

GOVERNMENT COLLECTION
TODAY 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
LUBBOCK TEXAS 79402

Casualties of
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3,975
as of Jan
24, 2008

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Lubbock, Texas

Gutierrez Files Ethics

The campaign for the Lubbock County Precinct 3 County Commissioner's seat heated up almost enough to offset the cold weather this week. The big story though isn't so much about specific county issues, but rather about the challenger's alleged violation of campaign ethics.

In a Wednesday morning press conference held at the Patterson Library in East Lubbock, incumbent Ysidro Gutierrez responded to a question about whether he was engaging in mudslinging by telling local media that it wasn't "mudslinging," but rather he saw it as "his responsibility as an elected official to protect violations of the law."

On Tuesday, Gutierrez released a copy of a letter he sent to the Texas Ethics Commission in Austin in which he charged his Democratic opponent, Gilbert Flores, of engaging in "misrepresentation of office title."

The whole affair stems from Flores' use of the term "Re-elect Gilbert Flores" on his campaign signs. Gutierrez later filed a complaint saying that he first noticed it at the Democratic Campaign Kick-off and that Lubbock County Democratic Chair Susan Barrick made Flores aware of the violation. He also said Gutierrez removed some of the larger signs, leaving some smaller ones up, at the event. Since then, Gutierrez says that he "observed several" signs using the same "re-elect" term during his campaigns throughout the precinct. Flores is not running for re-election but rather for the seat he held before being defeated by Gutierrez in 2004.

Gutierrez also told reporters that "Flores is disputing the facts about this situation as the county's General Assistance Fund" and that he "had no money in the time he has served as County Commissioner than Flores did during his whole 12 year term."

According to Gutierrez, the state's ethics commission has legal jurisdiction in the signage matter and he is asking them to intervene. He and his staff and force Flores to remove the signs and his belief



ditional sanctions "that may be appropriate in this case."

During the press conference, Gutierrez also took the opportunity to address county issues like a different funding strategy that the commissioner's court was employing now since Flores had left office. He said that funding was no longer done on a per cent by precinct basis as it had been done before but rather on a consolidated basis. As a result of the consolidation, "an additional one million dollars a year is allocated to the County road system," said Gutierrez.

He also accused Flores of wanting to go back to the old ways and said his opponent would raise taxes to pay for these county services.

El Editor sent Flores a request for comment but he did not hear back from the candidate before leaving to go to press.

Last Wednesday night in an interview aired KCBD NewsChannel 11, Flores said the signs were from his previous campaign and that he did not know and did not intentionally violate the law. Flores told KCBD that "the difference between elect or re-elect is important, but when you compare it to what I'm talking about on county issues, it's really pretty petty." He also told the news channel that he didn't want to waste the signs so he decided to use them. He also said that he had gone around and covered up the "Re" part of the signs and that throwing them away was "not an option."

At the news conference, Gutierrez was asked if things could be resolved if Flores simply filed the signs. Gutierrez responded that "the problem is that the violation has already occurred."

In response to these comments Gutierrez released a late press release that stated:

"Gilbert Flores responds about his violation of the Texas Ethics Commission law was flippant. He says it is not an important issue for Lubbock County. He is wrong. The single most important issue for Lubbock County is honesty and integrity in their elected representatives. The people of Lubbock do not want another person in office who attempts to shift the blame to others or who tries to divert attention from his own blatant disregard for the law. His dismissive reply in this matter is a major reason voters lack confidence in government. In this case, the signs are simple. By displaying political advertisements that misrepresent his office or title, he led about being the incumbent in this election. He violated the law."

News Briefs

Salinas Criticizes Price for lack of Black Police Officers on LPD

One of Councilman Floyd Price's opponents in the upcoming city election, Gilbert Salinas, says that it is "appalling to find out that there are only 2 African American police officers on the Lubbock Police Department."

Salinas was reacting to a story in Sunday's Avalanche Journal in which it was revealed that there are only 2 African American police officers presently serving on the LPD.

Salinas says that "Although I know that there is a low number of African American policemen in Lubbock, finding out that there are only 2 has shocked me to the point of being angry. I cannot see how Councilman Floyd Price has permitted this to happen and continue while serving on the Council for 4 years."

Another possible opponent for Price's seat told El Editor that "the whole story and Floyd Price quotes in the story 'smacks of racial politicking.' Armando Gonzalez, who has yet to officially announce his candidacy, but who has told several people that he will run, says that "when selecting police officer candidates, they [LPD] should select people who are qualified and can pass the entrance exam" and that candidates should not be selected solely on the color of their skin.

Gonzales says that Price has engaged in a blatant attempt to win District 2 votes and asks rhetorically, "where has he (Price) been the past 4 years? Where was he when the African American individual, I. McCallum was 'faced' in 2006?"

Salinas says that if elected "he would definitely take the initiative to personally recruit fully qualified candidates from East Lubbock and throughout the City in order to increase and diversify the ranks."

"It is almost unbelievable," said Salinas. Email: elditor@sbcglobal.net

Another Recall Effort Lodged Against DeLeon

Local group calling itself "Recall 2008" has initiated a recall petition against City Councilwoman DeLeon.

The effort is headed up by Roger Settler and the group plans on "building on the previous efforts by Recall 2007" according to the group's press release. Settler also stated that the group's campaign theme, "It is high time to get government off our backs and out of our pockets."

The organization's press release says that they hope "to build upon the foundation laid last year by encouraging previous petition signers to sign again. Recall 2008 places our core areas not canvassed in 2007, including the Texas Tech University community.

Email: elditor@sbcglobal.net

Will Tax Payers Get Windfall?

Whether we are in an economic recession or not, is a question still being debated by economists, but as far as Washington politicians are concerned taxpayers are in need of a certain kind of economic magic to make sure the American consumer doesn't fall into an economic depression.

