

# Latino Times

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## Latino Times Celebrates 15th Anniversary

*"Sole Survivor" of locally-owned Latino newspapers*

By Rhashad R. Pittman

Locally-owned Latino newspapers in San Joaquin County have folded one by one in the past decade, victims of a dying newspaper industry. Yet one has remained.

The Latino Times continues to stand tall as the "sole survivor" of a half dozen or so Spanish and bilingual publications that have existed in the area over the past few years.

Today the Latino Times is the only newspaper in the region geared toward the Latino community that is locally owned. The print edition of the monthly publication is distributed to 900 drop off locations in the valley. Its circulation has grown to over 60,000 both in print and electronically, reaching readers from Sacramento to Modesto.

The New Year marks the 15th year that the Latino Times has been in print.

"When I started there were seven newspapers," said Publisher and CEO Andrew Ysiano. "Now there's only one."

As the "sole survivor," Ysiano attri-



**TOP:** Andrew Ysiano, Publisher/Founder and Judy Quintana, Vice President-Co-Editor.

**RIGHT:** This was the original logo for Latino Times.



he said.

In recent years, the bilingual newspaper has placed an emphasis on the newspaper's electronic version, website,

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## Latino Times Celebra su 15o Aniversario

*El "único sobreviviente" de periódicos latinos de propietarios locales*

Por Rhashad R. Pittman

Los periódicos latinos de propietarios locales en el Condado de San Joaquin han quedado en quiebra uno por uno en la última década, las víctimas de un sector de la prensa que se está desapareciendo. Sin embargo, queda sólo uno.

El periódico Latino Times sigue de pie como el "único sobreviviente" de una media docena de publicaciones en español y bilingües que ha existido en la zona en los últimos años.

Hoy en día Latino Times es el único periódico en la región dirigido a la comunidad latina que es de propiedad local. La edición impresa de la publicación mensual se distribuye a 900 ubicaciones en el valle. Su circulación ha crecido a más de 60,000, tanto en forma impresa y electrónica, alcanzando los lectores de Sacramento a Modesto. Este Año Nuevo se celebra el decimoquinto año que Latino Times ha sido publicado.

"Cuando empecé había siete periódicos," dijo el editor y CEO Andrew Ysiano. "Ahora sólo hay uno."

A medida que es el "único sobreviviente," Ysiano atribuye el éxito de la publicación a sus fieles lectores y anunciantes, así como el enfoque de la publicación sobre temas de la comunidad. "Su creencia en nosotros, su creencia de que podemos entregar su mensaje a la demográfica más grande en el Valle Central ha sido fundamental para nuestro éxito," dijo.

En los últimos años, el periódico bilingüe ha puesto énfasis en la versión del diario electrónico, su sitio web, medios de comunicación social y correos electrónicos masivos. La incorporación de la tecnología y de diversos medios de comunicación en su modelo de negocio es clave para el éxito de Latinos Times, dijo Ysiano. En los próximos meses, Latino Times estará disponible como una aplicación para aparatos móviles.

El Colegio Humphreys ha estado anunciando con Latino Times por muchos años, señaló Santa López-Minatre, Directora de Admisiones, en el colegio y Laurence Drivon Facultad de Derecho.

"Siempre puedo contar con ellos para facilitar la información precisa y

al día de lo que Humphreys tiene que ofrecer y nuestra participación en la comunidad," dijo López-Minatre. "Ha sido un placer trabajar con Andrew, el editor y el resto del personal, que han sido siempre solidarios y serviciales. Esperamos con interés trabajar con Latino Times por muchos años más."

Ysiano estableció Latino Times en marzo de 2001 como un periódico trimestral con 4,000 lectores. En ese momento había una necesidad de un periódico local dirigido a los latinos que se podía leer en inglés y en español, dijo. Los periódicos latinos que existían eran sólo en español, lo cual excluía una parte significativa de la población latina que sólo podía leer inglés.

Latino Times presenta historias nacionales y locales sobre una variedad de temas, incluyendo la inmigración, la salud, el mercado local de bienes raíces, negocios latinos locales, la educación y la política. La cobertura también pone énfasis en el trabajo de las organizaciones no lucrativas locales en la zona.

Además de ofrecer las noticias, Latino Times continúa asociándose con

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# Could 2015 See Health Care Expanded for All Californians?

**Anna Challet - NAM**

Anthony Wright, one of California's leading proponents of health care access, says the window is open in the coming year for an historic expansion of health care to all of the state's residents.

The reason, he says, is not only Obama's executive action on immigration, which puts over 1.5 million Californians within reach of temporary legal status – and therefore in reach of Medi-Cal coverage if they meet the income requirements. There's also growing support in the state legislature for the 'Health For All' bill (SB 4) introduced by Senator Ricardo Lara (D-Los Angeles), which would expand health care access to the state's undocumented population.

One key indicator will come as early as the second week of January, when Governor Brown is expected to comment on the issue when he releases his budget.

"We have an opportunity to win – not in the far future, but in the next year – a major expansion of [health] coverage," says Wright, the executive director

of Health Access California, a statewide health care advocacy organization.

"Because of the president's immigration action, because of the new leadership in the state legislature, we have a window to do something on the issue of covering everybody," he says – putting California ahead of the rest of the country in broad access to health care.

"We have about a quarter of the country's undocumented population in our state alone, and half of them could stand to benefit from [the executive action]," said Sally Kinoshita, the deputy director of the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, speaking on a panel with Wright to a group of ethnic media journalists in San Francisco.

Even though the undocumented are still excluded from federally funded health care, under current state policy in California, the individuals with temporary legal status would qualify for state-funded Medi-Cal if they meet the program's income requirements.

