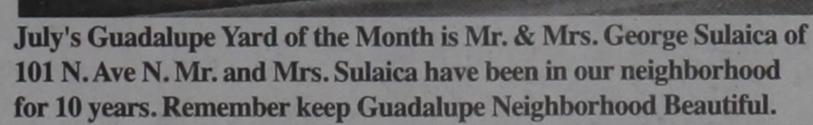


con 56 álbumes grabados hasta la fecha. Su más reciente disco "Para siempre" ha vendido más de 500.000 copias en México y otras 565.000 en Estados Unidos, dijo

> la disquera. El Charro de Huentitlán se presentará en agosto y septiembre en varias localidades de México, incluyendo varias fechas en el Auditorio Nacional, uno de los

centros más importantes del país. En octubre y noviembre regresa a Estados Unidos donde hará paradas en Atlanta, Nueva York, Miami, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, San José y Las Vegas





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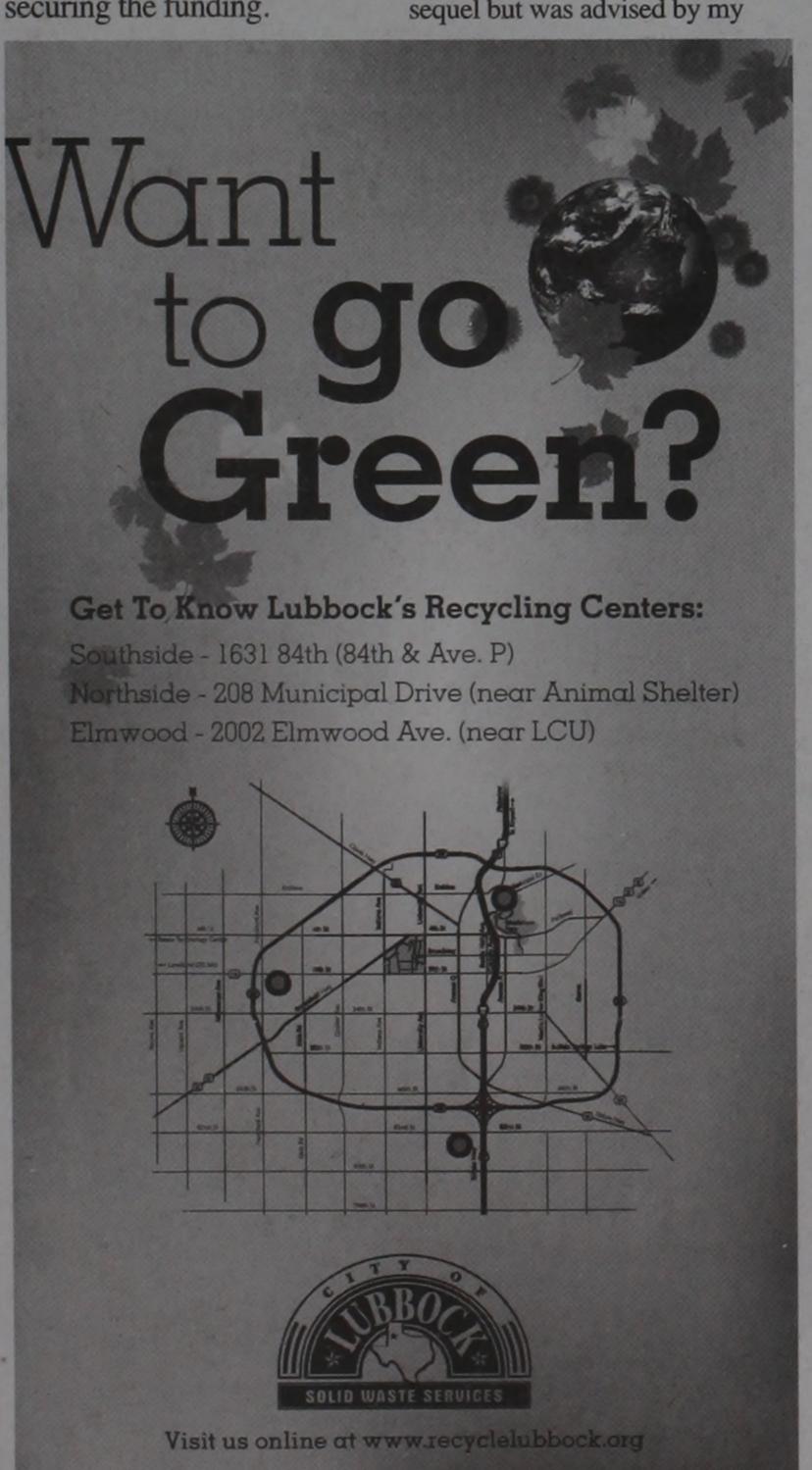
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