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Lubbock/Midland-Odessa Region

Hispanics 38.9% Of Lubbock Homeless

There are 154 Hispanics who are homeless in Lubbock according to the 2011 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & SURVEY conducted by South Plains Homeless Consortium with the technical assistance of the Texas Homeless Network.

This week the Texas Homeless Network released their annual report which estimates 397 homeless people live in Lubbock. Of these 154 are Hispanic including 50 children ages 12.

The report indicates that the number of first time homeless in 2011 has decreased to 55, down from 97 in the 2010 count. This suggests that the 154 Hispanics have remained homeless over extended periods of time. The Texas Homeless Network uses a 3 year time frame when reporting its findings.

Last January the Texas Homeless Network conducted its annual count of Homeless people in Lubbock.

About 70 Lubbock volunteers working in teams of 3 went out in the early morning hours, while it was still dark and in temperatures of 20 degrees to

conduct the count. The Point-In-Time count is conducted in every major city in America on a single night in order to capture what is referred to as an "Unduplicated Count" of homeless people staying in shelters as well as those sleeping on the street. When asked, "Where did you stay last night?" Most said they slept in an emergency shelter but, 40 said they stayed on the street. Others stayed with family or friends.

According to the report provided by Texas Homeless Network - Unemployment and the inability to pay rent are the two most cited reasons for becoming and remaining homeless.

Hispanics are at risk of remaining unemployed longer and unable to pay rent. When asked why they

were unemployed, the two most cited reasons were, "Can't find a job" and "No Transportation."

The people who are homeless in Lubbock are similar to other homeless populations

throughout Texas. According to the Texas Homeless Network, "Poverty, mainly caused by unemployment, is the unifying condition for virtually all of Texas' homeless population." Two other major reasons were divorce and domestic violence. This suggests that more women with children are homeless.

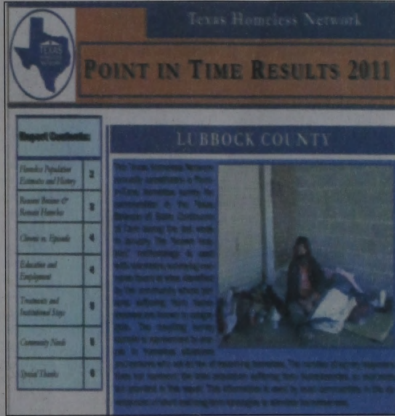
It is commonly acknowledged that many people who are homeless are also at risk of violence and many have a physical disability or chronic medical problems, mental illness, substance abuse, developmental disability or brain injury. Others have a criminal background. All these conditions combine to make finding a job difficult.

Another common reason for unemployment is the absence of "Day Centers" where job seekers are able to bathe and wash and press their clothing. Employers are reluctant to make people who are unhygienic

and the information from the Point-In-Time count is used by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as well as local communities in the development of short and long-term strategies to significantly impact homelessness.

The Lubbock Homeless Consortium, appointed by the Lubbock City Council in December of 2010 submitted its final recommendations to the City Council at the May 30, 2011 meeting. Their recommendations included the endorsement of the South Plains Homeless Consortium as the networking vehicle for homelessness issues, the endorsement of the Homeless Oversight Committee of the United Way as a volunteer group of local leadership with a primary interest of analyzing the needs (both met and unmet) of Lubbock's homeless population and the endorsement of the Continuum of Care.

The Homeless Committee indicated that these strategies would make a significant impact on the issue of homelessness in Lubbock.



Congresistas buscan apoyo para impulsar E-Verify

Luis Gutierrez: Latinos Won't Vote For Obama In 2012 Without Deportation Relief



El congresista Lamar Smith (R-TX) aseguró que el Comité Judicial de la Cámara de Representantes, revisará y aprobará su nuevo proyecto de ley para convertir E-Verify en un programa obligatorio a nivel nacional, en julio próximo. Así lo especificó Smith luego de la audiencia donde se analizó la propuesta. Consultado respecto a la posibilidad de que el presidente de la Cámara Baja, John Boehner (R-OH) llame a un voto sobre el proyecto de ley, Smith aseguró que hablará con él, cuando la legislación salga del comité. "No tengo dudas respecto a su apoyo, considerando que no existe un plan en este Congreso que cree más empleos para los estadounidenses que éste", dijo Smith, quien preside el Comité Judicial.

E-Verify es una base de datos en línea, utilizada voluntariamente por las empresas, para revisar el estatus migratorio de sus empleados. Organizaciones pro inmigrantes

han enfatizado que la Cámara de Representantes de E-Verify no se da en el marco de una legislación amplia, hundida las posibilidades de una reforma migratoria en el Capitolio. La demócrata de más alto rango en el Comité Judicial de la Cámara de Representantes Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) enfatizó que el proyecto de ley sobre E-Verify tendrá costos importantes y destruirá millones de empleos en el país, debilitando la economía. Legisladores como Barbara Lee (D-CA) dijeron a Smith que la propuesta sería un excelente vehículo legislativo para adjuntar en una reforma migratoria integral. El congresista dijo al término de la audiencia que "no existe ninguna posibilidad de que eso ocurra".

En paralelo en el Senado, el legislador Charles Grassley (R-IA) presentó una propuesta similar, que también haría obligatorio el programa. No obstante, difiere con Smith sobre los periodos de

implementación en las empresas si el proyecto de ley alcanza la promulgación.

"Todo lo que he hecho hasta ahora es presentar el proyecto de ley y pedir el apoyo de los congresistas. Lo discutí el martes en nuestra reunión de bancada. No lo discutimos en profundidad, pero pedí el respaldo de mis colegas", explicó Grassley.