One thing could throw a wrench



into the gears, though – the governor's fiscal conservatism. The Brown administration could very well hit the brakes on extending coverage to people who benefit from the executive action, giving them temporary legal status.

"The president did not expand health coverage nationally, but the implication of his actions is that California now has a broader, more inclusive Medicaid program for hundreds of thousands more folks. This is the view of the county welfare directors,

numerous immigration attorneys, [virtually] everybody who's looked at this issue," says Wright. "The one person who has not commented on this is Governor Brown."

The governor is expected to comment sometime around January 8, according to Wright.

"Let me be clear – he would have to proactively undo [existing] policy in order for this not to go forward," says Wright. "This is the policy as we

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## Anniversary

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social media outlets, and email blasts. Incorporating technology and various communication mediums in its business model is key to the Latino Times success, Ysiano said. In the next few months, the Latino Times will be available as an app for mobile devices. Humphreys College has been advertising with Latino Times for many years, noted Santa Lopez-Minatre, Director of Admissions, at Humphreys College & Laurence Drivon School of Law. "I can always depend on them to facilitate accurate and up-to-date information of what Humphreys has to offer and our participation in the community," Lopez-Minatre said. "It has been a pleasure working with Andrew, the Publisher, and the rest of the staff, who have been

consistently supportive and accommodating. We look forward to working with Latino Times for many more years to come."

Ysiano established the Latino Times in March 2001 as a quarterly newspaper with 4,000 readers. At the time there was a need for a local newspaper geared toward Latinos that could be read in English and Spanish, he said. The Latino newspapers that existed were only in Spanish, excluding a significant portion of the Latino population that could only read English.

The Latino Times features both national and local stories on a range of topics, including immigration, healthcare, the local real estate market, local Latino businesses, education and politics. The

coverage also places an emphasis on the work of local nonprofits in the area.

In addition to providing the news, the Latino Times continues to partner with local non-profit organizations as a community leader for local philanthropic efforts.

"Andrew and his staff have always supported the community and has contributed greatly with informative publishing," said Steve Kubitz, Managing Partner at Big Valley Ford Lincoln. Brenna Butler Garcia, CEO of the San Joaquin County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, called the Latino Times one of the "area's premier bilingual publications" and noted that the newspaper has been devoted to highlighting positive news in the Hispanic community.

"As a member for over ten years, the Latino Times has been an instrumental voice in promoting the Latino business community in the San Joaquin region,"

To celebrate its continued presence in the community, the Latino Times will hold a celebration in April. In the meantime, Ysiano said he wanted to give "Special thanks to the advertisers and readers for their loyalty to small business and print publications."

He also wanted to give recognition to his staff, which includes Judy Quintana (Vice President and Co-Editor), Dee Fanucchi (Director of Marketing), Jim Oliver (Graphic Designer), Monica Andeola (Photographer), Rhashad Pittman (Contributing Writer), Betty Ramirez (Account Executive), Lorena Becerra (Translator) and Bill Repinski and Richard Ysiano (Circulation).

"I want to especially thank Judy Quintana, who joined me over 10 years ago, for her continued commitment and support," Ysiano said. "She's one of the key players who help keep the Latino Times circulating."

## Aniversario

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organizaciones sin fines de lucro locales como un líder de la comunidad de esfuerzos filantrópicos locales.

"Andrew y su personal siempre ha apoyado a la comunidad y ha contribuido en gran medida con la publicación informativa," dijo Steve Kubitz, socio director de Big Valley Ford Lincoln.

Brenna Butler García, directora

general de la Cámara de Comercio Hispana del Condado de San Joaquin, llamó Latino Times, una de "las publicaciones bilingües de primer nivel de la zona" y señaló que el periódico se ha dedicado a dar mérito a las noticias positivas en la comunidad hispana. "Como miembro durante más de diez años, Latino Times ha sido una voz fundamental en la promoción de la co-

munidad empresarial latina en la región de San Joaquin."

Para celebrar su continua presencia en la comunidad, Latino Times, tendrá una celebración en abril. Mientras tanto, Ysiano dijo que quería dar "Un agradecimiento especial a los anunciantes y lectores por su lealtad a las pequeñas empresas y las publicaciones impresas."

También quería dar un reconocimiento a su personal, el cual incluye Judy Quintana (Vicepresidente y Co-Editor), Dee Fanucchi (Director de

Marketing), Jim Oliver (Diseñador Gráfico), Mónica Andeola (Fotógrafa), Rhashad Pittman (Escritor Contribuyente), Betty Ramirez (Ejecutiva de Cuentas), Lorena Becerra (Traductora) y Bill Repinski y Richard Ysiano (Circulación).

"Quiero agradecer especialmente a Judy Quintana, quien se unió al periódico hace más de 10 años, por su continuo compromiso y apoyo," dijo Ysiano. "Es una de las personas claves que ayudan a mantener el Latino Times en circulación."

# National Kidney Foundation Offers Free Kidney Screening

(Stockton, CA- If you have diabetes, high blood pressure, a family history of kidney failure, or are over the age of 60, you are at risk and should have your kidneys checked.

The National Kidney Foundation's KEEP Healthy program is made possible by a generous grant from Satellite Healthcare. It will take place on

Saturday, January 24th, at the Eastside Church of God in Christ (3206 E Marsh Street, Stockton, CA 95205) from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

All KEEP Healthy participants will answer a brief health-risk survey and have their height, weight and blood pressure measured. At-risk individuals will have their kidney health checked

through a simple, onsite, urine test (ACR). The ACR test can identify protein in the urine, which is often the first sign of kidney disease. Free educational materials will be provided and a medical professional will review results and answer questions from participants. Must be 18 years of age or older to participate.

