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Latino Times

ASPARAGUS FEST APRIL 15, 16, 17

Acacia Charter Schools Set a Course for Success

By Mark Apostolon

In 2012, Acacia Charter School opened up the doors to both their Elementary and Middle schools with a clear mission: "to provide a nurturing and challenging learning community to the greater Stockton area". They have succeeded in that and so much more.

Charter schools are public schools that are run independently from the local school district, but are still required to follow and meet local and state academic standards. These schools are publicly funded by the states they operate in, and comply with regular performance reviews. Charter schools by design are intended to provide students with innovative approaches to teaching and learning, and provide parents with

a different educational option for their children within the public school system. "We benefit by being able to take the best from the traditional world, and then we get to think outside the box," Interim CEO Dr. Lynn Lysko, Ed.D. proudly points out. "The staff and parents have the opportunity to work as a Team to create a learning environment that allows the students to excel far beyond what they might have, and be exposed to opportunities they would otherwise not have had access to."

Acacia is a TK-8th grade charter school (TK meaning "transitional kindergarten") based in Stockton split into two separate campuses – one for the Elementary school and the other for the Middle school.

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SurgePhoto

Las Escuelas Chárter Acacia establecen una vía para el éxito

Por Mark Apostolon

En 2012, la Escuela Chárter Acacia abrió las puertas a sus dos escuelas primaria e intermedia con una misión clara: "para proporcionar una comunidad de aprendizaje nutritiva y estimulante para el área metropolitana de Stockton." Han conseguido eso y mucho más.w

Las escuelas chárter son escuelas públicas que se ejecutan de forma independiente del distrito escolar local, pero aún están obligados a seguir y cumplir con las normas académicas locales y estatales. Estas escuelas son financiadas públicamente por los estados en los que operan, y cumplen con las revisiones regulares de desempeño. Las escuelas chárter por diseño están destinadas a proporcionar a los estudiantes enfoques innovadores para la enseñanza y el aprendizaje, y proporcionan a los padres una opción educativa diferente para sus hijos en el sistema escolar público. "Nos beneficiamos por ser capaz de tomar lo mejor del mundo tradicional, y entonces tenemos que pensar fuera de lo común," CEO temporal Dra. Lynn Lysko, Ed.D. con orgullo señala. "El personal y los padres tienen la oportunidad de trabajar en equipo para crear un ambiente de aprendizaje que permite a los estudiantes a sobresalir mucho más allá de lo que podrían tener y estar expuestos a las oportunidades que de otro modo no habrían

tenido acceso."

Acacia es una escuela de grado TK a 8º (TK significa "kínder de transición"), basado en Stockton dividido en dos espacios separados - uno para la escuela primaria y el otro para la escuela intermedia.

Los estudiantes experimentarán el aprendizaje de una manera que les permite comprender y mejorar su mundo. Nuestros maestros excepcionales inspiran a los estudiantes a buscar la comprensión profunda, significativa; desarrollar fuertes habilidades académicas; y convertirse en pensadores creativos e independientes. Un entorno global que cambia rápidamente requiere que los estudiantes de Acacia adquieran conocimientos y desarrollen habilidades del siglo 21, mientras aprenden a definir y resolver problemas de forma creativa. Acacia Elementary cultiva la compasión, la justicia, el respeto, y la individualidad dentro de una comunidad que celebra la diversidad, autenticidad y el servicio.

"Tenemos una filosofía que está arraigado en nuestras actividades diarias, aquí, en Acacia," Patricia Lingerfelt, Director de la Escuela Primaria señala irónicamente. "Y es parte del por qué estoy tan extática, profesionalmente, que hice el paso de un entorno de enseñanza tradicional a Acacia Chárter. En primer lugar se



Millennials Make Up Almost Half of Latino Eligible Voters in 2016

Youth, Naturalizations Drive Number of Hispanic Eligible Voters to Record 27.3 Million

By Jens Manuel Krogstad

Hispanic millennials will account for nearly half (44%) of the record 27.3 million Hispanic eligible voters projected for 2016—a share greater than any other racial or ethnic group of voters, according to a new Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data.

The large footprint of Latino millennial eligible voters reflects the oversized importance of youth in the U.S.-born Latino population and as a source of Latino eligible voter growth. The median age among the nation's 35 million U.S.-born Latinos is only 19

(Stepler and Brown, 2015), and Latino youth will be the main driver of growth among Latino eligible voters over the next two decades. Between 2012 and 2016, about 3.2 million young U.S.-citizen Latinos will have advanced to adulthood and become eligible to vote, according to Pew Research Center projections. Nearly all of them are U.S. born—on an annual basis, some 803,000 U.S.-born Latinos reached adulthood in recent years.

This is by far the largest source of growth for the Hispanic electorate, but it is not the only one. The second-larg-

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CHARTER en pág. 6

Do you want to vote for President on June 7, 2016?

All voters can vote in a primary election. Voting for President depends on the party you are registered with.

If you are registered with a political party:

You can vote for a candidate running for President in that party.

If you registered with no party preference, you can vote in the Presidential primary for the following parties:

- Democratic
- American Independent
- Libertarian

You can select the party ballot at your polling place. If you vote by mail, you were sent a postcard to select a party ballot.

If you registered with no party preference and want to vote in the Presidential primary for one of the following political parties:

- Republican
- Green
- Peace & Freedom

You must re-register to vote with that party by **May 23, 2016**.

¿Quiere votar por Presidente el 7 de junio del 2016?

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Votar por Presidente depende del partido en que está registrado.

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Usted puede votar por un candidato a Presidente en ese partido.

Si está registrado para votar sin preferencia de partido político, usted puede votar en la elección primaria presidencial por uno de los siguientes partidos:

- Demócrata
- Americano Independiente
- Libertario

Usted puede solicitar la boleta de uno de estos partidos en su centro de votaciones. Si usted vota por correo, se le envió una tarjeta postal para que elija su opción.

Si no se registró con preferencia de partido político y quiere votar en la elección primaria presidencial por uno de los siguientes partidos políticos:

- Republicano
- Verde
- Paz y Libertad

Usted debe de re-registrarse para votar con preferencia a ese partido a más tardar el **23 de mayo del 2016**.



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Regístrese para votar en www.registertovote.ca.gov

June 7, 2016 Presidential Primary Election Key Dates and Deadlines

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April 8 - April 23, 2016*

Vote-By-Mail Ballot Mailing Period

May 9 - May 31, 2016

Last Day to Register to Vote

May 23, 2016

New Citizen (sworn in after May 23, 2016) Voter Registration Period

May 24 - June 7, 2016

Last Day to Request Vote-By-Mail Ballot

May 31, 2016

Election Day (7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

June 7, 2016

Last Day to Receive Vote-By-Mail Ballot (Postmarked No Later Than June 7, 2016)

June 10, 2016

**Date falls on a weekend or state holiday; it does not move forward to the next business day.*

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Our committee is registered with the Fair Political Practices Commission ID# 1383013

Acacia

continued from Front Page

Students will experience learning in ways that will allow them to both understand and improve their world. Our exceptional teachers inspire students to seek deep, meaningful understanding; to develop strong academic skills; and to become creative and independent thinkers. A rapidly changing global environment requires that Acacia students acquire knowledge and develop 21st century skills, while learning to define and solve problems creatively. Acacia Elementary cultivates compassion, fairness, respect, and individuality within a community that celebrates diversity, authenticity, and service.