"Queremos hacer todo lo posible para que las personas no sean contratadas ilegalmente en nuestro país. Creemos que existe mucha gente que está siendo abusada laboralmente por un condición de indocumentado", dijo.

Hasta ahora los senadores John Boozman (R-AR), Tom Coburn (R-OK), Bob Corker (R-TN), Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Mike Lee (R-UT), Marco Rubio (R-FL), Jeff Sessions (R-AL), David Vitter (R-LA), Roger Wicker (R-MI) y John Barrow (R-WV), han firmado como coautores. Fuentes en la oficina del liderazgo republicano en el Senado, aseguraron que la propuesta de Grassley es una de las que el líder Mitch McConnell (R-KY) "está revisando". Según la Oficina de Responsabilidad Gubernamental (GAO), E-Verify redujo en 5.4% sus errores en la confirmación de datos entre los periodos 2004-2007 y el año fiscal 2009.

No obstante, se reportaron 211 000 personas con configuraciones tentativas erróneas. En 189 000 casos no se pudo determinar el estatus.

In a meeting with bloggers last week, longtime immigrant rights advocate Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-ILL) said President Barack Obama should not count on Latinos to vote for him in 2012 unless he takes executive action to stop some deportations.

The Obama administration has said repeatedly that it has no options for halting the deportation of either undocumented students or the family members of citizens, even though it has frequently cited its use of discretion in immigration enforcement. Although the government says it prioritizes deportation of undocumented people who are considered threats to society, young men and women who grew up in the United States, as well as the parents and spouses of citizens, are still deported.

In a frank discussion with bloggers at the progressive conference Netroots Nation, Gutierrez said he will encourage Latinos to withhold votes from Obama unless the president uses his discretion. The main demand is to block deportation of families and young men and women who would benefit from the DREAM Act, a failed bill that would have allowed some undocumented people who entered the U.S. as children to gain legal status and attend colleges or join the military.

Gutierrez, who carries considerable clout among Latinos, is touring the country under the banner "Change Takes Courage" to rally support for administrative relief from deportations. He said in order to win support, Obama should create deferred action or parole for DREAM Act-eligible young people, allowing them to live and work in the U.S. until Congress acts on immigration reform. Instead, the administration often carries deportation proceedings to nearly the last minute, then allows an immigrant to stay after public outcry. "They stop the deportation when you do a little petition,

When Change.org does a petition and gets a few hundred signatures, they stop the deportation," Gutierrez said. "Don't tell me you ain't

got the power?" Senate Democrats, including Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-ILL), called in April for Obama to stop deporting DREAM Act students.

Gutierrez is also pushing for the president to create a new definition of "extreme hardship," a classification for men and women applying for legal status and their family members. Separating families should be considered "extreme hardship," he said.

Gutierrez acknowledged that exercising executive power ran the risk of a legislative backlash from Republicans, but said that should not be an excuse. "Anything that you put in to safeguard people, then they're going to take it away from you—then why did we put you there?" he said.

Gutierrez said the first sign of Obama's triangulation strategies on immigration came in 2007, when the then-senator voted for a border fence between the U.S. and Mexico.

Latino leaders in Illinois were furious, and Gutierrez said Obama called him for an explanation. "I should have known something then," he said. "He didn't get it, but he said to me, 'I've got to show the Republicans that I'm someone that they can work with.' It's still the same person." The problem, Gutierrez said, is that Obama continues to court Latino votes despite failing to follow through with immigration

reform, which polls consistently list as among the top five issues for Latino voters.

Obama recently spoke about immigration in El Paso, Texas, and Puerto Rico, but has said repeatedly he cannot act administratively to end deportations. Gutierrez said he thinks Latinos should vote for Obama in 2012 — but only if the president first takes actions to relieve deportation threats for families of citizens and would-be DREAM Act beneficiaries.

He said Latino voters should put their votes in a metaphorical lock box and only let them out if and when Obama makes progress on immigration reform. Gutierrez said Latinos are unlikely to vote for the Republican Party, which has decreed what it considers "amnesty" for illegal immigrants, or for alternatives such as the Tequila Party organized to rally Hispanic voters. "It's not about voting for the Tequila Party and it's not about voting for Republicans," he said. "I don't say Latinos doing that. What I see them doing is staying home."

A boycott by Latino voters could hurt Obama in the end, he acknowledged, but he said the issue is too important to ignore. "I don't say Latinos doing that. What I see them doing is staying home," he said. "Civil rights and human rights movements cannot be so closely aligned with parties because they're going to eventually have contradictions. I think of Rosa Parks and I think of her getting on that bus and saying, 'Will this upset the Speaker?' They didn't think about what was going to happen to a particular party. They moved."

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Commentaries - Opiniones

Immigrant hunting? What's happening to my country?