One in nine Americans has kidney

disease and most don't know it. If you have diabetes, high blood pressure, a family history of kidney failure, or are over the age of 60, you are at risk and should have your kidneys checked.

Participants must pre-register for KEEP Healthy by contacting the National Kidney Foundation at 888-427-5653 or email Heidi.chan@kidney.org.

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## CAL WATER CONTRIBUTES MORE THAN \$550,000 TO LOCAL CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS IN 2014

SAN JOSE, Calif. – As part of its commitment to improving the quality of life in the communities it serves, California Water Service Group (Group) (NYSE: CWT) ended 2014 with donations of \$552,017 made throughout the year to charitable organizations in its California, Washington, Hawaii, and New Mexico service areas.

According to Martin A. Kropelnicki, President and CEO, these contributions were donated by the company's shareholders and not paid for by ratepayers.

Among its donations, California Water Service Company (Cal Water), the Group's largest subsidiary, contributed \$136,750 to local charitable organizations over Thanksgiving as part of the company's annual Operation Gobble program to help provide holiday meals and assistance to residents. The contributions also included \$12,000 to renovate and reopen four parks in Cal Water's Marysville District; donations to help families start over after a trailer park fire destroyed five residences in the King City District; and Toys "R" Us gift cards after clothes and toys for 100 needy families were stolen from the Yuba-Sutter Salvation Army.

Cal Water continued its support for a number of other charities, including the United Way of San Joaquin County, Elite Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Network,

Selma Cancer Support, and Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, among others.

Hawaii Water Service Company made donations to the Maui Food Bank and the Food Basket, while New Mexico Water Service Company supported the Belen Area Food Pantry. Washington Water Service Company annually supports the Permission to Start Dreaming Foundation, which sponsors an event called Race for a Soldier and supports organizations that help soldiers recover from war and readjust to life back home. “With these donations, we hope that these service organizations are able to mentor more children, shelter more of the homeless population, feed more needy, and ultimately make our communities a better place to live,” Kropelnicki said. “Our shareholders appreciate the hard-working people we serve, and every year, we look forward to finding the right opportunities to give back.”

In 2014, shareholders also established a \$100,000 Cal Water Cares Grant Program, which provides eligible customers facing hardships with assistance of up to \$200 to help pay their water utility bill. The company also launched a \$120,000 scholarship program for students in its service areas pursuing higher education.

For additional information is available at our web site at [www.calwatergroup.com](http://www.calwatergroup.com).

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# SJCHCC to Host 12th Annual Student Financial Aid and College Awareness Workshop

(Stockton, CA) The San Joaquin County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (SJCHCC) has announced the date for its 12th Annual Student Financial Aid and College Awareness Workshop.

The event will take place on Sunday, January 25, 2015 at the Alex G. Spanos Center located at 3601 Pacific Avenue on the campus of the University of Pacific in Stockton. Registration starts at 8 a.m. The workshop will offer high school seniors, athletes, transfer students and their parents, free step-by-step assistance filling out the complex Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. The FAFSA opens the doors to access free money for college through Cal Grants as well as other forms of financial aid assistance to pay for college tuition.

"The growth and advancement of this unique educational event over the past several years has been impressive,"

stated Sylvester Aguilar, President of the Chamber. "This event started eleven years ago in an effort to help parents navigate the college application process and encourage post secondary education among Hispanic students. Today, we are seeing multicultural families with similar needs so we have expanded our outreach to include multiple languages. SJCHCC believes that an educated workforce is critical to the success of business and economic development for our region."

The forum also features workshops for sixth, seventh, eighth graders, and all high school students and their parents so they can get an early start on how to prepare for their future. Classes focus on college preparation, study habits, extra-curricular activities and how important parent participation is to a student's success. For more information on the event contact the chamber office at 209-943-6117.

## SJCHCC patrocinará el 12o Taller Anual de Ayuda Financiera Estudiantil y Conocimiento Universitario

(Stockton, CA) La Cámara Hispana del Condado de San Joaquín de Comercio (SJCHCC) ha anunciado la fecha de su 12o Taller Anual de Ayuda Financiera Estudiantil y Conocimiento Universitario. El evento tendrá lugar el domingo, 25 de enero 2015 en el Centro Alex G. Spanos situado en 3601 Pacific Avenue en el campus de la Universidad del Pacífico en Stockton. El registro empieza a las 8 a.m. El taller ofrecerá asistencia gratuita, paso a paso para llenar la Solicitud compleja de nombre Ayuda Federal Gratuita para

Estudiantes (FAFSA) a los estudiantes de último año de secundaria, deportistas, estudiantes transferidos y sus padres. La FAFSA abre las puertas para acceder a dinero gratis para la universidad a través de las becas Cal Grant, así como otras formas de asistencia de ayuda financiera para pagar la matrícula universitaria.