To achieve that objective, Congressional leaders met with Treasury Department officials to work out a possible \$150 billion dollar stimulus package. Both Democrat and Republican leaders like House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Republican Minority Leader John Boehner were optimistic about reaching a bipartisan agreement.

Plans call for a possible tax rebate in the amount of \$800 dollars for single taxpayers and \$1,600 dollars for married couples.

Whether this will be enough and get in taxpayer's hands fast enough to make a difference during a time when the economy is on a "downslide," one will time tell. And taxpayers would be wise to remember that old adage, "don't count your chickens before they hatch." Clearly, Congressmen may be talking about rebates, but don't believe it until you have the cash in hand.

Councilman Klein Says it's best to Hold Bond Election in November

"As much as I would like to see a bond election occur sooner rather than later, the present climate is not conducive to this objective. This, in fact, I have decided I will vote to see a bond package put before the voters in this November's election rather than this May."

With that statement, City Councilman Todd Klein made public his stance concerning the over \$104 million bond proposal recommended by City Manager Lee Ann Dunbarth during a recent city council meeting.

Klein says that in "light of the housing economic uncertainties potentially facing Lubbock families, in addition to other important considerations regarding the proposed bond election, I have come to the conclusion that I cannot support the proposed bond election for May."

But while Klein supports a bond package, he is not necessarily in favor of all of Dunbarth's recommendations. Said Klein, "Furthermore, after careful and thorough examination of the proposed package put forth by the City Manager, I would like to see it reduced to a more fiscally conservative amount, and that be supports a package "in the range of seventy five to eighty five million dollars."

Democratic Candidates Trade Barbs Over County General Assistance Fund

The Lubbock County General Assistance Fund (GAF), what it is and who it helps is probably not well known outside of the realm of county officials who administer the fund to county residents who are in need of financial assistance.

Nevertheless, it has become one of the first campaign issues and points of contention to come up between incumbent County Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez and his Democratic primary opponent Gilbert Flores.

Last week we reported that Flores had publicly stated that there was less money now in the GAF than there was in his last year of service; stating publicly that the fund "had been neglected" and that over \$250,000 dollars had been "put back into the county's General Fund."

Although El Editor has received separate documentation from both candidates; we have not been able to obtain needed information from the County GAF Director Diana Gurte - Salazar to substantiate the information provided by both candidates.

Flores says that his statement and sent El Editor budget figures which he says came directly from Lubbock County budget numbers which show that for fiscal years 2005, 2006, and 2007 a total of \$161,599.38 in unused funds was returned to the General Fund. If this is the case, and if these numbers are substantiated by Salazar's office, that would mean that a total of \$247,893.35 has been returned to the General Fund since Gutierrez took office.

As for Gutierrez, he also sent out budget documentation which shows that the overall amount in the fund is higher for his first 3 years in office than the last 3 years of Flores term. Based on the information we received from Gutierrez; in 2007, county commissioners budgeted \$197,665 dollars for general assistance claimants.

In a news release to El Editor, Gutierrez said that "My opponent claims he injected extra money into the General Assistance Fund each year. This is NOT TRUE. In FACT the official Lubbock County Budget is evidence that his statements are NOT TRUE. My opponent believes that the voters are uninformed. A negative campaign of misinformation is an insult to people's intelligence. A campaign based on misinformation shows a lack of RESPECT for people of goodwill."

Flores says that "There is nobody that will champion this department in our court today. It is crucial that we maintain this service for our citizens because it is in jeopardy of being deleted next budget year. I had the privilege for twelve years, and...this is only one of thirty eight that we county commissioners budget. Our total county budget is around \$80 million per year."

The agency in the spotlight is "a public, tax-supported family agency established primarily to meet, on a temporary basis, the financial needs of the indigent families who are residents of Lubbock County" according to the Lubbock County web site.

Along with administrators, an advisory board also assists the agency. The board is made up of 7 Lubbock county citizens and is appointed by the County Commissioner's Court.

The GAF expenses are budgeted in 4 separate categories. They are: indigent funerals; food, utilities, and rent and all persons receiving financial assistance must meet certain requirements.

In order for readers to understand what the fund is used for; we provide the following information which we obtained from the county's web site.

Services provided by the General Assistance Fund:

But...The County assists with payment for the current month's rent. The landlord must verbally agree to accept amounts offered by this office. They do not assist with deposits and pay any amount in arrears. Additional amounts are provided if rent includes utility services.

Utilities - Payment on utility bills will be for the current month only. County does not assist with deposits. The utility services must be metered. Agency does not pay telephone bills.

Food - Before a client can apply for an emergency grocery order, he or she must provide proof from the Food Stamp office showing why they are not eligible for emergency food

(Continued on Page 2)

Rosendo Rodriguez Murder Trial Jury Selection Underway

The man charged with the murder of Summer Baldwin and her unborn child is finally going to trial; if an impartial jury can be found that is.

Jury selection began this week in the murder trial of Rosendo Rodriguez and by all accounts; finding potential jurors who are not familiar with the trial is proving to be more difficult.

According to local reports, 160 jurors are being screened with potential jurors given a 20 page questionnaire to fill out. Actual jury selection will begin on Monday and one of the questions addressed by both sides is how potential jurors feel about the death penalty.

Rodriguez is charged with capital murder and the death sentence could be imposed if he is found guilty.

The attorney for Rodriguez is worried that his client may not be able to receive a fair trial and asked the judge for a change of venue. The judge declined the request; but did leave open the possibility in case an impartial jury cannot be seated. Email: elditor@sbcglobal.net

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(Continued on Page 2)

Ramirez and Sifuentes Convictions in Littlefield Murder Reversed

By Abel Cruz

Jesus Ramirez is 59; his friend Alberto Sifuentes is 34. And for the last 12 years they have had to celebrate their respective birthdays behind bars in a Texas Department of Corrections unit; both men serving time for a crime they say they did not commit.

Last week, both men were transferred back to Lamb County to await a prosecutor's decision on whether they will be retried after a Court of Criminal Appeals reversed and vacated their convictions.

