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VOL. XXXV No. 17

Week of Feb. 16 thru 22, 2012

www.editor.com

Lubbock/Midland-Odessa Region

Analysis: Latino Prospects in Senate Dwindle

Latinos are growing into a powerful voting bloc, but there is the real possibility that the U.S. Senate won't have any additional Hispanics next year.

Last year, a handful of Latinos had an opportunity to get elected and join Florida's Marco Rubio and New Jersey's Bob Menendez as the only Hispanics in the chamber. But as the election trades on, none of them have particularly bright prospects.

The lack of new senators isn't because of a wide-spread bias against Latino candidates, but an exercise in political reality. They're either running in competitive primaries against better-funded, better-known, and more-established candidates or running against the partisan grain of their particular state.

Latinos have the best chance to win in the Southwest, but the candidates there still have very difficult races. In Arizona, national Democratic strategists prefer former U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona, even though he faces a former state party chairman in the primary. Carmona served under President George W. Bush, so Democrats believe he'll be able to appeal to enough Republicans in order to win in a Republican-leaning state.

In the general election, Carmona would likely start behind in the polls and money against Rep. Jeff Flake, since the Democrat has never run for office before. It's not an impossible race for Carmona to win, but the Latino is the underdog.

In New Mexico, state Auditor Hector Balderas (D) raised more than three-quarters of a million dollars last year for his campaign but he still trails his Democratic opponent, Albuquerque-area Rep. Martin Heinrich, in money and in the polls. Heinrich raised almost \$2 million last year and released a poll showing him ahead of Balderas, 52 percent to 22 percent.

Even though Balderas is well-liked and considered to be a rising star in New Mexico politics, Democratic strategists in Washington, D.C., prefer Heinrich to be their party's nominee. But if Balderas can pull off the upset in the primary, he would start the general election well-positioned to win.

Other Latino candidates either have a more difficult road ahead or dropped out altogether. Last week, Lt. Gov. John Sanchez (R) announced he was ending his Senate bid in New Mexico, essentially ending the GOP nomination to former Rep. Heather Wilson.

"Throughout the course of this campaign, it has become clear to me, that in order to ensure that a Republican is elected to represent New Mexico in the U.S. Senate, the G.O.P. must stand united," Sanchez said in a statement. "The reality is that the path forward to success in the campaign could cause a negative primary struggle that would leave the eventual nominee bruised, bloody and broke."

Sanchez was trying to run as the conservative alternative to Wilson, who has a more moderate reputation, but the lieutenant governor failed to keep up with the former

congresswoman's fundraising and struggled to draw a bright enough ideological line. Sanchez had one tenth of the cash available for his campaign compared to Wilson at the end of the year.

In Texas, Republican Ted Cruz is beloved by national conservative groups such as the Club for Growth and FreedomWorks. But the former state solicitor general is locked in a very competitive Republican primary.

Not only is Cruz the underdog to wealthy Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, but Cruz is in danger of finishing third in the initial primary, behind the former Dallas mayor Tom Leppert, and missing the run-off altogether. Cruz has raised over \$3 million, but it's nowhere near enough to raise his profile with campaign ads in such a large state with multiple expensive media markets.

Also in Texas, Democrats were initially excited about their chosen candidate: retired Army Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez. But he also struggled to raise money and dropped out of the race before the filing deadline. Even if he had been the Democratic nominee, his chances would have been slim. Democrats haven't won a Senate race in Texas in almost 25 years.

Like this election, the future success of Latino candidates is partially controlled on factors outside of their control, such as the partisanship of their state or who their opponents might be. But Latinos can help themselves by raising more money to more effectively introduce themselves to their electorates.

Redistricting May Delay Texas Primaries

Lack of agreement on the redistricting of Texas' congressional districts has put into question whether the state's primaries can be held in April, a judge said. A day-long hearing in San Antonio Tuesday produced no consensus on the maps of the 36 congressional districts — a gain of four because of population increases documented by the 2010 U.S. Census. A three-judge panel said, however, it hoped the parties could reach agreement on statewide districts so primary elections could be held in April, whether April 3 as

scheduled or another date, the Austin American-Statesman reported. U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia, who leads the judicial panel hearing the case, told the state attorney general's office and the plaintiffs challenging the maps to come up with an agreement for state Senate and state House districts and present their plans to the court Wednesday, the American-Statesman said. When the judges asked several county elections administrators attending the hearing whether they thought an April 24 primary election was feasible,

only one raised his hand affirmatively. Bexar County Elections Administrator Jacqueline Callanen said May 29 would be the most reasonable date for a 2012 primary election. "That would allow us the needed time to do the due diligence," she said. "There's just no button for us to push." In November, a special U.S. court panel rejected a redistricting plan by Texas, saying the redrawing of the state's congressional map will be done by a court in Texas. Preliminary redistricting now must be done by a federal court in San Antonio.

"Bring Out Your Best" Awards & Scholarship Banquet



Obama avala apoyo de Súper PAC

El presidente de EE.UU., Barack Obama, ha avalado que un Súper PAC pro demócrata recaude fondos en favor de su reelección para jugar con las mismas reglas que sus rivales republicanos, apoyados desde hace tiempo por ese tipo de grupos que pueden recibir y gastar dinero sin límites en las campañas.



Obama asume con su bendición al Súper PAC conocido como Priorities USA Action y fundada por dos exasesores de la Casa Blanca un riesgo político, puesto que ha condenado reiteradamente que, a raíz de varios dictámenes judiciales de 2010, esos grupos puedan recibir y gastar fondos sin límites en campañas políticas.

Pero la campaña demócrata, que promueve la reelección de Obama en los comicios del 6 de noviembre, no puede competir de forma efectiva si juega con un conjunto diferente de reglas a las de los aspirantes republicanos, en cuyo apoyo varios Súper PAC ya han recaudado millones de dólares.

Así lo explicó hoy en su rueda de prensa diaria el portavoz de la Casa Blanca, Jay Carney. Es una decisión estratégica debida a que las reglas son las que son,

por desgracia, argumentó. No podemos permitir que haya dos conjuntos distintos de

la práctica terminan siendo una extensión de las campañas.

El "Súper PAC" conocido como Restore our Future, que apoya al aspirante presidencial republicano Mitt Romney, ha recibido dinero de banqueros, inversionistas y empresarios que, en su conjunto, dieron más de \$30 millones en 2011, según la Comisión Federal Electoral (FEC, en inglés).

Otro de los candidatos, Newt Gingrich, tiene detrás al Súper PAC llamado Winning our Future, al que sólo Sheldon Adelson, un magnate de los casinos de Las Vegas, ha donado millones de dólares.

Según Messina, funcionarios de la Casa Blanca y de la campaña de Obama podrán participar desde ahora en actos del Súper PAC pro demócrata, pero no pedir fondos para ese grupo. El vicepresidente, Joe Biden, y la primera dama, Michelle Obama, se mantendrán totalmente al margen de ese grupo. Pese a todo, algunos demócratas ya han alertado de que ese aval de Obama al Súper PAC debilita su mensaje en favor de reformar el sistema de financiación de las campañas y, en consecuencia, su credibilidad ante los votantes más fieles.

reglas en esta elección por las cuales el candidato republicano nominado es beneficiario de un gasto ilimitado y los demócratas estamos desarmados, expresó en un comunicado el director de campaña de Obama, Jim Messina. Los Comités de Acción Política (PAC, en inglés), que datan de 1944, permiten que miembros de empresas y sindicatos y simpatizantes de un candidato creen un fondo común para financiar su campaña. Bajo los PAC, los estadounidenses pueden donar un máximo de \$2.500 directamente a un candidato presidencial. En cambio, con los llamados Súper PAC, los individuos, sindicatos y empresas pueden donar sin límites.