"El crecimiento y el progreso de este evento educativo único en los últimos años ha sido impresionante", dijo Sylvester Aguilar, presidente de la Cámara. "Este evento comenzó hace once años, en un





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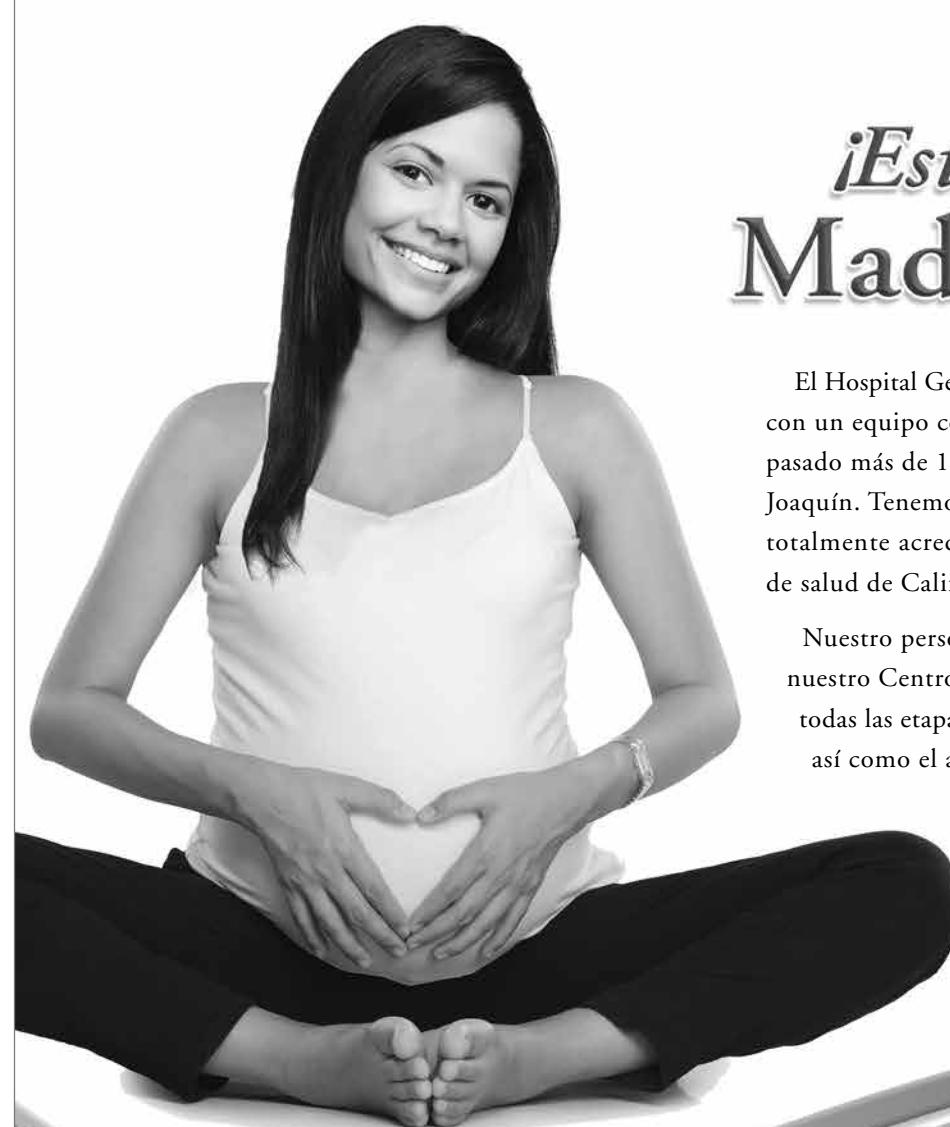


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esfuerzo para ayudar a los padres a navegar el proceso de solicitud universitario y fomentar la educación post-secundaria entre los estudiantes hispanos. Hoy en día, estamos viendo las familias multiculturales con necesidades similares, por lo que hemos ampliado nuestro alcance para incluir múltiples idiomas. SJCHCC cree que una fuerza laboral educada es fundamental para el éxito de los negocios y el desarrollo económico de nuestra región. El foro también cuenta con talleres para

estudiantes de sexto, séptimo y octavo grados y todos los estudiantes de secundaria y sus padres para que puedan conseguir un comienzo temprano sobre cómo prepararse para su futuro. Las clases se centran en la preparación universitaria, hábitos de estudio, actividades extracurriculares y la importancia de la participación de los padres como la clave al éxito de un estudiante. Para obtener más información sobre el evento póngase en contacto con la oficina de la Cámara al 209-943-6117.



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# California

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understand it, but that will be either officially reinforced or he will make an announcement about what his recommendation is. We hope that he will continue California's long history and our current policy of including deferred action immigrants as eligible for Medi-Cal coverage."

If the governor allows the current policy to remain in place, it could be a saving grace for the family of Akiko Aspilla, 25, a community organizer with ASPIRE (Asian Students Promoting Immigrant Rights through Education) who spoke alongside Wright and Kinoshita. Akiko's mother is undocumented and has suffered from serious health problems for years.

Because Aspilla's brother has a

green card, her mother will be able to apply for Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA), a new temporary legal status created by the executive action. DAPA status is open to undocumented parents whose children are either citizens or legal permanent residents, and who have been in the United States for over five years and have not committed certain crimes.

"I hope Governor Brown extends [Medi-Cal] to DAPA recipients," says Aspilla. "My mom is almost 65 and she hasn't seen a doctor in a really long time."

According to Wright, Obama's executive action also "jumpstarts the debate" on another immigrant health care initiative currently in the works

in California. Senator Lara has reintroduced his 'Health For All' bill for 2015, which would extend access to health coverage to all Californians regardless of their immigration status – that is, even those undocumented immigrants who are excluded by the executive action.

"What this executive action does is create political momentum. Obama has created a space to talk about why we need to be more inclusive of immigrants in our society, in our economy, and in our health system," says Wright.

Should Health For All come to pass, it would benefit families like those of Bo (whose last name has been withheld at his request), another young person who spoke alongside Aspilla. Bo came to the United States from South Korea with his family in 2003. Like Aspilla, his parents suffer from chronic health problems. Unlike

Aspilla's mother, they won't qualify for DACA, because neither Bo nor his sister are legal permanent residents.