Ramirez's and Sifuentes' nightmare journey began in August summer night, 1996 when they were stopped during an investigation of the murder of Evangelina Cruz who was shot 9 times at close range in Littlefield while she was working her shift at a Jolly Roger convenience store. Mrs. Cruz, who was the mother of a child, was able to give authorities a description of her killers before she died.

That night, Ramirez and Sifuentes were stopped by DPS officers as they returned home to Muleshoe from a Lubbock nightclub. But no evidence was discovered and the men did not match the description given by Cruz; so they were let go.

But the frustration was short lived and eventually both men were arrested, tried and convicted of the Cruz murder and sentenced to life in prison.

A few years ago, the Mexican Consulate in Dallas intervened on the men's behalf and

recruited a Dallas law firm to help them. Their assertion was that the men had been elsewhere when the murder occurred; that they had not been properly represented by defense counsel and consequently had received a fair trial.

Now it will be up to the Lamb County District Attorney to decide if they will be retried.

On Friday, Lamb County DA Mark Yarbrough issued the following statement: "The court did not find that the defendants were innocent, nor did the court find that there was any prosecutorial misconduct," Yarbrough said.

"We are obviously disappointed that Angie's family has to continue to endure these cases." He also said that the men would be retried.

The attorney representing Ramirez and Sifuentes, Barry McNeil, also issued a press release in which he said; "Finally, justice has arrived for Jesus and Alberto. These two men have suffered far too long as victims of our legal system. We are hopeful that the prosecutors handling these cases will immediately move to dismiss the indictments to wrongly brought upon these men. They are innocent. There is not a shred of evidence against them, any they deserve to be freed immediately."

McNeil also said his team "will ask the Texas Attorney General's office to recommend that defendant Sifuentes be released immediately from custody."

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Javier Bardem va por el Oscar

JLo and Marc Anthony Have a Baby Shower

El actor español Javier Bardem se perfila en los Oscar —cuya candidatura se han anunciado a primera hora de esta mañana [y de las que mañana se publicará un amplio análisis]—, como uno de los finalistas al premio al Mejor Actor de Reparto por su papel del asesino Anton Chigurh en No Country for Old Men, una cinta de los hermanos Coen aclamada por la crítica.

Bardem, que ya optó al Oscar por interpretar a Reinoldo Armas en Before Night Falls (2000), de Julian Schnabel —director para el que también suecan tambores de Oscar, ahora por The Diving Bell and the Butterfly—, en esta ocasión afronta la posible candidatura de una manera muy diferente: como favorito.

Sus posibles contrincantes son Philip Seymour Hoffman por Charlie Wilson's War, John Travolta por Hairspray o Hal Holbrook, por Into the Wild. Pero este año, los hermanos Coen han brindado al intérprete de Bar arado (2004) el protagonismo en todas las quinielas y el reconocimiento en la gran mayoría de las galardones, desde las buenas críticas en el Festival de Cannes a la candi-

data a los británicos Baffa y la victoria en los Globo de Oro. Las asociaciones de críticos de Boston, Chicago, Dallas-Fort Worth, Florida, Nueva York, Phoenix y Washington han alabado también el camino al premio para Bardem al nombrarlo el Mejor Secundario del Año en sus respectivas concesiones anuales de galardones.

Bardem, con su comentadísimo corte de pelo y un papel de gran impacto pese a ser de reparto, sube con No Country for Old Men un nuevo escalón en una carrera que nunca ha transcurrido por caminos fáciles y en rolé en las decisiones no ha sido siempre acertadas.

En el momento en el que rechazó el papel que Steven Spielberg le ofreció para secundar a Tom Cruise en Minority Report (2002) —y que con Bardem en el estralado a Colin Farrell—, Colorado dejó claro

que no sucumbiría a los brillos de Hollywood, sino a la atracción por nuevos retos.

Así, prefirió participar en el debut como director de John



Malkovich, The Dance Upstairs (2002); asumió un papel episódico, casi un cameo, en otra cinta con Cruise, Collateral (2004), de Michael Mann, y rodó en España junto a Natalie Portman, Goya's Ghosts (2006), de Milos Forman que, sin embargo, fue un sonado fracaso comercial y crítico.

El cine español le reservó también algún día de sus mejores papeles en películas como Los can-Améric un choreographer Michelle Manzanales, is an

lunes al sol (2002), de Fernando León de Aranoa, con la que ganó su segunda Concha de Plata en San Sebastián y un premio Goya, y la ciudad Mar adentro (2004), de Alejandro Amenábar, que le reportó un cuarto Goya, una candidatura al Globo de Oro como Mejor Actor y el Oscar a la Mejor Película de Habla no Inglesa.

Ahora, cuando todavía está en las pantallas como Florentino Ariza en la adaptación que el británico Mike Newell ha realizado de El amor en los tiempos del cólera, sus próximos estrenos le garantizarán seguir acompañado de grandes nombres en el futuro.

Woody Allen ha rodado con él en Barcelona Victoria Cristina Barcelo, en la que coincide de nuevo con Penélope Cruz, y Francis Ford Coppola lo ha reclutado junto a Matt Dillon y Maribel Verdú para su proyecto Tetro.

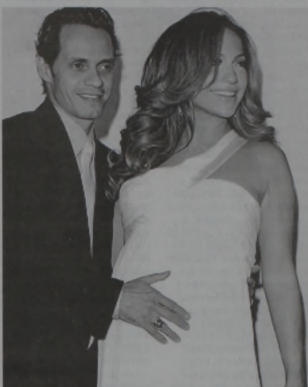
Además, entre sus próximos títulos figuran la recreación de la vida del capo de la droga colombiano Pablo Escobar Killing Pablo, junto a Christian Bale (Batman Begins),

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On Saturday, Jennifer López and Marc Anthony celebrated the singer's pregnancy with a baby shower on the rooftop of the Gramercy Park Hotel in New York. People.com reports, Elaine Goldsmith-Thomas, producer of Matt in Manhattan (which starred JLo in 2002), organized the party for the mom-to-be and Anthony, 39.