"We have a philosophy that is engrained in our daily activities, here,

at Acacia," Patricia Lingerfelt, Principal of the Elementary School wryly notes. "And it's part of why I am so ecstatic, professionally, that I made the move from a traditional teaching environment to Acacia Charter. First is acknowledging that learning is the young person's pathway to personal growth; next, understanding school should be both challenging and joyous; and also that diversity brings quality and strength to our welcoming and inclusive school."

That sense of unity and community is evident when you walk onto the Middle School campus. With its large entry, open corridors, and bright sunlit rooms, the building feels more like a college than a middle school.

"School, at Acacia, is a community through which students, teachers, and parents develop trust, demonstrate cooperation, show respect, and acquire an understanding of the needs of others," Grover David, Director of Afterschool Programs adds. "We have buy-in from the parents. The children who come here are assessed to find out where they're at in terms of grade level. Then, individualized academic plans for curriculum are developed to get them to grade level." Individually targeting the needs of every child is paramount to the Acacia Team.

"All our students who've been with us more than one year are at grade level or above. That is something I want everyone to take pride in – the staff, the parents and the students. We are all one Team with one goal," Dr. Lysco stresses, adding "we want every child to have a choice

for their future and we want to make sure they're ready." In turn, Acacia teaches the children how to overcome a common problem they may have experienced in traditional school; and that problem is low-self-expectation. "Overcoming the mindset of low-expectation is something we address straight on. Parents choose to put their kids here for a reason, because they want their children to understand and internalized that they have the right and ability to expect more from themselves – they have the right to have aspirations and ability to get there by working for it."

The majority of children Acacia come from hardworking families. They may not privileged in the sense of financial wealth. Eighty-two percent of the student body are on free or reduced school lunch; 30% come from bi-lingual homes. But they all are privileged and rich in the commitment and love given to them by their parents and the Team. "We help them navigate the road to success," Lingerfelt states decisively, "and we benefit from an extended school year which benefits all the students immeasurably in our commitment to engaging them for long term success."

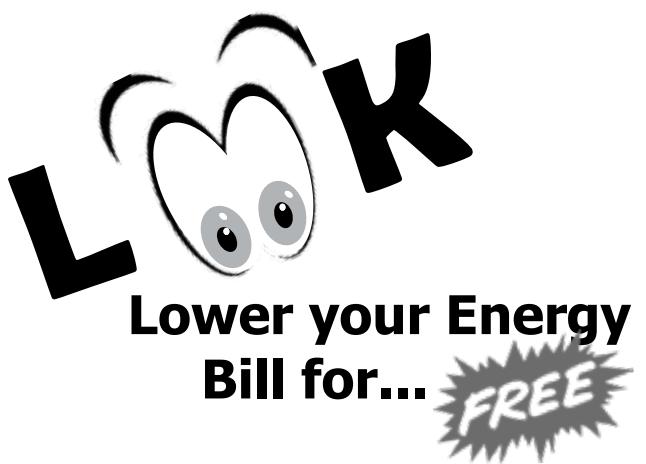
To get the children ready they have an impressive list of programs and partnerships. They become immersed in a college-type of sensibility and develop a high level of critical thinking. "They learn' what is a scholar," David notes, "so therefore they learn 'we walk like scholars.'"

As I wrote earlier, a walk on their campus tells you this is a different kind of school. Included in their curriculum is "Saturday School" which allows the children to practice and learn new technologies they'll need for their futures; building and maintaining a victory garden; a large and growing variety of electives; a partnership/mentoring program with U.C.-Merced; and a partnership with InShape Gyms giving the students access to basketball and tennis courts, and a pool.

Acacia even has bi-lingual parenting classes in Spanish and English so their parents understand and learn what they need to do to help their children succeed. "They weren't brought up knowing what you needed to know to help your child succeed in terms of higher education; what they needed to fulfill their aspirations." So, the parents learn what they needed to know so their children can not only get accepted into a college, but stay there and graduate.

"This is one of the most interesting and exciting career moves I've ever made," Dr. Lysco says smiling. "I'm absolutely thrilled to be part of Acacia – the students and parents are so awesome."

Not all states allow charter schools, and those that do require that certain guidelines be met by the schools. But charter school like Acacia offer a cutting-edge option for education. If you would like to know more about the school, or how to enroll your child, information is available on their website at www.acaciacharter.org (for grades TK-5) and www.acaciacharter.org (for grades 6-8).



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| # People in Home* | Annual Income | Monthly Income |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | \$24,057.24 | \$2,004.77 |
| 2 | \$31,459.56 | \$2,621.63 |
| 3 | \$38,861.76 | \$3,238.48 |
| 4 | \$46,263.96 | \$3,855.33 |

*For households with more than 4 people, please call.



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- Para mas informacion, llame
209-468-0439.

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| # Personas en el hogar* | Ingreso Anual | Ingreso Mensual |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 | \$24,057.24 | \$2,004.77 |
| 2 | \$31,459.56 | \$2,621.63 |
| 3 | \$38,861.76 | \$3,238.48 |
| 4 | \$46,263.96 | \$3,855.33 |

*Para hogares con mas de 4 personas, llame.

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SJC Hispanic Chamber & SBDC Partner to Host 2016 Small Business & Entrepreneurial Expo

Who: San Joaquin County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

What: 2016 Small Business & Entrepreneurial Expo

When: Tuesday, April 26, 2016

1:00 – 5:00 pm

- 1:30 – 2:00pm Workshop: Keys to Running a Successful Small Business

- 2:15 – 3:00pm Workshop: How to Get Financing for Your Small Business

- 3:15 – 4:15pm Panel: Achieving Marketing Effectiveness and Efficiency for Small Business

Where: San Joaquin Delta College-Danner Hall, Stockton, CA

Why: Encouraging small business development and education.

Cost: Free to attend, register online: <https://2016smallbusinessexpo.eventbrite.com>

ing starting a business to learn more about how to access capital, learn how to properly market their business and prepare their businesses for success. Workshop sessions will focus on "How to get financing" and "Achieving marketing effectiveness and efficiency for small business."

Providing information to our members about the many local economic incentive programs that provide low-cost or free capital to businesses in San Joaquin County is a priority for our Chamber. The Small Business & Entrepreneurial Expo will also focus on grass root marketing strategies for small businesses and what aspiring entrepreneurs need to consider when starting a business.

Nate McBride, Director of the SBDC said, "Hosting the event on the campus of San Joaquin Delta College was a fantastic way for us to encourage young entrepreneurs who may be graduating from college and considering starting their own businesses here in Stockton".

San Joaquin Delta College is the premier sponsor for the event and attendees can register for FREE online. Exhibit booths and sponsorships are available by contacting the SJCHCC office. For more information, contact the Chamber office at (209) 943-6117 or visit our website at www.sjchispanicchamber.com.

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Charter

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reconoce que el aprendizaje es la vía de la persona joven para el crecimiento personal; a continuación, la comprensión de la escuela debe ser a la vez desafiante y alegre; y también que la diversidad aporta calidad y fuerza a nuestro acogedor e integrador ambiente de la escuela."

Ese sentido de unidad y comunidad es evidente cuando entras en el campus de la escuela intermedia. Con su gran entrada, pasillos abiertos, y las habitaciones iluminadas por el sol brillante, el edificio se siente más como un colegio que una escuela intermedia. "La escuela, en Acacia, es una comunidad a través de la cual los estudiantes, profesores y padres desarrollan la confianza, demuestran la cooperación, muestran respeto, y adquieren una comprensión de las necesidades de los demás," Grover David, Director de programas después de la escuela agrega. "Tenemos aceptación por parte de los padres. Los niños que vienen aquí son evaluados para averiguar dónde están en términos de nivel de grado. Entonces, planes académicos individualizados para los planes de estudio se han desarrollado para conseguir que lleguen a su nivel de grado." Individualmente atendiendo las necesidades de todos los niños es de suma importancia para el equipo de Acacia.