By Ruben Navarrete, Jr.
What is it about immigration? It brings out the best in America. And yet, talking about it brings out the worst in many Americans. The United States is becoming withdrawn and bitter, and the national mood is becoming uglier.
It's nothing new. We live in a country that has - for more than 220 years - held the curious distinction of being a nation of immigrants that doesn't like immigrants. Our national motto isn't really "E pluribus unum." It's more like: "There goes the neighborhood."
Whether they come legally, illegally, or with a letter of reference from the Queen of England, every batch of foreign arrivals to these shores is instantly considered inferior to those who came before. It helps Americans feel better about their lot. Whereas they have always tended to think of immigrants as less than them, nowadays some go for broke and consider them less than human.
And, in the 21st century, it's an open season on immigrants from Mexico and Latin America. I don't mean that literally. But unfortunately, these days, some folks might take it that way.
Some examples:
In Racine, Wisconsin, the owner of a local gas station began selling a bumper sticker that read "Illegal Immigrant Hunting Permit." He apparently didn't find it at the least bit offensive, but local immigrant activist Maria Morales did. "It's clearly hate," the grandmother told a local TV reporter. "So people will see this and they'll say, 'Hey, we have the right to kill them.'"
Morales planned a protest at the gas station, but the owner backed down and pulled the stickers from the shelves.
End of story? No such luck. A few days later, someone went to Morales' house and lit a fire outside her bedroom window. A police officer called to the Racine Police Department is investigating the incident, which some local residents are calling a hate crime.
Morales does not believe in coincidences.
"I thought right away, 'It's that damn sticker that I'm fighting against,'" she told the TV reporter.
Morales said a few days before the fire she got an anonymous letter in the mail accusing her of violating the First Amendment and attacking her husband to ban the bumper sticker. It was signed, "Uncle Freaking Sammy."
The First Amendment only prohibits government from making laws infringing upon individuals' free speech rights. And, as long as we're talking about rights, if the person who created that bumper sticker had the right to make it, and the store had the right to sell it, then Morales had the right to be offended by it. But no one has the right to commit an act of violence or attempt to destroy private property as an act of retaliation or intimidation.
Meanwhile, at the Newark Liberty International Airport, what you might call an arm of "Uncle Freaking Sammy" has also, according

to an internal federal report, been improperly hunting immigrants. I'm not talking about the U.S. Border Patrol or Immigration and Customs Enforcement. That would make too much sense. After all, that sort of thing is practically in the job description of those agencies.
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What has happened to my country? Our nation's soul has been coarsened by the immigration debate. Americans now say, and do believe the most cruel and outrageous things when it comes to immigrants - both legal and illegal, and especially those with dark skin who speak Spanish. Anything goes. There is no shame and no punishment.
Is this the America that nativists are so desperate to preserve? If so, is it even worth the effort?

Obama offensive by his absence?

By Gregory Tejada
Is President Barack Obama really killing off his re-election chances by his absence from the National Association of Latino Elected Officials' convention taking place this week?
OBAMA: Won't go to San Antonio
There are some activists who want to claim that Obama is snubbing Latinos by not showing up at this event, in part because candidate Obama showed up in 2008 and promised to come back as president.
SO UNLESS HE manages to squeeze in the event during 2012 at the heart of the election cycle, it may well turn out that Obama does not keep that "promise" - which some activists will try to elevate to the same scale as "Read my lips. No new taxes."
If it reads like I'm mocking this idea, you'd be correct.
I think some people are just a little too eager to come up with an issue. Considering that there are many real reasons for Latinos to be concerned about Obama's commitment to supporting our concerns, there really is no reason to come up with phony issues such as this.
Perhaps I just take into account that any president (or any government official who is worth anything) has a busy schedule, and that there always are more public events demanding the presidential "stamp of approval" than the president is capable of attending.
SO THE FACT that NALEO is not getting Obama on its schedule is a shame for the group. But it's not the end of the world.
Besides, I can't help but think that the presidential spin in response to this particular conference isn't completely full of bull. They cite the fact that Obama will attend the National Council of La Raza conference to be held next month, and just recently made a prominent appearance in Puerto Rico.

Although one could argue that one lone day in the Caribbean isn't that much, and that the La Raza conference is being held in Washington - so Obama would be a complete bafoso if he were to miss that event.
But these are a couple of prominent Latino-oriented appearances made within a couple of months time-span, and there is still more than a year to go until the actual Election Day voting takes place.
WHICH MEANS I'M not about to say that the world is going to end because Obama thinks he can spend his time better this weekend in places other than San Antonio, Texas.
That would have given him a chance to have his picture taken with the various local government officials of Latino ethnic backgrounds - which probably does more for their re-election bids than it does for Obama's.
Personally, I'm less concerned about where Obama appears during the coming months than I am with the actions he takes while serving as president.
If Obama really were the "radical" that the conservative ideologues try to claim he is, he would be in so tight with Latinos that there would be no question about his chances of re-election.
BECAUSE THERE REALLY isn't anything radical about what Latinos want - acceptance as part of this society, particularly since the majority of us were born here and are just as much a part of the United States as anyone else in this country (regardless of what any ideologue wants to believe).
Because the Obama record when it comes to concerns of Latinos is that the president seems more concerned about offending the sensibilities of those people who want to view our growing population numbers as a problem to be dealt with by government.
Obama could easily show up at the NALEO conference (instead of sending Interim Secretary Ken Salazar, as he is doing this year) and say the right things (like he did earlier this year along the U.S./Mexico border).
But if Obama's actions don't back up his rhetoric, no amount of appearances at any group will overcome his presidential record.

