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Lubbock, Texas 79401

District Attorney Matt Powell Declines to Press Criminal Charges in Recall Recount *Dumbauld Calls Affair "Silly"*

By Abel Cruz

As had been anticipated, Lubbock District Attorney Matt Powell issued a statement saying that he would not be "pursuing charges" against City Secretary Becky Garza nor anyone else "regarding the municipal recall petition".

Back in September, Recall 2007 organizers had submitted information and documentation to Powell personally, asking him to review the material and consider bringing criminal conduct charges against City Secretary Garza and City Councilwoman Linda DeLeon.



Leann
Dumbauld



Becky Garza



Linda DeLeon

On Thursday the 15th of November, Powell issued his statement and findings to the media. Here is the statement in its entirety.

"After reviewing the materials presented and the applicable case law, the D.A.'s office will not pursue charges against anyone regarding the municipal recall petition.

This decision is based in part on the following: there is no applicable criminal statute under which to prosecute.

Section 273.001 of the Election Code applies to "conduct in connection with" an election. A recall petition is a collateral attack on a completed election. Signatures on the recall petitions are not "votes" and the recall petitions are not included in the definitions of a "ballot." Therefore, there is no clear unambiguous criminal offense. The law does not allow for prosecution by analogy.

Furthermore, even if there were some arguments to be made that the statute does apply, the affidavits are insufficient to require further investigation. First, the affidavits are not based on personal knowledge of an alleged crime. Second, they do not state any allegation of criminal conduct.

For the above stated reasons, the Criminal District Attorney's office is not authorized or required to take any further action on this matter."

Shortly after the District Attorney issued his findings, Lubbock Mayor David Miller issued the following statement.

"I appreciate District Attorney Matt Powell for taking the time and care necessary to review this issue. Today's announcement re-confirms my confidence in the integrity, not only in the system itself, but most importantly in City Secretary Becky Garza and her staff. Ms. Garza conducts business in a highly professional and ethical manner."

As far as the recall organizers are concerned, this is not the end of the road for them. Armando Gonzales, spokesperson for the group, says that they will now look into filing a civil suit in the matter. He says that for them, "it's not over just because Powell did not find some law to base the charges on."

Powell's statement seems to indicate that he did not find any election laws or statutes had been violated; based on the information he received from the petitioners; and based on how he interpreted the laws he judged the information given to him on. This is made clear in Powell's statement where he says that, "there is no applicable criminal statute under which to prosecute."

Recall 2007 spokesman Armando Gonzales also issued a statement to El Editor. In the statement, Gonzales says that, "We are very disappointed that the District Attorney could not find the wherewithal to prosecute Linda DeLeon and Becky Garza for: 1) Linda's access and ability to act on the petition that she possessed before it was officially certified, having opportunity to influence Becky Garza, 2) Becky Garza's rejection of scores of "qualified" and "valid" voters that signed the petition to have Linda DeLeon recalled".

We understand the D.A.'s logic and decision and we abide by it. However, we wish that there had been a way for the most powerful person in the County to have been able to declare a solution for this problem; the abuse of Power of the City of Lubbock's Secretary - the Chief Elections Officer.

City Manager Lee Ann Dumbauld also re-inserted herself into the public controversy when she referred to the matter as "silly"; when asked for her reaction by a reporter from a local television station. This prompted organizers to issue a call for her resignation.

By Friday, recall organizers had sent a letter to several local, state and national media outlets calling for Dumbauld's resignation. A copy of the letter, which can be found in our "Freedom of Expression" section on page 2, was also sent to every council member, including Mayor David Miller.

Does it end here? Not according to recall organizer Armando Gonzales who vowed to initiate another recall campaign against DeLeon until her term expires in 2010 if necessary.

El Editor sent an email to Councilwoman DeLeon, asking her for her reaction to Powell's statement; but we did not receive a response.

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LHCC Proposed Merger with Lubbock Chamber to Come up Before Members for Vote

By Bidal Aguero

What has been a mainstay in the Lubbock Hispanic community for 33 years will probably continue to exist but in name only under a new merger plan being considered by the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (LHCC).

continue to exist, and will not be dissolved or submitted back to the Secretary of State".

Under this proposal, the "program of work", or the various projects undertaken by the chamber throughout the year, will be achieved through the plan that has been presented.

"The Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will still exist, if by shell only, and will not be dissolved for any reason. This will be done to provide for future situations that may arise."

It was explained that although the Hispanic Chamber would exist "in shell only" the LHCC would continue with its program of work as they have in the past.

The merger plan was originally proposed to the LHCC in June 2007.

Besides the fact that the charter will continue to exist and that the LHCC program of work would

continue, the proposal lists eight other positives for LHCC if the merger is approved. They include: Members of LHCC would qualify for the Firstcare insurance health plan which is sponsored by the Lubbock Chamber; increased financial stability; increase in personnel and resources; participation in high profile city events; representation on various Lubbock Chamber committees; accountability to provide more services with more resources; better marketability of events hosted by the Hispanic chamber and LHCC will have the ability to meet financial obligations.

Listed as negatives in the merger were 12 points; they included: possible loss of organizational identity; possible loss of membership in the Texas Association of Mexican-American Chambers of Commerce;



Several past Presidents of the Hispanic chamber recently met with present chamber board members to find out more about the possible merger.

The meeting was a result of a previously held meeting of past chamber presidents concerning the future of the Hispanic chamber. Past chamber President David Martinez had requested a meeting with the current Chair, Velma Medina, and the rest of the Hispanic Chamber board to discuss the proposed merger and some specific concerns.

One of those concerns was the fear that the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber, formerly known as COMA, would no longer exist.

According to Mike Arismendez, a member of the Hispanic chamber board, the plan calls for the "LHCC Charter and Articles of Incorporation to

the state organization made up of Hispanic chambers from throughout the state of Texas; current Lubbock Chamber Board is not culturally diverse; LHCC membership has been independent for 33 years and concerns over losing a "Voice" in the community.

The list of negatives continues, with saying that the LHCC may get "lost in the shuffle" and will be completely subordinate to LCC; and that high exposure

Board was committed to the plan, Medina stated that "the only commitment we have from the Hispanic Chamber Board is to bring the proposal we talked about to the members for a vote. Our board is not voting either way. We will leave that decision to the members."

The group that has been more vocal in opposition to the merger has been the group of past presidents who held several meetings to discuss the



LUBBOCK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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at events is already enjoyed by the Hispanic chamber.

In addition, listed as negatives was the fact that the Lubbock chamber will select and hire the new leader or director of the Hispanic chamber; that the Lubbock chamber will have the final say in board appointments and that the LCC could possibly create a minority division, which would cause competition among members.