"Todos nuestros estudiantes que

han estado con nosotros más de un año están a nivel de grado o superior. Eso es algo en que quiero que todos se engullezcan - el personal, los padres y los estudiantes. Todos somos un solo equipo con un único objetivo," la Dra. Lysko destaca, y agregó que "queremos que todos los niños tengan una opción para su futuro y queremos asegurarnos de que estén listos." A su vez, Acacia enseña a los niños cómo superar un problema común que puedan haber experimentado en la escuela tradicional; y que es un problema de baja auto-confianza. "La superación de la mentalidad de baja expectativa es algo que abordamos de frente. Los padres optan de poner a sus hijos aquí por una razón, porque quieren que sus hijos entiendan e interioricen que tienen el derecho y la capacidad de esperar más de ellos mismos - que tienen el derecho a tener aspiraciones y la capacidad de llegar a ello a través del esfuerzo."

La mayoría de los niños Acacia provienen de familias trabajadoras. No serán privilegiadas en el sentido de la riqueza financiera. Ochenta y dos por ciento de los estudiantes reciben almuerzo gratis o reducido en la escuela; 30% provienen de hogares bilingües. Pero todos ellos son privilegiados y ricos en el compromiso y el amor dado a ellos por sus padres y el equipo. "Ayudamos a navegar el camino hacia el éxito," Lingerfelt

afirma con decisión, "y nos beneficiamos de un año escolar extendido que beneficia a todos los estudiantes incommensurablemente en nuestro compromiso de participación para el éxito a largo plazo."

Para preparar a los niños tienen una impresionante lista de programas y asociaciones. Ellos se sumergen en una sensibilidad universitaria y desarrollan un alto nivel de pensamiento crítico. "Aprenden 'lo que es ser sabio,'" señala David, "por lo tanto aprenden que 'caminamos como académicos.'" Como he escrito antes, un paseo en su campus le dice que esto es una escuela diferente. Incluido en su plan de estudios es "Escuela de Sábado" que permite a los niños a practicar y aprender nuevas tecnologías que necesitarán para su futuro; construcción y mantenimiento de un jardín de victoria; una amplia y creciente variedad de clases electivas; un programa de asociación/tutoría con U.C. Merced; y una asociación con los gimnasios InShape que dan a los estudiantes el acceso a canchas de baloncesto y pistas de tenis y una piscina.

Acacia incluso tiene clases para padres bilingües en español e inglés por lo que sus padres entienden y

aprenden lo que necesitan hacer para ayudar a sus hijos a tener éxito. "Ellos no tienen el conocimiento hasta saber lo que necesitan saber para ayudar a su hijo a tener éxito en cuanto a la educación superior; lo que necesitaban para cumplir sus aspiraciones." Por lo tanto, los padres aprenden lo que necesitan saber para que sus hijos no puedan solamente ser aceptados en una universidad, pero permanecer allí y graduarse.

"Este es uno de los más interesantes y emocionantes cambios de carrera que he hecho," la Dra. Lysko dice sonriendo. "Estoy absolutamente encantada de ser parte de Acacia - los estudiantes y los padres son tan impresionantes.

No todos los estados permiten a las escuelas chárter, y los que sí requieren que las escuelas se ajusten a ciertas pautas. Sin embargo, la escuela chárter como Acacia ofrece una opción de vanguardia para la educación. Si desea saber más acerca de la escuela, o cómo inscribir a su hijo, la información está disponible en su página web en www.acacielementary.org (para los grados TK-5) y www.acaciarmiddle.org (para los grados 6-8).

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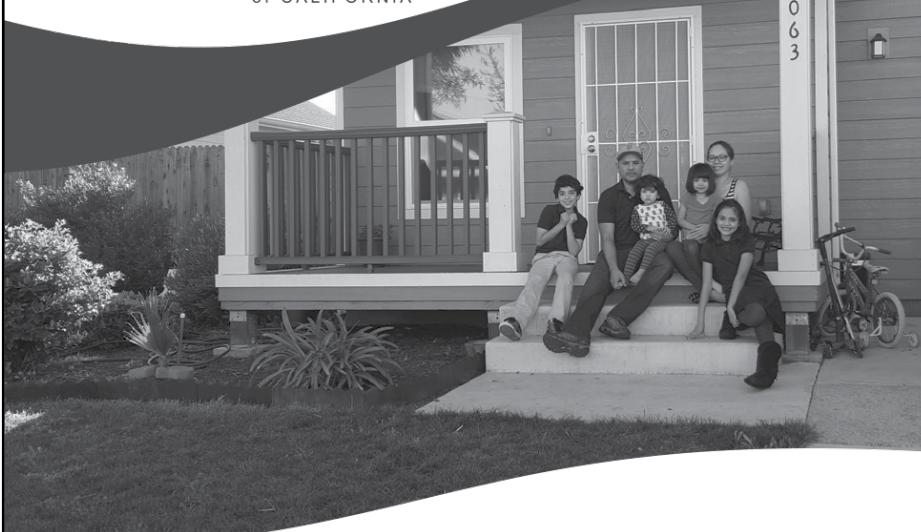


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Millenials

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est source is adult Hispanic immigrants who are in the U.S. legally and decide to become U.S. citizens (i.e., naturalize). Between 2012 and 2016 some 1.2 million will have done so, according to Pew Research Center projections. Another source is the outmigration from Puerto Rico. Since 2012, some 130,000 more Puerto Ricans have left the island than moved there. Florida has been the biggest recipient of these Puerto Rican adult migrants—all of whom are U.S. citizens and eligible to vote in U.S. elections.

The coming of age of young U.S. citizens is also the principal source of growth for white and black eligible voter populations. In the case of whites, some 9.2 million U.S. citizens will turn 18 between 2012 and 2016. Among blacks, 2.3 million young people will have turned 18.

Among Asians, eligible voters coming of age is also important—between 2012 and 2016 some 607,000 will have turned 18. But unlike other groups, naturalizations among Asians are a larger source of eligible voter growth. Some 930,000 Asian immigrants will have become U.S. citizens between 2012 and 2016. As a result, 61% of Asian eligible voters are foreign born.

Youth is a bigger defining characteristic of Hispanic eligible voters than for any other group. In 2016, a projected 11.9 million Hispanic millennials will be eligible to vote, fewer in number than the 42.2 million white millennials who are eligible to vote. But millennials make up a larger share of Hispanic eligible voters than they do among white eligible voters—44% versus 27%. Hispanic millennial eligible voters outnumber those among Asian (2.9 million) and black (9.9 million) eligible voters. Millennials also make up a higher share of Hispanic eligible voters than of Asian or black eligible voters—44% versus 30% and 35%, respectively.¹

Youth has defined the Hispanic electorate for some time. In 2000, 43% of Latino eligible voters were ages 18 to 35 years, similar to their share in 2004, 2008 and 2012, and about the same as their projected share in 2016. By contrast, the white, black and Asian electorates have all grown older, with the share of eligible voters ages 18 to 35 declining 3 percentage points, 4 percentage points and 7 percentage points, respectively, between 2000 and 2016.