La industria agrícola del estado de Georgia está en serios problemas porque la cosecha se pudre en el campo a falta de trabajadores. El gobernador Nathan Deal, en un acto de desesperación, ha llamado a los convictos bajo libertad condicional para que reemplacen a los inmigrantes que usualmente realizan esa labor, pero los patronos se quejan que no pueden depender de ellos porque son productivos y muchos abandonan el trabajo porque es muy duro.
Georgia ha promulgado recientemente leyes duras hacia los indocumentados y a quienes lo contratan. El estado exige a los empleadores el uso del programa federal E-verify para averiguar el estatus migratorio de los trabajadores.
Lo que ocurre en Georgia no puede ser ignorado cuando el liderazgo republicano de la Cámara de Representantes promueve la Ley de Fuerza Laboral Legal (Legal Workforce Act) (H.R.2164) - que obliga el uso nacional del sistema E-Verify como una manera de reducir el desempleo. Su promotor, el congresista Lamar Smith (R-Texas) está convencido de que esto es crucial para mejorar la economía y aumentar las oportunidades de trabajo.
El ejemplo de Georgia muestra que equivocados está Smith sobre el impacto del uso de E-verify en ciertas industrias a la hora de generar empleos. Pese a las palabras, ésto no es una ley económica sino la legislación punitiva y de migración limitada.
Además, el sistema E-verify tiene serios problemas de producir datos equivocados como para ser un sistema nacional obligatorio. El Instituto Americano de la Carne aunque respalda la idea general en su testimonio ante el Congreso lo calificó de "parcialmente efectivo" y se quejó de los retrasos en el Departamento de Seguridad Interna para actualizar sus datos.
Estos retrasos perjudican especialmente a personas que cambiaron su estado civil, migratorio, el nombre u otras modificaciones. Estas imprecisiones conducen a una práctica discriminatoria ante la falta de precisión del sistema y a la temor del empleador a ser castigado por contratar inadvertidamente a un indocumentado.
Y como si ésto fuera poco, la implementación de E-verify costaría anualmente 2,600 millones de dólares, según el estimado de la publicación especializada Bloomberg, que serían abonados mayormente por la pequeña empresa.
En resumen, E-verify no creará millones de vacantes laborales para los desempleados, tiene demasiado errores y su implementación será una carga onerosa del gobierno federal hacia el sector privado.
Sin lugar a duda, es una medida de tinte migratorio que perjudica a los indocumentados y al resto de la nación.

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Freedom isn't Free

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Obama hablará de la retirada de Afganistán

El presidente de EE.UU., Barack Obama, anunciará los detalles del comienzo de la retirada de Afganistán en un discurso a la nación esta noche, anunció su portavoz, Jay Carney. En un sucinto comunicado, Carney indicó que "a las 20:00 (hora local) del miércoles 22 de junio), el presidente se dirigirá a la nación desde la Casa Blanca para presentar su plan para el cumplimiento de su estrategia, dada a conocer en diciembre de 2009, para retirar las tropas de Afganistán."

dará a conocer el presidente estadounidense, se espera que Obama anuncie la marcha el mes próximo de 5,000 soldados de Afganistán. Otros 5,000 soldados aban-

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donarán el país asistiendo a la largo de este año. Para finales de 2012, habrían retornado los 30,000 soldados

enviados a lo largo del año pasado para reforzar a las fuerzas aliadas y permitir que las tropas afganas aceleraran su formación. La retirada se completará, según lo previsto por la OTAN en su cumbre del pasado noviembre en Lisboa, en 2014. En la actualidad se encuentran desplegados en Afganistán cerca de 100,000 soldados estadounidenses.

El anuncio del presidente tendrá lugar un día antes de que Obama se desplace a la base militar de Fort Drum, en el estado de Nueva York y cuartel de la X División de Montaña, cuyos soldados han sido destinados con frecuencia a Afganistán.

Hispanic Farmers Choose Courts Over USDA Compensation Program

Farming used to be the glue that bound Ofelia Ortega's family together.

She and her husband, Gil Ortega, farmed with his father and five brothers on land they had worked since the 1960s. The family owned 100 acres near Mercedes and leased an additional 400.

But for years, their farming fraternity struggled for survival when they were unable to get loans processed through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, competing against non-Hispanics who got loans on time. Ultimately, the family lost its land and scattered to different jobs in different states.

"You've seen your family slowly ripped apart and decaying from the problems," Ofelia Ortega said. "It's like somebody drowning, and if you don't get help for the drowning, you're just going to drown."

Like many Hispanic families across the nation, the Ortegas blame discriminatory USDA policies for causing them to lose loans they should have received and, ultimately, their livelihood. The department has acknowledged it discriminated against Hispanic and female farmers between 1981 and 2000 and has created a program to offer up to \$50,000 in compensation to families after claims are filed this summer.

The Ortegas, however, are among a group of farmers — that includes many in the Rio Grande Valley — who think the deal is insufficient and instead are pressing on with their own attempts at a lawsuit.

"It really wasn't a difficult decision seeing all we've gone through," Ofelia Ortega said. "This has nothing to do with the money involved; this has to do with justice being done."

"Going Against the Big Time" Two cases are defining the fight. One is the original Garcia lawsuit, which was filed in 2009 on behalf of Hispanic farmers. The case was similar to the Pigford, Keeseagle and Love cases, filed between 1997 and 2000 by African-American, Native American and female farmers,

respectively. Two different judges certified Pigford and Keeseagle



just how obstinate the government is."

For her part, Ofelia Ortega knows she's taking a risk by turning down the settlement offer, but said she has to believe it will turn out right.

"We are going against the big time, like David did with Goliath, but believe me, we will make (it) a big deal," she said.

"What Is Favorable?" Rene Garza was beaming as he held up a hefty stack of jalapeños he had just torn out of the ground.

"Perfect," he said. Garza, 71, has been independently farming in Alamo since 1975, when he quit as a foreman on a McAllen farm. Garza leases 150 acres where he grows corn, tomatoes, jalapeños, eggplant and other vegetables. He said he can't imagine retiring.

"I don't want to quit," he said. "What else would I do?" Garza is one of the farmers still hanging on after discrimination that he describes as simply routine for most of his career.

"We used to go apply for a loan, and the man who needed to take it was not our, or too busy, or out of town, or couldn't find the paperwork ... but the white people would go and talk to him for several hours," he said. "We were never able to borrow a single penny. After about four to five years in a row, I stopped going."

Stories of others like Garza, Cantu said, along with discrimination his own family faced farming in San Juan and Raymondville, are one of the reasons he never gets tired of this fight.

When asked whether he thought the issue would ever be settled in a way he would consider favorable, Cantu was quiet for a time.

