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Texas' Oldest Hispanic Owned Newspaper

El Editor

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

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Robertson Vs Martin: Which Candidate Has Earned Your Vote?

One has to wonder why anyone would want a position that comes with so much scrutiny yet pays less money per month than it takes to fill up a mid size SUV.

Perhaps we may never know what really drives Mayor Tom Martin to seek a third term or Glen Robertson a first one; as the City's most elected official.

But in order to find out as much as we could about each candidate's views on some issues that are important to the Hispanic readership that we reach, we invited both to participate in our Candidate Q&A.

In determining what questions to ask, we took into consideration that Mayor Martin has served 2 terms, while his opponent Glen Robertson has yet to serve in any elected capacity in city government. We also asked questions that we felt are important to our Hispanic community's future.

Challenger Glen Robertson
Q1. You have said that accumulating more debt to pay for "routine maintenance and operations" is not the way to go. What is your alternative financial plan to borrowing money and accumulating debt? How do you propose to raise the necessary revenue to pay for these things and other capital projects?

A: I have no issue with debt financing for long term capital projects such as major water projects. I do have a problem with financing items like routine street repairs. There is too much redundancy in staffing between departments and I would propose a two year hiring freeze for the city and let attrition solve this issue. That combined with aggressive scrubbing of the budget to eliminate wasteful spending, should provide enough savings to pay as we go for routine maintenance.

Q2. Our editorial position is that some of the issues or problems facing the city are related to city management's poor handling of certain things. Three of the most recent examples are how the possible closing of the city health department was handled, not planning in advance for the city swimming pools would

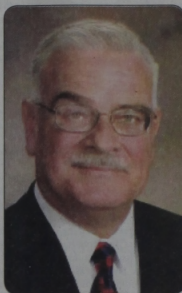


Glen Robertson

get filled with stage 2 water restrictions in place, the failure to follow up on the Structural Standards Commission 90 days demolition orders for at least 3 buildings, one of them being the Barclay building in the Guadalupe neighborhood before the issue went into litigation. We have had complaints from some Hispanic leaders in two predominantly Hispanic neighborhoods that city management is not responsive to

resident's concerns.

What is your assessment of city management and how they have handled the above mentioned issues; and the kind of job they are doing in managing the problems/issues in these Hispanic commu-



Tom Martin

nities?

A: I think the responsibility for these issues rests squarely on the Mayor's office. The council is not currently holding staff account-

able and has consistently blamed staff for their lack of leadership. The City Manager reports directly to the Council, and if he/she is not doing the job, action should be taken. I think the core issue is the total lack of communication between the council and the citizens. We need to understand that the Mayor is giving the City Manager direction on these issues behind closed doors. We need a council led by a Mayor that will have the courage to openly address these issues and direct staff accordingly.

Q3. What are your views on the Lubbock Health Department situation? Are you for keeping it open instead of moving forward like the City Manager wants to do?

A: I feel that Public Health is a core city service. The decision to move the Health Department has already been made and it looks like someone is making sure that this process starts before

a new Council and stop the move. We need to make sure that Public Health is funded and that we are providing needed services to the community. Prevention will always be more economical than

treatment. We need to address issues like immunizations, STDs, teen pregnancies and low birth weight babies.

Q4. If elected, what will you do as Mayor to address needs like new business development or community programs, or the problem of neighborhood deterioration, etc., in less affluent neighborhoods like Guadalupe, Arnett Benson, and east Lubbock?

A: I live in North Lubbock and my main business is in East Lubbock. The City of Lubbock needs to bring business leaders from these areas as well as residents together and have in depth discussions. First, we would need to identify the problems and then form an action plan with solutions. Most importantly, we would then need to implement the action plan. I would want as much input from the citizens in these areas as possible.

Q5. Some water related fees and rates have tripled since 2008, what is your view on these increases? Is this the best way for the city to raise revenue; by continuously raising fees instead of property tax rates?

A: I am totally opposed to the way that the city is imposing

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LUBBOCK COUNTY DEMOCRATS 2012 BANQUET



photos by John P. Cervantez; 744-1654, El Editor

Lubbock County Democrats held its Annual 2012 Banquet this past Saturday. According to Pam Brink, Lubbock County Democrat Chairperson the banquet was a great success. Also members of the local chapter of Lubbock Tejano Democrats said that the attendance was awesome. Billy Martinez, who is the vice-chair of the chapter indicated that it was good to see the event supported by local, regional and state, democrats at the gala.

The History of Cinco de Mayo

The holiday of Cinco De Mayo, the 5th Of May, commemorates the victory of the Mexican militia over the French army at The Battle Of Puebla in 1862. It is primarily a regional holiday celebrated in the Mexican state capital city of Puebla and throughout the state of Puebla, with some limited recognition in other parts of Mexico, and especially in U.S. cities with a significant Mexican population. It is not, as many people think, Mexico's Independence Day, which is actually September 16.

Setting The Stage
The battle at Puebla in 1862 happened at a violent and chaotic time in Mexico's history. Mexico had finally gained independence from Spain in 1821 after a difficult and bloody struggle, and a number of internal political takeovers and wars, including the Mexican-American War (1846-1848) and the Mexican Civil War of 1858, had ruined the national economy.

Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian
During this period of struggle Mexico had accumulated heavy debts to several nations, including Spain, England and France, who were demanding repayment. Similar debt to the U.S. was previously settled after the Mexican-American War. France was eager to expand its empire at that time, and used the debt issue to move forward with goals of establishing its own leadership in Mexico. Realizing France's intent of empire expansion, Spain and England withdrew their support. When Mexico finally stopped making any loan payments, France took action on its own to install Napoleon III's relative, Archduke Maximilian of Austria, as ruler of Mexico.

Mexico Confronts The Invasion
Map showing Veracruz, site of the French invasion

France invaded at the Gulf coast of Mexico along the state

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Lubbock Community Events Celebrate Cinco Mayo

In May of 1862, just as the United States Civil War was entering its second year, Mexican forces were involved in a fierce battle for the Mexican independence from occupying French forces at Puebla, Mexico.

That battle is a historical milestone in Mexican history because it proved that the goal of obtaining independence from invading foreign forces was still very much alive; and that independence was possible.

On that day, the Mexican forces prevailed, and ever since then the day has become known as "Cinco de Mayo," to commemorate the victory.

Here in Lubbock, local organizations will also remember the occasion with several community events.
The Guadalupe Neighborhood Association will sponsor a Cinco de Mayo Celebration on Saturday May 5, beginning at 11:00 AM at Guadalupe Park, 102 Ave P with music by DJ Julian Escamilla. Ysidro Gutierrez will sing the National Anthem in Spanish. Las Guadalupeñas, a women's organization from San Jose Catholic Church will sell their home made tamales in the church parking lot. GNA members will raise money for the association by selling Frito pies and nachos. GNA will also have "Pifata's" filled with candy for all to enjoy!

GNA is a non profit neighborhood association made up of residents who work to improve their neighborhood through a variety of projects including environmental cleanups.

Rawlings Community Center located at 213 4004 street in Lubbock will also celebrate with a Tamale Festival. The celebration starts at 1:00PM and runs until



8PM. The highlight of the event will be a "Best Tamale Contest" in which participants are asked to bring a dozen of their best tamales for judging. The entry fee is \$1.00 and judging will begin at 1:15PM.