Aunque por ley los Súper PAC no pueden coordinarse directamente con un candidato, en

Local council LULAC 263 held its 29th Annual "Bring Out Your Best" Awards & Scholarship Banquet this past weekend. The event was proudly sponsored by twenty-nine years Standards Sales/Anheuser-Busch.

The banquet was the highlight of a week long activities that the membership hosts during the entire week.

The keynote speaker for the event was Dr. Everardo Cobos who shared with the audience the importances of education for all. He shared his life experiences that took place and keep him going in order for him to reach his goal in life. Within his talk, the main emphasis was the importance of being and wanting education. He also stated that his passion for education has continued through his life, especially as he makes a career teaching medicine and researching cancer.

According to the President of the organization, Robert Rodriguez stated that approximately a dozen \$500 scholarships will be granted this year. Armando Garcia received the President's Award; Neale Pearson was recognized as Member of the Year; Karin McCay & Abner Eureski was given the Community Leaders; Jose Luis Trevino received the 20th Year Honor Role and Robert Ramirez received the Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

Comentarios - piniones

SI MITT QUIERE TENER A UNA LATINA DE COMPAÑERA DE PAPELETA, EN NUEVO MÉXICO LE TENEMOS UNA

Por José Armas - Hispanic Link News Service

Muchos de nosotros en Nuevo México no vemos la hora que Mitt Romney sea el candidato republicano a la presidencia. Estamos ansiosos que escoja a su primera gobernadora, Susana Martinez, de vicepresidente para la campaña y que la lleve lejos - muy lejos - de nosotros.

El paso pasado guardamos aún esperanzas para la primera gobernadora latina de la nación. Que los medios "expusieran" que sus abuelos hubieran entrado a los Estados Unidos desde México como "extranjeros ilegales" puede haber molestado a algunos. Pero a la mayoría de nosotros no nos importa que sea una "hebe ante" (para usar la expresión que los hispanistas definen de difundir).

Pero, qué lástima, lo que nos preocupa es que Martinez sea guaya convertida en una extremista. En los 15 meses que me como nuestra epopeya vivencial, en tres ocasiones ha intentado provocar un leve de Nuevo México que permite que los inmigrantes indocumentados soliciten licencias de conducir. Esta ley ha promovido la seguridad de nuestros rutas, así como a conductores a aprender las reglas y contar con seguro vehicular de tránsito.

Como candidato, la novata republicana prometió "una firme reforma educativa" para

reparar nuestro malogrado sistema de escuelas públicas. Le aplaudimos.

Nuevo México está categorizado entre los mejores lugares en los que criar a un niño. Aquí en el único estado con población norteamericana latina, los latinos, los hispanos y los hispanos y los negros comprenden el 70% ciento de nuestra población estudiantil, y la mitad de estos chicos no se gradúa de la escuela secundaria. Como contrasta con sus compañeros blancos, sacan calificaciones dramáticamente más bajas en las pruebas normativas de logro académico estatales.

Habríamos podido hacernos un modelo nacional de la reforma educativa. Habríamos podido. Pero Martinez optó por una fórmula, Harra Skandera, para efectuar la reforma. Skandera vino armada con sus habilidades en la educación, sino con una agenda ideológica y una agenda orgánica. Durante los primeros meses de gobernadora, Martinez recorrió los presupestos de las escuelas con un yacusea franquiciadora a niveles bajos nunca antes registrados. Contrató a cinco forajidos más, todos ignorantes de las lenguas y las culturas de nuestro estado multicultural. Entonces, ¿qué fue lo que produjeron estos cinco bien remunerados comensales? Ningún plan. En vez de un plan, nos dieron cuatro

iniciativas. La mayoría son un desperdicio.

Como lo que supone reemplazar la libreta de nota federal en cuanto al progreso anual de cada una de las escuelas, con una propia. Otra: desahogar a los 10 de los muchachos que las escuelas no logran enseñar a leer para el tercer grado. Skandera le dedicó a un estigma más a la hoja de vida de estos niños. Ocasí.

Skandera se la dedicó a volver las leyes que protegen la educación latina, indígena y bilingüe. Se aprobó un \$800,000 del presupuesto de la Educación Indígena sin obtener aprobación de la ley y él otorgó estos recursos a otro grupo que no es del estado.

Por lo visto, lo del lugar no tenemos la abstracción para ayudar a reparar a nosotros mismos.

Hemos aprendido ahora que las autoridades federales le negaron la petición de eximirse de la ley Que Ningún Niño Quele Arís. ¿Por qué? Porque no logran mostrar cómo se dirigen a la brecha en el logro académico de nuestras poblaciones que no son el estado. De Harra y busa, gracias. Una margarita de nuestra cultura está siendo pedida que la corran la cabeza. Es posible que la más mejor políticamente nuestro vecino occidental, Arizona.

La luna de miel de la gobernadora Martinez con la "Tierra del Encanto" también se acabó. Tanto Romney como Gingrich proponen agregar un apellido hispano a la papelería nacional para recuperar el apoyo hispano esencial que han perdido con su retórica en contra del inmigrante y a favor del inglés como idioma oficial.

Los peritos políticos dicen nacional la concentración en que el candidato republicano a la presidencia en el 2012 tiene que atraco como mínimo un 35 a un 40 por ciento del voto hispano extranjero, o sino esperar otro cuatro años para buscar la argolla dorada.

Los defensores de los hispanos ya están preparando la campaña en Florida que exponen a los candidatos, Senador Marco Rubio, sus vicinidades y periferias de derecha extrema.

¿Será un aliciente una papetera Romney-Martínez o Gingrich-Rubio?

No way, José. No quieramos insular la peripatética política de 50 millones latinos. ¿José Armas, de Albuquerque, Nuevo México, decano de los periodistas latinos de Nueva York, viene escribiendo un periódico conovatorio sobre temas de interés hispano durante el 2012. ¿Comunicamos con él a: armas@ny.com

Para ver más noticias en español e inglés, visite www.HispanicLink.org. C2012

Hispanics Now Comprise 22% of Nation's Prison Population

By Nicole D. Porter

As the fastest growing demographic in the United States, Latinos accounted for more than half the nation's growth during the 2010 census. Unfortunately, Latinos also account for an increasingly larger share of the prison population, now totaling 22% of those in state or federal prison.

With 70 percent in Texas and California—and 10 percent in the nation's Latino population—and Florida, another heavily Latino state, are rethinking their approach to criminal justice, focusing on efforts to reduce both the number of people entering prison and the length of time they stay there.

Given the serious fiscal challenges facing most states, gaining control of the prison population is a critical issue for policymakers. Across the nation, state sentencing reforms have aimed not only to reduce expenditures and prison times, but also to better address substance abuse and probation and parole violations resulting from technical violations, not necessarily new offenses.

Highlights include: In California, which is under a Supreme Court mandate to reduce its prison population,

legislators authorized provisions with certain low-level offenses to be handled at the local level.

In Florida, policymakers limited prison for certain juvenile defendants and expanded eligibility for drug court participation. In Texas, county probation departments are now required to develop a Community Reduction Plan that includes the goal of reducing the number of probation violators sent to state prison.

After years of "lock 'em up" policies, Texas, California, Florida and other states will continue to be challenged by prison and jail capacity issues that force hard choices in prioritizing limited public resources.

But the reform efforts in these three states may improve the justice system, not just for Latinos, but for everyone, especially as the nation shifts its overall approach to public safety from police and prisons to increased resources for families and children.

(Nicole D. Porter is State Advocacy Coordinator for The Sentencing Project and author of *The Policy of Sentencing 2011: Development in Theory and Practice from what materials was drawn from his op-ed.*)

Experts say economic contributions of immigrants should be considered

By Graciela Nevarez

As Republican presidential candidates duel over what to do with the 11 million undocumented U.S. immigrants, the Immigration Works USA and the New America Foundation hosted a constructive debate on the subject of Gallup Building in Washington, D.C.