"I don't know," he said finally. "What is favorable?" "What is \$50,000, Cantu said, to someone who lost a 600-acre farm because of the USDA?"

"But he already lost it, David," Garza said. "He needs to move on." "But he needs to be compensated," Cantu said.

¿Que Pasa?

PATRIOTIC PICNIC

Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus will host an all-day July 4th picnic at Council #8097 home, 1619 Etesimo. Bands, food, fun. It will be held after the City of Lubbock July 4th parade. Proceeds benefit the Catholic Renewal Center garage fund. For more information: Bill Youngren-806-778-9004 or Joe Martinez-806-778-7789.

BEAT THE HEAT AT THE CITY OF LUBBOCK SENIORS CENTERS

Seniors can beat the summer heat at Parks and Recreation's five senior centers! Seniors of all ages can enjoy fun and fellowship in air-conditioned comfort as they participate in our daily recreation activities, fitness programs and even enjoy a nutritious lunch! For older Lubbock seniors (age 60 and over), we provide transportation to and from their homes to one of our centers! With the temperatures this summer already heating up, these are great services for those seniors that do not have adequate cooling in their homes.

Each senior center offers many free or low fee activities geared for Lubbock's active adults ages 50 and above including arts and crafts, sewing, games, ceramics, yoga, seated yoga, cooking, computer classes, day trips for shopping or to visit area attractions, dance socials, and much more.

The transportation service and hot lunch program are offered Monday through Friday at the senior centers listed below for anyone age 60 and over. There are suggested donations for each program, but no one is turned away for inability to pay. Suggested donations are \$1 per one-way trip and \$2 for lunch. The lunch program allows anyone age 59 and under to purchase a meal for \$5. Lunch is served weekdays at noon. To register for the transportation program, call the Lubbock Senior Center at 767-2710.

- Lubbock Senior Center, 2001 19th Street, 767-2710 Open M-WTH-F 8 am-5 pm, Tuesday 8 am-8 pm, Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm.
- Mae Simmons Senior Center, East 23rd and Oak Avenue, 767-2708 Open M-F 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Maggie Trejo Supercenter, 3200 Amherst, 767-2705 Open M-F 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Copper Rawlins Community and Senior Center, 213 40th Street, 767-2704 Open M-F 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Homestead Senior Center, 5401 36th Street, 687-7898 Open M-F 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (inside Homestead Apartments' offices)

REGISTER FOR SWIMMING LESSONS

For the first time in a number of years, Lubbock's four municipal pools will be offering swimming lessons for area children! All sessions consist of eight 45-minute lessons and cost \$35 per session. For our youngest swimmers we have Beginner Shrimps for preschool children ages 3-5 years old. Youth ages 6-12 have two levels available. Level I (Guppies) is for youth with little or no water experience, and Level II (Minnows) is for intermediate swimmers. For more information or to register for lessons call the Parks and Recreation Office at 775-2673. The Parks and Recreation Office is located at 1010 9th Street (two blocks east of Mahon Library) and is open Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Lubbock's four municipal pools include Clapp Pool, 46th Street and Avenue U; Mae Simmons Pool, 24th Street and Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.; Maxey Pool, 4007 30th Street, and Montelongo Pool, 3200 Bates Street.

Information on all of our swimming lessons plus over 600 other summer activities is available in our 28-page Recreation and Leisure Services Summer Activity Guide, which can be viewed and downloaded online at www.lubbockpool.com. To have a free copy mailed to you, call 775-2685.

WATER RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT

Water restrictions went into effect April 1st in order to minimize water loss to evaporation during the warmer and windier times of the day. The City continues to allow watering between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. Water use between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. is restricted in order to minimize evaporation. The restrictions are part of the City's irrigation ordinance, which applies from April 1st to September 30th each year, and are designed to minimize water loss to evaporation during the warmer and windier times of day.

Exceptions are allowed for newly planted grass or landscaping, soaker hoses, and watering by hand. The City continues to allow watering two days per week with up to one and a half inches of water for each area of the yard. Citizens can help stop the waste of water by eliminating significant runoff while watering lawns and gardens.

To report violations, please call the Water Hotline at 775-3952.

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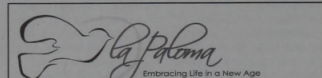
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Venus overcomes 40-year-old Date-Krumm, Nadal rolls

Time and again after losing a point, Venus Williams rolled her eyes, slumped her shoulders and let out a shriek of dismay that echoed through Centre Court, reverberating off its roof.

Facing the most, uh, experienced woman in the Wimbledon field

—40-year-old Kimiko Date-Krumm of Japan — Williams was mixed in a three-set struggle that lasted nearly three hours Wednesday, a tight, high-quality contest brimming with the sort of at-the-net, classic grass-court play seen so rarely nowadays.

In the end, Williams, a five-time champion at the All England Club, mustered every bit of her competitive drive and considerable talent to pull out a 6-7 (6), 6-3, 8-6 comeback victory over Date-Krumm and reach the third round.

"She played unbelievable today. I thought she had some luck on her side, too, with net cord hits, like, I just thought today was a perfect storm for her to try to get a win," said Williams, who again wore her decidedly original lace romper, featuring draped sleeves, deep "V" neckline, gold belt and gold zipper.

"Thankfully," Williams added, "I had some answe-rs." None more effective than her serve, in the late-going, may-be. That stroke delivered 12 aces, helped Williams escape several jams and was clocked at 120 mph even in her final service game. Contrast that with Date-Krumm's serves, mostly about 80 mph. One was 65 mph.

Venus Williams was impressed with Kimiko Date-Krumm. "I thought she played unbelievable today." (AP) Date-Krumm, who reached the Wimbledon semifinals in 1996, quit tennis later that year, then came out of retirement in 2008, maveled at Williams' serve afterward, saying: "Not only wins — it's on the corner. So it was very, very difficult to break her."