Another stable element of the Hispanic electorate has been immigrants. As with youth, the share of immigrants among Hispanic eligible voters has remained steady since 2000 at about one-quarter, even as the number of Hispanic immigrant eligible voters is projected to double, from 3.3 million in 2000 to a projected 6.6 million in 2016. This is in contrast to the trend in the foreign-born share among all Hispanics, which has been in decline since 2000 (Krogstad and Lopez, 2014a), falling from 40% then to 35% in 2013.

Hispanic Electorate Is Growing, but 2016 Impact May Be Limited

The Latino electorate, which has leaned toward the Democratic Party in presidential elections for decades

(Lopez and Taylor, 2012), is one of the nation's most demographically dynamic groups, with a fast-growing population that is increasingly college-educated. Its potential influence in some of the nation's key 2016 battleground states has also grown as the Latino population has become more dispersed nationally and increased in number in some key states.

With this rapid growth, the Latino electorate is projected to make up a record 11.9% of all U.S. eligible voters in 2016 and will pull nearly even with blacks, who will make up 12.4%. As a result, the Latino vote may be poised to have a large impact on the 2016 presidential election. Yet, for many reasons, Latino voters are likely to once again be underrepresented among voters in 2016 compared with their share of eligible voters or their share of the national population.

In 2012, Millennial Hispanics' Turnout Rate Tailed that of Most Other Groups

First, voter turnout rates for Hispanics have been significantly below those of other groups. In 2012, fewer than half (48%) of Hispanic eligible voters cast a ballot (Lopez and Gonzalez-Barrera, 2013). By comparison, 64.1% of whites and 66.6% of blacks voted. (Asians, at 46.9%, had a turnout rate similar to that of Hispanics.) At the same time, due to the group's fast-growing population, the absolute number of Hispanic voters has reached record highs despite a decline in voter turnout between the 2008 and 2012 presidential elections. In 2012, a record 11.2 million Hispanics voted (Lopez and Gonzalez-Barrera, 2013), up from what was a record 9.7 million in 2008 (Lopez and Taylor, 2009). It is possible that a record number of Hispanics could vote in 2016, continuing a pattern of record turnout in presidential elections.

Second, the large share (44%) of millennials among Latino eligible voters, who are less likely to cast a ballot than older voters, could have an impact on voter turnout for all Latinos in 2016. In 2012, just 37.8% of Latino millennials voted, compared with 53.9% among non-millennial Latinos. The voter turnout rate among Latino millennials also trails that of other millennial groups. Some 47.5% of white millennials and 55% of black millennials voted in 2012. Among Asians, 37.3% of millennials voted.

In addition, Latino millennials register to vote at a lower rate than other millennial groups. Half (50%) of Latino millennial eligible voters said they were registered to vote in 2012, compared with 61% among white millennials and 64% among black millennials. Among Asian millennial eligible voters, 48% were registered to vote.

While the Latino voter turnout rate could be lower than expected because of the large share of eligible voters who are millennials, the growing number of U.S. citizen immigrant Latinos may help boost Latino voter turnout rates. In 2012, 53.6% of immigrant Latinos voted, a full 7.5 percentage points higher than the 46.1% voter turnout

rate among U.S.-born Latinos that year (Lopez and Gonzalez-Barrera, 2013). Latino immigrants also voted at a higher rate than U.S.-born Latinos in 2008—54.2% versus 48.4%.

Hispanics Make Up Less Than Two-in-Ten of the Electorate in 13 States Likely to Have Key 2016 RacesA third reason that Latinos may not vote in large numbers relative to their population in the 2016 elections is that few states with large Hispanic populations are likely to be key battlegrounds. In presidential elections, candidates often focus their outreach efforts in these states, raising the chances that a voter may be contacted and possibly turn out to vote. For example, the Latino-rich states of California, Texas and New York are not likely to be presidential tossup states. Together, these three account for 52% of all Latino eligible voters in 2016.

Yet, Florida, Nevada and Colorado are likely to once again be battleground states in the race for president. In each of the three, Hispanics make up more than 14% of eligible voters. But in just about every other state expected to have close presidential races, Hispanics make up less than 5% of all eligible voters.²

Finally, Latinos tend to "punch below their weight" in elections because more than half (52%) of the national Latino population is either too young to vote or does not hold U.S. citizen-

ship. By comparison, just 20% of the nation's white population is not eligible to vote for the same reasons, as is 28% of the black population and 44% of the Asian population.

The Generations Defined

The Millennial Generation

Born: 1981 or later

Age of adults in 2016: 18 to 35

Generation X

Born: 1965 to 1980

Age in 2016: 36 to 51

The Baby Boom Generation

Born: 1946 to 1964

Age in 2016: 52 to 70

The Silent and Greatest generations

Born: 1945 or earlier

Age in 2016: 71 or older

Note: No chronological end point has been set for the millennial generation.

This report explores ways in which the Latino electorate is changing. It also provides a look back at the 2014 midterm election, analyzing record low Latino—and non-Latino—voter turnout rates then.

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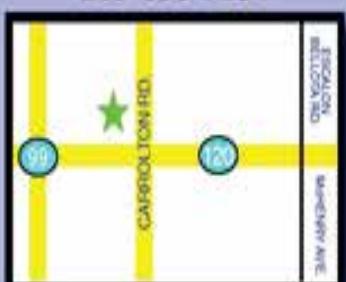


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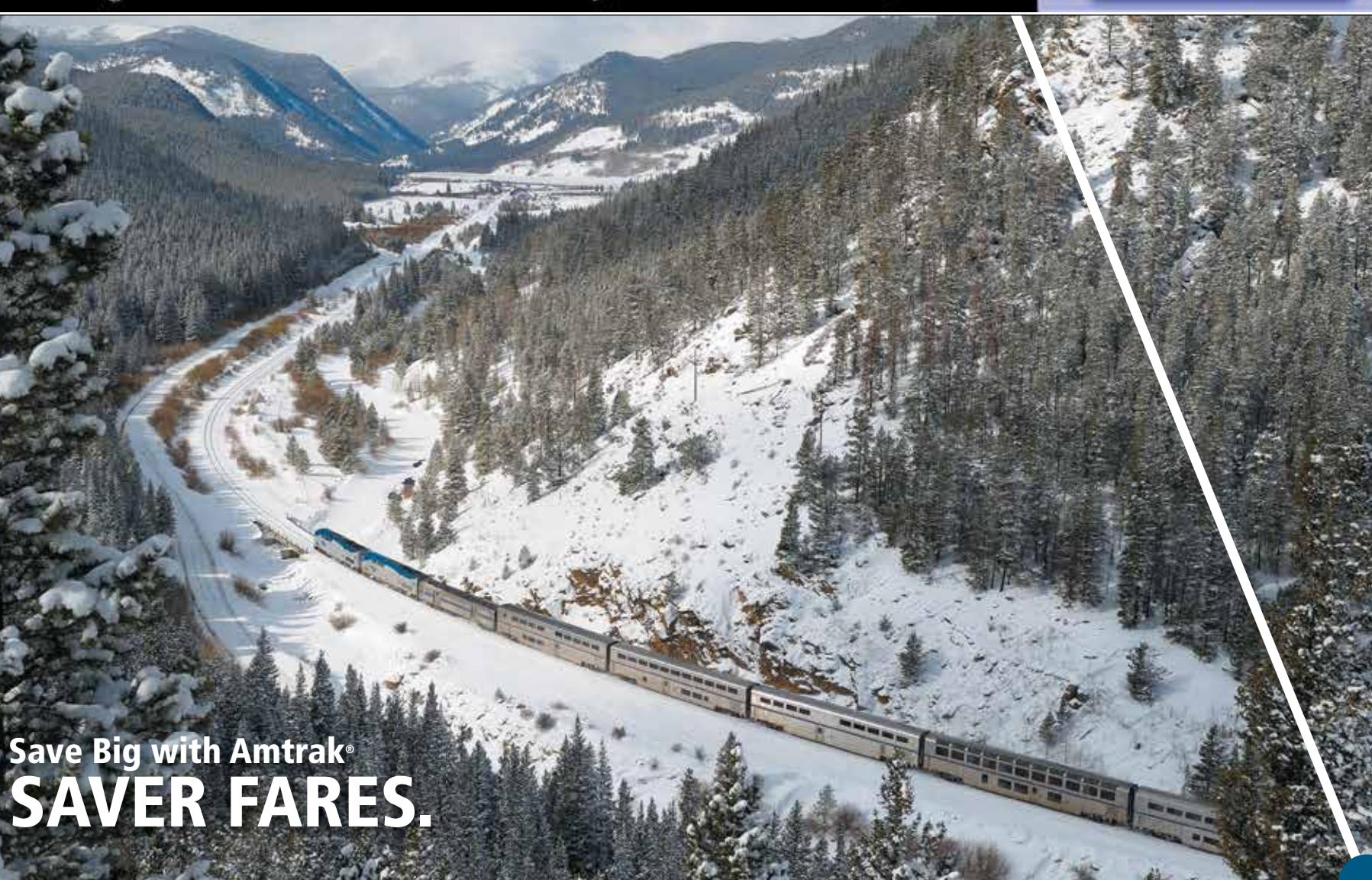