"One of the things we're concerned about is whether we can... get back to having by reality data and the pragmatic needs in our society," Andrés Martínez, vice president of the New America Foundation, proposed at the 11th session.

During the event, "Beyond the Dream: Changing the Conversation About Immigration?" professors, researchers and journalists talked about the need for immigration reform. They pointed to undocumented immigrants' lack of political power and economic instability and the country's need for migrant labor.

University of California-Irvine Professor

Frank Bean shared the results of a study he released in October that looked into the education attainment of children whose parents are in the country illegally.

It found that those with undocumented parents complete two fewer years of school than those whose parents have attained legal status. These children are less likely to pursue a college education and get a high-paying job, he said.

There are currently 5.5 million children here, most of them U.S. citizens, whose parents are undocumented.

Panel members talked about the growing number of young undocumented immigrants who are unable to enter the workforce. They pointed to the need to pass the DREAM Act, legislation that would legalize 2.1 million illegally staying immigrants who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children, as a way to bring them into the workforce.

They pointed to the economic benefits of legalization and the cost of having an undocumented workforce.

IF MITT WANTS A LATINA RUNNING MATE, NEW MEXICANS HAVE ONE AVAILABLE

By José Armas - Hispanic Link News Service

Many of us New Mexicans can't wait for Mitt Romney to become the GOP presidential candidate. We are anxious for him to select our governor, Susana Martinez, as his VP running mate and take her away — far away — from us.

We had high expectations of the nation's first Latina governor last year. That the media "exposed" her gradations as having entered the United States from Mexico as "illegal aliens" may have bothered some. But most of us don't care that she's an "anchor baby" (to use the Republican lingo to fing around).

But alas, we are concerned that Martinez has morphed into the devil in her 13 months so far as executive, the third time in three different occasions to repeal a New Mexico law that permits undocumented immigrants to apply for driver's licenses. This law has made us streets safe by requiring drivers to learn the rules of the road and to carry vehicle insurance. As a candidate, the Republican nevermentioned "bold education reform" to fix our broken public school system. We applauded.

New Mexico is rated among the worst places to raise a child. Here in the nation's only Latino-majority state, Latinos, Native Americans and blacks make up 70 percent of our student population, and half of these kids aren't even graduating from high school. In contrast to their white counterparts, they score dramatically lower on standardized state achievement tests. We could have become a national model for education reform if we had the guts. But Martinez picked an outsider, Harra Skandera, a non-educator to fix us. Skandera came armed not with education skills, but with an ideological agenda and bold arrogance.

In her first month in office, Martinez cut budgets for almost 400 underfunded schools to the lowest recorded levels. She hired eight other outsiders, all ignorant of the languages and cultures of our multicultural state.

So what did these high-paid consultants produce? No plan. Instead, they gave us five initiatives. Most were a waste. Like replacing the federal report card on our schools' adequate yearly progress with one of their own. Another to bank kids that schools can't teach to read by the third grade. Skandera would add yet another stigma to these kids' lives: Besides, bold indeed.

Skandera has been violating the laws protecting indigenous and bilingual students. She raided \$800,000 of Indian Education's budget without their approval and gave those precious resources to another out-of-state group. Apparently, we locals don't have the smarts to help fix ourselves.

We've now learned that the feds denied her application to be exempt from following the No Child Left Behind Act. Why? Because she failed to show how she would address the achievement gap of our non-white populations.

We'll be tough on Harra, then, that way. A grassroots-of-it-for-everyone are asking for her head. She might be a better political fix for our western neighbor Arizona.

Governor Martinez's honeymoon in the "Land of Enchantment" is also over. Both Romney and New Gingrich are talking about doing a Spanish surname to the GOP ticket to recover essential Hispanic support they are losing with their anti-immigrant and English-only debate rhetoric.

National political pundits agree that the 2012 Republican Presidential candidate must attract a minimum of 35 to 40 percent of the voting Hispanic vote or wait another four years for a chance at the gold ring.

Hispanic advocates are already taking aim in Florida exposing non-candidate U.S. Senator Marco Rubio's anti-Hispanic, racial night raids and lies. Will a Romney-Martínez or Gingrich-Rubio ticket help? No way, José. Don't insulate the political scammer of 50 million Latinos.

(José Armas of Albuquerque, the dean of New Mexico's Latino journalism, has been writing and publishing commentaries on Hispanic interests for more than 40 years. He can be reached at armas@swp.com.)

In Colorado's close races, the Hispanic vote is key

DENVER. They may be undocumented, naturalized, or first- or second-generation citizens, but there are a lot of Hispanic voters in Colorado it's their discontent with the anti-immigrant rhetoric coming out of the Republican primary.

To David Ramirez, a fourth-generation Hispanic in Colorado, the tone and proposals of the Republican candidates on immigration are "insensitive, abrasive and insulting." And they're a decisive factor in how he plans to vote. "The whole issue is very important to all Hispanics. It doesn't matter if you're Mexican, Mexican-American, South American. If you were naturalized or first-generation. We were all part of the same history and this issue affects us all," he said. He called Mitt Romney's "self-deportation" idea "hazimé."

"It doesn't make any sense. Proposing that 'ignores' the contribution that millions of immigrants make to our economy, and is dismissive of the Latino vote," he added.

The tone and policies on immigration can be so important that they're like some Hispanic Republicans to which parties. Olivia Mendez, executive director of the Colorado Latino Leadership Advocacy and Research Organization (CLLARO), and her family were legalized with the amnesty signed by Republican President Ronald Reagan in 1986. Her parents remained loyal Republicans until 2008, when they were watching Univision and John McCain came out talking about his opposition to immigration reform, changing his position completely.

"For Latinos, and for many other people, it's a very personal thing," Mendez declared. Along with the economy and jobs, immigration is one of the most important issues to Colorado's Latino voters. In 2010, Latinos in Colorado gave 61% of their support to Barack Obama, swinging the state to the Democratic column after six years there by George W. Bush in 2004 and 2008.

Unlike 2008, Romney lost the Republican caucuses in Colorado on Tuesday, but he remains in the lead in the state for the Republican nomination and the opportunity to face Obama in November.

Once again, Colorado is looking like one of the key swing states where the Latino vote might make the difference in a tight race. President Obama is counting on the support of Latino voters in Colorado. Hispanics represent 21% of the state's population, and 13% of its eligible voters; a plurality are registered Democrats.

The question is whether, in November, they'll show up at the polls in sufficient numbers to guarantee that Colorado remains a blue state.

The economy and immigration, in that order, are the central issues for Latino voters in Colorado, according to Robert Prehns, an adjunct professor of political science at Metropolitan State College of Denver.

Immigration is a mobilizing issue for the community, as demonstrated by the statewide debate over the SB 38 126, known as Colorado ASSET, which would allow undocumented students to pay the same tuition rates as legal Colorado residents. Prehns explained, They were also motivated by the campaign to pressure the only Latino Republican in the state House of Representatives, Robert Ramirez, to reconsider his opposition to the bill.

Democratizing the Republican debate over immigration in Colorado, meanwhile, have been the immigrant figures like Tom Tanenba, the former congressman who ran for governor in 2010, but lost to Democrat and DREAM Act supporter, John Hickenlooper. That same year, another DREAM Act supporter, Senator Michael Bennet, won re-election by a mere 15,000 votes against Republican Ken Buck. Bennet got 81% of the Latino vote.

Prehns recognizes that there's frustration among Latino voters in Colorado over "the lack of movement at the national level" on immigration reform, but at the same time, he indicates that the Republican message doesn't appeal to them.

"If Romney sticks to his position on 'self-deportation' and voting the DREAM Act," he says of the Colorado caucus, "it's possible that he'll lose the Latino vote." Prehns said.

That said, he warned that among the state's electorate as a whole, "some of these positions are popular among Latino voters, so I think you will have a relatively tight race in a competitive state here in Colorado."