Not at the outset, actually.

Date-Krumm won 13 of the first 16 points Williams served, breaking three times en route to a 5-1 lead. The 23rd-seeded

American Ryan Sweeting 6-3, 6-2, 6-4, compiling 38 winners and only seven unforced errors. In the third round, Nadal will face Gilles Muller of Luxembourg — the only man other than Roger Federer to beat him at Wimbledon in the past six years.

Since losing to Muller in the second round in 2005, Nadal is 28-2 at the All England Club; that includes defeats against Federer in the 2006 and 2007 finals, titles in 2008 and 2010, and missing the 2009 tournament with bad knees.

"Will be a big, big test for me," Nadal said. Roddick's second serve was clicking again in a 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Victor Hanescu of Romania.

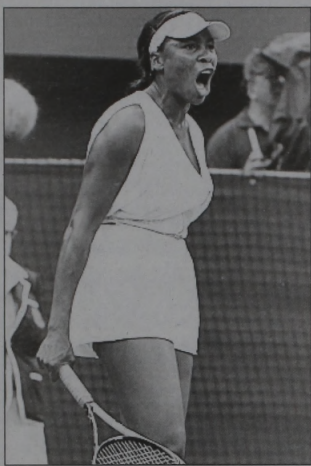
The No. 8-seeded American hit 15 aces, saved the only break point he faced and limited his unforced errors to six — all with a special pair of fans sitting at Centre Court his parents.

"This is the first time they've seen me play here. ... I think today was the first time they ever sat in a box in my entire career," said Roddick, who won the 2003 U.S. Open. "They picked a good court to debut that on. I think they're having fun."

Other winners included No. 4 Andy Murray, No. 9 Gael Monfils and 72nd-ranked Alex Bogomolov Jr. of the United States, who reached the third round in his first trip to Wimbledon by knocking off No. 25 Juan Ignacio Chela of Argentina 6-0, 6-3, 6-4.

The only seeded woman to lose was No. 30 Bethanie Mattek-Sands of the United States, who caused a stir with her Lady Gaga-inspired jacket that had white tennis balls attached to it, then was beaten 6-4, 5-7, 7-5 by 133rd-ranked Misaki Doi of Japan.

When Mattek-Sands arrived at the court, she noticed a official scrutinizing her group. So Mattek-Sands made clear her unusual accessory would be removed before warm-up time. "I'm not hitting any balls in it," Mattek-Sands said. "Don't worry."



Fighters lining up for defending champ Pacquiao

Many Pacquiao never has trouble finding a fight. Anybody with a shred of credibility who can come close to making weight has been lining up for years to face the box-office sensation.

So when Pacquiao agreed to fight Juan Manuel Marquez in November, their third matchup in what already has been an epic series, everyone else started pairing up.

— Junior welterweight titlholders Amir Khan and Zab Judah found each other. They'll meet in Las Vegas in a highly anticipated unification match in July.

— Former titlholder Devon Alexander lined up with hard-hitting Lucas Matthysse. They'll meet in Alexander's native St. Louis later this month.

— Floyd Mayweather Jr. announced plans to end a 16-month layoff this week. He agreed to face welterweight champ Victor Ortiz at a venue to be decided in September. The combined record of those eight fighters? 290 wins, 19 losses, five draws. They also have about 30 world titles between them, depending on what you count.

"I really can't remember any other weight class that has been so talented," Golden Boy Promotions chief executive Richard Schaefer said, referring to the 140- and 147-pound divisions, by far the most exciting in boxing over the past few years.

Those are just the fights that have been finalized. Golden Boy is close to a deal for lightweight champ Robert Guerrero

to move up to 140 pounds against Marco Maidana, another hard-punching contender. And former three-division champion Erik Morales is expected to return soon after taking Madala to the brink in April.

These are some big names, some great matchups. Schaefer said this week. "They bring name recognition, so not only fight fans tune in, but sports fans as well."

The pool of fights reminds Schaefer of the 1980s, when the court of Sugar Ray Leonard, Marvin Hagler, Thomas Hearns and Roberto Duran were reaching their peak — four fighters of the same elite caliber who came together for a series of slugfests, nine in all.

They've stood the test of time. There was Leonard making Duran call "no mas" at the Louisiana Superdome. Hagler-Hearns in April 1985, in the old outdoor stadium at Caesars Palace, still considered the greatest three-round fight in boxing history. And the rematch between Leonard and Duran in December 1989, the fight that effectively closed the chapter on the memorable era.

The series of fights scheduled to take place over the next six months may not live up to those lofty standards, but they should provide another jolt of intrigue to a sport that has been trying to recapture the public's imagination.

"It's like those great fights in the 1980s, great timing," said Freddie Roach, who will have a hand in several of the matchups as a trainer of Pacquiao and Khan. "Even Mayweather is getting in

there. I think he picked a southpaw, maybe he's getting ready for Manny," Roach said. "It kind of excites me. I'm glad the fight is happening."

There are a few fights that aren't happening, and a few fighters left out.

The most notable is unbeaten welterweight titlholder Timothy Bradley, who backed out of a proposed unification fight against Khan and a reportedly career-high payday. Now that just about every other marquee name has locked up a fight, Bradley is left without a dance partner.

"My whole goal is to fight Bradley, and then he pulled out. But it's one of those things," Khan said. "They just didn't want the fight. He said, 'I don't want to fight Amir; but by the time he gets back in the ring, it'll be over a year off.'"

Bradley's loss ended up being Judah's gain.