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What Cuba Really Wants From America? Guantanamo

By Louis E. V. Nevaer - NAM

When President Barack Obama left Havana last week, the one thing that was noticeably absent was any discussion of trade. There were many promises of "moving forward" on commercial deals, but promises are not negotiations.

Why isn't Cuba opening up?

Since the Obama administration announced its new policy on December 2014, almost no new economic deals of substance have been made—despite the fact that thousands of American executives and entrepreneurs have made their way to Havana eager to strike a deal.

What's keeping Cuba from moving forward?

In one word: Fear.

Fidel and Raúl Castro are afraid of how history will remember them. They have, of course, long given up the dream of creating a socialist paradise under the tropical sun, although Fidel himself recently blamed the United States for torpedoing his dream of creating socialism in Cuba. He insisted, "We don't need the empire to give us anything."

That dream, to be fair, really died when the Soviet Union dissolved and Moscow's subsidies to the Caribbean island nation ended. That hope was buried along with the passing of Hugo Chávez—and Venezuela's economic lifeline was cut off when the global oil price collapsed.

Agreeing to reestablish diplomatic relations with the U.S. was an act of capitulation—and mounting pressure by the Cuban people, as tens of thousands of them voted with their feet and joined the vilified status as

"exiles" along with millions already living in the Cuban diaspora.

The fear government officials voice is not that the Communist Party will lose its grip on political and economic power one day. The Castro brothers are not blind to the way the world has changed. Communists have been ousted from power in countries around the world. And barring an uprising in which the government collapses, Cuba will reengage with the U.S.—and capitalism—on its own terms.

What concerns the Castro brothers is not the return of capitalism, but their legacy: What will they have left their people?

A hundred years after his death, 19th century liberator and poet José Martí is revered as the father of Cuban independence. A hundred years from now, what will the Cuban people remember of the Castro brothers?

A failed socialist experiment will, a century from now, be seen as an aberration in Cuba's history, hardly a legacy worthy of Fidel and Raúl, men whose egos and vanities rival Donald Trump's.

At this point, there is only one thing that can redeem their time in power: the U.S. relinquishing Guantánamo to Cuban authority.

Cuba's position on Guantánamo is clear: It belongs to Cuba and the U.S. occupation is a violation of



Cuban sovereignty. As recently as 2013 Bruno Rodríguez, Cuba's Foreign Minister condemned the continued U.S. occupation of the base before the United Nations Human Rights Council. He described Guantánamo as "usurped territory," an illegal possession as a consequence of the Spanish-American War of 1898.

It is a matter of pride for every Cuban—whether in Havana or Miami—that, in the same way the U.S. returned the Panama Canal to the Panamanians, the U.S. should now return Guantánamo to the Cuban nation.

That is what Raúl Castro wants—which he reiterated during the joint news conference he held with Presi-

dent Obama in Havana last week.

Americans don't understand how pivotal the return of Guantánamo is in facilitating the "opening" of Cuba. American commentators focus on the embargo—which can only be lifted by an act of a divided Congress, and may only happen well into the administration of Obama's successor.

Lifting the embargo is complicated by the requirement that Cuba compensate U.S. companies and citizens for properties expropriated by the revolutionary government. Adjusted for inflation, this is now estimated to be just under \$8 billion dollars—which Cuba doesn't have.

The realities of the embargo aside,

See CUBA Page 19

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Many Californians Say Health Insurance Cost Too High

By Viji Sundaram - NAM

Two-thirds of Californians who did not have health insurance in 2014 were actually eligible for coverage, but many did not enroll because of the high cost, according to a study out today by the UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research.

"We're a relatively high cost-of-living state," said Miranda Dietz, a researcher at UC Berkeley and the study's lead author, in a press release. "It's no wonder some Californians, who may be unaware they qualify for health subsidies [on the marketplace exchange called Covered California] and other programs, still find the cost of health insurance out of reach."

"Few people who are already stretched paying their rent, filling the car to get to work and feeding the kids, figuring out how to come up with more money for health care on top of that is

a lot to handle."

The researchers based their findings on data from the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) of 2014, the most recent CHIS data available.

While President Obama's 2010 Affordable Care Act (ACA) allowed millions of Californians access to health care by allowing them to purchase insurance on the online marketplace exchange or by enrolling in Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California), the ACA was placed off limits to those who were not legal residents.

Nearly one-third of the almost 1 million Californians who do not qualify for health coverage under the ACA are predominantly low-income, Latino and have limited English proficiency, the study showed.

Nearly half of the state's so-called "remaining uninsured" – about 2.2 million of them -- said that cost was the main reason for not having



health insurance.

UCLA researcher Nadereh Pourat, who co-authored the new study, said that many just don't understand how to get health insurance.

"You almost need a degree to understand health insurance coverage," she said.

Another finding that emerged from the study was that young males were more likely to be uninsured and that could be because they were in low-paying jobs or haven't been on the workforce for very long, Pourat said. They were more likely to think of themselves as "young invincibles" than their female counterparts.

Pourat said California should take steps, which includes doing more outreach, to ensure that all of its residents have health insurance. The new study should give policy makers a "good baseline to start from."

The "hundreds of thousands of men, women and children who power California's economy" face potential financial ruin because they do not have health insurance, she said.

"From an economic perspective," she said, "it's bad business to rely on workers and then not to offer them equal health protection. And from a humanitarian perspective, it's just wrong."



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An Important Message from Austin G Erdman Registrar of Voters

As the Registrar of Voters, I want to make sure that every registered voter in San Joaquin County and California has the opportunity to vote in this primary on a ballot of their choice.

If you are registered with a specific party, you'll either receive your ballot in the mail or you'll go to your polling place where you will receive your ballot.