Radio station Magic 93.7 will also sponsor a concert and various vendor food booths at the Lubbock South Plains Fairgrounds on Saturday May 5.

Music groups headlining the concert include Atrévete, and Sigmo. Gates open at 12:30PM and tickets are \$10 per person.

Harwell Elementary Students to Perform Play

A play called "Val and Gad's Big Adventure" written last fall by Theatre and Dance's service-learning class (THA 4351 Performing Arts in the Community) under the leadership of Norman Bert will be performed by Harwell students with direction from Jim Bush and students in the current service-learning class.

The script is based on materials generated from students at Harwell Elementary School.

In the play, two Mexican kids leave their home in search of their older brother who left years ago for Texas. After many adventures, they are reunited with their brother in Lubbock.

The play will be performed at the Firehouse Theatre of the Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts (LHUCA), 511 Avenue K, at 2:00 on Saturday, May 5. Admission is free. The play will also be presented for the Harwell community in Harwell School's gym on Friday, May 4, at 9:00 and again at 1:00PM.

Comentarios - Opiniones

Our Editorial Voice

Hispanic Endorsements Lubbock City Council and LISD School Board

This past Monday, Lubbock voters began their participation in the Democratic process by casting their vote for candidates of their choice in the city and school board elections.

We hope that voters have taken the time to inform themselves about the candidates and where they stand on the issues.

We tried to do our part by publishing question and answer sections with both school board and city candidates. It is our way of participating in the process and motivating voters to learn as much about the candidates as possible, then to go out and vote.

In determining which candidates to endorse, we have looked at all our candidates and have paid special attention to their answers in our Candidate Q&A. Their answers have played a major role in our selections. We have also evaluated the candidates based on their participation in the Lubbock Tejano Democrats forum and on their willingness to engage the Hispanic community and appeal for their votes.

It wasn't that long ago that only the candidates who were running in certain predominantly Hispanic voting districts campaigned in them. Times have changed, and now Lubbock's Hispanic population has the potential of influencing an election in any of the 6 districts and especially the Mayor's race.

The larger question though is will Hispanics vote in numbers that reflect our percentage of the voting population?

We sincerely hope so.

Our endorsements, a good starting point for us was to ask "is the Hispanic community better off today than we were 4 years ago, 2 years in the case of the Mayor, because of the leadership on the council and school board?" Or is it time for voters to make some changes on the council whose member's votes impact every resident in this city, which will affect us all.

That's where we started. And we ended the process by concluding that yes, it is time for some changes.

We offer our endorsements in this year's elections.

Lubbock City Council

Mayor - Glen Robertson

We think that the city is that point in history when critical decisions made by the next Mayor and City Council will impact us all for a long time to come. The latest US Census confirmed what many people don't realize.

And that is that we are facing a larger small Texas town but are quickly approaching the 250,000 population milestone. Reaching that number will be a game changer in terms of attracting name brand retailers and will result in other market and demographic changes, possibly the need for more restricting to include new city voting districts, which will affect us all.

But it will also bring a new set of challenges for our community and will only add to some of the problems we have now. Challenger Glen Robertson has concentrated on 2 main issues in this race, city debt and hidden taxes disguised as fees. We think he makes a good point on both. Frankly, we are tired of rising water rates, and the tired excuse of how expensive the water projects have

been.

In trying to understand why these financial strategies are necessary we asked a question about debt and rising fees in our Candidate Q&A which can be found on Page 1. Here is Mr. Martin's response, "The majority of the debt is for water projects that are necessary for Lubbock's future. All debt has a funding schedule before it can be taken on."

That's it, no further explanation. Just pay your bills, keep your mouth shut and move along...at least that's how we felt after reading the Mayor's response.

According to Mr. Robertson, the city is in debt to the tune of \$1 billion dollars. Depending on whose math you believe, we understand that the city had to borrow \$500 million dollars to help finance our future water needs, but what is the other \$500 million being used for? It certainly isn't being used to improve the infrastructure in east and north Lubbock, where the majority of the need is. It sure isn't being used to finance street repairs in outer areas like east Lubbock and west Carlisle where some streets remain ungraded and some of our inner city neighborhoods have become "absent landlord's havens", without any city management oversight.

Now, contrast the Mayor's response with this one from Glen Robertson: "I have no issue with debt financing for long term capital projects such as major water projects. I do have a problem with financing items like routine street repairs. There is too much redundancy in staffing between departments and I would propose a two year hiring freeze for the city and let attrition solve this issue. That combined with aggressive scrubbing of the budget to eliminate wasteful spending, should provide enough savings to pay as we go for routine maintenance."

We'll give you decide which answer best addresses our concern. And as usual on this council, we see a continuation of a pattern we have seen throughout the years which calls for borrowing money to finance projects in only certain parts of the city, minus a couple of exceptions.

Our view is that the city is due for a change at the top and we endorse Glen Robertson for Mayor. Like his willingness to engage the Hispanic community and his thoughtful responses to our questions. By contrast, we think Mayor Martin could have done a more thorough job of addressing some of the questions we sent him. We were disappointed in his answer to the question concerning what he has done in relation to the needs in neighborhoods like Guadalupe and Arnett Benson.

Mr. Martin has had an opportunity to leave his imprint on the city, and in many ways he has and we thank him for his service. But after 4 years, we think Mr. Robertson represents the future for us, and we wholeheartedly endorse him for Lubbock Mayor.

City Council District 4 - Jim Gerlt

Although there are 3 candidates running, we think this race is between incumbent Paul Beane and challenger Jim Gerlt. While we think Mr. Beane has done a fairly good job of representing District

4, but we are bothered by his unwillingness to show some flexibility when it comes to issues like dealing with the homeless and issues that impact the less fortunate.

Mr. Gerlt is a more open minded candidate who also shows a good knowledge of the issues and seems to be more understanding that in a city this size, social issues cannot be left up to churches and the private sector alone. His response to one of our questions impressed us: "The City of Lubbock is not just the council; it's every citizen of Lubbock" he wrote.

He could not be more right; but sometimes we think that the council is dominated by some members only interested in certain sections of the city.

One of the better responses to our questions came from Mr. Gerlt who wrote, "We cannot afford any more 'rush to judgment' decisions on the council. We need to be more thoughtful. We need to be more aware of the city millions more than we're going to collect. Fossil business practices have helped get us in our debt mess and common sense leadership will help us get out of debt."

In this race, we are endorsing Jim Gerlt.

City Council District 6 - Latrelle Joy

In this race, we have been pleasantly surprised by Latrelle Joy's thoughtfulness and depth of knowledge about some of the issues we have addressed. Even though she has not served in any elected capacity before, we think she will serve her constituents well and she will make an excellent representative for District 6. We especially like her response to our question on the debt and rising water rates: "There must be a balance between fees and property taxes. Citizens with fixed incomes and limited incomes are impacted more by the increasing fees."

In District 6 race, we endorse Latrelle Joy.

LISD School Board Trustees

We think that the school board elections are equally as important as the Lubbock city council races. Our reasoning is based on the fact that 55% of our Hispanic children and youth make up the total number of students in the LISD school system. Consequently, we need representatives on the school board who understand cultural differences and understand that the community has some serious problems when it comes to our children's education and future.