The former undefeated welterweight champion has been making a comeback at 140 pounds, his more natural weight, and has been impressive in rattling off five straight victories. His most recent win earned him the vacant IBF junior welterweight title.

Now he's set to face Khan, the talented Brit with the fast hands, at the Mandalay Bay in what could be the most exciting fight in the rest of the year. "We've expected this, but God is good," Judah said earlier this week. "It's a great opportunity, let's me become six-time champion of the world. So I'm looking forward to going out there and doing what I need to do."

Federer entra sin tropiezo

Un año después de escapar de su partido de primera ronda en Wimbledon con una victoria en cinco sets, el suizo Roger Federer y su servicio voraz no estaban de humor para repetir su actuación del 2010.

El suizo, con cabeza de serie se impuso ayer con facilidad al kazajo Mikhail Kukushin en la primera ronda del torneo por 7-6 (2), 6-4 y 6-2 en una hora y 42 minutos.

El suizo debutó en el All England Club con un partido de primera ronda mucho más placido que el del año pasado, cuando el colombiano Alejandro Falla estrozó a punto de dejarle fuera tras forzar un quinto set en un juego que se alargó más de tres horas.

"Si que ha sido distinto del partido de primera ronda del año pasado, pero el resultado ha sido el mismo: fui capaz de ganar", dijo Federer.

"Por supuesto, es agradable hacerlo directamente, en tres sets", añadió el ciclista suizo.

Así, Federer dio un paso firme a su

meta de lograr otro título para empatar el récord de siete de Pete Sampras.

En tanto, Serena Williams regresó a las canchas de un torneo de Grand Slam luego de un año de ausencia por diversos problemas de salud, e inauguró la defensiva de su título con un triunfo sobre Aravane Reza y un emotivo festejo con lágrimas en la cancha central.

Tras lograr su decimotercer aces del partido para imponerse 6-3, 3-6, 6-1, hundió el torso en una tualia y lloró en su silla.

Todavía estaba llorando cuando salió de la cancha, sobrecogida por la emoción luego de superar una larga ausencia por dos cirugías en un pie y cogidos en un pulmón.

"No suelo llorar... pero es que ha sido muy difícil", comentó la cuatro veces campeona de Wimbledon.

"Jamás soñé que estaría aquí. Y además gana. Tan solo quería ganar al menos un partido aquí". Williams tuvo un bajón en su

rendimiento a mitad del partido, pero recuperó el control en el tercer set con su potente saque y poderosos tiros.

"Ha sido un año desastroso, pero he estado rezando", señaló. "Es fabuloso poder regresar en Wimbledon. No esperaba poder jugar. No esperaba poder hacer nada. Estoy muy emocionada, jamás había llorado de alegría por algo".

Williams confesó que es la sensación más extraña que ha sentido tras ganar un partido, y eso que, apenas se trataba de uno de primera ronda.

"He pasado por muchas cosas anormales en los 12 últimos meses, cosas que ustedes ni siquiera saben", afirmó. "Ha sido un camino largo y difícil. Es increíble estar de pie".

"No se trataba de ganar el título. Se trataba de estar ahí... de demostrar que siempre tienes una oportunidad si no te das por vencida. Creo que demostré que puedo".

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Chris Weitz's 'Better Life' shines light on illegal immigrant issues

Premier Fiesta Mexicana is the kind of working-class bar that most Southern Californians drive past without even seeing. The Bell Gardens restaurant and nightclub offers a dinner show with mariachi music and is packed most weekends, but on a summer night nearly a year ago, Carlos Galindo wasn't there looking for a good time. He was looking for a truck — and a way out of a desperate situation.

Carlos, the lead character in director Chris Weitz's "A Better Life" — a new movie about the personal struggles of a Mexican gardener in the United States illegally — had scraped together every last dollar to buy a used pickup. With the vehicle, Carlos (played by Mexican star Demian Bichir) could become his own boss, build a landscaping business and care better for his teenage son, Luis (recomer Jose Julian), who was drifting toward gang life. But mere hours after Carlos closed the truck sale, a day laborer stole his pickup, and Carlos was trying to find it in Premier Fiesta Mexicana's parking lot.

The truck theft is the kind of infuriating but minor crime most people would handle with a call to the police and an insurance agent. But one of the central themes of "A Better Life," which premieres Tuesday at the Los Angeles Film Festival and opens in limited release on Friday, is that those kinds of easy options aren't available to illegal immigrants. People like Galindo may collectively sustain the mansions of Los Angeles, "A Better Life" argues, but individually they are as vulnerable as a house of cards.

"All he does is work," Weitz said of Carlos during a break in filming at the bar. "He is invisible — and he prefers to remain invisible. Because to raise his head is to risk getting in trouble."

To remain in the shadows

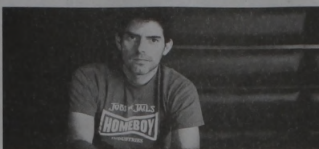
necessitates concentric circles of concealment. "It might as well be a science-fiction film," Weitz added of how he and screenwriter EricASON tried to reveal the hidden layers of an illegal immigrant's life. "There are worlds within worlds within worlds — almost a parallel universe."

"A Better Life" seems like the kind of mid-budget (\$10-million) production — with swaths of dialogue in Spanish and no actors recognizable to mainstream ticket buyers — that would premiere at the Sundance Film Festival looking for a distribution deal. But instead, the film was financed and will be released by Summit Entertainment, and made by the man behind one of the studio's biggest hits: Weitz directed Summit's "Twilight Saga: New Moon."