Presidential candidates appear only on the ballots of their specific party. Non-partisan ballots do not

contain the Presidential Primary race. If you are registered with NO PARTY PREFERENCE you have a few options:

1. You can vote a non-partisan ballot, which will not have a Presidential primary race on the ballot.

2. If you wish to vote for a Presidential candidate, you can request a "cross-over" ballot for one of the three parties in this election that allow "no party preference" voters to vote on their party ballot. These parties are the American Independent,

Democratic, or Libertarian party. If you make this request, you do not change your registration as a No Party Preference voter.

3. If you are registered as a "No Party Preference" and want to vote a Green, Peace & Freedom, or Republican Party ballot you must re-register to vote and specify a new party preference. You can re-register online at www.registertovote.ca.gov, but you must re-register on or before May 23, 2016.

We want to inform all No Party Preference voters who wish to vote

for a presidential candidate, that they may need either to request a ballot from one of the 3 qualified parties that allow cross-over voters, or they may need to re-register to vote with another party. In either case, you need to take an action, and we wanted to inform you about this important issue.

If you have any questions, please call our office at 209-468-2890.

Thank you.
Austin G. Erdman
Registrar of Voters

Un Mensaje Importante del Registrador de los Votantes Austin G Erdman

Como Registrador de los Votantes, deseo asegurarme que cada votante inscrito en el Condado de San Joaquin y en California tenga la oportunidad de votar en estas primarias en una boleta electoral de su elección.

Si usted está inscrito con un partido específico, recibirá su boleta electoral por correo o deberá ir a su centro electoral para recibirla.

Los candidatos a Presidente aparecen solamente en las boletas de su partido específico. Las boletas electorales no partidarias no contienen la contienda Presidencial Primaria.

Si usted está inscrito SIN PREFERENCIA PARTIDARIA tiene algunas opciones:

1. Puede votar una boleta no partidaria, que no contendrá una contienda

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2. Si desea votar por un candidato a Presidente, puede solicitar una boleta para "votación cruzada" de uno de los tres partidos en esta elección que permiten que los votantes "sin preferencia partidaria" voten en la boleta electoral de su partido. Estos partidos son Independiente Americano, Demócrata o Libertario. Al solicitar esto, su inscripción como votante Sin Preferencia Partidaria (NPP) no cambia.

3. Si usted está inscrito "Sin Partido de Preferencia" y desea votar una boleta del Partido Verde, Paz y Libertad o Republicano, debe reinscribirse para votar y especificar una nueva preferencia partidaria. Puede reinscribirse en línea en www.registertovote.ca.gov, y debe hacerlo el 23 de mayo

de 2016 inclusive o antes.

Deseamos informar a todos los votantes Sin Preferencia Partidaria que desean votar por un candidato a Presidente, que tal vez deban solicitar una de las 3 boletas de los partidos calificados que permiten votantes con votación cruzada, o que tal vez deban reinscribirse para votar con otro partido. En cualquiera de los casos, usted debe actuar, y deseamos informarle acerca de este tema importante.

Si tiene alguna pregunta, por favor, llame a nuestra oficina al 209-468-2890.

Gracias.

Austin G. Erdman
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Ted Cruz Calls On Law Enforcement to Patrol “Muslim Neighborhoods”

By Ali Harb - NAM

WASHINGTON — Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz called on law enforcement agents to “patrol and secure” Muslim neighborhoods after the Brussels bombings that claimed more than 30 lives on Tuesday morning.

Cruz, the second-placed presidential hopeful in the GOP race, also urged rejecting refugees from countries with significant al-Qaeda or ISIS presence.

ISIS claimed responsibility for the attacks. The senator from Texas was quick to blame the blasts on “Islamic terrorists.”

He said Europe is now witnessing the results of a “toxic mix of migrants” who have been infiltrated by terrorists.

“We need to empower law enforcement to patrol and secure Muslim neighborhoods before they become radicalized,” Cruz said in a press release.

In a separate statement, he said the United States is at war with radical Islam.

It is not clear what Cruz meant by “Muslim neighborhoods.” Michigan cities, Dearborn and Hamtramck, have a high concentration of Muslim Americans, but they are governed by local, state and federal laws.

Both communities have police departments that maintain law and order in the neighborhoods.

Muslim American activist Shaffwan Ahmed slammed Cruz, saying the senator is taking a page from Donald Trump’s playbook to appeal to bigots.

“I’m absolutely disgusted that Ted Cruz chose this attack as an opportunity for voter pandering,” Ahmed said. “He went and vilified an innocent community in America that had nothing to do with the attack in Brussels.”

Community activist Asha Noor said although what Cruz is calling for concerning, it is already happening. Noor said the federal government is monitoring Muslim communities through programs like Countering Violent Extremism.

“We already have CVE programs in Boston, Los Angeles and Minneapolis. They’re planning to expand in several parts of the country,” she said. “There’s already increased surveillance in Muslim communities, whether they say there is or not.”

But Noor criticized Cruz for capi-



talizing politically on the tragedy in Belgium.

“It is a justification of increasing state security, violence and infringement on our civil liberties and Constitutional rights,” she said.

The activist cited a recent study by the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, saying that mosque attendance is linked to greater civic engagement, not extremism.

According to the survey, Muslims who regularly attend mosques are more likely to vote and cooperate with their neighbors to address community

issues.

“This completely dispels the myth that Islam leads to radicalization,” Noor said.

Dearborn state rep. candidate Brian Stone encouraged denouncing and challenging statements that smear Muslim Americans, saying such rhetoric encourages hate crimes.

“The only extra security we need in Dearborn is to protect Muslim Americans from Trump and Cruz supporters,” he said. “Dearborn is a model the rest of America should be following, not fearing.”



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PG&E Warns Customers of Increased Scams During Tax and Election Season

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) warns its customers to protect themselves, their families and businesses by increasing their awareness of potential online and in-person scams. According to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the nation's leading credit rating agencies, scammers take advantage of tax and election season to trick Californians into giving up their personal and financial information. The IRS has seen an approximate 400 percent surge in phishing and malware incidents so far in the 2016 tax season.

Here in California, recent scams have involved imposters posing as PG&E employees, including:

- In-person scammers pretending to be PG&E utility workers and going door-to-door in PG&E's service territory in order to gain entry to homes.
- Email scammers sending "phishing" emails to PG&E customers, asking them to make a payment online.
- Phone scammers posing as PG&E customer service representatives and asking for payment information over the phone.

In all cases, PG&E actively works with law enforcement to help stop any scam impacting customers. Anyone who has received a call, email or visit from imposters claiming to be PG&E employees can report it immediately by calling PG&E at 1-800-PGE-5000.

"Scams of all kinds abound during tax and election season, from people going door-to-door with fake petitions

to email scammers sending out messages with false tax refund documents. At PG&E, safety and security is our top priority, and we want to ensure our customers know how to recognize a legitimate PG&E contact. Awareness is the best defense, so we are asking our customers to stay alert and contact us if anything seems suspicious," said Laurie Giammona, Senior Vice President and Chief Customer Officer.