Hispanics have the highest drop out rate. Some of the schools in our "barrios" have been shuttered due to funding cuts. The issue of bullying in schools receives very little attention, but we don't doubt this is a problem in some of our schools.

There has to be some reasons for such an unacceptable drop rate and low performance scores on tests. And there has to be some solutions also.

We think all voters should consider which candidates are more prepared to address the issues that directly impact them, vote accordingly. But we also offer our endorsements in the school races.

SB District 1 - Mario Ybarra

We will admit that we make this endorsement with some reservations. We have not selected the candidate we think will do the best job of representing District 1.

And while we applaud Gwen Reyna's civic spirit and willingness to get involved, we think Mr. Ybarra's 5 year tenure on the board outweighs Ms. Reyna's experience in school politics at this time.

As for the third candidate in the race, Oralia "Lala" Chavez, she did not participate in either the Candidate Q&A or the Tejano Democrats Forum. Consequently, we felt that we should not include her in our evaluation of candidates and therefore have not considered her candidacy in making our endorsement in this race.

As for Mr. Ybarra, we hope he realizes that not everyone is happy with his representation. His failure to communicate with his constituents in a consistent manner troubles us and he acknowledged as much during the Lubbock Tejano Democrats forum. We would remind him that he made a public commitment that he would do a better job of communicating with parents this time around and would hold more public meetings.

In addition to keeping that commitment, it is time for Mr. Ybarra to stop being so passive at the board table and advocate more for his constituents. He also needs to take more of a leadership role on the board and be more vocal in his approach to dealing with issues that impact our youth. He needs to be more proactive and not passive. That is what we expect in his next term and we endorse Mr. Ybarra for District 1.

SB District 3 - Eddie Kirkpatrick

In this race we have been impressed by challenger Eddie Kirkpatrick. He has reached out to the Hispanic community and seems to understand that diversity in the schools requires more than just a one size fits all mentality. He also has been involved in education related activities for many years as a PTA member, softball coach, and little league umpire, substitute teacher, and spent 28 years with the Lubbock Fire Department. We think his well rounded experiences will be valuable as he deals with the issues faced by the school board. We agree with his answer when he says: "I believe I would be an outside voice for not only District 3 but all of the students, teachers, parents, and administrators of LISD. I am willing to do the time needed to the job and will listen to the people I serve."

In this race, Mr. Kirkpatrick gets our vote.

SB District 5 - Sara Duncan

We don't think there is any more valuable experience for a board member than actually being in a classroom and teaching students. For this reason, we endorse Sara Duncan for the District 5 school board seat.

For 34 years, Ms. Duncan taught at Lubbock High School and consequently taught many of our readers who grew up in Arnett Benson, Jackson, and Guadalupe, and attended LISD. We think her teaching experience gives her a unique insight into the problems faced by students and parents as they face the challenges involved in their children's education. We also know that Ms. Duncan values and understands student diversity. We think her years of experience have taught her to understand cultural differences require solutions.

We also like the fact that Ms. Duncan is now teaching at South Plains College; that she is only adding to her perspective about what it takes for students to finish high school and continue on to college. We endorse Sara Duncan for the District 6 seat.

SB At - Large Seat - Ruby Tanner

We were pleased to see Ruby Tanager as a candidate for the At - Large seat on the board. While we have no complaints about current At - Large board member Melissa Collier, we think that Ms. Tanner deserves an opportunity to see what she can do. We listened to her as she spoke at the Lubbock Tejano Democrats forum and noted that she was well received by the people in attendance. We also believe that she is someone who desires to serve and recall her answer to one of our questions: "I am deeply committed to educational programs that help vulnerable children meet their full potential. I believe my sensitivity to the needs of a diverse student population will add an important perspective to LISD academic programming decisions."

Ms. Tanner gets our vote for the At - Large seat.

EL VIAJE DE UN HOMBRE: DE ASTRONAUTA AL CONGRESO

Por Alan Ybarra

Hispanic News Service

Han pasado casi tres años desde que el mundo presenciara la memorable llegada del astronauta estadounidense de origen mexicano, José Hernández, a la Estación Espacial Internacional (ISS). Y ahora, el momento de edad, este hombre de cinco hijos, luchará por primera vez por lograr un escaño como representante del Distrito 10 de California, que incluye el condado de Stanislaus y la región sur del condado de San Joaquin. Hernández, quien se considera a sí mismo la encarnación del espíritu americano, nació en un pequeño pueblo de un símbolo de coraje y esperanza para millones de inmigrantes hispanos tan participar en la misión espacial del cosmonautador Discovery en el año 2009.

Pero su historia de éxito no fue nada fácil. Hernández, hijo de campesinos mexicanos, ayudó a sus padres inmigrantes, Salvador y Julia, a recoger ropas y somates de la ciudad de Stockton, en el Valle Central de California, cuando tan solo era un Estadio ingeniería eléctrica en la University of the Pacific y se graduó en 1984. Dos años más tarde recibió su maestría en ingeniería de la University of California, en Santa Barbara.

Después de presentarse varias veces, fue admitido al cuerpo de astronautas de la NASA en el 2004 - un momento de perseverancia que aprendió de sus padres. Ahora, Hernández pretende cumplir esta misión de dejar la juventud hispana que cree en el sueño de la ciudad de los Niños, Mike Barkley. De salir con la nominación democrática, se enfrentará con el senador estatal republicano, Jeff Denham, quien cuenta con el apoyo expresado del partido republicano de California y también con el senador estatal, Chad Condit.

Según datos del registro de votantes del Distrito 10 de California, que es predominantemente agrícola, los demócratas parten con un ventaja del 42 por ciento frente al 37 por ciento de republicanos. Su formidable historia de éxito y su gran afinidad que Hernández posee con la comunidad hispana... Jeff Denham, quien cuenta con el apoyo de 15 por ciento de la población del Distrito 10 - también podrían servirle.

De ser elegido, Hernández seguirá los pasos de los astronautas José Glen (senador federal, 1974-1999) y Harrison Schmitt (senador federal, 1977 y 1983).

El día de hoy, Hernández es parte de un tribunal superior de Sacramento dictaminara que el candidato demócrata puede descalificar a su oponente en el tribunal electoral de la primaria del 5 de junio como "astronauta" - tras una demanda presentada por una firma de abogados California asociada a los republicanos - Hernández asistió a una recepción celebrada en Los Angeles, organizada por el sindicato Service Employees International Union.

El día de hoy, Hernández con News Service que "La educación es clave para el progreso. No hay que darse Abandonado. May pocos veces se lo gran las cosas en el primer intento. Hernández comentó que se convirtió en partidario manifiesto de una reforma integral de la ley DREAM, mientras contemplaba una tierra sin fronteras a más de 200 millas sobre la superficie del planeta.

Como congresista, una de las prioridades de Hernández será trabajar en la aprobación de una ley que regularice la situación de una parte de los cerca de 11 millones de inmigrantes indocumentados que viven en los Estados Unidos.

Refiriéndose a la pérdida de apoyo que el presidente Barack Obama ha experimentado entre la comunidad hispana, Hernández dijo que "queremos ser pasmosos como presidente. No lidera el país solo. También están la Cámara de Representantes y el Senado".