Holding her husband's hand, the 38-year-old singer/actress arrived surrounded by bodyguards and wearing a black knee-length coat and black heels. An eyewitness said López, whose hair was tied back, "looked very pretty — and very pregnant."

According to the New York Daily News, Italian designer and good friend of the artist Roberto Cavalli was at the bash, along with actress Leah Remini.

The same newspaper reports that the future parents have spent around \$120,000 total decorating nurseries for the

baby in their houses in Bel Air, Calif., Fisher Island, Florida and Oyster Bay, New York. The star couple set up a baby registry at the exclusive Los Angeles boutique Peitl Trezor. Their desired gifts include a black carriage for \$3,495, a jogging stroller for two for \$560, and two cashmere outfits at \$349 each, one blue and one with pink stripes.

Previously, Peitl Trezor closed the store for two hours so that López could shop around.

The Bronx Diva checked out furniture and baby clothes for both sexes. And last month the singer's sister Lynda López gave her celebrity sibling two Tumi & G onesies, one blue and one pink. News like this has just strengthened rumors that JLo could be expecting twins. But none of the gossip has been confirmed, and knowing the parents-to-be, it'll be awhile before they let anyone in on the secret.

All-hispanic Luna Negra dance company debuts in New York

Luna Negra debuts in New York

return to the city in more than a

can-Americ an choreographer Michelle Manzanales, is an

world beat masterpiece "Ron-



York Jan. 25. After traveling with Ballet Hispanico, Bronx-raised Eduardo Vilaro decided it was time to set down roots away from New York dance stages.

He landed in a master's program at the Dance Center of Columbia College in Chicago, and when he was done, his vision for Luna Negra Dance Theater had come into full focus.

"I wanted to create a 'first voice' in art," says the Cuban-born Vilaro of his 1999 epiphany, "a company that would break free from the stereotypes attributed to our culture that danced exclusively to the work of contemporary Latino choreographers."

Luna Negra makes its New York debut on Jan. 25, marking also Vilaro's first professional

debut. "I feel like that child that left, studied, traveled and is crazy to return to show his medals," says the 43-year-old. "A kid that returns to the city of his emotions."

Running through Feb. 3 at the New Victory Theater (www.NewVictory.org), the program consists of three works: "Someros de Amor," inspired by the verses of Pablo Neruda; "Sugar in the Raw," with music by Gustavo Santaolalla; and Vilaro's own "Quinceañera," a reflection on the Latina coming-of-age celebration.

The Sweet Fifteen rite offers "a multitude of interesting things: the girl receives her last doll, a pair of high-heeled shoes, an elegant dress. She is introduced to a suitor," says Vilaro, who choreographed the piece for the 11 dancers that form the company.

"Sugar in the Raw," by Mexi-

abstract work about Latino roots, he explains.

"Notwithstanding its abstraction, the dancers exhibit in it a series of gestures that are fully recognizable — something very beautiful, very sensual."

That Latin sensuality, which Vilaro believes is shared by all Hispanics despite their national differences, was one of his inspirations to create Luna Negra. "It is not something necessarily sexual; it is something sensuous, a particular connection to the earth," he says.

"Sugar in the Raw" also has star power in its music, based on themes by the Argentinian Santaolalla — whose scores for "Brokeback Mountain" and "Babel" earned him back-to-back Oscars.

Working with Santaolalla's music — from the composer's 1998

Desperation seems to be an international tongue.

The first breakout hit of 2008 on Spanish-language television turns out to be "Amas de Casa Desesperadas," Univision's adaptation of "Desperate Housewives" with a multinational Hispanic cast.

Airing at 10 p.m. Thursdays (WXTV/Ch. 41 in New York), the debut of "Amas" last week drew more than 5.5 million viewers, enough so that Univision reran the opener last night by popular demand.

At first, it might seem ironic that Spanish-language TV, which is known for its telenovelas, or soap operas, would import an English-language soap. But Otto Padron, senior vice president of programming and promotions for Univision, says in a sense it's more like this show is completing a circle.

"Marc Cherry [creator of 'Desperate Housewives'] had said part of his inspiration came from watching telenovelas on Ch. 34 in Los Angeles," Padron notes.

Univision worked with Disney's Buena Vista TV in producing "Amas," which follows the original show in its story line and characters while making a few cultural adaptations.

In the opening episode of "Desperate Housewives," for instance, the four main housewives gather at the home of their late friend Mary Alice after she committed suicide. This requires some explanation for "Amas."

"In countries like Mexico and Cuba, people don't do that," says Padron. "They would stay at the funeral home. So in Mary Alice's narration, we have her explain this is a custom in the States."

Carlos, too, it turns out, would puzzle many Latinos.

"His character is sort of Soprano-esque," says Padron. "But he also can get very passionate. When he closes a big deal, he cries, which doesn't reflect the traditional Latino macho man on a horse, with no shirt."

So "Amas" emphasizes that

Carlos is from the U.S., knowing that the more peculiar U.S. characters seem to be, the more they intrigue the rest of the world.

Padron adds that the same is true of U.S. settings. Most of the world, he says, wouldn't even recognize a place as affluent as Westeria Lane, which in "Amas" is renamed Calle Manzanares or "Apple Orchard Street."

Whatever the impetus, "Desperate Housewives" has already made its way through much of the hemisphere. The Univision production follows versions in Argentina, Colombia and Ecuador.

But mainly, says Padron, a good story can play anywhere. He notes how the telenovela "I Am Betty the Ugly" became the hit ABC sitcom "Ugly Betty."

By the way, Colombian actress Lorna Paz, who plays Leonor Guerrero (the Lynette Scavo character) in "Amas," is an alumna of "I Am Betty the Ugly."

It's a small, desperate world.