This last negative had caused considerable concern among LHC members because it was learned that even before a proposal for a merger was introduced, the Lubbock Chamber had discussions about forming a Minority or Hispanic division as part of the LCC.

At a meeting held to explain the plan to past Presidents of the LHCC Velma Medina, chair of the LHCC, said that the present board had "agreed that we are now ready to go out to the public with the proposed organizational chart. Our next step is the forums for the membership. We will hold 2 of them at Maggie Trejo Center on Tuesday, Dec 4 from 6-8pm and Saturday, Dec 1 from 10-12."

Regarding the vote for merging and whether the LHCC

issue. "This is not a merger, this is a complete takeover," was a comment by past President Gilbert Flores.

After the meeting and the presentation of a revised proposal by members of the LHCC Board, sentiments among those present seemed to change.

"I think that one of the reasons that we were against the merger was the lack of information provided," said LHCC founder Bidal Aguero. "This new proposal seems to have taken all our concerns to mind and addressed them."

Medina said that she had no intentions to withhold information and that it was just because they were trying to develop the best plan possible.

"We commend the persons that were doing the negotiating for the Hispanic Chamber, they have done a good job and this is far better than the plan originally submitted," said Aguero.

The plan is to be considered by the Hispanic Chamber during its annual meeting on December 13 at 5:30 pm at American State Bank on Ave. Q and 13th.

(Next week: How will the Hispanic Chamber function under the Lubbock Chamber?) Email eleditor@sbcglobal.net.

First Thanksgiving really was in West Texas, y'all_

While the rest of America has accepted the Pilgrims and Plymouth Rock as the original Thanksgiving celebrants, certain Texas historians have long maintained that the first Thanksgiving took place, not at Plymouth Rock, but in Palo Duro Canyon... Our Thanksgiving icons would include the Palo Duro Canyon instead of Plymouth Rock. The Texas Indians would be in the history books and we might be eating buffalo instead of turkey every year. If you think leftover turkey is hard to finish, leftover buffalo could last families until the next Thanksgiving :)

Spanish explorer, Francisco Vasquez de Coronado was the noted participant of that first Thanksgiving, Texas-style, and it can be argued that Coronado had more to be thankful for than the Pilgrims.

Coronado's expedition had left Mexico in search of the Seven Cities of Cibola, but instead of a mythical city of gold, Coronado and his men found the Llano Estacado, where there were no cities, no trees and very little water.

Coronado and his men wandered in circles for days, unable to find anything upon which to fix a compass. This is a land that, even today, can try a traveler's patience.

We can imagine just how thankful Coronado and his men must have been to leave behind those miles and miles of nothing but miles and miles, and downright ecstatic he must have been to find Palo Duro Canyon and the friendly Teyas Indians who lived there.

Coronado's records show that he celebrated Thanksgiving with the Indians on Ascension Thursday, May 23, 1541. Friar Juan de Padilla performed a Thanksgiving Mass witnessed by the Indians. Reports of the event said that the Indians were neither hostile nor friendly, but mostly baffled. They stared a lot.

At the time of the mass Coronado and his men had suffered a series of

misadventures that make the Pilgrims' travails seem like a walk in the park. The expedition included 1500 men and thousands of horses, cattle and sheep. The purpose of the mission was to find Quivara, the riches of the Seven Cities of Cibola. He never found the Seven Cities, but at that point he probably didn't care.

An Indian Coronado's men called the Turk "because he looked like one" led the mass of men and critters on their dubious quest. The Turk (la Turque) led Coronado and his men onto the Llano Estacado, a vast expanse of shortgrass prairie with no settlements, no trees, very little water and nothing to fix a compass to.

Coronado and his men wandered in dazed circles for days on end, lost, hungry and thirsty on an endless "sea of grass." All the travels played tricks on the mind, and some of the men were hallucinating by the end.

The men and animals made a harrowing descent into the canyon where they encountered the Indians. A hailstorm hit the canyon the first night and stampeded the expedition's horses and destroyed much of their equipment.

Coronado sent hunters to venture onto the plains to kill buffalo, but the hunters got lost. Helpful comrades built fires and blew trumpets to help them find their way back to the canyon. Most did.

By now, Coronado had figured out that La Turque was lying about knowing the whereabouts of Quivira.

Some 300 years later, in 1848, not long after Texas had become a state, Gov. George T. Wood established the first Texas State Thanksgiving. Texas was the first state in the South to call for a day of Thanksgiving.

Coronado might have termed his expedition a failure, but he succeeded in giving Texas (which wouldn't be a state for three more centuries) something to add to its list of bragging rights - the country's first Thanksgiving.

Arroyo Cleanup Continues. Volunteers Increase



Clean up of the Arroyo in the Arroyo Quirino del Barrio Guadalupe continued this week with over 40 people participating including members of the Phi Alpha Delta and the Epsolan Alpha Beta fraternities at Tech. Also among the volunteer were Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez and Councilman Todd Klein.

A very special helper was Jesse Perez who brought all his equipment to help in the project



Obama y Giuliani, los más populares de la contienda

Si bien tanto los demócratas como los republicanos tienen fuertes opiniones sobre qué candidatos cuentan con las mejores posibilidades de conquistar la presidencia en el 2008 —Hillary Clinton y Rudy Giuliani parecen los favoritos—, ello no coincide con quiénes les resultan más simpáticos, reveló una reciente encuesta.

Las palmas, en cuestión de popularidad, corresponden a Barack Obama y a Giuliani.

Una encuesta de AP y Yahoo News, hecha a más de 2,000 personas, ofrece la ocasión de ver cuáles son las opiniones de los estadounidenses sobre cada candidato, y cómo moldean su decisión de votar por determinado político.

Y en ese sentido, cuestiones de personalidad, de política e inclusive de creencias religiosas, tienen también un importante peso.

En conjunto, según el sondeo, los demócratas dan más importancia a atributos personales que a posiciones políticas al comenzar la temporada electoral. En cuanto

a los republicanos, dan más énfasis a la política.

Pero a veces las opciones resultan bastante extrañas. Por ejemplo, el republicano de línea

votar por Giuliani porque percibe que el ex alcalde de Nueva York mostró virtudes de líder durante los devastadores ataques del 11 de septiembre del 2001.

Y Charolette Thompson, una diseñadora de jardines de 48 años que vive en Federal Way, estado de Washington, es una demócrata que respalda para presidente a Barack Obama. Sin embargo, si quisiera ir a jugar a los bolos, elegiría a "ese tipo que es mormón", el republicano Mitt Romney.