The organization Mi Familia Vota, which promotes voter participation and registration, recognizes that in this electoral cycle they will face a number of obstacles to mobilizing voters.

One of these obstacles was presented by Secretary of State Scott Gessler, who, citing concerns about voter fraud, created the category of "inactive voter," encompassing anyone in contact, for example, in 2008 but not 2010. The issue is currently being challenged in court and is considered an attempt at voter suppression, particularly of minority voters like Hispanics, explained George López Ramirez, state director of Mi Familia Vota.

Another obstacle is the disaffection among certain Latino voters over the failure to pass immigration reform and the effects of the current policy of deportations.

"It's hard to mobilize voters when your friends or your family members are in deportation proceedings," said Jairo González of the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition, although he added that the anti-immigrant rhetoric Republicans are spouting might be a motivating factor.

Mendez said that "when you do your duty to someone, people have found jobs, and the result is that the budget has brought hope to a great deal of disillusionment over the lack of reform, but that other factors seem to be mobilizing Latino voters." The economy is getting better, people have found jobs, and the result is that the budget has brought hope to a lot of people.

In a Mexican market in Denver, we spoke with undocumented women who lived in the United States for 22, 14 and 10 years and 12 years, respectively. They, too, gave Obama the benefits of the deal, and hoped that those who were able to vote would give him a second chance.

"If immigration reform had been solely in Obama's hands, it would have happened already. It's a process. It's like a house that's been destroyed, you can rebuild it in a day," one said.

"Everybody needs to be patient," another concluded.

Maribel Hastings is a senior advisor at Amigo's Voice.

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¿Que Pasa?

CELEBRATING CESAR CHAVEZ DAY-ODESSA

LUVU announced today its plans for a Cesar Chavez Day March. Cesar Chavez was a civil rights and farm labor leader. He was a community organizer and is an icon to the Hispanic community. He inspired a whole generation of people to stand up for their rights and challenge the status quo in a peaceful manner. The LUVU Cesar Chavez Day March will take place on March 31, 2012. It will be followed by a solidarity rally. In January 2011, Rep. Toyon Lewis of Odessa introduced HB 503 that would have eliminated Cesar Chavez Day in Texas. For more information and details our office at 432-235-0380 or visit our website at <http://cesarchavezmarch.uvauzonida.org>

4TH ANNUAL FIBER ARTS FAIR

The Lubbock Municipal Garden and Arts Center will host the 4th Annual Fiber Arts Fair on Saturday, February 25, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Activities will include demonstrations in rug hooking, quilting, beadwork, embroidery, crocheting, knitting, and much more. The Fair will include a market area where vendors will be selling fiber art crafts and kits. Anyone interested in the fiber arts is welcome to attend this free event.

The Lubbock Municipal Garden and Arts Center strives to offer an array of fun and comprehensive classes and events for all ages, from basic classes in painting, drawing and photography, to specialized classes such as stained glass, mosaics, quilting, knitting, crocheting, and gardening. The center is located at 4215 University Ave. For more information on classes or reservations please call the Lubbock Municipal Garden and Arts Center at (806) 767-3724, email priffith@mylubbock.us or visit our website at www.lubbockgac.org.

SOFTBALL UMPIRE AND SCOREKEEPER TRAINING ANNOUNCED

Earn extra money year round as an adult softball league umpire or scorekeeper! The Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting separate training for softball umpires and scorekeepers. Training will be held March 25, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at Safety City located at 46th Street and Avenue U with training continued over the following weeks. Training will be held in groups of five over the coming weeks as interested individuals register. Anyone interested in umpiring or scorekeeping for the City of Lubbock is required to attend. Training is required for both veteran and new participants, and is free.

Once an individual has completed the required training, they must pay dues to the West Texas USSSA and Texas Amateur Athletic Federation before beginning actual umpiring. Umpires are paid \$14 per game, and scorekeepers are paid \$9 per game.

Parks and Recreation hosts three sessions of Adult Softball Leagues during the year with over one-hundred teams per session. For more information or to register for training, contact O.J. Williams at 806-775-2672.

SPC TO HOST MATH, SCIENCE MEET FEB. 25

The South Plains College Math and Engineering Department will host its annual High School Math, Science Meet at 8 a.m. on Feb. 25 in the Math and Engineering Building. TMSCA tests will be given in number sense, calculator, mathematics and science. Team awards will be presented in two divisions - large school (4A and 5A) and small schools (1A, 2A and 3A). Medals will be awarded to the first through third place in each category and each grade level.

An entry fee of \$6 per test per student will be charged. Entry fees should accompany your entry sheet. Make checks payable to South Plains College. The deadline for entries is Feb. 17. If you cannot send entries on time, fax entry sheet to (806) 897-5622 or e-mail your entry and you can pay the day of the contest.

The Math, Science Meet serves as a practice meet for University Interscholastic League competition in math, number sense, and calculator and science competition categories. More than 150 to 200 students within 100 miles of South Plains College take part in the tournament.

For more information, contact Kathy Holster, Contest Director, at (806) 716-2664, email kholster@southplainscollege.edu or Shirley Davis, Assistant Director, at (806) 716-2699 email sdavis@southplainscollege.edu.

"HOW TO HANDLE YOUR MONEY"

Are you living paycheck to paycheck? Are you tired of worrying about money? Parks and Recreation has tools to help you get control of your finances! In February, Maxey Community Center will be holding a new class called "How To Handle Your Money" that will teach participants all about budgeting and their finances. This four-week class will be held on Monday nights from 6:45-7:45 p.m. Admission is free. Come to one or all four! Call-in registration is preferred to 767-3796, but not required. Maxey Community Center is located at 4020 30th Street February 20 - Reconciling and Recording. Learn how to keep track of your spending and how to balance your checking account. February 27 - More Money! Learn about simple ways to free up more money for your budget.

CHS TO HOST FREE GIRL TALK EVENT FOR GIRLS AGE 10-13

(LUBBOCK) - Are you in need of some back-up when it comes to talking to your preteen daughter about physical and emotional changes she is about to face? The experts at Covenant Health System will lend a helping hand at the free Girl Talk event taking place on Tuesday, Feb. 28 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Knipping Education Conference Center. Girl Talk is for girls between the ages of 10 - 13 and their parent or guardian. During the educational event, Covenant health experts will shed light on a variety of topics from physical and emotional changes to communication and self-esteem issues. Dr. Tracy Sun, OB/GYN for Covenant Medical Group, and Marguerite Fallon, R.N., D.N.P., director of nursing at Covenant Women's and Children's, are the evening's featured presenters. Dinner is provided and door prizes will be given away throughout the evening. Seats are limited, so please R.S.V.P. by Tuesday, Feb. 21. To reserve a spot, call 1.866.4COVENANT (1.866.426.8362). The Knipping Education Conference Center is located on the sixth floor of the West Parking Garage at 21st Street and Louisville.

Labor Force Growth Slows, Hispanic Share Grows

Hispanics will account for three-quarters of the growth in the nation's labor force from 2010 to 2020, according to new projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). One major reason is that the Hispanic population is growing rapidly due to births and immigration. At the same time, the aging of the non-Hispanic white population is expected to reduce their numbers in the labor force.

A second important factor is that Hispanics have a higher labor force participation rate than other groups. The nation's labor force participation rate—that is, the share of the population ages 16 and older either employed or looking for work—was 64.7% in 2010. Among Hispanics, the rate was 67.5%. There are two main explanations for this gap. Hispanics are a younger population than other groups, and include a higher share of immigrants.

The figures for Hispanics come from the latest round of BLS projections for the U.S. labor force, covering 2010-2020, which indicate that growth will slow overall. These projections show that the labor force will increase by 10.5 million in this decade, growing to 164.4 million in 2020 from 153.9 million in 2010. That is less than the increase of 11.3 million from 2000 to 2010, and substantially less than the 16.7 million increase from 1990 to 2000. The projected average annual increase in the labor force from 2010 to 2020—0.7%—is also less than the annual growth of 0.8% from 2000 to 2010 and only about half the 1.3% annual rate of growth from 1990 to 2000.