Historicamente, los presidentes que han realizado las reformas más "correctas" han sido los demócratas. Hernández presentó para honrar a Hernández estuvieron los congresistas por California, Lucille Roybal Allard, Grace Napolitano y Xavier Becerra; y Angelica Salas, directora ejecutiva de la Coalición por los Derechos Humanos de los Inmigrantes de Los Angeles.

(Alan Ybarra es un periodista independiente en California. Contacta manrique@com.ia.az292@com.columbia.edu.) ©2012

Letters to the Editor

Send Mail to: editor@sbglbojalnet

Dear El Editor, I noticed that you were late paying his taxes again. He owes \$3028.00 in 3011 taxes according to the Agency District RC7224. This recent record shows that in the last 2 years, Commissioner Flores has been late paying his taxes 10 times and has paid over \$11,000 in penalties and interest and over \$600 in attorney fees. It is important for the media to report accurately on the lack of faithfulness of El Editor's actions. Thank you El Editor for verifying and reporting on the false answer given by Commissioner Flores. When an elected official does not follow on the news media to report the truth, I checked the record. The answer is Commissioner

Early Voting Underway

Early voting has started for the Lubbock City Council and LISD School Board elections. Registered voters can vote at any Lubbock early voting location until May 8.

Election Day is May 12 and polls will open from 7:00AM to 7:00PM.

On Election Day, a voter can vote at any Vote Center location.

The Texas State Employees Union needs volunteers to help with bulk mailing efforts on Saturday May 5. TSEU Board Member Mike Torres is organizing the event on behalf of Texas State Representative District 83 candidate Delvin Jones and encourages all TSEU members to join in the effort.

Volunteers will meet at the United Supermarket at 59th and Ave Q between 9 - 3:30 AM on Saturday May 5.

Torres says that if enough volunteers show up, it should not take more than 3-5 hours.

"Delvin has, and continues to be a friendly, supports our current state pensions and benefits, supports keeping the state schools, and has always been our friend, that's why we have supported him in the past. We need someone RIGHT NOW" on the Texas legislature (besides Charles Perry) who will stand up for our "Delvin Jones", said Torres.

EL EDITOR

EL EDITOR is a weekly bilingual newspaper published by Amigo Publications in Lubbock and Midland/Odessa Texas. EL EDITOR has been published on a weekly basis since 1977. My physical address for overnight delivery is 1502 Ave. M in Lubbock, TX 79401. EL Editor is available on the internet at <http://www.eleditor.com> and is distributed throughout West Texas in retail outlets. Opinions expressed in EL Editor are those of the individual writer and not necessarily those of the publisher or the advertisers. Advertising information available by emailing us at editor@sbglbojalnet or by calling us at 806-763-3841. Opinions and commentaries are welcome and can be sent to the same email address. All opinions and letters to the editor must contain the writer's name, address and phone number but name can be withheld at the writer's request. Address and telephone number will not be published.

Founder - Olga Aguero - Publisher/Editor

Marisol Agüero - Distribution Amalia Agüero - Composition

FOR ADVERTISING CALL OR EMAIL:

eleditorsales@sbglbojalnet 806- 741-0371 or 806- 763-3841

Attention: Olga Agüero

Editorials are solely the opinion of El Editor's "editorial voice" and do not represent the opinion of the publisher. If you would like to offer your own commentary in response to our editorials, or on any other topic, we welcome your submission. It will be considered for publication in accordance with our editorial policies. Email: editor@sbglbojalnet

Robertson Vs Martin: City Council Weighs In On Issues

continued from front
taxes through our utility bills. Not only is it dishonest, it is unfair. It places the bulk of our tax burden on small business and homeowners. It is especially hard on fixed income and low income families. I would fight to immediately stop the planned increases on these "hidden taxes" and would look to start reducing them in the future.

Incumbent Tom Martin
Q1. Your opponent has said that the city council is following Washington, DC's example insofar as debt is concerned and that the city needs "a new direction." Please address the debt issue and tell us how we accumulated so much debt and whether carrying such a large amount of debt concerns you?

A. The majority of the debt is for water projects that are necessary for Lubbock's future. All debt has a funding schedule before it can be taken on.

Q2. Our editorial position is that some of the issues or problems facing the city are related to city management's poor handling of certain things. Three of the most recent examples are how the possible closing of the city health department was handled, not planning in advance for how the city swimming pools would get filled with stage 2 water restrictions in place, the failure to follow up on the Structural Standards Commission 90 days demolition orders for at least 3 buildings, one of them being the Barclay building in the Guadalupe neighborhoods before the issue went into litigation. We have had complaints from some Hispanic leaders in two predominantly Hispanic neighborhoods that city management is not responsive to resident's concerns.

What is your assessment of city management and how they have handled the above mentioned issues; and the kind of job they are doing in managing the problems/issues in these Hispanic communities?

A. Our city management operates within the direction of the entire city council. Sometimes mistakes are made, but overall, the entire council approves of the job our management team is doing.

Q3. What are your views on the Lubbock Health Department situation? Are you for keeping it open instead of moving forward like the City Manager wants to do?

A. So much of our direct health care is federally and state funded, and as these funds are continually cut, we will have to consolidate services with other providers in the community. The duplication of services can no longer be funded by all levels of government. I am confident that Lubbock will come up with solutions involving the public and private sector.

Q4. What have you done as Mayor to address needs like new business development or community programs, or the problem of neighborhood deterioration, etc. in less affluent neighborhoods like Guadalupe, Arnett Benson, and east Lubbock?

A. We have strengthened our Code Enforcement programs to address neighborhoods. We have created over 3,000 new jobs in the past eight years, many of them at the Lubbock Business Park.

Q5. Some water related fees and rates have tripled since 2008, what is your view on these increases? Is this the best way for the city to raise revenue; by continuously raising fees instead of property tax rates?

A. There is no more cheap water. We had to invest over \$500 million in new water projects. These costs are paid by the water customers.

El Editor would like to thank both Mayoral candidates for participating in our Candidates Q&A.

Email: eleditor@sbglobal.net

Lubbock City Council Candidates Weigh in on Issues

City debt and whether Lubbock should provide health services are just two of the dominant themes in mainstream media coverage of the city elections. But for this newspaper which reaches a majority Hispanic population, exorbitant water fees and programs for the homeless and how to deal with Lubbock's high poverty rate are equally important.

Conversely, the candidates who have addressed these issues to voter's satisfaction will probably come out on top when all the votes have been counted.

In order to find out where candidates stand on these issues which are rarely covered by mainstream media from a Hispanic perspective, El Editor invited Lubbock City Council candidates to participate in our Candidate Q&A.

We are pleased to note that every candidate we contacted accepted our invitation.

In years past, if candidates were running in a district which had traditionally been seen as

predominately white, then minimal campaigning was done in Hispanic media and even less was done to attract the Hispanic vote.

But as the 2010 US Census showed, Lubbock's Hispanic population has grown at a faster rate than other ethnic groups, and Hispanics no longer live in just one or two predominantly Hispanic districts, but rather reside in every section of the city.