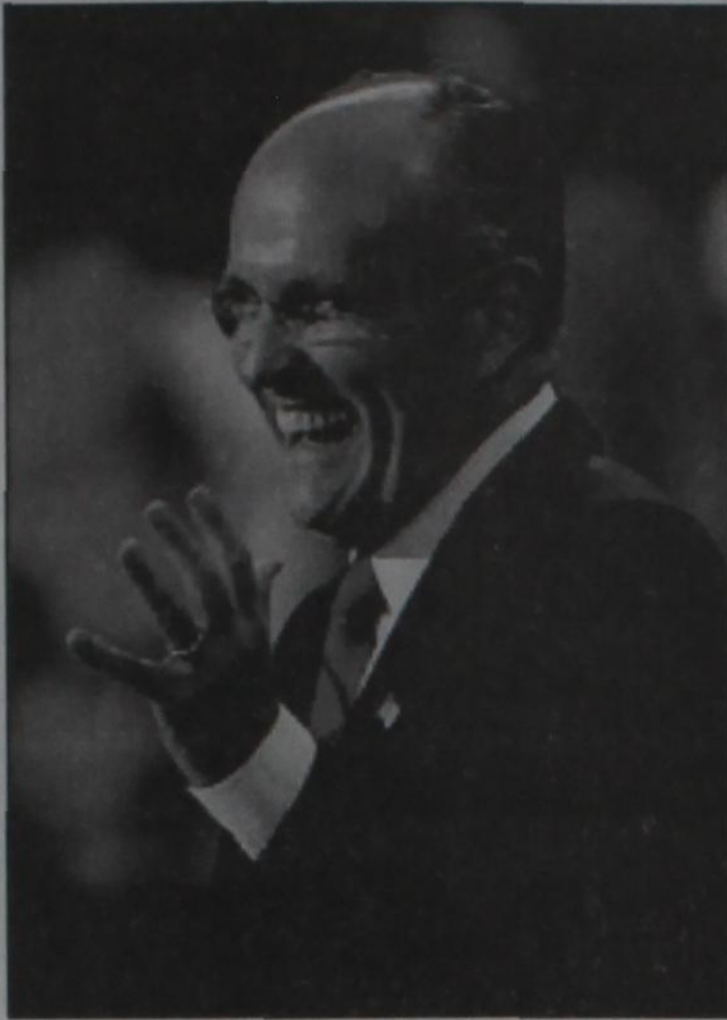
Si se pregunta a los demócratas qué cualidades personales prefieren en un candidato, es fácil saber por qué Clinton es la favorita. Los encuestados la consideran fuerte, experimentada, capaz de tomar decisiones y mostrar compasión.

Pero, en una medida de la polarización que despierta Clinton, al indagar si la elegirían para ir a jugar bolos o para salir de vacaciones, cerca de la mitad de los encuestados respondió que sí, y la otra mitad descartó totalmente su compañía.

En el campo republicano, Giuliani tiene una fuerte ventaja. Se lo considera el candidato con más capacidad de decisión. Se cree que es fuerte y compasivo.

¿Cuál es el republicano más simpático? Nuevamente Giuliani es el preferido, no sólo en su partido, sino en su conjunto. Y en cuanto a popularidad, Obama parece llevarse las palmas sobre Giuliani, un 54 por ciento a un 46 por ciento. De todas maneras, eso no coincide con las preferencias a nivel político.

dura Donald Stokes, un obrero siderúrgico de 48 años de edad, de Waterbury, Connecticut, llevaría de vacaciones con su familia a un demócrata con fuertes credenciales liberales, John Edwards. A Stokes le encanta la personalidad de Edwards, arguyendo que se trata de una persona de trato fácil y que se toma la vida con calma. Sin embargo, Stokes piensa



Alexander Defends English-only at Work Bill

Congressional Hispanic Caucus members said an amendment offered by Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., that would protect workplaces with English-only policies from being sued for discrimination is discriminatory.

The amendment, passed by the Senate in the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill, would bar the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission from suing organizations that require their employees to speak English on the job.

"This is dangerous and wrong," members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus wrote in a letter to Democratic leaders of the House Appropriations Committee.

"English-only policies that do not relate to job performance are inherently discriminatory (and) are a major source of workplace discrimination against the nation's large and

growing population of Hispanic, Asian-American, and other minority workers," the letter states.

Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez, D-Ill., and a caucus member, said the amendment is rooted in "bigotry and prejudice," according to Congressional Quarterly.

Sen. Alexander said he is disappointed by the criticism.

"In order to be a citizen in this country, you're required to learn English, and there's a good reason for it," he said. "The civil rights laws of 1964 were intended to prohibit discrimination. They weren't intended to destroy our common language. English is the way we learn to live together."

He cited a lawsuit filed in April by the EEOC against the Salvation Army for allegedly discriminating against two employees in a Framingham, Mass., thrift store for requiring them to speak English on the job.

Sen. Alexander said he is

vexed by the actions of House Democratic leaders to strip his amendment from the conference bill, even though the House voted 218-186 earlier this month to instruct its conference negotiators to accept the bill with the amendment.

Now the meeting of Senate and House negotiators has been postponed indefinitely.

A spokesman in Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office, who spoke on background, said the Commerce-Justice-Science spending bill likely will be wrapped into an omnibus appropriations bill that includes several other spending measures later this year.

At that point, Sen. Alexander's amendment could be considered, he said.

Sen. Alexander said he would not back down.

"I think we need more unity in the country, not more disunity, and our common language is one source of unity," he said.

Iraq, Afghan War Costs Are \$1.6 Trillion

The economic costs of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are estimated to total \$1.6 trillion -- roughly double the amount the White House has requested thus far, according to a new report by Democrats on Congress' Joint Economic Committee.

The report, released Tuesday, attempted to put a price tag on the two conflicts, including "hidden" costs such as interest payments on the money borrowed to pay for the wars, lost investment, the expense of long-term health care for injured veterans and the cost of oil market disruptions.

The \$1.6 trillion figure, for the period from 2002 to 2008, translates into a cost of \$20,900 for a family of four, the report said. The Bush administration has requested \$804 billion for the Iraq and Afghanistan wars combined, the report stated.

For the Iraq war only, total economic costs were estimated at \$1.3 trillion for the period

from 2002 to 2008. That would cost a family of four \$16,500, the report said.

Future economic costs would be even greater. The report estimated that both wars would cost \$3.5 trillion between 2003 and 2017. Under that scenario, it would cost a family of four \$46,400, the report said.

Oil prices have surged since the start of the war, from about \$37 a barrel to well over \$90 a barrel in recent weeks, the report said. "Consistent disruptions from the war have affected oil prices," although the Iraq war is not responsible for all of the increase in oil prices, the report said.

Still, the report estimated that high oil prices have hit U.S. consumers in the pocket, transferring "approximately \$124 billion from U.S. oil consumers to foreign (oil) producers" from 2003 to 2008, the report said.

High oil prices can slow overall economic growth if that chills spending and investment


by consumers and businesses. At the same time, high oil prices can spread inflation throughout the economy if companies decide to boost the prices of many other goods and services.