Reasons for Slower Growth Why is labor force growth projected to diminish? The main reason is a reduction in the share of people in the labor force. From 1948 to 2000, the U.S. labor force grew faster than the population (1948

is the year the government first started reporting these statistics). This was mainly because a rising share of women went to work. Their labor force participation rate nearly doubled from 32.7% in 1948 to 59.9% in 2000.

The 2000-2010 decade was the first decade since the 1950s when the growth in the labor force (7.9%) was less than the growth in the working-age population (11.9%). The BLS projects that this trend will continue through 2020. The labor force will increase 6.8% and the population will increase 10.6% over the decade.

The movement of women into the workplace is no longer the tailwind behind the growth in the labor force. The female labor force participation rate peaked at 60% in 1999 and has diminished slightly this century. Meanwhile, other economic and demographic forces have emerged to dampen labor force growth. Economically, the recessions in 2001 and 2007-2009 pulled down the labor force participation rate by generally frustrating people's efforts to find work. Demographically, baby boomers—the giant generation born between 1946 and 1964—are now entering their retirement years. People ages 55 and older are much less likely to participate in the labor force than people ages 25 to 54, so the overall aging of the U.S. population also will slow the growth of the labor force.

Growing Role for Hispanics As the population and the labor force age, they are also becoming more racially and ethnically diverse, and Hispanics play a more important role. The share of the labor force that is Hispanic is projected to increase from 14.8% in 2010 to 18.6% in 2020. That is partly due to the relative youth and higher growth rate of the Hispanic population and partly due to the aging of the

non-Hispanic white population and projected decline in its labor force. From 2010 to 2020, Hispanics are expected to add 7.7 million workers to the labor force while the number of non-Hispanic whites in the labor force is projected to decrease by 1.6 million.

Consequently, Hispanics will account for the vast majority—74%—of the 10.5 million workers added to the labor force from 2010 to 2020. That share is higher than in the previous two decades. Hispanics accounted for 36% of the total increase in the labor force from 1990 to 2000 and for 54% from 2000 to 2010.

Immigration Projection Uncertainty It is possible that the growth in the labor force from 2010 to 2020 will be less than anticipated by the BLS. The BLS projections assume that immigration will add 1.5 million people a year to the U.S. population. That is at the high end of the range of projections made by the Census Bureau for growth in the foreign-born population. At the low end, the Census Bureau projects an average annual increase of 1.2 million from 2010 to 2020. Also, the actual increase in the foreign-born population from 2000 to 2010 was slightly less than 1 million annually. Thus, the BLS projections assume a significant uptick in immigration from 2010 to 2020. If that does not come to pass, the actual growth in the U.S. population and labor force could be well below the projected increase.

Because the majority of the adult Hispanic population is foreign born, lessened immigration would drag down the growth of the labor force. Thus, if the BLS projections about immigration are too high, so may be the agency's projections for the Hispanic share of labor force growth.

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'La Reina' se rejuvenece



La Reina del Sur conquistó a 'El Güero', a 'El Gallego' y a millones de televidentes de habla hispana.

Pero ahora, en la mira de la heroína Teresa Mendoza, están los jóvenes que hablan inglés y español. Reunidos por primera vez, los actores mexicanos Kate del Castillo y Rafael Amaya y el español Iván Sánchez promocionaron el estreno del exitoso programa de televisión, que mezcla componentes de una telenovela con los de una serie de acción, por *Mun2* a partir del domingo.

"Nunca me imaginé que la volviera a pasar con subtítulos (en inglés) y todo eso y tan rápido. Uno no hace los trabajos pensando en: 'Esto va a tener mucho rating'. Y todo esto es padrísimo porque es un extra", dijo Del Castillo en un hotel de Los Ángeles la semana pasada. A pesar de ser el programa más visto en el horario de las 10:00 p.m. e imponer records históricos para la cadena Telelumen en 2010 y 2011, el elenco no está confiado en repetir esa hazaña en el canal bilingüe.

"No es lo mismo el espectador de 30, 40 años que uno de 18; tocan diferentes experiencias. No sé como cuajará en este otro canal con otra franja", dijo Sánchez. Esta historia está basada en el libro homónimo de Arturo Pérez-Reverte y relata como una sinoense huye de su país para

salvar su vida y se convierte en líder de una red de narcotráfico en España.

El español -que dio vida a Santiago Fiestra "El Gallego"-, la describió como una muestra de la realidad social en algunos países. También indicó que espera demostrar al público anglo parlatante porque este programa se impuso en los niveles de audiencia.

"Lo que tiene padre La Reina es que [es] un icono de la mujer fuerte. Ya las protagonistas que son unas taradas, a nadie les importa porque nadie se identifica con ellas... Es de una mujer que se abre camino en el mundo de los hombres, que sufre, ella es víctima. Aunque piense como un hombre, no deja de ser mujer y amar como mujer. Es la historia de una mujer que le suceden cosas a lo largo de su vida", dijo la protagonista enfatizando que la serie no es sobre el narcotráfico. El trío agregó que por el guión, las escenas y el vocabulario utilizado La Reina del Sur "no es una telenovela" sino un híbrido. Y aunque por el momento no hay planes de hacer una secuela o una película de esta historia, ellos están listos para escuchar propuestas.

Por otra parte, la actriz de telenovelas como La mentira y Muchachitas aseguró que volvería a enviar el controversial mensaje Twitter en el que criticó a la religión, el gobierno mexicano e invocó a Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán a mejorar la situación social en México.

"No, yo soy así desde chiquita... No, ¿cómo me voy a arrepentir de lo que pienso y siento en mi corazón? Yo no tuve ningún problema. El problema lo tui-

eron los demás que lo leyeron y que les afectó. Yo no", expresó para después tomar agua de una botella.

Su compañero y compatriota la apoyó.

"Ya estuvo bueno de quedarnos callados, ¿no? Pasan un montón de cosas en México pero nadie dice nada. Yo estoy a favor de la libertad de expresión y si todos fuéramos lo que en este caso hizo Kate sería un México distinto", dijo Amaya, cuyo personaje fue el piloto chicano apodado "El Güero Avila".

Al ser cuestionados sobre una supuesta relación romántica entre Sánchez y Del Castillo, quien está en proceso de divorcio del actor Arturo Díaz, ella desmintió lo que aseguró una revista con fotografías de ellos juntos en Beverly Hills.

"Sí, nos tomaron unas fotos porque [el] vino hace poquito para acá y lo llevé a tomar café y lo que sea... Pero lo mismo dicen de todo mundo", aseveró sin querer agregar nada más y continuando con las bromas entre los tres que demostraron tener una excelente relación amistosa.

Tras grabar La Reina del Sur, el trío está enfocado en diversificar su carrera después del éxito arrollador de la serie.

Del Castillo recientemente grabó dos películas K11, sobre un robo transaccional en un cárcel de Los Ángeles, y Colosio, basada en el asesinato del ex candidato presidencial mexicano Luis Donaldo Colosio; y un comercial para la organización pro animal PETA.

Sánchez terminó una serie de romanos en su país y está analizando algunas propuestas laborales en Estados Unidos, al igual que Amaya.

Pero ambos no quisieron adelantar ningún detalle al respecto. "Es que se ceban los proyectos", afirmó sin reservas el actor mexicano.

Eva Longoria Discusses Philanthropy, Latino History At USC Event

Actor, activist and philanthropist Eva Longoria spoke at the University of Southern California Saturday night and had a living room like conversation with Professor Josh Kun.

She discussed her experience growing up in South East Texas, struggling with her identity, having a special needs sister, her plans after the end of "Desperate Housewives"; her new documentary, attaining her masters' degree, her volunteerism and also said a few subtle remarks about her love life.