The largest percentage of Lubbock's Hispanic population is still concentrated in city Districts 1 and 2, but things have changed dramatically since the legal decisions which forced a conversion to single member districts in the early to mid 1980's.

This election, the contested council seats are District 4, and 6. In District 2, Councilman Floyd Price is running unopposed.

In District 4, the 3 candidates are incumbent Paul Beane, Jim Gerit, and Dwight Fullingham. In District 6, the 2 candidates, Latrelle Joy and Randy Sanders are vying to replace outgoing Councilman Jim Gilbreath.

All the candidates were sent the same questions.

Question 1

By some estimates, the city's debt is approaching \$1 billion dollars; are you comfortable with the city carrying such a high debt burden? What are your views concerning the debt and is there another approach that should be taken?

District 4 candidates
Paul Beane

The city's current debt is less than twice the city's annual income. A billion dollars is a tremendous amount of money. However what must be taken into consideration, and what is lost

in all this conversation about our city's debt, is that the city's annual income is more than a half billion dollars. The city is making its bond payments on time and will continue to do so. We have borrowed millions of dollars for badly needed water projects. According to our financial department, our bond rates are AA-, which are higher than when I first took office 4 years ago. Do I wish our bond debt was lower? Yes!

Do I wish we could pay cash for the cost of these massive water projects? Yes! Do many young couples in Lubbock wish they could pay cash for their house? Their cars? Their furniture? Here are the facts. Bond debt is needed to finance large projects such as the Lake Alan Henry pipeline and the purchase of water rights in the panhandle. Interest rates on bonds are the lowest that I can remember. Your city is paying its bond debt, with NO increase in your property taxes, except what the fires approved for 34th St., new fire stations, and new traffic signalization systems. Lubbock's debt is under control.

Dwight Fullingham
Even though I am a supporter of the man who is using this line of reasoning to win votes in conservative Lubbock, it's not an accurate picture of any of our problems. Half of this debt is long-term debt used to finance our access to water. Without it, we'd be dead as a city. It's like having a mortgage on a house, which typically equals 2 to 2.5 times a family's annual income. It's not one of our major problems.

Jim Gerit
The city's debt is actually in excess of 1 billion dollars, a staggering sum. The debt that we have incurred on projects with a long

life expectancy is not such a bad debt. However, it is not a good idea to incur long-term debt on projects with a life expectancy of ten years or less. We are making our payments but we're paying millions in interest. Money that could be used for projects. We've got to be honest with our citizens and show exactly how the money is being collected and spent. People won't fund what they don't understand. Our long term solution is to increase our tax base by adding more businesses and jobs. In the short term we need to look for places to trim expenses and pay down our debt. We need to let our staff do their jobs and not have any more drain on our budget by wrongful termination lawsuits. We cannot afford any more "rush to judgment" decisions on large contracts like the Ted Parker case that apparently cost the city millions more than we're going to collect. Foolish business practices have helped get us in our debt mess and common sense leadership will help us get out of debt.

District 6 Candidates

Latrelle Joy
No, I am not comfortable with the city owing debt at the current level. We need to pay down debt as quickly as possible and we must be extremely cautious of new debt for new projects. We are currently paying approximately \$54,000,000.00 in interest each year on the debt which equates to \$150,000.00 a day. In order to have the funds to pay down debt, we need to increase the tax base and encourage new businesses to locate in Lubbock. Further, the City should not be funding maintenance of our streets and
continued on page 6

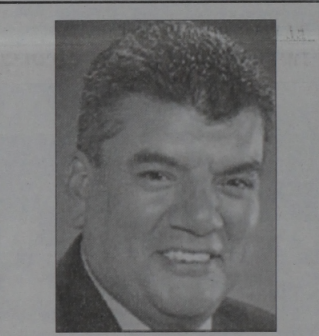
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MARIO YBARRA

- The Lubbock ISD Board of Trustees was named the 2011 Outstanding School Board in Texas by the Texas Association of School Administrators
- Spanish language classes added to the instructional program at McWhorter and Wolfirth Elementary Schools
- Lubbock High School bond improvements include interior renovations, remodeling of the auditorium and construction of a new 30,000 square foot cafeteria. The design of the new building will be consistent with the architectural style of Lubbock High
- Strong advocate for equity across the district and the development of standards for all schools
- The 2010 bond provided an investment of \$37.7 million to District 1 schools

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Early Voting

April 29 - May 8

Election Day May 12

Rosario Dawson On Election 2012, The Latino Vote And Endorsing Presidential Candidates

Rosario Dawson had an incredibly busy weekend. On Friday, the actress-political activist was in Washington D.C., for the Voto Latino On Series event. Then on Saturday, the "Sin City" star attended the White House Correspondents Dinner. And on Sunday, Dawson hopped on a train from D.C. to New York and spent the entire trip snapping photos of her journey as part of the "See More On A Train Online Contest," that encourages people to submit their train journeys via photos as part of Amtrak's 5th Annual National Train Day.

When she landed in New York on Sunday night, Rosario invited The Huffington Post over for a chat at New York's Penn Station. We spoke to the talented actress about her work with the non-profit organization Voto Latino (which she co-founded in 2005 with Maria Teresa Kumar), why you want to be reading about her slugging any presidential candidates in the news, and why she isn't endorsing any candidate for president.

There are more than 9 million young Latinos in the United States, but not all of them are voting. Why do you think that is?

Well, it's a lot of things. From the things that we're told from them it's because people don't ask them -- that's the first thing they say as to why they haven't voted for the first time. And the second is because they don't feel like they necessarily have enough information on the issues. They're paying attention to student loans, they have opinions on healthcare, they're angered by the conversation around immigration, they're feeling the backlash of violence that's going more and more towards Latinos,

because of all of the sort of hate speech that's been used in so many peoples' pollsters.

The more I talk to young people, the more I see how incredibly just full on activists they are. Just because they're not necessarily voting, it doesn't mean they're not doing stuff. They're organizing. They're marching and they're using social media to get their points across. [But] getting engaged as a voter really makes you powerful. If you're

the reason that our organization has grown over all of these years -- especially in this economy and with a lot of organizations shutting down -- it has been a really amazing thing to see how people have been connecting with our messaging and understanding that when we're saying 'it's your country, represent!' that we're really mean to it. We're really talking to them like they're Americans and I think that's the most crucial part -- because that's what they

can issues. You go to China, Brazil or India, and they understand that their population is their power. We have the largest and fastest growing demographic in this country and it represents over a trillion dollars worth of money. Why would we want to ostracize that and put that away? There's nothing to be worried about. If we start working together, this country is going to be in really great shape. There are some Hollywood ac-

past. People wanting to fly a confederate flag doesn't necessarily mean that they're totally racist -- it [may] mean that they recognize their family and where they come from and they don't want to feel bad about it. They want to be able to say, 'I'm a good person, I'm willing to move forward, and I don't want to feel like I have to deny my history to do so.' Then there are other people going, 'Well, I don't want to go back to that America, because in that America I didn't have a voice as a woman or as a person of color.' And so it's understandable on their side. We need more diversity of conversation.

A lot of celebs endorse candidates for president. Have you thought about doing that?