Meanwhile, "the sum of interest paid on Iraq-related debt from 2003 to 2017 will total over \$550 billion," the report said. The government has to make interest payments on the money it borrows to finance the national debt, which recently hit \$9 trillion for the first time.

The report comes as the House prepares to vote this week on another effort by Democrats to set a deadline for withdrawing troops from Iraq as a condition for providing another \$50 billion for the war.

"What this report makes crystal clear is that the cost to our country in lives lost and dollars spent is tragically unacceptable," said Joint Economic Committee Chairman Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., in a statement that accompanied the report's release.

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Gilbert Salinas, Candidate for District 2 City Council, and Lubbock County Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez in cooperation with the Solid Waste Department of the City of Lubbock recently spent their Saturday morning cleaning East Lubbock. Eight dumpsters were positioned at four locations in East Lubbock for the residents to dispose of old appliances, tires, carpets and yard debris. "This is a way to help solve the problem of illegal dumping on the side of the road or in vacant lots," said Commissioner Gutierrez. "We want to have a clean neighborhood to attract new homes and businesses," said Gilbert Salinas. "We care about East Lubbock and its people."

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Shakira has a new fixation

SHAKIRA was sick of being a celebrity. Colombia's sensationally successful singer-songwriter had just come off her "Oral Fixation" tour earlier this year, taking her to 140 cities on five continents to perform for 2.5 million fans. But even stardom can be a drag.

So she put away her revealing sequined gowns and hip-hugging pants, donned jeans and sneakers, tucked her famous shock of dyed hair under a cap and went undercover as a summer student at UCLA. She enrolled in a history of Western civilization course under her middle and last names, Isabel Mebarak, telling clueless classmates she was just visiting from Colombia.

"Oh, it was such a respite for me," Shakira recalls. "I felt that need to put a brake on everything, to escape from the celebrity life and reclaim a



gentle, acoustic, Latin American folk styles. The songs — a bolero and a traditional Andean tune — are almost period pieces, tailored to the film's genteel setting in Cartagena circa 1900.

Shakira is arguably the most successful bicultural star Latin America has produced, and she's always been adept at straddling both English- and Spanish-speaking worlds with her seductive pop fusion that draws also on her Middle Eastern heritage. But these songs required her to tap

into deep cultural roots, to reconnect with the music she was raised on in Barranquilla, music that still makes her cry and that instantly touches her soul, like a memory.

"It was refreshing, because it allowed me to leave the pop universe for a moment and not think about the Top 10 on the radio, and not think about . . ." She pauses. "And simply not think. To just let the sensibility flow from those stories, let those García Márquez metaphors connect with the deepest part of me, and allow the music to be born from all of that."

She is speaking in Spanish in the pastoral, equally genteel setting of a patio restaurant at the

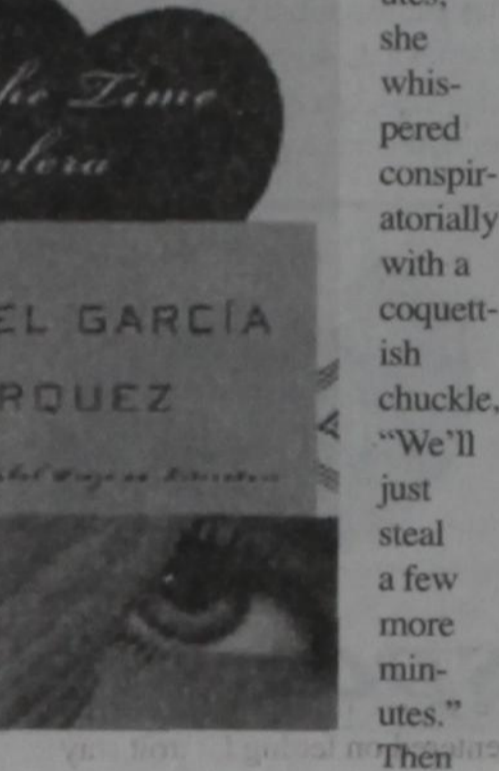
Bel Air Hotel. She looks relaxed and casual, wearing a tank top and jeans, her hair loose and a bit disheveled, showing dark roots under a dyed, reddish brown crown. She accentuates the color contrast by fidgeting with a long naturally dark strand that she

pulls down along her neck and twirls at her shoulder.

Without much makeup, she looks more like that average girl in history class than a sultry superstar. Now 30, she appears somehow younger than when I first met her in 2001 on the eve of releasing her first English-language album, "Laundry Service," a smash

that launched her global career. At that time, everything about her seemed more calculated — her appearance, her poses, her wardrobe, her answers. Today, Shakira doesn't have much more to prove, so she can let her hair down, somewhat. When her

handler signaled that time was up after only 20 minutes, she whispered conspiratorially with a coquettish chuckle. "We'll just steal a few more minutes." Then



she went on to talk for an hour: Colombia's image

Shakira, who writes her own songs in Spanish and English, speaks at times as if she's writing out sentences in long hand, like the character of Florentino Ariza (Javier Bardem) writing his first love letter to the woman for whom he'd wait half a century, Fermína Urbino (Giovanna Mezzogiorno). It's as if she has an automatic editor in her brain, scanning for the right words, selecting, deleting, selecting again.

When she talks about Colombia, she taps into a florid Castilian that flows in long passages, like the novel, which she calls "one of the last great love stories of our time." The film's cool reviews seem beside the point in light of her passion for it as a vehicle to provide a positive image of her country, one not of guerrillas and drug lords but of "starry nights and long silences by the sea." "That is the Colombia I wanted to share," she says, "and for that I felt it was a privilege to be involved in this project."

García Márquez himself urged Shakira to take an acting role in the movie, she says, but other commitments forced her to turn down what would have been her acting debut. Producer Scott Steindorff, however, reveals another reason for her decision. The role would have

required some nudity, he says, and Shakira was reluctant to do that. Shakira says she's received many acting offers over the years, but the right one hasn't come along. That's going to be harder than finding true love, since she imposes tough preconditions. "The script, the character, the director, it all has to come together to assure me that I'll be protected, because I have an image . . ." She pauses again to correct herself. "I have a responsibility to my public, so I don't want to get into something that could fail."

That's the notorious control freak who micromanages every aspect of her career, down to every frame of her videos. "I control totally," she acknowledges, with a forced laugh that hints at insecurity. "So I need to put my [acting] career in the hands of the right person, including the right acting coach because I'm not sure what my thespian skills [destrezas histriónicas] may be. It's something that remains to be discovered."

On the other hand, she had no doubt about her ability to write the songs for this film. The music came to her spontaneously after she saw a rough cut in London. When it was over, she turned to British director Mike Newell, and hummed a melody for him.