The main focus of the talk, however, was Longoria's insights about her journey to Hollywood and her evolution into a Latino community advocate and philanthropist. Opposite to her devious character, Gabby, on the award winning ABC series "Desperate Housewives", Longoria is committed to her own charities and organizations that are very close to her upbringing.

"Growing up with a special needs sister, Lisa, I was born into her world," said Longoria. "Serving others was ingrained in us because of that."

She Co-founded the non-profit organization "Eva's Heroes," dedicated to enriching the lives of those with developmental challenges, she's the national spokesperson for PADRES Contra El Cancer (Parent Against Cancer), she works very closely with the United Farm Workers amongst many other things.

A short clip was shown from the documentary she executive produced, "The Harvest," which is focused on the 500,000 child migrant farm workers in the U.S. to promote awareness and support to enact the Children's Act for Responsible Employment (CARE Act).

"I walked the desert and in 15 minutes you can feel the heat through your feet," said Longoria



about her experience when doing research for her documentary and immigration. "I went to the fence" talked to farmers, border patrol, police."

Longoria proved that her curiosity and genuine desire to help has led her to be involved in the root causes of complex issues like child labor, immigration, education and health care in the United States, which she recommends all students to explore.

She is a strong advocate of education and said it's important for people to be knowledgeable of the core reasons behind ongoing political issues.

She is currently in her last year of Graduate School working on her Master's Degree in Chicano Studies and Political Science at Cal State University, Northridge and is still struggling to nail down her thesis topic.

She joked about changing her thesis daily, but she's confident that it will be about Latinas and education.

"I didn't really know my social position until I was getting my masters," said Longoria.

Even though Longoria is ninth generation Mexican-American, she always grew up very rooted to her ancestry. Longoria's Spanish origin can be traced back to her

ninth great-grandfather, Lorenzo Suarez de Longoria, who emigrated to the Viceroyalty of New Spain, which became modern-day Mexico, in 1603, and whose family originated from a small village called Llongoria, Belmonte de Miranda, Asturias, Spain, according to 2010 PBS series "Faces of America."

She had a DNA test done to trace her exact roots and discovered that she is 75% Spanish and 22% indigenous. "I had a hard time with it," she teased about it. "I thought I was an Aztec princess in my past life."

She mentioned a little bit about her recent relationship with Spanish stud, Eduardo Cruz, even though she didn't mention his name, and their regular discussions on the Spanish colonization. "I was dating a Spaniard, we would get in fights about the conquest all the time," she said.

"Desperate Housewives" is soon coming to an end and even though Longoria is heavily invested in charities and her philanthropies, she said acting continues to be a passion and one of her main sources of income. She is in a transitional point in her life and unsure of where exactly these next couple of years will lead her to.

"I love 'Desperate Housewives'... I'm now divorced, I'm almost done with graduate school, I don't know where my life is going to be," Longoria said.

However, she does have some upcoming projects like a film series with Billy Bob Thornton, which is set to premiere at SXSW as well as a film with Andy Garcia and Peter O'Toole and ended by saying she would be a full time volunteer for the next year.

LOS JACKPOTS AHORA SON EL DOBLE DE GRANDES.



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-TEXAS LOTTERY-

Gearing up for spring training by revisiting trove of memories

So, what is spring training really like?

You mean, beneath the thick exterior coating of sunblock, extra batting practice and Carabba's advertisements on the outfield fences?

Glad you asked.

It is up at 6:30 a.m. in the clubhouse by 8 and players on the field by 10. It is a jump-in-the-dunk goodfellow to my wife and daughter, a sad farewell for six weeks of dinners at home and evening movies clashing with an eagerness for the change in seasons.

Remember when you were a kid, that last week of summer vacation before the start of a new school year? That's this week in baseball. There's a glow in the pit of your stomach because you know for the next several months you'll be slammed by a relentless schedule and loads of homework. But that's eclipsed by the excitement of a new year and reunions with old friends. (As long as it wasn't Sister Noctida again!)

Spring training is watching a kid named Albert Pujols take Jupiter (the town) by storm in the spring of 2001 by hitting bases to Jupiter (the planet) – and become an instant star.

It is watching the Braves scramble to hang protective netting over the employee parking lot in February 2010, when a kid named Jason Heyward blazes batting practice home runs through distant windmills – and wondering, in the spring of 2012, whether he's still a shooting star.

It is interviewing Kirby Puckett at his Florida Laker at 7:30 one morning in 1996 for a season preview story, the Twins repeating to break camp later that day ... and him veering toward the trainer's room at the end of our conversation, "I wish to be told that I'm not here." I will never forget, he "must" have slept wrong on my "eye" because his vision was blurred. Several weeks later came the glaucoma diagnosis and one of the most heartbreaking eyes I've ever seen.

Life has the ability to do that, to take things out of focus in the blink of an eye. Which is why the slow days and thick optimism of spring, the season for renewal, are so welcome. And the laughs. Especially those. I still remember the day before his eye went blurry, Puckett cracked a couple of doubles against Greg Maddux and cackled at him from second base. "I got you, Picaso. I got you!"

Because Maddux could flat-out paint. And because Puckett lived every day as if it was his last, joie de vivre embedded in his DNA.

Spring training is slow, but it's motion, constant motion. The next spring after his forced retirement, Puckett was back in Fort Myers, Fla., as a special instructor with the Twins. Only good thing about his exit was, he joined us for some of the early spring (late-afternoon) extra batting practice games. He wasn't much of a shooter, but One-Eyed Jack – Puckett's term for himself, not mine – dished off passes nearly as snappy as his one-liners.

Laughter. It's always been one important way Mike Scioscia brings each new group of Angels together in Arizona. He assigns homework to rookies at morning meetings. Give us a report on your hometown tomorrow. Or tell us about the Ostrich Festival over in Chandler, Oh, Lord. Former pitcher Jamon Woodburn once accompanied a couple of rookies on that outing ... and had a real, live ostrich delivered to the clubhouse the next morning.

When the world's largest and ugliest bird was walked into the room on a leash by its owner, pitcher Ramon Ortiz freaked, taking cover inside of his locker, shrieking, "Pollo grande! Pollo grande!"

Bawks, not bawks. That's part of the beauty of spring. And fashion. I still love how phenom Brad Radke leaned in and hit his way into the majors in the spring of 1995. Then-Twins pitcher in the Dick Stocker simply asked, "Son, do you own a suit?" Radke had no idea what Such was talking about. Kid, someone finally told him, big leaguers wear suits when they travel.

When a rookie leans he's made the club, it is one of the coolest days of any spring, anywhere. Or night. When the late Mark Fidrych was told the Tigers were taking him north in 1976, he took his girlfriend out to celebrate that evening, even, on a Lakeland pitcher's mound.

Lakeland, apparently, is a pretty good place to get recruited. A few springs ago, an interview with Lou Whitaker – in Detroit's camp as an alumni coach – somehow took a hard right turn and, suddenly, he was on and on about the Jehovah's Witnesses. I escaped, perhaps too gracefully. Apparently figuring "I was still a prospective recruit. Whitaker ambled across the clubhouse a few minutes later and handed me a Bible.

Must be something in the (holy?) water in Lakeland. Two years ago, I was there on Ash Wednesday and scouted out an early evening service at a local church after starting work too early to make a morning Mass. Perfect. So I arrive, and the priest starts speaking. In tongues? No, in Spanish. Oops.

It's all about, spring training. You never know what – or who – will come floating in on an given gorgeous spring day. The angel Muhammad Ali visited the Angels' clubhouse. I've never seen a group of normally world-weary professional athletes melt so quickly with a pop quiz on Michigan in his first few days of the camp in St. Louis, Mo.