Bo is a beneficiary of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which grants temporary legal status to certain individuals who came to the United States when they were children. California lets them qualify for state-funded Medi-Cal if they're low-income, but DACA doesn't make them legal permanent residents, so the executive action excludes his parents.

"My sister and I were able to receive DACA and we will have the opportunity to have health care eventually," he says. "But my parents won't, and I'll have to continue seeing them in pain."

Health For All would change that, and 2015 could be the year that it happens.

## Citizenship After 70: Applying Was Easier Than I Thought

**Carolina Guzmán Rincón - NAM**

Claudia Jovel didn't have to undergo a perilous journey to reach American soil when she came here 20 years ago from El Salvador. She was able to make the trip with a card that identified her as a U.S. resident.

That's because her sister is a U.S. citizen, and was able to secure the future of her entire family once she naturalized, petitioning for each of them to come join her in the United States.

"My sister Sandra petitioned for all of us when she became a citizen. It benefited me a lot because I could come

here with my children, who now have their own lives and are successful professionals," says Jovel, who is now 74.

The funny thing is that, like many other Legal Permanent Residents of this country, Jovel never applied for citizenship for herself -- despite the fact that she had lived here for two decades and met all of the requirements.

"I renewed my green card twice. I wasn't in a hurry to become a citizen. I also don't speak English and I didn't have much money," explains Jovel, who lives in Grand Prairie, Tex.

It was the news of upcoming

changes to the N-400 form, the form used to apply for citizenship, that made her change her mind.

Jovel submitted her application for U.S. citizenship in April of this year and on October 11, she was already sitting in front of an immigration official for her interview. Now, having passed the test, the Salvadoran is just waiting for her swearing-in ceremony.

"It was a lot easier than I thought. Now I feel like a weight has been lifted off my shoulders. I'm really happy because I feel like I accomplished a really important goal, even though I'm 74,"

she says.

Jovel says the process of applying for citizenship wasn't as hard as she thought it would be.

I went to a workshop organized by Proyecto Inmigrante where they filled out the paperwork for me," she says. The workshop is part of the New Americans Campaign, a national initiative to make citizenship more accessible for immigrants like Jovel. "They also helped me apply for a fee waiver that's given to low-income people, so I didn't even have to pay the \$680 fee," she adds happily.

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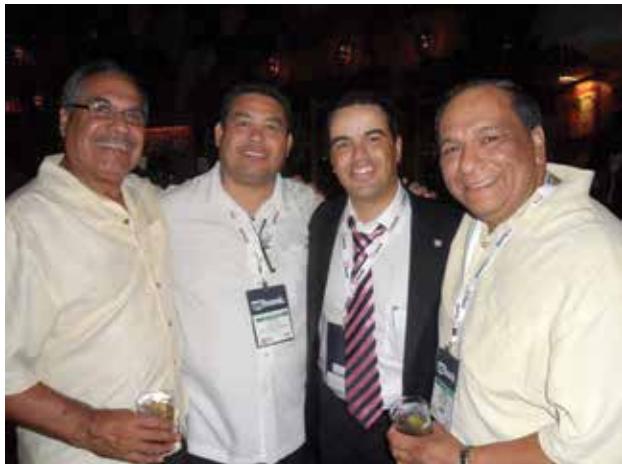
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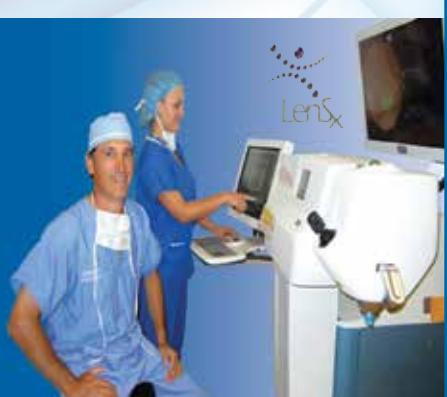
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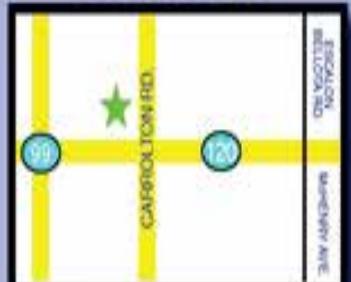
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# Wealth inequality has widened along racial, ethnic lines since end of Great Recession

By Rakesh Kochhar and Richard Fry

The Great Recession, fueled by the crises in the housing and financial markets, was universally hard on the net worth of American families. But even as the economic recovery has begun to mend asset prices, not all households have benefited alike, and wealth inequality has widened along racial and ethnic lines.

The wealth of white households was 13 times the median wealth of black households in 2013, compared with eight times the wealth in 2010, according to a new Pew Research Center analysis of data from the Federal Reserve's Survey of Consumer Finances. Likewise, the wealth of white households is now more than 10 times the wealth of Hispanic households, compared with nine times the wealth in 2010.

**Wealth Gaps by Race** The current gap between blacks and whites has reached its highest point since 1989, when whites had 17 times the wealth of black households. The current white-to-Hispanic wealth ratio has reached a level not seen since 2001. (Asians and other racial groups are not separately identified in the public-use versions of the Fed's survey.)

Leaving aside race and ethnicity, the net worth of American families overall — the difference between the values of their assets and liabilities — held steady during the economic recovery. The typical household had a net worth of \$81,400 in 2013, according to the Fed's

survey — almost the same as what it was in 2010, when the median net worth of U.S. households was \$82,300 (values expressed in 2013 dollars).

The stability in household wealth follows a dramatic drop during the Great Recession. From 2007 to 2010, the median net worth of American families decreased by 39.4%, from \$135,700 to \$82,300. Rapidly plunging house prices and a stock market crash were the immediate contributors to this shellacking.