No. I'll vote the way I'm going to vote, but if I'm actually saying I'm serious about your voice being important, then what's the point of me walking around and knocking on someone's door and going, 'OK, I really care about your opinion, but only if it's exactly like mine?' That doesn't really make sense. You know what I mean? And I want to learn and I want to understand where people are coming from, because eventually -- that standing president, whoever I'm behind -- is not going to be there. Does that mean the next election I'm not going to be interested? I'm not going to vote or not going to vote? I've already witnessed several presidents in my lifetime and I know I'm going to see several more. And I don't want to always feel like I have to be behind one person. I'm behind the people.

What is the most important issue for you as a voter?

There are so many right now. I mean, I'm a woman of color in 2012. We're talking about issues from everything from the war on

women's reproductive health and the economy, which is obviously such a major thing, to access to food, people getting paid fair wages, and the environment is obviously such an alarming situation that we're not paying the proper attention to. And getting onto wind and solar technology would be so amazing and getting us off this idea of having to have this XL pipeline coming through, or digging for natural gas and destroying our beautiful country -- that's our greatest resource -- our people and our land. That's what we should be investing in.

The people and the land are the biggest things I care about. We should be investing in infrastructure -- that's why I'm doing National Train Day. Why do we not have more high speed train rails? Why are we not paying attention to one of the greenest ways to travel? We could be making incredible railways that could be connecting people and communities, and allowing access to people to be able to do that "staycation" that is so popular right now because the economy is rough. We had 30 million people use the train last year and we can up that. I fly a lot but it's a really different experience when you're flying and everything is like a tiny little ant. When you're actually going through these communities on a train, you really see them. You see the differences in them, you see the areas that are more run down or areas that are more like big cities. And you get to see all of the untouched raw land -- like on the train ride over here I saw a deer. You get to see the landscape of the country that you live in. And those are the things that help us be able to connect all of our different kinds of immigration stories.



at occupy movements or you're walking in protests, then you need to march to the polls -- you need to occupy the voting booth and that's really going to make sure that you're voice and your issues are heard.

That's very interesting. Often times the media just says, "Young people don't show up to vote" and they leave it at that.

That's it, yeah! One of the things we're really excited about with Voto Latino is that we connect. We have been really great with our messaging and

feel like. That's who they are -- including the DREAMers.

They're like, 'I'm American, that's who I am. Why would you want to deport me? I didn't choose to do this, I was a kid and I've been here my whole life. I've never been to the other country.' A lot of the time they don't even speak the language from the country they came from. We've made things about numbers and we've really dehumanized and objectified Latinos a lot in our conversations about them. Latino issues are Ameri-

can issues. We never hear you doing that. Is that a conscious decision on your part?

Yeah. I remember it was actually really great going to both the Democratic and Republican conventions in the last election. You have all of this stuff that's said in the media, but when you actually get there and you're around people, you recognize that there are different ways to think about the American dream, and there are different ways to think about our history and our



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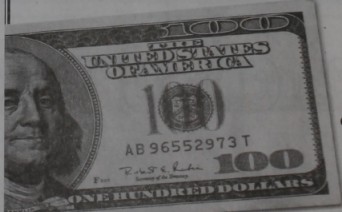
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Mayweather rant means no Pacquiao fight

Sorry, boxing fans. This is news you don't want to hear.

Enjoy Floyd Mayweather Jr. on Saturday night against Miguel Cotto, if you wish. But understand this: Despite the fervent hope of almost everyone in boxing, Mayweather will not be fighting Manny Pacquiao.

Not later this year. Not ever. If I wasn't sure of it before, I'm sure of it now. Hard not to be after watching Mayweather as he went into a bizarre rant for the benefit of myself, a few other writers, and his ever present band of sycophants.

This wasn't for HBO's "24/7" cameras, though it was better than anything on the most recent episodes. It had nothing to do with getting people to pony up \$69.95 to watch the Cotto fight in their living rooms.

This was pure Mayweather, unvarnished, unplugged, and totally uninhibited.

He won't fight Pacquiao unless he's convinced he doesn't use steroids "something, by the way, that only Mayweather has accused the Filipino of doing. And there will be no convincing Mayweather that he's wrong."

"You all think I'm scared. I'm a coward? Well guess what? I'm a rich, scared coward. I'm a rich coward," Mayweather said. "And if that's the case, why the hell would you want to watch me? I don't want to watch no coward. I don't want to watch nobody who's scared and you all know for a fact I'm not scared. You all know that. I'll take part of the blame for setting Mayweather off. Sitting next to him Tuesday in a VIP check-in room just off the lobby of the MGM Grand hotel, it seemed like a good time to get his thoughts on his main rival.

My mistake. Instead of an answer, I got a

soliloquy. Instead of a yes or no on Pacquiao, I got a disjointed diatribe on all things Mayweather.

He railed about common sense and hat sizes, doing the right thing and protecting his health. He called Bob Arum a professional liar, and suggested I was in the rival promoter's pocket.

He even questioned my patriotism for some odd reason that only

noticeably since he first began boxing professionally in 1995 at 106 pounds. He's much more muscular and his body has filled out in the 17 years since then.

However, I reminded Mayweather that he boxed in the 1996 Olympics at 125 pounds, and will be fighting at 154 pounds against Cotto.

"Guess what? It took me

important. My health is more important than money. They can take all the money and my health is more important. If they say, 'Floyd, you can live a healthy life like you is right now, or you got to walk with a limp, and walk all bent over, but you can have a lot of money for the rest of your life,' I'd say, 'Take it all back.'"

Guess we should give the guy a break. He's got a fight that might be tougher than most Saturday night, and he'll barely have time to relax afterward when he's due at the Las Vegas jail to begin serving what's expected to be a two-month sentence for domestic abuse.

Before I set him off he had been in a reflective mood, quietly talking about basically raising himself as a child. He spoke about how the gym was his only refuge, and how he from using magazines on his wall and stare at them at night, convinced he would one day be rich and famous, too.

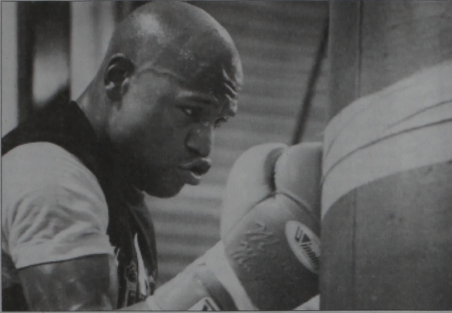
He's both, now. But he's not so sure the fame part is worth it anymore.

"I want to live a normal life. I want to go to the mall by myself, but I know I can't," he said. "I do want to take a walk by myself, but I can't. There's a lot I want to do."

It's hard not to like Mayweather in these moments. Actually, I've always liked the Mayweather I've been around, a guy who is generally thoughtful and upbeat. He contributes some of his considerable fortune to those less fortunate, and he does it mostly without asking for credit. His various arrests show another side, yes, but at the age of 35 he seems to finally be outgrowing the foibles of his youth.

I still like him, even after the rant that ended with a dramatic flourish when he leaned over and offered his hand to me.

"Have a good day," he said.



his pals seemed to get. "So, you're an American, right? I'm an American," he told me. "I was in the Olympics. I represent the red, white and blue. You know what the American writers should say? 'Well, why's this guy from another country who comes over here and makes money taking it back to his country?'"