The spring after the Red Sox won it all in 2004, my friend Jayson Stark and I were waiting for David Ortiz for a post-workout interview and, by the time Ortiz finally emerged from the shower, the clubhouse, literally, was deserted. Jayson, me and Ortiz. Then, one of the Red Sox vice-presidents came through leading a private tour. James Taylor and his wife. Turned out, Mrs. Taylor was passing to about her Red Sox and was dying to meet Ortiz. While she talked with Big Papi, poor J.T. was stuck talking with Jayson and I. Frankly, I had always found his music a little too boring. But he was such a sweet man. I was picked up by a couple of his CDs. And I'll tell you this: When I play them, my wife razes me mercilessly about my change of heart.

Spring training is driving straight through places like Yee Haw Junction (a place in Florida, honest), and driving right past places like Blimpie's. And every time, I think of the player's strike of '95. The Twins served those sandwiches during the "replacement player" debacle, post-workout, every single day. I can still hear legendary coach Rick Stearns calling out, "Blimpie time!" Not sure which was thicker, the mayonnaise on the turkey or the sarcasm in Hill's voice.

It is the most delicious time of the year. Spring. It was last year when Tim Lincecum revealed one secret to his training regimen: Frequent trips to In-N-Out.

Burger, grabbing two Double-Double, two orders of fries and a milkshake. I kid you not, shortly after that interview finished, stomachs growling, three of us went straight to In-N-Out for dinner. We're so predictable.

Spring training is a long, pleasant conversation with Jim Joyce in a Scottsdale Mexican joint after bumping into the umpire and his wife over dinner plates of burrito. It is discussing artist Pat Conroy with a new kicker in Tampa Bay named Joe Maddon, talking about @overcoming adversity with Ron Washington, Jon Daniels and the Rangers, and it is a misty morning good-guy Johnny Damon with a pop quiz on Michigan in his first few days of the camp in St. Louis, Mo.

Spring training is Ken Griffey Jr. sitting in Cincinnati's Florida camp and figuring his spring schedule by a two-bride rule: If the Reds' bus was to cross road with two brides en route to a Grapeful League game, he was staying home that day. It is a morning conversation with an animated Lefty Francoeur, who cannot wait for a time that afternoon in Orlando with Tiger and the tee time.

Spring training is sand traps and sandbagging. When Ichiro Suzuki first showed up in Seattle's camp in 2001, his routine Calet League ground balls were so pedestrian that manager Lou Piniella began to panic. Hey Ichiro, Piniella finally asked, "can you turn on a ball?" That afternoon, Ichiro went out and jacked a home run over the right-field fence. Upon returning to the dugout, he nonchalantly asked Piniella, "Like that?"

Spring training imports from Japan (Yu Darvish to Texas this spring) and classically, quintessentially American (George Steinbrenner: bless his soul, toiling around the Yankees' complex in Tampa on his golf cart). It is talking with Snowbirds from White Plains (New York) to White Bear Lake (Minnesota).

It is 3,000 miles driven in rental cars while writing about the next player(s) who will reach 3,000 hits.

What is spring training really like? Tell him, Ichiro. Like that.

Lin uses his jumper, just like he was coached

Long before Linsanity took off, Jeremy Lin was alone with his trainer in a 24-Hour Fitness in Pleasanton, Calif. He was working on a lot of things – balance, upper-body strength to absorb contact and still finish the play, and most impressively, his jump shot.

"I'd like to see him use that jumper a little more," his personal trainer, E.J. Costello, was saying on the phone earlier Tuesday. "He can drive to the hoop and kick, but he's got a good jumper and I'd like to see him use it."

Costello, who spent a couple of hours a day with Lin, four days a week from May through September in the Bay Area during the lockout, got his wish Tuesday.

Despite eight turnovers from Lin, despite trailing by as many as 17 points, the Knicks and their fearless point-guard savior would not go away. Lin took the advice of his strength coach on the final possession in Toronto, confidently stepping into a game-winning 3-point shot with 0.5 seconds left to give the Knicks their sixth straight victory, 90-87 over the Raptors.

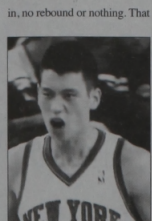
"It was a good shot for me," Lin said.

The way things are going for him now – 5-0 as a starter, and 6-0 if you count his 27-point debut off the bench 10 days ago against the Nets – any shot is a good shot. Nearly every play results in the right decision.

Not always the best result, but almost always. And nobody is quibbling with the historic results.

"I'm just glad it went like this so we can calm the Linsanity down a little bit," Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni told reporters in Toronto, his postgame comments beamed back to New York on the Madison Square Garden Networks.

"He held it til five-tenths of a second left," D'Antoni said. "He was confident that shot was going



Lin used his jumper to give the Knicks a sixth straight victory over the Raptors.

in, no rebound or nothing. That he stole the ball from Calderon and drove for a run-out dunk that cut the Raptors' lead to 87-84 with 1:28 left," Lin said. "Just bailed me out tonight."

The way Lin has bailed the Knicks out of what had been a dismal season that saw them lose 11 of 13 on their way to an 8-15 record before Linsanity began. The Knicks (14-15) can climb back to 500 Wednesday night in New York against the Kings as they start a five-game homestand that promises to be the most electrifying in at least a decade.

"I don't know when there's an ending," D'Antoni said. "Maybe there won't [be]."

As the basketball world tries to digest and comprehend Lin's improbably sudden rise to stardom, you could see Tuesday night two of the key aspects of his game that he worked so hard on during the summer and early fall. After Shumpert's steal and dunk, Lin drove the lane, absorbed contact and converted the basket and three-point play to tie the score at 87-87 with 1:05 left. As Costello has watched from afar as Lin has made plays like this during the six-game winning streak, he couldn't help but think back to those long days at the gym when they worked so hard to make him strong enough to absorb contact and finish plays.

"He uses his body really well," Costello said. "His upper body has gotten so much better and stronger, and his ability to control his body really speaks to what we did in the offseason. We killed his upper body. You can see a massive bruise on his right arm, and I talked to him and he said, 'My body is beat up right now.' But as he gets in shape, he's only going to get better."

Better?

OK. Who's going to dispute that now?

In the postgame news conference, Lin was asked, "Can you believe this is happening to you?"

"No," he said. "But I believe in all-powerful and all-knowing God who does miracles."

Asamblea Pública
Plan de Transporte Rural de Texas 2035

El Departamento de Transporte de Texas (TxDOT, por sus siglas en ingles), en conjunto con el Departamento Federal de Carreteras, será anfitrión de una reunión estilo asamblea pública referente al desarrollo Plan de Transporte Rural de Texas 2035. Este plan identificara las necesidades para todos los medios de transporte en las áreas rurales de Texas hasta el 2035. Adicionalmente, el plan incluirá una lista de proyectos de carretera, según prioridad, que le ayudará a TxDOT dirigir los fondos limitados de planeación para los proyectos de carretera más necesitados.

El propósito de esta reunión será presentar los criterios y el proceso utilizado para evaluar los proyectos de carretera, conclusiones de los medios no-carreteros, y para solicitar comentarios y aportaciones que contribuyan al desarrollo del plan. Información disponible en las reuniones incluirá exhibiciones y folletos sobre el estado y los resultados del estudio. Representantes de TxDOT estarán disponibles para discutir el desarrollo del plan y para responder a preguntas. Se proporcionaran formas para someter comentarios por escrito.

La reunión está asamblea pública para el área del distrito de Lubbock se llevara a cabo el Lunes, 05 de marzo de 2012 de las 4:00pm hasta las 7:00pm en: Texas Departamento De Transporte, centro de capacitación de distrito de Lubbock - sala de Mezquite en 135 Slaton Road, Lubbock, TX.

Información sobre sitios de reuniones adicionales a lo largo del estado se puede encontrar en www.txdot.gov, clave: rural plan 2035 o llamando a la línea de información gratuita al 1-855-TX-RURAL (1-855-897-8725).