"A Better Life's" path to the screen, however, was anything but fast, stretching over decades. Back in 1989, television producer Paul Junger Witt, best known for the series "Soap," "The Golden Girls" and "Empty Nest," heard a story about a gardener who had his truck stolen. "I immediately thought of 'The Bicycle Thief,'" Witt said, a reference to the landmark 1948 Italian film about a father and his son searching for a bike without the police's help in Rome. "It's a simple story, but it puts a human face on an invisible slice of the population."

At various stages, the film (previously called "The Gardener") was in development at Sony Pictures and going to star Cheech Marin or Andy Garcia and is directed by Luis Valdez ("La Bamba," "Zoot Suit") or screenwriter Roger Simon ("Enemies: A Love Story"). But it never gathered enough momentum. "People didn't know how to promote it," Witt said of the film's long gestation. "They didn't know how to sell it."

Simon's screenplay was eventually revised by Eason ("Manito"), which then landed among a stack of scripts sent to Weitz. At the time, Weitz was talking to



Summit about making another "Twilight" movie — "Breaking Dawn," which was ultimately directed by Bill Condon — but felt a personal connection to "A Better Life." That was in large part because the filmmaker's grandmother is 100-year-old Lupita Tovar, a Mexican-born actress who emigrated to the United States, and his wife, Mercedes Martinez, is Cuban Mexican.

"Part of the motivation for doing this was to get in touch with my roots," said Weitz, who took "as many Spanish classes as I could" to communicate with his cast and crew (for about half of them, English was not their first language). Looking up from his monitor as Bichir and Julian walked through the nightclub's parking lot in search of the truck, Weitz said "más desprecio," Spanish for slower. "Buen hecho," Weitz said after the scene was finished — well done.

In his drive to infuse the production with as much authenticity as possible, Weitz and producers Witt, Christian McLaughlin, Jami Gertz and Stacey Lubliner (Gertz and Lubliner's Lime Orchard Productions co-financed the film) traveled to all corners of Los Angeles, about 70 locations including the Romani Gardens housing development in Boyle

Heights. The filmmakers also worked with Father Gregory Boyle's Homeboy Industries and the community organizing Legacy



LA not only to make sure the script mirrored neighborhood vernacular — kids call their fathers "papa" and not "papi," for instance — but also to help round out the film's cast with former gang members. One such person, Richard Cabral, who has a small part in "A Better Life," was discovered at a Homeboy casting session.

"It felt inherently wrong to tell this story without the right people to tell it," said Weitz, who collaborated with Spanish cinematographer Javier Aguirresarobe and costume designer Elaine Montalvo, the daughter of a migrant farm worker. A local taco truck catered on some days, on others food was provided by a Mexican American-run company. "A lot of the approach has been to not to integrate as much reality as possible," Weitz said.

As father to a now 4-year-old boy, Weitz said he connected with the screenplay's father-son tale. "The father's a good and decent man, but doesn't have enough time to parent his son. And the son has the usual teenage issues with authority and his father," the director said. "But the son is deracinated — he's stuck between a Mexico he doesn't know much about and an American popular culture he doesn't quite under-

stand. He's never fully at home." In looking for the pickup, the father and son grow closer — even as the task exposes Carlos to possible deportation. "The issues that the film raise are the biggest ones," Weitz said. "It's about the love of a father for a son."

While Weitz and McLaughlin call the film "apolitical," the movie nevertheless has a point of view about immigration: Our current laws destroy families, deportation is only a temporary (and pitiless) remedy, and put in the same situation many of us might do exactly what Carlos (and the illegal immigrants that he represents) does — survive by any means necessary.

"When you turn a camera on somebody, you inherently humanize them," Weitz said of how the film depicts Carlos. "I hope that once you see the movie, it will be hard to look at Mexican American immigrants as the others." Said screenwriter Simon, once a liberal who is now a

conservative blogger: "This is an issue where the left and the right should start talking with each other in a straightforward way." Summit is trying to sell "A Better Life" to two distinct audiences — the largely Caucasian art-house crowd, and working-class Latinos. It's a tricky strategy, and even when it works, as with 2008's "La Misma Luna," the returns are good but not great (that film grossed \$12.6 million). When the dual-track campaign doesn't work, the proceeds can be paltry: 2006's "Quinceanera," winner of Sundance's top drama prize, grossed just \$1.7 million.

Bichir believes the film holds wide appeal. "This movie isn't about having papers or not. It's about fulfilling your dreams and taking care of your blood," the actor said. "I think immigration is going to be the main issue around the world for the next 20-30 years. There isn't a single activity where an immigrant isn't involved. And especially Mexican illegal immigrants."

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J.Lo to Get Star on Hollywood Walk of Fame

Singer and actress Jennifer Lopez will soon have a star with her name on it in the Hollywood Walk of Fame in recognition of her musical career, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, the entity that grants that honor, announced Tuesday.

Lopez is scheduled to be one of the artists to be honored with a star on the walkway in 2012, although those selected to receive stars have five years to set the dates for their star placement ceremonies.

Besides Lopez, Mexican singer Pepe Aguilar is also on the list of those selected to receive a Walk of Fame star, just like his father, actor and singer Antonio Aguilar, dubbed "El Charro de Mexico," did in 2000.

"The committee has selected a fabulous slate of stars to add sparkle and luster to the Hol-

lywood Walk of Fame over the next year, as well as to generate a once-in-a-lifetime Hollywood experience for many of the visitors who stop

by when their favorite personalities are having their stars placed," John Pavlik, chair of the Hollywood Walk of Fame Selection Committee, said in a press release.

Among those on the list of honorees for 2012 are Jennifer Aniston, Vin Diesel, Scarlett Johansson, Kate Winslet, Matt Groening, Mariska Hargitay, Walter

Koenig, Adam West and Boyz II Men, and Richard Burton and Barry White are scheduled to receive posthumous stars.



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