"Once again, I'm feeling American citizens every day. All I ask is give a little blood, give a little urine. That's a crime."

Actually, the drug testing shouldn't even be an issue. Arum has already said Pacquiao is willing to take blood and urine tests in the weeks and months leading up to a fight with Mayweather.

But Mayweather seems obsessed with the idea Pacquiao is juicing. He seems to truly believe that Pacquiao has some sort of super human powers other fighters don't.

He's not going to change his mind. And, ultimately, that means no Pacquiao fight.

It is true that Pacquiao has grown

years to get to here. Years," he said. "Go back and look at the pictures. First, his head is small. Then, all of a sudden, his head just grew? Come on, man! Stop this man! Come on, man! This (stuff's) so easy. Ray Charles can see this (stuff). Come on. Come on, now! Come on, man. I told you, it's basic common sense. Look at the pictures and tell me this man's head didn't get bigger? This man probably went from a seven and one-fourth to an eight. In a hat, a fitted hat. And you're going to tell me this (stuff) is all natural? Come on, man. Stop this. I'm going up in weight, but I ain't just walking through no damn fighters."

If that wasn't clear enough, Mayweather shifted into third person mode to press his point.

"Writers are saying, 'Floyd is scared,'" he said. "No, Floyd cares about his family. Floyd is smart. At the end of the day, Floyd is smart. My health is

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Latrell is the proud mother of three children and grandmother of 6 grandsons.



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City Council Stresses the Importance of Listening to the Community

continued from page 3

infrastructure through bonds. Randy Sanders
While I am concerned with owning money, debt is probably going to have to be part of the city's budget in order for our city to have water and other infrastructure. The citizens have approved almost all of our debt at the ballot box, and the city has developed a plan and the city has developed a plan to repay this debt. I will listen to our citizens and bring the leadership to the City Council that will grow our economic base and thereby allow the debt load to be better distributed.

Question 2
Some water related fees and rates have tripled since 2008, what is your view on these increases? Is this the best way for the city to raise revenue, by raising fees instead of property tax rates?

District 4 Candidates
Paul Beane
Water rates and fees have increased in cost. I have voted for ONE increase in the stormwater fees since I have been elected. Early on I was told the residential storm water fee had to be increased from \$3.00 to \$6.00 in order to pay off the debt incurred by the Southwest Lubbock Drainage Project. I voted yes. Since then I have voted against the budget or the tax rate that included increases in these fees. Recently the city council voted to approve a 30 million dollar plus North Lubbock Drainage Project which will take 1250 homes, mostly in the Amett-Benson area, OUT of flood zones. Homeowners in those areas are now required to carry flood insurance, and when the project is completed, flood insurance will no longer be needed, thus saving those residents money on their insurance premiums. The bond payments for these drainage projects are partially paid with

income generated by the storm water fees. Many citizens scoff at the idea of building drainage projects in the middle of a drought, but advance planning is a must for these projects that take more than a year to finish. In the past 4 years Lubbock has experienced not one, but two, 300 years rains. These massive drainage projects are needed to provide a quality of life for all citizens. Allow me to address property taxes briefly. Not all of our citizens are taxed at the same rate. The property tax rate for those 65 and over is frozen at the rate they were paying when they turned 65. Renters do not pay property taxes because they own no property. Some say the burden of paying property taxes is distributed unevenly. I tend to agree. On the subject of taxes, the City of Lubbock tax rate is .47 cents per \$100. Your LISD school taxes are more than two and half times higher at \$1.23 per \$100. If you live in the Friendship or Lubbock Cooper school districts, as some Lubbock citizens do, then your school tax rate is even higher at \$1.49. You must ask yourself, which is the better deal?

Dwight Fullingham
This also is not one of our major problems. Generally, it's best to call things what they are. Taxes can be claimed as a deduction on your income taxes... fees cannot.
Jim Gerit

Some fees are necessary and appropriate. We should pay for the services we use. Water is a precious commodity and the scarcity drives the cost. Hidden fees have been added, fees in excess of the cost of the service provided. Our city budget has become dependent upon these fees. My stance is to find the least painful way of funding our city budget. My thinking is we can drop the fees and increase property tax accord-

ingly and the property owner will actually have more dollars in his/her pocket at the end of the year, since property taxes are deductible. Some say apartment dwellers won't share in the property tax increase, but common sense tells you the tenants will absorb the increased cost to the land lord.

District 6 Candidates
Latrelle Joy
Because some of the current council members and the mayor have run their campaigns on "no increase in property taxes", the budget has been balanced by assessing new fees. The storm water fees are seen on your LP&L bill and they have increased dramatically. The 2012 proposed storm water budget includes the budget for street maintenance which is in excess of \$2,000,000.00. Instead of budgeting for maintenance of streets and other infrastructure, the council has opted to impose fees for payment of these expenses. There must be a balance between fees and property taxes. Citizens with fixed incomes and limited incomes are impacted more by the increasing fees.
Randy Sanders

While I would not be willing to raise the property tax rate without the approval of our citizens, it is important that we examine the fees that are included in our monthly water bills. On June 25, 2000, while I was editor of the Avalanche-Journal, I wrote that fees and taxes are the same thing—money out of our pockets to fund the city. We must listen to our citizens, be more honest, and communicate better about how we raise revenue. The fees fall heavier on the low income, our senior citizens and the small businesses in our community.
Question 3

What are your views on the Lubbock Health Department situation?

Are you for keeping it open instead of moving forward like the City Manager wants to do?

District 4 Candidates
Paul Beane
The health department is NOT closing. That was never the plan. The city manager announced in July of 2011 that changes were coming in the health department. None of the media paid any attention to the announcement despite the fact that her remarks were made in public, during budget discussions, and on Lubbock's Channel 2. It should also be noted that a reporter for the local daily newspaper was in the committee room when Ms. Dumbauld made her remarks. The idea that the changes for the health department were made "in secret" is silly, and unfounded. The city charter requires the city maintain a health department. The current building at 19th and Texas is an old, remodeled auto dealership, and is much too large for the health department. The city is now in the process of moving the health department into much smaller quarters. An announcement will be made soon on the move. The re-organization of the health department by the city manager will result in savings of 1.2 million dollars in the first two years alone.
Dwight Fullingham

I agree with the City Manager that we don't need a DEPARTMENT. We do need a Health Office to coordinate and work with all the other services that are delivering health care to make sure we're covered as far as pre-positioned vaccines and medicines, some basic services and supervision of health conditions throughout the city and county.
Jim Gerit

We will have a Health Department, but it probably should not be housed in the current facility. At some point buildings become

more expensive to maintain than to replace, and that appears to be the situation with our current site. My view is the city failed to adequately communicate the plans for the Health Department. Sure, they met the law in posting notices but just meeting the law does not adequately communicate. There should have been public hearings prior to the announcement so the public could have known what was coming. Because there has developed a lack of trust in our city leaders this blew out of proportion. We must work for a partnership with the county, UMC, the medical community, and non-profit organizations who can work together.