She repeats the tune in a low sensual voice that fluctuates dramatically with melisma and falsetto: "Ay, mi bien, ta-ri-ri-da-da-ra, la-di di da di da . . ." And it just started to come out of me like that, a spontaneous reaction. So I felt it was my duty, almost a moral one, to be involved with this project.

"In my blood" That snippet turned into "Hay Amores," a bolero full of romance, poetry and yearning. It's a style that dates to the late 1800s, matching the movie's era, and was popularized throughout Latin America in the 1940s and '50s by guitar trios such as Los Panchos and Los Tres Reyes, whose surviving member was invited to play on the recording, available on iTunes and soon on the soundtrack.

"The bolero is in my blood," says Shakira. "And it's undoubtedly the pinnacle of romantic music. Nothing can capture the sentiment of love like a bolero does, and nothing else could do justice to this story."

The other original song, "Despedida," is written in a folk-

loric style evoking the mournful sound of Andean music, with native instruments such as the bombo, a drum, and the charango, a small guitar. Shakira calls it "the song of her dreams" because she had always wanted to write something that evoked "the lament of the Andes."

"The curious thing is that this is a song of farewell, of death, of loss, but at the same time, it was a pleasure to do," she says. "Digging into this new world of folklore was definitely one of the greatest challenges for me."

Donated royalties

She was joined in the effort by influential Argentine musician Pedro Aznar as co-producer, along with Brazil's Antonio Pinto, who co-wrote the songs and the original score. All royalties from songs in the movie, including "Pienso En Ti" which she wrote at age 17, will go to Pies Descalzos (Barefoot Foundation), her nonprofit aimed at helping children who are victims of violence in Colombia.

Shakira worries that Latin America's traditional music represents a dying art on the continent, and delights at the suggestion of making a full album in the same style. But aside from the release this week of a DVD with concert and documentary footage, she has no plans for a new record.

Soon, she is joined by her fiancé, Antonio de la Rúa, a shaggy-haired lawyer who's the son of a former Argentine



president. Their steady relationship dates to the beginning of this century, before her fabulous ascent. They've lived through a lot of changes, she says, and surmounted their share of obstacles, but they've grown as individuals and "we're still together, still hand in hand."

So does she believe in that old-fashioned concept of courtly, long-term love as portrayed in the movie? Is such romance relevant in a world of instant gratification, and how does she reconcile that with the raw rock culture she's embraced?

For the first time, Shakira appears to be at a loss for words. "Excuse me," she says, twirling her coffee cup in its saucer while composing her thoughts. "Love has always been full of patience, hasn't it? And patience is the privilege of those who truly love, right? Yes, it's difficult to imagine a Florentino Ariza today in 2007, but I'm an optimist. I believe that in all of us, in every man and woman, there is a Florentino and a Fermína, perhaps willing to wait, to transcend the obstacles of space and time, for the love of one's life."



normal life for a while. It was very healthy for me."

Her decompression from rock star to common coed was not just therapeutic, it coincided with the creative retreat she required to compose new songs for the film "Love in the Time of Cholera," which opened Friday. This is the first time she has written music for a movie, a challenge she assumed in honor of her compatriot, mentor and "dear friend," Gabriel García Márquez, the Nobel laureate whose novel of love and irrational devotion is the basis for the movie.

The work marks a radical departure for Shakira, from flashy, electrified pop/rock to

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Why Detroit, Dallas get Turkey day benefit

Detroit and Dallas have been traditional TV games on Thanksgiving for a long time. When I was growing up there was always the Detroit-Green Bay game to watch followed by Dallas against whomever.

When I was in the NFL, there was always a feeling among many -- especially coaches and GMs -- that the Lions and Cowboys had an unfair advantage playing at home every Thanksgiving Day.

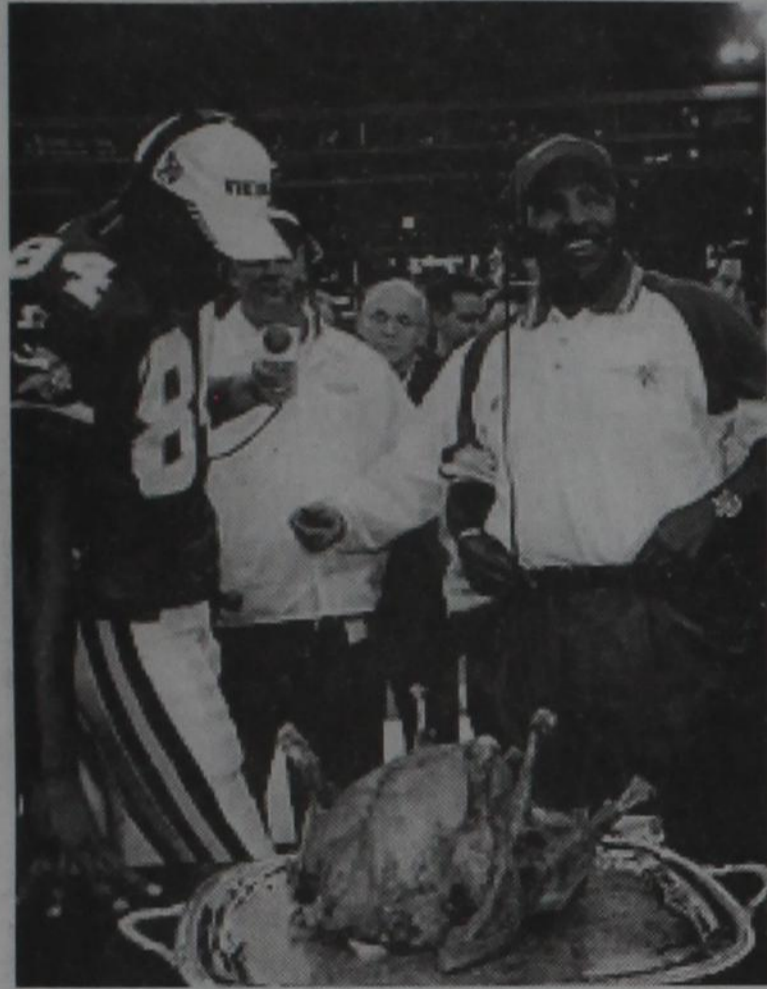
- On a normal week, teams:
- Watch tape of Sunday's game on Monday as well as get treatment.
- They are off on Tuesday. This is a union rule, but also a

ity the team gets. This is why Dallas wanted to play on Thanksgiving. Former Cowboys general manager Tex Schramm was a brilliant marketing man who saw the value of having the whole country be able to see his team on national television on Thanksgiving Day, a day in which people would be gathered at homes and a natural TV audience would be available to watch football.