Stop Scammers in Their Tracks

PG&E offers the following tips to help protect customers from scams:

- Always ask for identification before allowing anyone claiming to be a PG&E representative inside your home. PG&E employees always carry their identification and are always willing to show it to you.
 - Remember that if you have an appointment with PG&E, you will receive an automated call within 48 hours prior to a scheduled visit, or a personal call from a PG&E gas service representative prior to a scheduled visit.
 - PG&E's Credit Department will not ask for personal information or a credit card number over the phone.
 - If you have concerns about the legitimacy of a phone call about a past due bill, a service request or a request for personal information, hang up and call PG&E at 1-800-PGE-5000.
 - Be cautious if you receive an unexpected email that claims to be from PG&E. Do not click on any links or provide any personal information, and call 1-800-PGE-5000 instead.
- "Online scammers are getting more

and more sophisticated every day. From phishing emails to fake postings on social media, cyber-criminals are constantly finding new ways to separate us from our personal information. At PG&E, we're asking our customers to practice

good cyber-awareness and to call us directly if they receive any suspicious online communications claiming to be from PG&E," said Karen Austin, Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer.

DSA partners with city for "Big Read"

STOCKTON (MARCH 3, 2016)

To promote literacy in Stockton in a vast, immense, colossal, considerable, massive, and gigantic great big way, Downtown Stockton Alliance (DSA) partnered with the City of Stockton and the Stockton San Joaquin County Public Library to create the Great Big Read.

The outdoor event will take place on Saturday, April 30, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at Janet Leigh Plaza in front of the downtown movie theater. It will be a free event open to public.

"We will take over the plaza with a wide-range of events and activities to promote not only reading, but writing and the performing arts, all in a fun and playful environment," enthused Emily Oestreicher, the DSA's Special Events Manager.

Among the activities planned for that day there will be book donations and/or giveaways, poetry readings, musical and dance performances from local children's organizations, and a library card sign-up station. The plaza will be divided into several activity zones such as a children's book swap corner, a performance stage, or a crafts



area. There will be also healthy snacks for participants. The first fifty people to donate a children's book will receive a free Great Big Read book bag.

To find out more about this and other Downtown Stockton Alliance's events, call Emily Oestreicher at 209-888-8624 or Sylvia Qualls at 209-888-8626.

More information about the Downtown Stockton Alliance can be found at www.DowntownStockton.org.

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Head Start Preschools Open for Business at Stockton Unified Schools

Stockton Unified School District (SUSD) and the San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) are pleased to announce the opening of nine Head Start preschool locations in Stockton that will provide 3- and 4-year-olds the skills needed to enter kindergarten and ultimately prepare them for success later in life.

The new preschool classes are part of Head Start San Joaquin, the SJCOE program that provides Head Start and Early Head Start Services through partners such as SUSD.

"Stockton Unified partnering with the SJCOE to provide Head Start preschool services sends a clear message to the community that children are valued during the most influential time of their development," SUSD Early Childhood Education Administrator Debra Keller said.

Head Start and Early Head Start supports families while educating children and fostering their mental, social, physical, and emotional development from birth through age 5.

Early education and other supportive services are investments in a child's future that bring proven returns. Studies have found that children who attend preschools such as Head Start are more likely to complete high school and attend college and less likely to be arrested or charged with a crime. Federally funded Head Start programs have operated nationwide and in San Joaquin County for about 50 years.

Head Start San Joaquin has been op-

erating in San Joaquin County since the SJCOE was first awarded a \$21 million federal grant to provide Head Start and Early Head Start services last July. Sites will continue to become available as partners hire staff and obtain licensing from the state to open each facility. In total, Head Start San Joaquin will serve 2,029 children aged 3 to 5. It will also offer 152 slots for children from birth to age 3 and pregnant women through Early Head Start.

As the grantee agency, the SJCOE is operating Head Start San Joaquin with a coalition of partners with unique expertise and long histories of service to the community. In addition to SUSD, SJCOE is also collaborating with: Child Abuse Prevention Council of San Joaquin County, Creative Child Care, Inc., Lodi Unified School District, and Family Resource & Referral Center.

This unique model utilizes the strengths of community agencies and school districts promoting a smooth transition into kindergarten. In addition, as a county office, SJCOE has existing relationships with all districts and other community agencies, which means support for all Head Start families related to health and social services.

For more information on which Head Start and Early Head Start schools and services are open, please go to <http://sjcoe.org/headstart>. To learn more about how to apply for Head Start and Early Head Start in San Joaquin County, call (209) 461-2970 for more information.



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EL CONCILIO WELCOMES NEW BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEMBER JOHN FREEMAN JR



El Concilio is pleased to announce our newest Board of Director member, Mr. John Freeman Jr. Mr. Freeman is the California Water Service Company District Manager. He was born and raised in Stockton, Ca. and for the past 29 years has been working in the water industry with 19 years in management. Mr. Freeman oversees 65 water professionals who provide water utility services to 220,000 customers in Stockton and Dixon Districts.

Over the years Mr. Freeman has support El Concilio and its commitment to providing services to the Hispanic community in the Central Valley. His breadth of experience, passion for excellence and long history of commitment to addressing issues of concern in the community will help us ensure El Concilio's continued growth. "We are proud to have him as our newest Board of Director member and feel very fortunate to have such a dynamic and respected community leader. He is the kind of leader we need working with us not only for the future of this organization, but also for the future of the Latino community," stated Jose R. Rodriguez.

CALIFORNIA ENDOWMENT AWARDS EL CONCILIO \$100,000 TO IMPROVE HEALTH ACCESS IN SAN JOAQUIN AND STANISLAUS COUNTIES

The California Endowment announced today that they have awarded El Concilio/Council for the Spanish Speaking a \$100,000 grant to improve access to health for immigrant families with children newly eligible for full Medi-Cal coverage.

EL Concilio will use the funding to provide outreach and education and enrollment assistance in San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties to increase the awareness among immigrant families of the importance of health benefits of enrolling uninsured children and maintaining health coverage

through Medi-Cal. "EL Concilio is pleased to have received this grant from the California Endowment to help us in our efforts to increase health access to immigrant families in the Central Valley" stated Jose R. Rodriguez, President and CEO of El Concilio. We appreciate the Endowment recognizing our work and supporting us with this critical funding.

Thanks to the Endowment more families will be assisted in the Central Valley.

Please contact us for media availability.

Cuba

continued from Page 11

Americans believe "change" is imminent.

In fact, expectations that Cuba's economic opening is "imminent"—which is why Americans are flocking to visit Cuba before Starbucks and McDonald's and Wal-Mart and the Gap show up—are misplaced. It will be years before any of this happens.

Thousands of Americans who have traveled to Cuba with the expectation of getting in on the ground floor of the island nation's opening have not made any deals.

The Cuban government is content with making money from tourism—and perhaps importing consumer goods, which it currently does—from Cancún. Indeed, several flights depart Cancún bound for Havana with air conditioners, microwaves, electronics,

automotive parts and all manner of other items bought at such American stores as Sam's Club, Costco and Pep Boys. It's a trickle, but it's all the Cuban government is prepared to allow for the time being.

If the U.S. wants to see a McDonald's a block from its embassy on the seaside Malecón and have a Starbucks for embassy personnel around the corner, then it must make sure that Fidel and Raúl are able to give the Cuban people something that will redeem their decades of failed rule.

Making Cuba whole means the return of Guantánamo.

Only then will Raúl agree to an economic opening as the U.S. wants it: by establishing private property and allowing U.S. companies to wholly own their investments in Cuba.



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Women's Center-YFS Asks Community to Wear Denim for a Cause

Stockton- As part of the Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Women's Center-YFS is asking people to break the silence – and normal dress code – on Wednesday, April 27, 2016 and wear denim to work.

Community members, elected officials, and employees of local businesses and organizations are asked to make a social statement by wearing jeans and a Denim Day San Joaquin sticker on April 27, and donating \$5 to benefit Women's Center-YFS' services for victims of sexual assault.