District 6 Candidates
Latrelle Joy
Unfortunately, the Lubbock Health Department issue was not handled well by the City Council. We do need to keep the City Health Department open. However, there may be duplication of services between the City Health Department and other providers. A partnership between Lubbock County, the City, University Medical Center and other health providers is a viable option. We have the most sophisticated medical providers in this region and we should use those resources to help provide the necessary functions of the health department in the most efficient manner. Federal health grants can only flow through designated city or county health departments, so we need the City Health Department in order to obtain those grants and to provide services for our citizens.
Randy Sanders

As your council member, I will work to make sure that we are not unnecessarily duplicating services and will work to bring all the concerned parties to the table to resolve this issue in the best interests of our citizens.

Question 4
Lubbock has its share of issues like homelessness, a high poverty rate, substandard housing problems, deteriorating neighborhoods, etc. What role, if any does the city council play in dealing with these problems?

District 4 Candidates
Paul Beane
Homelessness: I am a conservative. The homeless issue is a community issue. I have said time and again that local charities should be in the charge of the homeless issue. The best answer ever given about homelessness was when a citizen asked Councilman Jim Gilbreath, "What would Jesus do about the homeless issue?" Jim replied, "I don't know, but sure wouldn't have turned it over to the Roman government". There are several agencies, which are funded by state and federal grants that deal with the homeless issue: Lubbock is the home of over 120 churches and many of them work with the homeless. The main job of the city is to provide essential services such as fire and police protection, water and sewer, streets, and other infrastructure. The hard pressed taxpayers of Lubbock have no obligation to provide social services. High poverty rate: Lubbock's unemployment rate is lower than the state average. During the recent recession (the worst since the great depression) Lubbock added jobs, kept the tax rate low, and continued to provide the needed core services. Again, I think the hard pressed Lubbock taxpayer has no obligation to provide social services for our citizens. That is a job for the charities in our community, of which there are many. On the issue of substandard housing and deteriorating neighborhoods: It's a problem in all parts of our city. The upkeep

continued on page 7



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En conjunto con: ACCESS 2012 del DFW Minority Supplier Development Council

Lunes, 14 de Mayo de 2012

1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Martes, 15 de Mayo de 2012

8:30 am - 11:30 am y 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

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City Council Addresses Citizen Concerns

continued from page 6
 of privately owned property is the responsibility of the property owner and not the taxpayers.
 Dwight Fullingham
 I will work with other city council members to make sure people aren't sleeping on streets. So far all city councils have focused more on the new, developing areas where there is money to be made by contractors than on a fair and reasonable focus on ALL Lubbock's neighborhoods. So far minority representatives in District 1 and District 2 have not been able to broker their power as full-fledged members of the city council to get things done for their districts—to the extent they should be able to do. I would prefer that all our council members be "at large," but then minority representation would be even less...so it's not feasible in Lubbock at this time. The day will come when it will be possible. I think it would be worthwhile to have all city council members go through a workshop by a major city planning consultant. One hopeful outcome would be for members to know how to better use their power... by harnessing their support on items other council members want in exchange for votes on projects the minority members want.
 Jim Gerlt

some of the City departments. As a result, the citizens of Lubbock, the churches and private entities such as Link Ministries and the Salvation Army have stepped up to provide housing and other services for the homeless. In addition, Lubbock Independent School District, University Medical Center, the Health Sciences Center and Covenant Hospital have programs to assist with homeless individuals and families. The South Plains Homeless Consortium has reorganized and is active in coordinating the available services for the homeless. MHMR also provides numerous services for homeless individuals. Substandard housing problems can be handled by enforcing the codes that currently exist. The City needs to do a better job of enforcing those codes so that property owners who have pride in their properties are not adversely affected by deteriorating houses, junk cars and other debris. If these codes are enforced, we may be able to rehabilitate neighborhoods.

The City needs to be "business friendly" and encourage more businesses to locate in Lubbock. With new businesses, we will have more jobs and hopefully, many of the unemployed will be able to find positions. The City needs to work with the schools and the colleges to provide technical training for their students to fill jobs requiring specialized skills. The City currently funds several programs that deal with emergency housing and financial needs of our citizens living in poverty, but those programs are limited and given the current budget projections, I am concerned that there will not be additional funding for those programs.

Randy Sanders
 As I have walked District 6 the past few weeks, I have noticed several neighborhoods that are falling, or beginning to fall, into disrepair. This is true throughout our city. As citizens, we all need to take more pride in our neighborhoods; one does not need to be wealthy in order to have a neat appearing home. There are limited funds available to assist low-income citizens in maintaining their property. Absentee landlords need to be pressured to keep their rental property in order. We have numerous churches and non-profit organizations that can offer assistance to the less-fortunate. As your council member, I will listen to our citizens and will work with these groups to make Lubbock a better place for all our citizens.

El Editor would like to thank all the candidates for participating in our Candidate Q&A.
 Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Cinco de Mayo

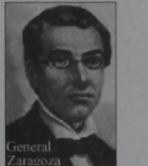
City, a distance today of less than 600 miles. Although American President Abraham Lincoln was sympathetic to Mexico's cause,



Archduke Maximilian of Austria

and for which he is honored in Mexico, the U.S. was involved in its own Civil War at the time and was unable to provide any direct assistance.

Gen. Zaragoza
 Marching on toward Mexico City, the French army encountered strong resistance near Puebla at the Mexican forts of Loreto and Guadalupe. Led by Mexican General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguin, a smaller, poorly armed militia estimated at 4,500 men were able to stop and defeat a well outfitted French army



General Zaragoza

of 6,500 soldiers, which stopped the invasion of the country. The victory was a glorious moment for Mexican patriots, which at the time helped to develop a needed sense of national unity, and is the cause for the historical date's celebration.

Unfortunately, the victory was short lived. Upon hearing the bad news, Napoleon III had found an excuse to send more troops overseas to try and invade Mexico again, even against the wishes of the French populace. 30,000 more troops and a full year later, the French were eventually able to depose the Mexican army, take over Mexico City and install Maximilian as the ruler of Mexico.

Maximilian's rule of Mexico was also short lived, from 1864 to 1867. With the American Civil War now over, the U.S. began to provide more political and military assistance to Mexico to expel the French, after which Maximilian was executed by the Mexicans - his bullet riddled shirt is kept at the museum at Chapultepec Castle in Mexico City. So despite the eventual French invasion of Mexico City, Cinco de Mayo honors the bravery and victory of General Zaragoza's smaller, outnumbered militia at the Battle of Puebla in 1862.

VAL AND GAD'S BIG ADVENTURE



Val and Gad's Big Adventure

SYNOPSIS: A 50-minute bilingual play, written last fall by Theatre and Dance's service-learning class (THA 451) Performing Arts in the Community under the leadership of Norman Bert. The script is based on materials generated from students at Harwell Elementary School. The play will be performed by Harwell students with direction from Jim Bush and students in the current service-learning class. In the play, two Mexican kids leave their home in search of their older brother who left years ago for Texas. After many adventures, they are reunited with their brother in Lubbock.

TIMES AND PLACES: The play will be performed at the Firehouse Theatre of the Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts (LHUCA), 511 Avenue K, at 2:00 on Saturday, May 5. Admission is free. The play will also be presented for the Harwell community in Harwell School's gym on Friday, May 4, at 9:00 and again at 1:00.

Jim Gerlt for Lubbock City Council, District 4

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