In the AFL, before the merger, Kansas City Chiefs owner Lamar Hunt had the idea to play at home in Kansas City on Thanksgiving. When the merger came this game was taken away from Kansas City.

The first coach to raise the issue of a competitive advantage was Vince Lombardi, whose Green Bay Packers had to travel to play to Detroit every Thanksgiving.

In 1962, which might have been Lombardi's best team, the Packers made their traditional trip to Detroit and ended up being upset by



good idea.

- Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday are the main practice days.
- Saturday is a 30-minute walkthrough, usually, and then the team travels to the away city or stays at a local hotel for the home game.

So both teams have to condense six days into three during Thanksgiving week. The advantage day for the home team is Wednesday since they don't have to travel. The players can go home and relax before they head to the team's hotel for meetings the night before the game.

A second advantage gained from a Thanksgiving game is a 10-day break to rest up at a critical point in the season. Now, you can say both away teams get this break, too, and you are right, but Dallas and Detroit get it every year.

The final advantage is hard to measure, and that is the public-

the Competition Committee, which was chaired by Jim Finks, the now deceased Hall of Fame GM of the New Orleans Saints.

This proposal received a lot of support among the clubs and generated heated and long discussions. However the stats did not back up the argument of the Cowboys and Lions enjoying an unfair advantage.

Detroit had not been a consistently good team, so their winning percentage was not any better. And although Dallas had been a consistent winner, there was not any big swing in its winning percentage except for one stat: When Dallas had a winning team and played with the 10-day break after Thanksgiving, they rarely lost. In fact, at one point Dallas had a long winning streak after Thanksgiving.

The next argument, led by Hunt, was that having the same two teams play on Thanksgiving every year gave them an advantage in publicity. After all, both teams were guaranteed a game on national TV on a big ratings day. He also pointed out that both teams were from the NFC and this was an advantage to that conference. This was a big argument at the beginning of the free-agent system in the NFL.

The votes were beginning to add up in favor of passing the resolution to rotate the Thanksgiving Day games. There was then a break in the meeting, and at that point Detroit and Dallas began to work the room to get some votes. When we came back, the momentum had begun to change from a room that had a majority of teams favoring a switch in the format to keeping the games in Dallas and Detroit.

Both Dallas and Detroit spoke about how these games had become a great tradition in both of their cities. Detroit had the game on Thanksgiving since the 1930s. Discussions then centered on letting Detroit stay at home, but force Dallas to play in different cities on Thanksgiving, but Dallas fought that.

Finally, some of the older owners, such as Wellington Mara of the New York Giants, spoke about the importance of tradition and keeping the status quo. After he spoke -- I do not remember if he spoke first -- some of the other veteran owners spoke to also keep the status quo.

The games would stay in Dallas and Detroit.

Barry Bonds Has Been Indicted. Will He Be Inducted?

Barry Bonds has been indicted. Will he ever be inducted?

Even if a jury dismisses the five counts of perjury and obstruction of justice against Bonds, his mere indictment and evidence that is expected to come to light at trial is liable to cripple his Hall of Fame candidacy, a handful of eligible voters said Friday.

"There is almost no way he ever makes it in," longtime Boston Globe columnist Peter Gammons said on ESPN. "Barry is such a lightning rod. There is such dislike for him. I don't think he ever makes the Hall of Fame."

Members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America, who earn a lifetime Hall of Fame vote after 10 consecutive years of active membership, have shown little tolerance for players connected to baseball's steroids era. Mark McGwire, who stonewalled Congress during a hearing on steroids in baseball, was named on just 23.5 percent of the 545 ballots in January. It was his first year of eligibility. Seventy-five percent is required for enshrinement.

"The McGwire vote set the precedent," said BBWAA president Paul Hoynes, who covers the Indians for the Cleveland Plain Dealer. "I would not vote for Bonds. I paint it all with the same brush. If you don't vote for McGwire, how can you vote for Bonds?"

Players become eligible five years after retirement, so Hall voters have time to step back and consider Bonds in the context of the drug-tainted era in which he played.

Some voters already have taken that step. Bernie Miklasz, a columnist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, voted for McGwire and said he plans to vote for Bonds.

"Surely they were not the only users," Miklasz said. "So do we give all of the other players of the era a free pass?"

Miklasz said he could change his mind if new evidence comes to light, such as a positive steroid test. It would be the ultimate smoking gun, and in the 11-page indictment that was unsealed Thursday, federal investigators claimed to have evidence that Bonds tested positive.

Such evidence, combined with Major League Baseball's findings in its internal review, could

compel Commissioner Bud Selig to use the "best interests of the game" clause to suspend Bonds, wipe out the all-time home run record or even banish him from baseball.

Pete Rose, the game's all-time hits king, is still forbidden from appearing on a Hall of Fame ballot because he bet on the outcome of games while managing the Cincinnati Reds.

But Fay Vincent, who became commissioner shortly after Rose's banishment, cautioned against drawing parallels between the game's hit king and home run king.

"There is nothing the commissioner will do or should do," Vincent said. "Rose was in violation of a baseball rule - the most important baseball rule - so it was an internal matter. He's out and still out."

"This is a different case with Bonds. This case is about lying. It's not about steroids... Even when it's over, and the evidence turns out to be terrific, I'm not clear on what baseball can do at that point."

Unless Selig removes Bonds from the ballot, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette columnist Bob Smizik said he would vote for him.

"I will not be the judge and jury for Major League Baseball," Smizik said. "If baseball doesn't want them in the Hall of Fame, take them off the ballot. They could do it with a snap of their fingers. But it's probably a moot point, after what happened with McGwire."