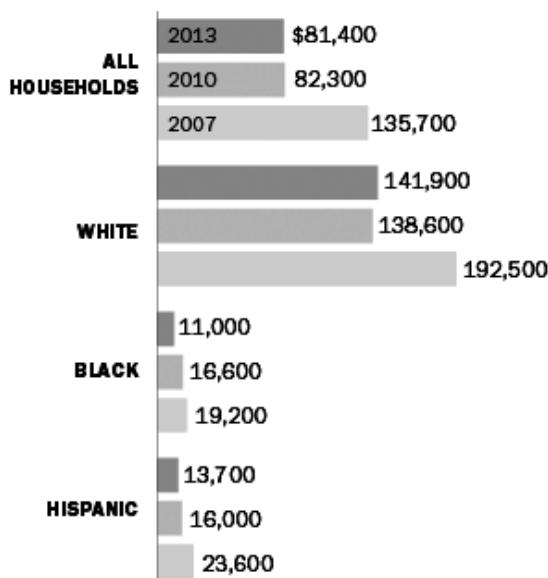
Our analysis of Federal Reserve data does reveal a stark divide in the experiences of white, black and Hispanic households during the economic recovery. From 2010 to 2013, the median wealth of non-Hispanic white households increased from \$138,600 to \$141,900, or by 2.4%.

**Americans' Wealth Since Great Recession** Meanwhile, the median wealth of non-Hispanic black households fell 33.7%, from \$16,600 in 2010 to \$11,000 in 2013. Among Hispanics, median wealth decreased by 14.3%, from \$16,000 to \$13,700. For all families — white, black and Hispanic — median wealth is still less than its pre-recession level.

A number of factors seem responsible for the widening of the wealth gaps during the economic recovery. As the Federal Reserve notes, the median income of minority households (blacks, Hispanics and other non-whites combined) fell 9% from its 2010 to 2013 surveys, compared with a decrease of 1% for non-Hispanic white house-

## Wealth by Race and Ethnicity, 2007-13

Median net worth of households, in 2013 dollars



Note: Blacks and whites include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of Survey of Consumer Finances public-use data

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holds. Thus, minority households may not have replenished their savings as much as white households or they may have had to draw down their savings even more during the recovery.

Also, financial assets, such as stocks, have recovered in value more quickly than housing since the recession ended. White households are much more likely than minority households to own stocks directly or indirectly through retirement accounts. Thus, they were

in better position to benefit from the recovery in financial markets.

All American households since the recovery have started to reduce their ownership of key assets, such as homes, stocks and business equity. But the decrease in asset ownership tended to be proportionally greater among minority households. For example, the homeownership rate for non-Hispanic white households fell from 75.3% in 2010 to 73.9% in 2013, a percentage drop of 2%. Meanwhile, the homeownership rate among minority households decreased from 50.6% in 2010 to 47.4% in 2013, a slippage of 6.5%.

While the current wealth gaps are higher than at the beginning of the recession, they are not at their highest levels as recorded by the Fed's survey. Peak values for the wealth ratios were recorded in the 1989 survey — 17 for the white-to-black ratio and 14 for the white-to-Hispanic ratio. But those values of the ratios may be anomalies driven by fluctuations in the wealth of the poorest — those with net worth less than \$500. Otherwise, the racial and ethnic wealth gaps in 2013 are at or about their highest levels observed in the 30 years for which we have data.

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# As Cuban American demographics change, so do views of Cuba

By Mark Hugo Lopez and Jens Manuel

President Obama's new policy on Cuba opens the door to establish ties with the country for the first time in a half century. But this change comes as the Cuban American population itself is changing—in its demographics, views of U.S.-Cuba policy, and its politics.

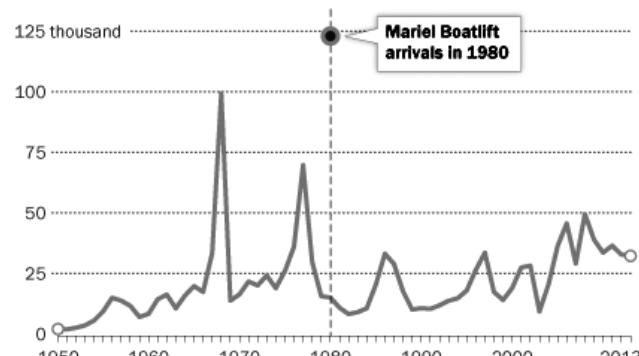
**Cuban Immigration Waves, 1950 to 2013**  
The nation's Cuban American population numbers 2 million, up from 1.2 million in 2000. Much of that growth has come from Cuban Americans born in the U.S., leading to a decline in the share born in Cuba from 68% in 2000 down to 57% in 2013.

At the same time, a new, more recent wave of Cuban immigrants has arrived in the U.S. Since 1990, more than 500,000 Cuban immigrants have entered the U.S., according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. That has altered the demographics of those born in Cuba as the older generation of Cuban exiles passes away. In 2013, more than half (56%) of Cuban immigrants had arrived since 1990, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of Census Bureau data.

Most Cuban Americans see shared values with people in Cuba, but views vary. These demographic changes are impacting Cuban Americans' views of Cuba. For example, among more recent immigrant arrivals, 49% say Cuban Americans and people living in Cuba share "a lot" of values in common, according to a new analysis of a 2013 Pew

## Cuban Immigration Waves, 1950 to 2013

Legal Permanent Resident admissions



Research Center survey of Hispanics. By contrast, Cuban immigrants who arrived before 1990 hold a different view: 41% say there is "only a little" or "almost nothing" in common between Cuban Americans and people living in Cuba. (The sample size of those born in the U.S. is too small to provide reliable estimates.)