Bridal Quinceañera

EXPO 2008

Sunday, February 10

Exhibits open 12noon to 5pm
Style Show 3pm

Holiday Inn Park Plaza
South Loop 289 & Indiana
Admission \$2

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Super Bowl Surprise!

The New York Giants beat the Green Bay Packers for a number of reasons.

The Giants were more balanced on offense, especially in the second half. They were able to run the ball with the tandem of Brandon Jacobs and Ahmad Bradshaw. I thought that they would use Jacobs to wear down the Packers because of his size, and cold weather favors big backs like Jacobs.

All Harris tries to contain Plaxico Burress, but he proves to be too tall and too elusive. In the second half, the Giants alternated backs by series, which proved to be very effective. I don't know if it was a case of the Packers having quick and fast change in backs, or if Bradshaw was just too quick and elusive. Either way, the Giants established balance in their offense, which helped slow down the pass rush on Eli Manning.

Meanwhile, Manning turned in another solid performance. He had been known to struggle in bad weather, but he erased that issue Sunday. Manning was poised in his throws and made a number of accurate passes against tight man-to-man coverage. His passing day would have been impressive but for the New York receivers not dropped a number of passes.

When I studied tape of the first game between these two teams, I was surprised New York receivers could set open against pass coverage. They made quick breaks and Green Bay's corners had to adjust to the route.

This happened again on Sunday. New York was successful

because Green Bay's corners are straight-line runners with long strides and have trouble changing directions. Plus, Plaxico Burress' height will always allow him to make some plays downfield.

Another reason for the Giants' success was the play of their defensive line against the running game. This did not surprise me; I felt New York's defensive line was more physical than Green Bay's offensive line, and that is how you stop a zone running game. You knock the offensive linemen back, and this gets the running back off his course, which is what happened Sunday. That forced the Packers to rely on their passing game, and they were in trouble in the cold weather.

It almost seemed that the Giants played a game that was more suited for the weather conditions than the Packers. The running game is the foundation of the Giants offense, and it produced.

The other factor that aided the Giants was the leadership of Michael Strahan, Sam Madison and Antonio Pierce, just to name a few players. I get the impression the Giants vets have bought into Tom Coughlin and his message, as well as that of defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo.

The Giants seemed to be on a mission since their regular-season loss to Patriots. It's funny how a team can come together all of a sudden and get on a run. That's what we're seeing from the Giants.

When they were faced with playing the Pats in a regular-

season finale that had no bearing on the standings, the Giants



decided they were too competitive and were going to play to win. Their effort that night gave them the confidence to go on the road and win three consecutive playoff games.

As for the Patriots, they did what they have done all season, finding a way to win. Against the Chargers, the Patriots didn't make any big plays downfield, but they turned to their short-passing game, which revolves around Wes Welker, and moved the ball through the air. Even though Tom Brady didn't have one of his best days, what still impressed me was his poise. Brady was able to adjust and put together enough drives to send the Patriots to Arizona.

New England's running game was also impressive. The offense line took on a physical Chargers defensive front and created opportunities for Laurence Maroney.

If someone told you Brady would be intercepted three times and the Patriots would be playing in windy conditions, you would have

guessed the Patriots would lose, but not so Sunday. The

Patriots adjusted their game and won.

New England's defense continued its solid season-long performance behind its red-zone attack. I believe you can move the ball on the Pats through the air, especially when you throw away from Asante Samuel, but when you get inside the 20 it becomes harder to throw the ball and that hides a New England weakness.

This is where the experience of New England's defense comes into play with its ability to read routes and match up. The Patriots have held teams to field goals instead of touchdowns, and that has helped win some of their close games.

Looking ahead to the rematch in Super Bowl XLIII, I believe the Giants are a better team than when they played the Patriots. New York is the better offense because of Manning's improved play,

Bradshaw's emergence and Burress' improved health. The Giants gained confidence in their ability to move the ball against the Patriots on the ground and in the air, which I believe they will do in the Super Bowl.

On the other side of the ball, the Patriots have an edge with their receivers against the Giants secondary. New York is going to give up yards and points to New England, but if the Giants can force some turnovers and negative plays, the Giants will have a chance to win.

ter team usually wins.

Another factor that weighs heavily in the Patriots' favor is their Super Bowl experience. Many of the Patriots have been through the distractions that come with the Super Bowl - massive media exposure, ticket requests, family and friend issues that come up with travel and hotel arrangements.

Teams can be thrown off their game at the start or even the whole first quarter, but the Pats have been here before.

I was part of four Super Bowl teams with the Redskins. That first quarter is the most fast-paced quar-

ter players will be exposed to in the playoffs. Coupled with New England being a fast starting team, New York will be at a disadvantage in the first 15 minutes.

If the Giants can survive the opening quarter, then they will have a chance to make a game of it. The Patriots have met every challenge this season and I think they will meet this one, too. But I am looking forward to watching, because I believe the Giants can give the Patriots a tough and exciting game.

Jones still has grand ambitions after one-sided win over Trinidad

Back when Roy Jones Jr. was the best boxer in the world, most people thought his sport was dying. Now that boxing is back on the rise with one big fight after another, Jones is aching for a comeback of his own.

Just one year after Jones dazed around Felix Trinidad to win a unanimous decision at Madison Square Garden on Saturday night, the 39-year-old will have to wait for the big-money matchups he's craving.

After all, he didn't take those fights when he first had the chance. The 1990s' best pound-for-pound fighter was well-known for playing defense both inside and outside the ring, and now he's dropped well down the list of boxing's biggest names.

He'll have to get in line for fighters who once would have loved to meet him - but don't tell that to Jones, who still sees himself as the biggest name in any room.

"I'm still Superman, and I'm still the guy that nobody wants to fight," said Jones, who hadn't beaten any opponent of consequence in four years until he shut down Trinidad, who hadn't fought in 32 months.