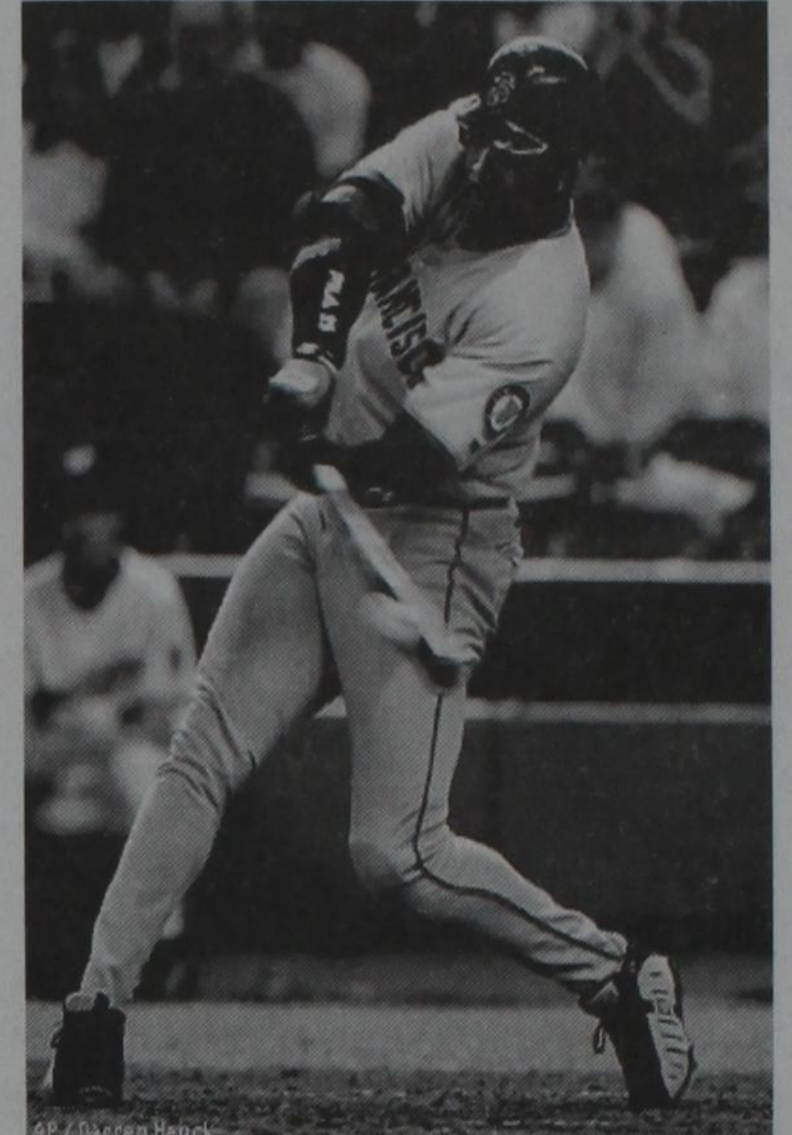
Smizik covered Bonds during the first seven seasons of his career, when he established himself as a great all-around player with the Pirates and won three of his seven MVP awards long before he was suspected of using performance-enhancing drugs.

That all-around greatness is what separates Bonds' tainted Hall of Fame candidacy from

that of McGwire, said Nick Peters of the Sacramento Bee.

"Bonds was a greater player than McGwire ever was," said Peters, who covered the Giants over five decades before retiring in October. "Bonds might not be a first-ballot guy now out of moral indignation, but I'm still voting for him because he was a superior athlete."

Hoynes takes an opposing



view, regarding it as a bigger shame if a player with Bonds' immense talent felt he had to take steroids.

"He didn't need to do this," Hoynes said. "The guy was one of the greatest players of all time before this ever happened... I just want somebody to be honest. I want somebody to step up and say, 'This is what I did and when I did it.'"

The Hall voters agreed that it's a good thing they have five years to reach a conclusion on Bonds and whether his record 762 home runs belong in Cooperstown. It's an issue that inspires plenty of mixed emotions, even among those who thought they knew where they stood.

"I've had problems with Barry over the years, more so than anyone in Pittsburgh," Smizik said. "But I feel bad for him. Intellectually... it makes no sense, because he's a jerk, but I almost wish he'll win his case somehow and be exonerated. And I think he's guilty, too."

"How do you make sense of that?"

With Gigantic Payday Looming, Rodriguez Nets His Third MVP

Alex Rodriguez's whirlwind 2007 neared completion Monday when he was named the American League's Most Valuable Player in a landslide.

The New York Yankees third baseman received 26 of 28 first-place votes and earned 382 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers Association of America. The Detroit Tigers' Magglio Ordonez finished second and received the other two first-place votes - both from Detroit-area writers.

Although A-Rod's 10-year, \$275 million contract to play for the Yankees through 2017 has not been completed, that appears to be only a matter of time.

"I have tremendous faith that I will be a world champion," Rodriguez said. "And what better place to do that than in New York? So hopefully everything works out for everyone."

With Rodriguez's return to pinstripes imminent, he did not have to spend Monday fending off questions on why he had opted out of his Yankees contract without even negotiating with the club.

The only questions he put off regarded the evolution of events from his opt-out during Game 4 of the World Series on Oct. 28 to his meeting with Hank and Hal Steinbrenner last week in an attempt to lock up his future in pinstripes.

Rodriguez said he "would love" to address those questions at a more appropriate time - as in, after the contract is signed.

"There is a finish line in sight," he said, "and I'd like to just ask for a little patience. When the time is right, I'll be all yours to answer questions. All I can tell you is that the discussions with my wife (Cynthia) and the Steinbrenners went really well."

Hank Steinbrenner echoed Rodriguez's belief that A-Rod will be wearing pinstripes on opening day.

Said Steinbrenner, "I'm definitely very happy. Everything's going smoothly. Everything's going fine. It's just a matter of crossing the t's and dotting the i's - not necessarily with Alex."

Rodriguez, 32, had one of the best offensive seasons in major-


league history. He batted .314 with 54 home runs, 156 RBIs and 143 runs scored. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, he was the first player to lead the major leagues in home runs, RBIs and runs since the Yankees' Roger Maris did so in 1961.

Rodriguez had the fifth-highest RBI total in the majors since 1950. No Yankee has driven in more runs since Joe DiMaggio had 167 RBIs in 1937. He hit the most home runs by a Yankee since Maris' 61 and Mickey Mantle's 54 in 1961 and broke his own record for homers by a righthanded-hitting Yankee.

It was Rodriguez's third MVP award. He also won with Texas in 2003 and the Yankees in 2005.

"It was a magical season both on and off the field, coming together with my teammates in the clubhouse," he said. "It was a type of year that I'll never forget."

With Rodriguez returning to the fold for the next 10 seasons, he should have plenty of chances to go for a World Series ring. That is the one big gap in his career: He has never played in the World Series.



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HOW TO CELEBRATE A HISPANIC THANKSGIVING

Introduction

If you'd like to pay tribute to your Hispanic roots this Thanksgiving, here are a few ideas to get you started in that direction. Also included are some basic planning tips.

Instructions

Difficulty: Easy
Things You'll Need

Latin American Cookbooks
Spanish Cookbooks
Holiday Cookbooks
Vegetarian Cookbook
Steps

1 Step One

Figure out how many guests to invite. Consider the size of your home; the number of chairs, tables and dishes you'll need; and your ability to cook for a large number of people.

2 Step Two

Think about decorations for your home and dining table that will reflect your cultural upbringing. Bright colors are historically important to Hispanic cultures; think about playing with colors in the selection of the tablecloth and napkins. Other collectibles, which may be in storage or deep in closets, could be brought out as reminders of Thanksgivings past.

3 Step Three

Decide if you want to ask people to help you, either by bringing parts of the meal (wine, dessert, appetizers or side dishes), or by coming early to help.

4 Step Four

Determine the food preferences or restrictions of your guests. Are there any vegetarians or people with food allergies?