At the same time, political party affiliation also varies among Cuban immigrants. Some 57% of recent Cuban immigrant arrivals (those arriving since 1990) say they identify with or lean towards the Democratic Party and 19% say the same about the Republican Party. However, among Cuban immigrants who arrived before 1990, 48% say they are Republican while 35% say they are Democrats, according to the new analysis of the Pew Research Center's 2013 survey of Hispanics.

In addition, political party affiliation among Cubans registered voters has changed. Democrats have made inroads with the community, with younger Cu-

bans leaning increasingly Democratic compared with their elders.

Shifting political party affiliation may have—or already have had—implications for the Latino vote in Florida. The state is home to two-thirds (68%) of the nation's Cuban population, but also growing populations of Puerto Ricans and other Latino groups. For example, in 2012, 49% of Florida Cuban voters supported Barack Obama and 47% supported Republican Mitt Romney, according to the Florida exit poll. And while more Latino registered voters are Republicans than Democrats in Miami-Dade County—home to 46% of the nation's Cuban American population—the opposite has been true statewide since 2008.

Older Cuban immigrants also differ from more recent Cuban immigrants in their levels of voter participation, with more recently arrived Cuban immigrants less likely to vote than those who arrived before 1990. In 2012 among eligible voters, 56% of recent Cuban immigrant arrivals voted compared with 75% of those who arrived before 1990, according to a Pew Research analysis of Census Bureau data.

On views of U.S. relations with Cuba, a growing share of Cuban Americans in South Florida has said they oppose the U.S. embargo of Cuba. For example, a Florida International University survey of

Cuban American adults in Miami-Dade county conducted earlier this year found that 52% opposed continuing the embargo, up from just 13% who said the same in 1991. (The poll also found that 48% favor keeping the embargo.) Opposition to the embargo was highest, at 58%, among Cuban immigrants who arrived in 1995 or later. As a result, Cuban American views of the U.S. embargo now mirror those of all Americans—more than a decade of polls by Gallup, through 2009, have found that about half of Americans have backed ending the embargo. A new Washington Post poll conducted after Obama's announcement found 68% of Americans favored restoring trade with Cuba, up 11 points since 2009.

The FIU poll also found that 68% of Cubans in Miami favored re-establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba, with 80% of recent Cuban immigrant arrivals saying this. By comparison, 47% of Cuban immigrants who arrived before 1965 said the same. Among all Americans, 64% say they favor establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba, according to the Washington Post survey.

A new poll of Cuban Americans nationwide conducted by Bendixen & Amandi International for the Miami Herald, El Nuevo Herald and the Tampa Bay Times finds similar patterns by age and by immigration wave. It also finds that Cuban Americans are divided over the president's announcement about Cuba, with 48% disagreeing with the decision to begin normalizing relations with Cuba and 44% agreeing with it.

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# Why Pope's U.S. Visit Is More Important Than Asia Trip

John Nery -NAM

MANILA, Philippines -- The most consequential papal journey of the year will not be to Sri Lanka or even to the Philippines next week, although Pope Francis' second visit to Asia is important indeed. It will be in September, to the new center of gravity of Catholic conservatism: the United States.

Apart from its intrinsic importance, the Pope's second-longest journey outside Italy, to canonize the Apostle to Sri Lanka Blessed Joseph Vaz and to console with the victims of Supertyphoon "Yolanda" in the Philippines, can also be understood as a series of way stations en route to a historic encounter in Pittsburgh. (His longest journey, longer by a few hours, was the eight-day swing to Brazil in 2013.)

I do not wish to minimize the significance to the fourth papal visit to the Philippines. I understand that the Pope wanted to visit the country as early as late 2013, or just several months after his election—after all, it hosts the largest Catholic population in the world's most populous continent and, despite the parochialism of much religion news in the country, plays a pivotal role in Asia in the new evangelization.

Unlike the visit to Seoul (his first to Asia, in August last year) and the one to Colombo that's coming up in a few days, there is no beatification or canonization ceremony to perform in the Philippine visit. Unlike his visit to Rio de Janeiro in July 2013 or the one to Is-

tanbul last November, there is no World Youth Day to grace or Joint

Declaration to announce in the Philippines. He is, simply, a pastor visiting his people.

The highlight of the visit may be the side trip to Tacloban and Palo, ground zero of Yolanda, where he will meet with survivors of the strongest recorded storm to make landfall. (It is also possible that the culminating activity of his visit, the public Mass in Rizal Park on Sunday, Jan. 18, may turn out to be the highlight people will remember, in the same way that the record crowd estimated at 5 million that saw Pope John Paul II playfully twirling his cane in Luneta is the first thing people remember of the 1995 visit.)

His apostolic visit to the Philippines has a theme, something not every papal trip has (for instance, the Sri Lanka leg of his second Asian trip doesn't). "Mercy and compassion" are the true touchstones of the Francis papacy, and the theme is a robust reminder of the priorities of this pastoral pope. But there was no need for the Pope to travel thousands of miles just to sound the same message.

My point: The Philippine Church can look at the visit as a papal favor, or as a sign of Pope Francis' special consideration for the third largest Catholic country in the world. The pastor is simply visiting with his people.

But the journey to the Philippines is also significant in terms of Church dynamics. The Philippine Church helps populate the pews of Europe, fills the sacristies of the United States, sends mis-



sionaries to parts of Asia, runs schools of higher theology at home. While public perception of the Catholic bishops as a conference suffered in the last years of the Arroyo administration, and the battle lines over the Reproductive Health Law hardened during the Aquino presidency, the life of the Church in the Philippines cannot in fact be reduced to political positions alone. There is so much more to Catholic life in the Philippines.