"By wearing jeans on April 27, people are taking a stand against sexual violence in our community. They are showing that they support survivors and they won't tolerate violence and victim-blaming. It's a very powerful statement that helps change attitudes and lets victims know they are not alone," said Joelle, Gomez, Chief Executive Officer of Women's Center-Youth & Family Services.

The Denim Day campaign was originally triggered by a ruling by the Italian Supreme Court where a rape conviction was overturned because the justices felt that since the victim was wearing tight jeans she must have helped her rapist remove her jeans, thereby implying consent. The following day, the women in the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the vic-

tim. Since then, wearing jeans on Denim Day has become a symbol of protest against destructive attitudes about sexual assault.

Groups interested in participating can request Denim Day San Joaquin stickers and denim ribbons through Women's Center-YFS. Denim Day participants are encouraged to take photos wearing their jeans and share them on Facebook and Twitter on April 27, using #DenimDay-SJC. For information on Denim Day, and to sign up and request Denim Day supplies, please call 209-941-2611 or visit www.womenscenterysfs.org.

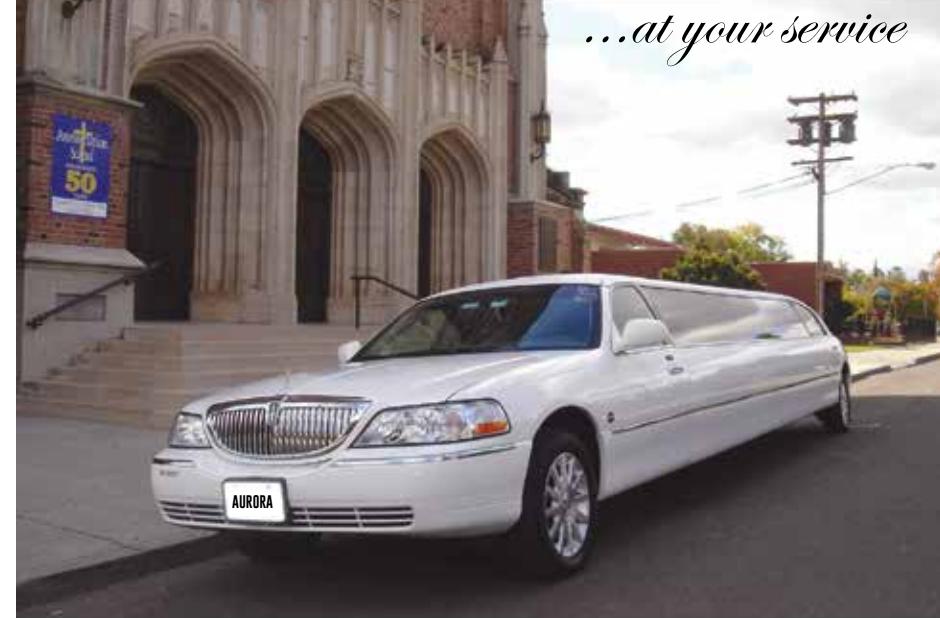
Women's Center-YFS is San Joaquin County's only provider of free, confidential shelter and services specifically designed to meet the needs of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and homeless and runaway youth. Each year the agency serves more than 20,000 individuals through its direct services and community outreach, including more than 700 women, children and youth who stay in its shelters annually.

The mission of Women's Center-Youth & Family Services is to build a stronger community by fostering the strengths in individuals and by acting as a catalyst to end violence and youth homelessness. For more information about Women's Center-YFS and its programs and services, please visit

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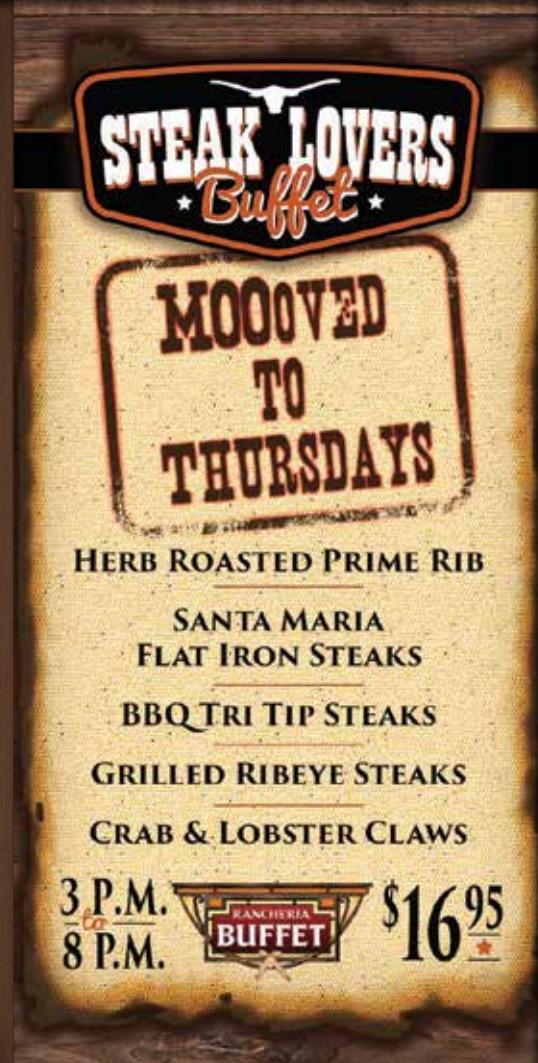


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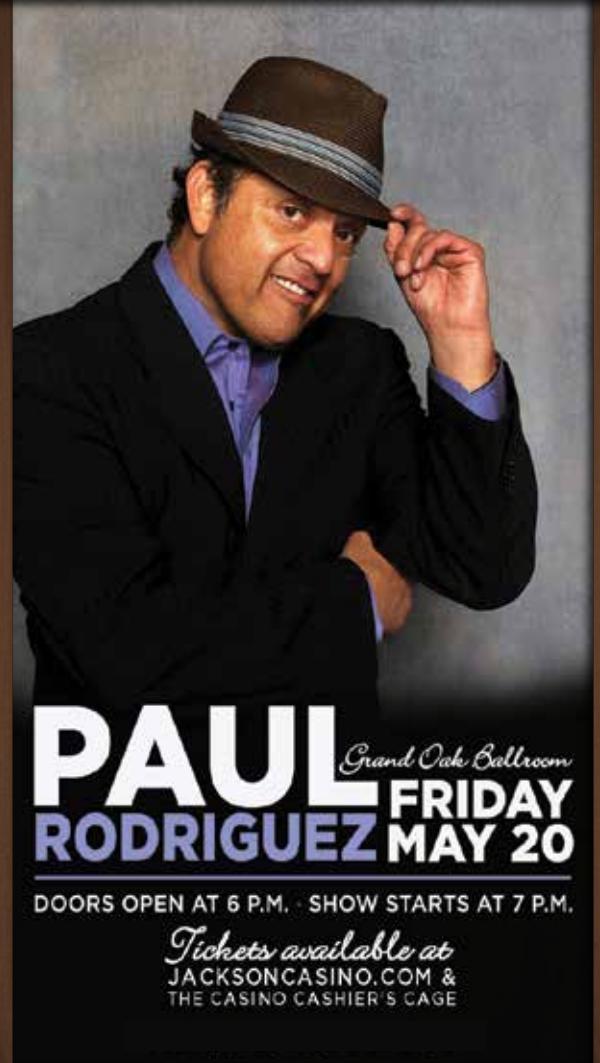
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