5 Step Five

Consider the sequence of the meal and its balance. Balance starchy dishes with lighter vegetable dishes. Consider how many courses you want to serve, as well as how many appetizers.

6 Step Six

Move beyond traditional dishes and incorporate ingredients that reflect your Hispanic-American heritage. Consider scooping up a traditional spinach dip with toasted corn cups made from white corn tortillas. Think about alternative dishes that reflect your family's unique experience - chilled corn vichyssoise, jalapeno-spiked cornbread stuffing, or turkey mole. Or, instead of mashed potatoes, consider Spanish rice as a starch. Fry vanilla ice cream for dessert to serve alongside a pumpkin pie.

7 Step Seven

Once you've planned the menu, consider the timing and preparation of each dish. Is it physically possible for you to make all the dishes you've planned? If you've chosen to add a lot of spices to the dishes, are you sure everybody will tolerate it? Think about your kitchen and its limitations as well. If you have one oven, remember that a roasting turkey will be occupying it most of the time.

Tips & Warnings

Remember that people generally expect turkey, gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie at Thanksgiving. Still, there is lots of room to add your own personal touch to the meal.

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Literacy Important Among Hispanics

The number of Hispanics making Columbus home has nearly doubled in the last four years. But think about having to learn a second language while trying to take care of your family.

But the Muscogee County School District wants to help.

Imagine not being able to talk to your child's teacher because they don't understand Spanish. It's a scenario that plays out everyday.

But at Hispanic Family Literacy Day, the Muscogee County School District is helping Spanish speaking families take matters into their own hands.

Showing children reading can be fun...no matter the language. But also to encourage them to learn and understand English. But this event at the Tillinghurst Recreation Center is for the whole family.

"Just providing different ways in which the family can be informed and gain and have a love for learn-

ing together," said volunteer Jasmine Flores.

And that can be an uphill battle if your trying to establish your family in this country. Learning english can sometimes take a back seat to supporting your family.

But with out language skills that can be a bumpy ride.

"We know of situations were they can't communicate with their bill payers, they can't communicate with the people they rent from," said Sally Sinclair with the school district.

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Have a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving

from
El Editor



The winner of the beautiful Grandfather clock given by House of Furniture for this Thanksgiving season was Juanita Medrano who recently moved from Florida to back to Lubbock. She is also celebrating her birthday. Congratulations.

La ganadora de el rejoy abuelo regalado por la Casa de Muebles fue Juanita Medrano. Ella es recién llegada de Florida y tambien estaba celebrando su cumpleaños.



Durante la rifa de 1- pavos regalados por El Editor que se llevo acabo en el lugar de House of Furniture por la Calle 28 y Ave. Q. Presente para la rifa estubo Serenity y Johnny Torres quien tambien logro ganar uno de los guajolotes.

During the raffle held this past Monday when El Editor gave away 10 turkeys and the House of Furniture on 28th Street and Ave. Q gave away a Grandfather clock. Present for the drawing was Serenity and Johnny Torres who were lucky and drew their own name to win one of the turkeys.



Pictured are is the staff of the House of Furnitre left to right, owner Robert Narvaiz, Mary Ellen Calderon, David and Johnny Hernandez together with Destiny Sanchez

**Don't Drink and Drive
this Holiday Season**

At this event, organizers hope to promote literacy within the family. That way parents and children can teach each other the language.

And to show just how fun reading can be. That can be a book walk, puppet show, or just listening. But the benefits can be great for child and parent.

"They can communicate better so they can be a part of the society in which they're living in now," said Sinclair.

And one of the most important things to remember is that GED classes, English as a second language classes, and even citizenship classes are free through the Tillinghurst adult programs.

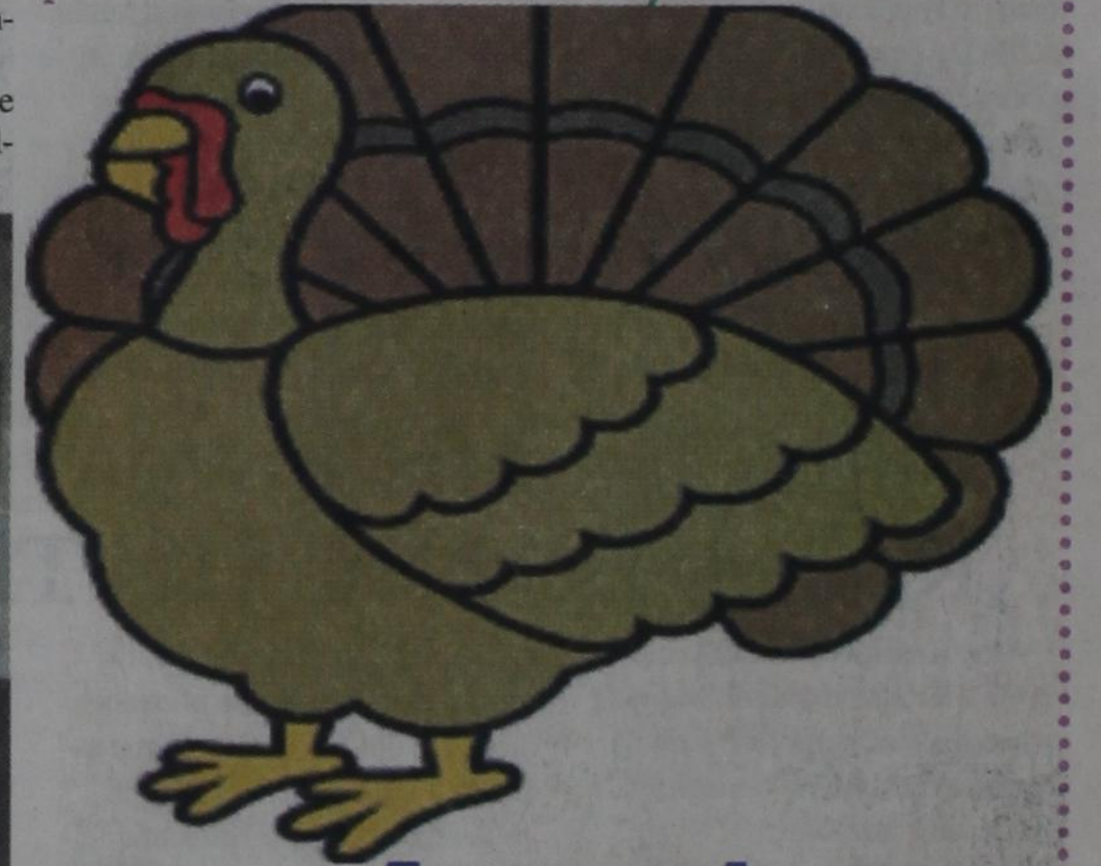
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