Jones' perceived reluctance to take on the biggest fights during his prime came to symbolize everything that was wrong with boxing in the 1990s. He contented himself with second-tier matchups that kept the money rolling in, but usually didn't test his unparalleled skills.

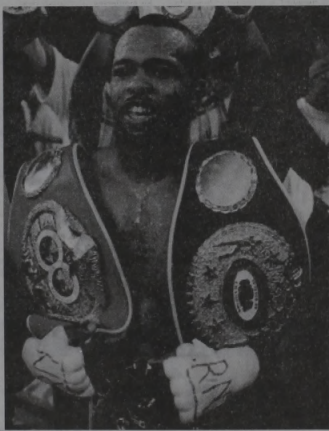
Jones famously wouldn't go to Germany to establish his supremacy as a light heavyweight against Dmitry Michalokozov, who held the WBO title from 1994-2003. Jones also could have fought Joe Calzaghe in 2002, when both were near their peaks, in a fight that would have been an epochal event in Calzaghe's native Wales - but it never happened.

That's all over now. Jones claimed after possibly punching Trinidad into retirement. He has set his sights on a matchup with Calzaghe, the unbeaten 168-pound champion who's first expected to fight Bernard Hopkins in Las Vegas on April 19.

Jones clearly thinks he can still make up for all the time he lost playing minor-league basketball and dabbling in acting instead of testing himself in the ring. After years of strenuously avoiding overseas travel, Jones and promoter Don King even claimed

they would make a trip to Great Britain on Sunday to personally challenge Calzaghe.

"I'm definitely looking to make that fight," Jones said. "I'll fight anybody, anywhere, any time, and if Hopkins-Calzaghe finishes how I think it will, I'll



even go to Wales and fight. I don't care."

By now, boxing's past mistakes are even clear to Jones. The sport became choked with squabbling promoters, multiple sanctioning bodies and headliners who didn't take chances. This morass allowed mixed martial arts to rise with incredible speed to a prominent place in sports.

But fighters finally got the message over the last two years, and boxing is in the midst of a long series of tantalizing matchups made with fans and legacies in mind.

Floyd Mayweather and Oscar De La Hoya. Kelly Pavlik and Jermain Taylor. Miguel Cotto and Shane Mosley. Joe Calzaghe and Mikkel Kessler. Rafael Marquez and Israel Vazquez. Manny Pacquiao and Marco Antonio Barrera. Finally, Mayweather and Ricky Hatton, two unbeaten fighters whose December bout closed a thoroughly memorable year.

Next month, Pavlik will fight Taylor in a rematch of last

year's thrilling middleweight bout. Pacquiao takes on Juan Manuel Marquez in March, shortly after Marquez and Vazquez reprise their two unbelievable fights - and then the big names get going, with Hopkins and Calzaghe seeing off before De La Hoya takes a tuncup fight in

Llenas, Thon y Heredia al Salón de la Fama del Béisbol del Caribe

El dominicano Winston Llenas, el puertorriqueño Dickie Thon y el venezolano Ubaldo Heredia fueron escogidos como nuevos miembros del Salón de la Fama de la Serie del Caribe de béisbol, divulgaron a la prensa miembros del organismo.

La elección fue realizada en una votación en la cual participaron un total de 19 periodistas, cronistas de radio y televisión, historiadores y expertos de México, Puerto Rico, República Dominicana y Venezuela. Llenas, Thon y Heredia superaron el mínimo de 75 puntos que son necesarios para obtener el pase a la inmortalidad en la pelota de la Confederación del Caribe, que agrupa a las ligas invernales de México, Puerto Rico, República

Dominicana y Venezuela. La competencia inicialmente incluyó también a Cuba y Panamá, países que al comienzo de los años setenta fueron reemplazados por dominicanos y mexicanos.

Con esos tres nuevos miembros exaltados, el total de inmortalizados por su desempeño en las Series del Caribe aumentó a 52.

En el caso de Llenas, quien ha sido campeón en su país como jugador, coach, manager, gerente general y presidente de las Águilas Cibaeñas, bateó para .327 puntos, con 18 imparables en 55 turnos en 15 juegos en tres Series. Totalizó 108 puntos.

Thon jugó en cuatro Series del Caribe, con una diferencia de diez años entre la tercera en 1983 y

la cuarta y última en 1993, y conectó para .318, con 29 imparables en 91 veces al bate. En total recibió 98 puntos.

El torpedero también jugó en las Grandes Ligas y durante 15 campañas promedió para .264 con 71 bambinazos y 435 remocadas.

Heredia estuvo en cuatro Series con los Leones del Caracas y en otra fue re-zurador de la novena de los Tiburones de La Guaira.

En 22.1 entradas trabajados en seis juegos, el lanzador derecho venezolano obtuvo dos victorias sin revases y dejó efectividad de 1.21 carreras limpias permitidas por cada nueve entradas. Obtuvo un total de 75 puntos por los miembros electores al Salón.

Heredia lanzó dos partidos en la gran carpas en 1987 con los Expos de Montreal.

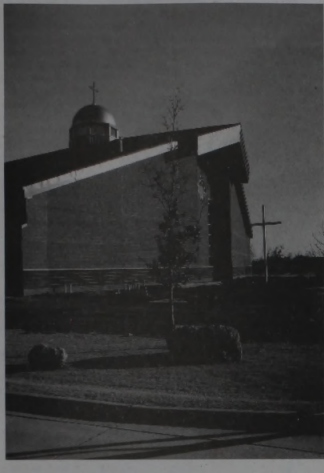


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Holy Spirit Church dedication Mass set for February 3

LUBBOCK — The Most Rev. Plácido Rodríguez, CMF, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Lubbock, will celebrate a Mass dedicating the new Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Lubbock, Sunday, February 3, at 5:00 p.m. All

... sense of belonging." The journey to the church's dedication day has seemed in some ways remarkably short and in others rather long. On September 13, 2006, Holy Spirit Parish celebrates its tenth



people of good will are invited to participate in the liturgy. The church is located in southwest Lubbock at 98212 Frankford Avenue. It is the center of the first parish established since the Diocese of Lubbock was created in 1983.