Para los que no puedan asistir a la reunión pública, comentarios por escrito se pueden presentar en el sitio de Web del proyecto: www.txdot.gov, clave: transportation plan 2035; por correo electrónico a: TPP_txrtrplan@dot.state.tx.us o por correo a: Peggy Thurin, P.E., Project Manager, Texas Rural Transportation Plan 2035, 4544 Post Oak Place, Suite 224, Houston, Texas, 77027.

Personas con necesidades de comunicación o servicios especiales pueden llamar a Steven P. Warren, P.E. para asistencia. Solicitudes se deben hacer al más tardar tres días antes de la reunión. Se hará cualquier esfuerzo razonable para satisfacer sus necesidades.

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Glaucoma: un enemigo silencioso

Miles de personas en Estados Unidos están siendo afectadas por una enfermedad de los ojos a la que los expertos se refieren como "enemigo silencioso". Se trata del glaucoma, un mal que puede reducir lentamente la visión y causar ceguera irreversible.

Según el Instituto Nacional del Ojo de EE.UU. (NEI, en inglés), cerca de 2.2 millones de personas han sido diagnosticadas con glaucoma en la actualidad. Lo más alarmante es que al tratarse de una condición que no presenta síntomas ni dolor en su etapa temprana, pasas desapercibida, por lo que muchos no saben que la padecen.

El glaucoma es un grupo de varias enfermedades que dañan las células del nervio óptico, que transmiten información visual desde el ojo hasta el cerebro. La forma más común es el glaucoma primario de ángulo abierto, que se caracteriza por un aumento en la presión dentro del ojo (presión intraocular). Esto ocurre cuando

el fluido que circula dentro y fuera de la parte frontal del ojo dreña muy lentamente.

"El problema es que la visión se afecta primero periféricamente, que es lo que uno mira por el lado del ojo, y como la mayoría de las personas no están conscientes de esa visión no la experimentan. Debido a que la progresión es tan lenta y leve, es raro que el paciente se de cuenta hasta que se afecta la visión central", indica la doctora Hanna Rodríguez.

Coleman, portavoz del NEI, quien tiene su práctica en el Hospital Columbia-Presbyterian de Nueva York.

"Como ocurre con muchas de las enfermedades que afectan a los

ojos, una vez se pierde la visión debido al glaucoma no tenemos la habilidad de repararla; ya no hay remedio. No es como la catarata,



que se puede hacer cirugía para reponer la pérdida de la visión", acota la oftalmóloga.

La portavoz del NEI sugiere que las personas con mayor riesgo de sufrir de glaucoma se hagan el

examen oftalmológico cada uno o dos años. Entre esas personas están los afroamericanos mayores de 40 años; todos los mayores de 60 años, especialmente los mexicano-americanos; y las personas con familiares que han tenido glaucoma.

"Todos los grupos hispanos tienen más predisposición a sufrir de glaucoma que los caucásicos y esto tiene que ver con la genética que los hace más propensos a la enfermedad", aclara la experta.

El glaucoma se puede detectar con un examen de los ojos con dilatación de la pupila. Este examen permite al oculista ver dentro del ojo para determinar si hay signos de glaucoma y otros problemas de la

visión. "Si el paciente no está consciente de hacerse los exámenes oftalmológicos cada año después de los 40, nunca se va a enterar que tiene la enfermedad hasta que es demasiado tarde", dice la doctora Rodríguez.

"Lo más importante es estar consciente del historial familiar. Si usted sabe que su papá, su mamá o un hermano tuvo glaucoma, no espere dos años para hacer esa cita para examinarse los ojos", insiste la doctora.

Cuando se detecta temprano según Rodríguez, el tratamiento es sencillo y poco agresivo. "Generalmente es una serie de medicamentos en gotas que se ponen dos veces al día, o antes de acostarse a dormir. A veces, la situación es un poco más avanzada y se necesita cirugía (laser o convencional), pero se puede controlar y se puede mantener la visión", explica Rodríguez.

El Medicare cubre un examen completo de los ojos con

dilatación de las pupilas para algunas personas con alto riesgo de desarrollar glaucoma. Estas personas incluyen aquellas con diabetes, una historia familiar de glaucoma o personas de descendencia afroamericana que sean mayores de 50 años y los latinos de 65 años o más.

El NEI estima que hay otros 2 millones de personas que podrían estar sufriendo la enfermedad pero aún no han recibido un diagnóstico médico.

De acuerdo a un sondeo nacional realizado por el NEI, más del 90% de las personas en EE.UU. ha oído hablar del glaucoma, sin embargo, sólo el 8% está consciente de que la enfermedad no presenta síntomas en su etapa temprana.

Dentro de otras medidas de prevención sugiere por la doctora Rodríguez destacar: mantener un peso corporal adecuada y consumir una dieta balanceada. Si padece de diabetes debe controlarla, porque la diabetes puede llevar a sufrir de glaucoma más temprano.

Study: Mexican-American youth add pounds as they lose native eating habits

A University of South Carolina study shows that Mexican-American youth gain pounds as they move away from the dietary habits of their native country, a move that is putting them at risk for serious health problems.

According to the research, conducted by a team in the Arnold School of Public Health and published in the February issue of the Journal of Nutrition, Mexican-American youth born into second- and third-generation families are more likely to be obese than those who were not born in the United States.

"Mexican-American children are disproportionately affected by obesity," said Dr. Jihong Liu, the

lead author of the paper. "This has serious public health consequences because Mexican Americans are the fastest growing segment of the population. They are a very important population to study."

Few studies have examined the impact of both immigration and a child's acculturation on obesity, she said. "Most are focused on adults, who are at increased risk for obesity with each generation."

Second-generation Mexican Americans were 2.5 times as likely to be obese as their first-generation peers; third-generation Mexican Americans were two times more likely to be obese.

Researchers looked at data from nearly 2,300 Mexican-American

youth between the ages of 12 and 19 who participated in the 1999-2004 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). The survey measures height and weight of participants, as well as factors that gauge acculturation, including nativity for parents and the child and a child's language preference, such as reading, thinking and speaking in a particular language at home, with family members or friends.

The study found that 63 percent of the participants spoke some English, 21.5 percent spoke only English, and 16 percent spoke little English. Nearly 73 percent of the youth were second- or third-generation Mexican American.

According to the study, adolescents from second and third generations have diets high in saturated fat and sodium, and they consume high levels of sweetened beverages. Their consumption of fruits, vegetables, grains, meat and beans was lower than first-generation Mexican-American youth.

A typical Mexican diet includes corn, beans, meat such as pork and fish, fruits, including pineapple and papaya and vegetables such as squash and avocados.

"Our findings suggest that Mexican-American adolescents face challenges in terms of poorer diet and excessive weight gain associated with their immigration and acculturation experience,"

said Liu, a researcher in the Arnold School's department of epidemiology and biostatistics. "This verified what we expected: the greater the acculturation that a young person has experienced, the less healthy their diet."

The implication of the study is that young people who are more likely to be acculturated need help and support to maintain a healthy diet, she said.

Although the study did not address the causes, Liu said many immigrant families have a lower socioeconomic status and therefore cannot afford to buy fruits and vegetables and healthier foods, which are more expensive.

"Our findings also suggest that

policies and programs should be in place to help immigrants protect their traditional dietary practices such as a high consumption of fruit, vegetables, and bread while they assimilate to the American culture and society," Liu said. "Future studies should continue to examine the barriers that Mexican-American adolescents encounter in maintaining their native diet and identify strategies to address those barriers."

Arnold School researchers Dr. Edward Frongillo, Dr. Janice Probst and Mr. Yong Chu, a doctoral candidate, contributed to the study, which was supported by the Maternal and Child Health Research Program of the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration.

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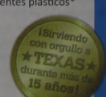
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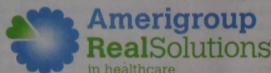
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