Here, Pope Francis has what we can call natural allies in his Francis-of-Assisi-like attempt to repair the damaged part of the Church. Two archbishops who made an impact in recent synods in Rome, for instance, are at the helm of the papal visit: In Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle, he has a rising star in the world church who speaks the same pastoral language. And in the president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), Archbishop Socrates Villegas, he has another pastor who is living out the same priestly simplicity.

A British Jesuit scholastic tracking ecological issues, Henry Longbottom, suggested last month that one appropriate venue for the pope to finally release his much-awaited encyclical on the environment would be during his Philippine visit. "The exact date has not been disclosed, but it could coincide with Francis' apostolic visit to the Philippines in January, a country where the Catholic Church has been something of a trailblazer on environmental issues."

That trailblazer reputation was sealed in Pope Francis' own "Apostolic Exhortation, Evangelii Gaudium," in that section where he rises to the defense of the environment. "There are other weak and defenceless beings who are frequently at the mercy of economic interests or indiscriminate exploitation. I am speaking of creation as a whole. We human beings are not only the beneficiaries but also the stewards of other creatures. Thanks to our bodies, God has joined us so closely to the world around us that we can feel the desertification of the soil almost as a physical ailment, and the extinction of a species as a painful disfigurement. Let us not leave in our wake a swath of destruction and death which will affect our own lives and those of future generations. Here I would make my own the touching and prophetic lament voiced some years ago by the bishops of the Philippines ..." and then he proceeds to quote at length from a 1988 CBCP newsletter.

Wouldn't it be something if Pope

See POPE Page 11

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# Visionary Home Builders Appoint New Directors

Visionary Home Builders would like to welcome Carlos Almanza and Teresa Pegler to the team.

Carlos Almanza has been appointed Director of the Homeownership and Rental Center. He has more than 20 years of nonprofit experience in management and fund develop-

ment, including marketing, community outreach, human resources and donor development. Through the Homeownership and Rental Center, Carlos will assist those seeking to buy a home, find rental housing or foreclosure assistance.

Teresa Pegler is the new Director

of the Property Management Division. She has more than 20 years experience in the Real Estate Industry, 12 of those in the affordable housing sector. Pegler's background includes commercial and residential management, student housing and affordable housing. In her new position, Teresa will assist

individuals and families through the sale and purchase of homes.

"We are excited to have Carlos and Teresa on the Visionary Team. Both are exceptional individuals that will bring years of experience and training to our organization", states Carol Ornelas, CEO.

## Lodi Approves HERO PACE Program to Help Residents Save Energy, Water

**228 jurisdictions statewide have adopted HERO; 3,500 jobs created, 22,500 residential projects funded for more than \$425 million in financing for energy- and water-saving renovations**

San Joaquin County, Calif. – The City Council of Lodi has voted to make the HERO Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program available to local residents. Applications will start being accepted in spring 2015.

HERO makes energy- and water-saving renovations affordable for property owners by providing long-term, competitive financing through an additional property tax assessment. Payments are made through the property tax bill for up to 20 years, and interest is tax-deductible.

Lodi joins three other San Joaquin County cities in adopting HERO. Stockton and Tracy launched HERO earlier this year. The City of Ripon approved HERO this fall and is scheduled to launch the program in spring 2015.

"HERO will make it easy and affordable for Lodi homeowners to save money by using water and energy more efficiently,"

said Blair McNeill, Vice President of Community Development for Renovate America, the company that administers the HERO Program. "When more homeowners invest in these types of improvements, it creates jobs and stimulates the local economy. HERO is committed to helping cities and counties reach their energy and water reduction targets by bringing these types of investments into reach for most property owners."

A wide variety of efficiency products are available to property owners through the HERO Program. Some of HERO's most popular products include water-saving technologies, solar power panel installations, whole-home heating and cooling (HVAC) systems, energy-saving windows and doors, roofing and insulation.

HERO also has more than 50 product lines to help homeowners save water during this extended drought, including high-efficiency toilets, faucets and showerheads; drip irrigation systems; rainwater catchment systems; gray water systems; as well as artificial turf and drought-tolerant landscaping.

In addition to helping homeowners save on energy and water bills, HERO spurs local job creation by increasing demand for contractor services. The HERO Program has helped to create more than 3,500 jobs in California since its launch in December 2011. The program has been adopted by 228 communities in California and helped to fund more than 22,500 residential projects, totaling more than \$425 million in financing. HERO is now available to 48 percent of California households.

Participation in HERO is 100-percent voluntary for both local government agencies and property owners, and is cost neutral for jurisdictions. A growing number of California cities and counties are partnering with multiple PACE providers to increase financing choices available to consumers.

The HERO program has received the Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award, the Urban Land Institute Best of the Best, and the Southern California Association of Governments President's Award for Excellence. Most

recently the program received the 2014 Clean Air Award from the South Coast Air Quality Management District and the Clean Tech OC's Van Vlahakis' Environmental Excellence Award.

For more information please visit [www.HeroProgram.com](http://www.HeroProgram.com). To schedule interviews with local HERO representatives, elected officials, homeowners, or contractors, or for a media kit, please contact Severn Williams at 510-336-9566, or [sev@publicgoodpr.com](mailto:sev@publicgoodpr.com).

## Pope

continued from Page 10

Francis decided to release his much-awaited encyclical on what we can call a preferential option for the ecological during his day trip to Tacloban and Palo?

It would be an interpretation of the Good News that won't go down well with conservative American Catholics who disbelieve the science of climate change or champion the prosperity gospel. The encounter in Pittsburgh will be something to see.

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