... low socioeconomic status is a strong predictor of poor survival among patients from different ethnic groups with melanoma skin cancer, new research indicates. However, according to the researchers, the poor overall survival seen in African American melanoma patients is not explained by low socioeconomic status or differences in treatment.

"These data highlight the importance of melanoma control efforts directed at patients from all ethnic backgrounds," Dr. Jason A. Zell, from University of California, Irvine, told Reuters Health. The findings stem from 39,049 patients diagnosed with melanoma skin cancer between 1993 and 2003, including

Social, economic factors impact skin cancer survival

36,694 in non-Hispanic whites; 127 in African-Americans; 1,996 in Hispanics; and 262 in Asian or Pacific Islanders. This analysis "represents the largest study to date to address ethnic differences in survival for melanoma while accounting for disparities in treatment and social and economic factors," Zell said. Results showed that people of higher social and economic status were much more likely than those of lower socioeconomic status to be diagnosed with skin cancer at an early stage and to have surgery to excise the tumors. They also survived longer.

Zell said, noting that melanoma patients with the highest survival, relative to the lowest, socioeconomic status were 37 percent less likely to die, even after accounting for differences in age, gender, cancer stage, and other factors. He also noted that while melanoma is "quite uncommon" among African-Americans, "our data reveal that survival among African-American melanoma patients is poor," and this is not explained by differences in cancer stage, treatment disparities, or differences in socioeconomic factors. The adjusted risk of death was 60 percent higher in African

Americans compared with non-Hispanic whites. No survival differences were observed for Asians or Hispanics compared with non-Hispanic whites. Zell and colleagues say the potential "mechanisms are speculative and must await future research."

intellectual admirably, sino quien pueda controlar sus emociones y sepa vivir en armonía consigo mismo y su entorno. El remedio para controlar esos sentimientos de ira es paciencia y tolerancia. Sé que no es fácil actuar con serenidad ante alguien que es irresponsable, terco, injusto o egoísta, pero cada vez que permites que te hiera la sangre produces un veneno que te enferma y te envejece. Le dije a mi amiga: "La próxima vez que se te suba la cabeza, respira profundamente y piensa en tu salud y en tu hijo. ¡Ni los doctores ni los brujos te van a dar la solución. ¡Tú eres quien controla la temperatura de tu sangre en cada situación!"

MUJER SIN LÍMITE: Te hierve la sangre

Tengo una mujer periodista a la que le "hierve la sangre" cada vez que oye la voz de su ex esposo. Es tanto el coraje que siente hacia el hombre que estuvo profundamente enamorada, que cuando habla de él, sin darse cuenta se pone roja, el cuerpo se le tensa, su entrecejo se ciñe y las arrugas se le aborrotan!

La limitación financiera no es una excusa para renunciar a una educación superior. El gobierno federal otorga cada año ayuda financiera que permite a miles de estudiantes de bajos ingresos obtener un título profesional.

La ira, por ejemplo, es un sentimiento crucial porque nos da fortaleza para superar momentos difíciles o peligrosos. Es un mecanismo de defensa natural que nos hace sobrepasar tres cosas: obstáculos, enojos y ataques. Por lo tanto, nos da el vigor para persistir, escapar o defendernos. El peligro con la ira cuando es permanente es que vuelve agresiva a las personas.

Algunos dirán: ¿Cómo es posible que una mujer tan inteligente y educada actúe de esta forma? Mi respuesta, no es más inteligente quien obtiene mejores calificaciones o quien hace un trabajo

Ellos es una mujer talentosa y destacada en su profesión, pero su ira está fuera de control. Por eso ha tenido que visitar psiquiatras, psicólogos y hasta hipnoterapeutas.

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... anniversary, yet preparation began 15 years ago, when the first ten acres of a plot that now contains some 18.5 acres were purchased. The other acres were added piecemeal, with three acquired in 1998 and another 5.5 added to that in 2000.

... With a seating capacity of 1,400 in an area of over 15,000 square feet, the church is the largest of any Catholic parish in the Diocese of Lubbock. When the adoration chapel, administrative area, and storage facilities are included, Holy Spirit Parish has added almost 23,000 square feet of space since the most recent phase of construction began in January, 2006.

... The purchase price of that land helps explain how important it was for Bishop Rodríguez to make a leap of faith and create Holy Spirit Parish," said Deacon Lenzy Bohak, diocesan director of communications. "We didn't know then how the City of Lubbock would grow so dramatically into what was an unpopulated field of cotton. The land prices highlight that growth, and how much a new parish was needed to serve the area."

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... According to Monsignor Gene Driscoll, founding pastor of Holy Spirit Parish, when the expense of furnishings is figured in, the whole project will have cost approximately \$5 million.

... The dedication liturgy is a milestone event for the Diocese of Lubbock, according to Deacon Bohak. "Holy Spirit is the only parish established in the Church of Lubbock since Pope John Paul II created the diocese for Lubbock and its 25 surrounding counties in 1983," he said. "That being the case, Bishop Rodríguez includes this dedication Mass as an important Silver Jubilee celebration for the entire diocese. The work that God has accomplished in the people of Holy Spirit Parish highlights the work he's been doing throughout this local church since it began."

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... But the size, accessories, and cost of Holy Spirit Church are its least important features, according to Monsignor Driscoll. Significantly more important are the sacraments that are offered there and the attitude and atmosphere experienced by those who worship there. When he reflects on the more than 700 households who are members of Holy Spirit Parish, the pastor clearly perceives "a happiness and a

... "The parish motto, "A place of welcome and service to all," is printed on the cover of each bulletin at Holy Spirit Church. Monsignor Driscoll believes the words are more than a motto; that they accurately reflect the overall attitude fostered by parishioners at his church. All who respond to their invitation to participate in the dedication Mass will have a chance to discover for themselves the reality behind his belief.

NHI Hosts Orientation

The National Hispanic Institute will be hosting an orientation for 9th graders and their parents Sunday, January 27 2008 at the Mahon Library, Community Room located at 3099 9th Street, Lubbock, TX 79401, between 2:00-3:00pm for the Young Leaders Conference. Mr. Josh Leyva, Project Administrator of the South Plains YLC, NHI's local affiliate, and Lousy Gonzales, the President of the South Plains Community Leadership Council, will be present to answer questions about the program. The Young Leaders Conference develops a young person's ability to think quickly, to create and organize ideas, and to sell and defend those ideas. The process of preparing them for the Great Debate competition results in highly intelligent, polished, and confident students who are ready to tackle challenges ahead in school and in life. For more contact Lousy Gonzales at (806) 787-1806/gonzfl@sbcglobal.net or Josh Leyva at (325) 212-3601.

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Joe Carrillo Sr. Scholarship Fundraiser

1st Annual Joe Carrillo Sr. Scholarship Fundraiser Following Joe Carrillo Sr.'s death in 2006, the Knights of Columbus voted to name a significant scholarship in his honor as a way of encouraging high school graduates to follow their dreams by attending a university. Join us in keeping his memory and dream alive. All donations are tax deductible. Date: February 16, 2008 Tickets: \$5 Location: Knights of Columbus Hall 1619 Erskine St. Lubbock, TX 79403

Anímese a estudiar

La limitación financiera no es una excusa para renunciar a una educación superior. El gobierno federal otorga cada año ayuda financiera que permite a miles de estudiantes de bajos ingresos obtener un título profesional. De acuerdo con la Guía de programas federales de ayuda estudiantil, hay tres tipos de ayuda federal para estudiantes: becas, trabajo y estudio y préstamos.

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Esta ayuda generalmente se ofrece a estudiantes de pregrado que no hayan obtenido todavía el título universitario de cuatro años (bachelor's degree). En algunos casos, los estudiantes pueden obtener este tipo de beca si se matriculan en un programa de certificación docente después de conseguir el grado universitario.

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Little Joe Hernandez featured in New Texas Tech University Press Book

Tejano legend Little Joe Hernandez is featured as one of the many artists that entertain the public in his new Texas Dance Halls...

In an 8 page spread, Little Joe is featured as he plays during performance for 2,000 fans at an Indian Springs Park in Waco. The new book Texas Dance Halls tells that wherever they've found fiddlers and dance floors...



Texas Dance Halls

listen, or simply share the experience with friends and neighbors. Paired with Marcus Weekley's photographs, some whirling and some dreamy, they capture beat and motion, even the scent of sawdust on the floor...

Moving from Twin Sisters near New Braunfels to legendary Luckenbach, we meet the third generation in a family of makers of music and keepers of dance halls. And then there are the descendants of Czech Catholic settlers coming to dance under the giant lanterns of KT (Koiatika Ichotaxaka) at Campland Dance Hall...

"I have performed dance music in most of the halls described in this book. It truly captures the spirit of a culture less known..." - Tommy X Hancock

Gail Folkins, also a journalist and teacher of creative writing, often writes about her deep roots in the American West. Her prose and poetry have appeared in numerous journals and magazines, including Lifewriting Annual and Texas Co-op Power.

J. Marcus Weekley has exhibited his photography in Texas and Mississippi, as well as the National Museum of Photography, Television, and Film in the United Kingdom. His short fiction and poetry have appeared in The Iowa Review and other journals.

The book is available at local book stores and through the Texas Tech university Press

La Colección Pedro Infante Ahora incluye más títulos

A tiempo para celebrar el Día de San Valentín, Warner Home Video se complace en anunciar el lanzamiento el 12 de febrero de 2008, de cuatro títulos adicionales en la COLECCIÓN PEDRO INFANTE...



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Infante ha sido un artista polifacético con más de 60 películas y de 365 canciones grabadas a lo largo de su carrera, siendo una gran fuente de inspiración a un sinnúmero de renombrados artistas en Latinoamérica desde Luis Miguel a Juanes. El trágico fallecimiento de Pedro Infante, a sus 40 años, desencadenó un día de luto nacional en memoria del Ídolo de Guaymas...

Para más información acerca de Pedro Infante y sus películas, favor de visitar a www.warnervideo.com/coleccionpedroinfante

“Culture Clash in America” Art Imitates Life

Last week, a Texas Tech University organization presented a performance by a traveling performance group called "Culture Clash". The following is a review of the group's performance...

by "Culture Clash in America". Culture Clash is a three-man, Hispanic performing troupe, who have been together 24 years and who were brought to the TTU campus by the Texas Tech University Cross-Cultural Academic Advancement Center...

Maybe, what I mean instead is humanity in its purest form. Truth be told, life is not always neat and pretty and sanitized. In fact, life is rarely such things.



Oscar Wilde (Irish Poet, Novelist, Dramatist and Critic 1854 - 1900) said, "Life imitates art far more than art imitates life". And while that may be true, this past weekend, art definitely imitated life, and so beautifully.

Christ. Although made up of all men, these performers often times depicted women, and did so realistically. The opening bit depicted a Middle Eastern-American, post 9/11, speaking to the tribulations he's had to endure as a result of his ethnicity. All in all, every single

But they also depicted an African-American Southern Baptist preacher who questioned whether the blue-eyed, blond haired Jesus was really that Jesus would have looked like. They depicted the differences between Latinos (New Yorkers), Mexicans, Salvadorans, etc) through our different interpretations of Salsa (not the condiment).

I applaud TTU for having the guts to invite Culture Clash and bring such a different type of performance to us.

It has been my experience that all life can be beautiful. But more often than not, it is not the hype that some people would say that they truly love us but rather, "galgas" (a person's naked behind) waving in the wind that will make us laugh.

I just wish I could have gone to the after-party. I heard it was fun as well. Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

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