

Zapata County News

THURSDAY, December 6, 2007

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75¢

Anselmo Treviño, Joey Gutiérrez and Dr. Hildegardo E. Flores homes will be visited.

December 11

AARP Driver Safety Program from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Zapata Masonic Lodge, 1308 14th Street, near Highway 16, learn how to avoid driving hazards, minimal course fee, no tests, must complete course for Certificate to be issued, most insurance companies give discount with proof of certificate, join us and become a safer driver.

Retired Union Auto Workers (UAW) Auto Makers is having a Union Meeting in Harlingen at 10:30 a.m., meeting is open

performed her duties as member to the music of (continued on page A12)

Garza announces candidacy for District Attorney

Nereida J. Garza
Senior Staff Reporter

Rolando Garza, former First Assistant District Attorney has announced his candidacy for the position of Webb and Zapata Counties District Attorney. Garza resigned as a Federal Prosecutor in 2002 to become a Public Defender and has promised to bring integrity and experience to the District Attorney's Office.

Garza's plans for the DA's office include speeding up the process in which cases are prosecuted. Protecting victims right is also a priority for Garza, who plans to work with Child Advocacy

Center and provide assistance to victims of violent crimes.

Garza has worked both in Webb and Zapata County and feels he knows the people. "People know me in both communities. They know I'll do good work for both communities."

Mr. Garza grew up in Laredo and has raised his family there. He is married to Thelma T. Garza and is the father of three children. He is a graduate of Southwest State University and the Thurgood Marshall School of Law.

Garza has promised that there will be no mud



slinging and has vowed to run a dignified and clean campaign. "I am asking everyone that believes that justice is available to everyone regardless, to join my team. I'm asking everyone to go out and vote and to be a part of this very important change in how the District Attorney's office works."



ZHS Mariachi Halcon Triumphs at Vargas Extravaganza

By: Adan Gutierrez, columnist and Mar S. Martinez, Mariachi Halcon Booster President

On Thursday, November 29, (after school) Zapata High School Mariachi Halcon, Junior Varsity Mariachi Halcon and Mariachi Juvenil Halcon traveled to San Antonio, Texas together with their Directors Mr. Adrian Padilla, Mr. Oscar

Martinez and Assistants Mr. Juan Luis Villarreal and Ms. Lisa Garza and Violin Consultant, Andrea B. Uribe to participate in the world reknown Vargas Extravaganza competition. They arrived in San Antonio to practice their performances for this strenuous competition.

MARIACHI

(Continued on page A2)

MARIACHI (continued from page A1)

After their practices, the students were taken to eat before arriving at the Tropicana Holiday Inn which is walking distance from the Municipal auditorium where the workshops and competitions were held. Early the next morning, the students went for music workshops where their instructors were members of the Best in the World Mariachi Vargas. After their classes, they were taken to eat at the Riverwalk Mall before going back to their rooms to get ready for the evening Competition. The Middle School groups started the competition, followed by the high school and ending with the universities from different parts of the United States, including Harvard University from Massachusetts, Arizona, and New Mexico and numerous groups from Texas. The Mariachi Juvenil Halcon had an outstanding performance where they were awarded Third Place and Mariachi Halcon won First Place in the High School Division. As over 300 family and friends and of course students were cheering our winners, the Director of Mariachi Vargas, Pepe Martinez, announced the Mariachi Vargas Overall

National Best in the USA winners. A pleasant surprise when he announced Zapata High School Mariachi Halcon from Zapata, Texas being the winners of this prestigious award. Mariachi Halcon had won the last two years in the High School division making this the third consecutive year of them being the Mariachi Vargas National Champions and of course this year being the Overall National Best in the USA National Champions. They were awarded an all expense paid trip for a three day intense musical workshop as well as opening for the Mariachi Vargas Concert in Eugene, Oregon which will be held in March of 2008. All the students were taken to the famous Mi Tierra Restaurant to celebrate. Many family and friends accompanied the students and directors for this celebration. Saturday morning, the Vocal Competitions were held where Zapata had five finalists competing. Samantha Valadez and Eloy Martinez competed in the Middle School Division and Ashley Flores, Adela Alvarez and Pete Morales, Jr. competed in the High School Division. It was a great honor to have been the

finalists chosen out of hundreds of students to compete. That evening, the winners opened the Mariachi Vargas Concert where our Mariachi Halcon shined and gave a tremendous performance to a full house at the Municipal Auditorium. Sunday morning was another early day since they performed in San Ygnacio at the AL Benavides Elementary Historic Homes Tour. They were escorted by Constable Henry Martinez from Zapata County and were received with a standing ovation from many Zapata Countians waiting for their arrival. Members of the Mariachi Juvenil Halcon who competed were **Violins**, Carmen Paredes, Paola Sanchez, Saira Araiza, Amy Gutierrez, Ashley Guzman and Eloy Martinez, **Trumpets**, Victor Garza, James Wojtovicz and Samantha Valadez, **Armonia**, Luis Ramon, Edith Hernandez, Rafael Benavides, Jose Luis Vela, Oscar Flores, and Javier Buruato, **Directors**, Mr. Oscar Martinez, Mr. Juan Luis Villarreal and Violin Consultant, Mrs. Andrea B. Uribe. Members of the Junior Varsity Mariachi

Halcon were, **Violins**, Stephanie Valadez, Marina Flores, Abby Garza, Ana Valdez, Marely Gutierrez, Clarissa Morales and Dulce Olvera. **Trumpets** were Mikey Garcia and Leroy Herrera, and **Armonia** were Eliseo Solis, Marisol Trejo, Javier Zapata, Elizabeth Garcia and Jennifer Santos. Members of the Mariachi Halcon were, **Violins**, Adela Alvarez, Mario Zavala, Rico Griffin, Ramon Lara, Rudie Lynn Bustamante and Lizzi Martinez, **Trumpets**, Ademar Martinez, Pete Morales, Jr. and Joseph Cantu, **Armonia**, Ashley Flores, Marco Regalado, Rene Benavides, and Oscar Araiza, Jr., **Guitarron**, Mara Benavides and **Harp**, David Solis, **Directors**, Mr. Adrian Padilla, Ms. Liza Garza and Violin Consultant, Mrs. Andrea B. Uribe. The directors would like to thank all the students for their dedication and cooperation for the mariachi program and for all the early and late hours of practice. The students and parents would like to acknowledge the dedication and patience that Mr. Adrian Padilla, Mr. Oscar Martinez, Mr. Juan Luis Villarreal, Ms. Lisa Garza and Mrs. Andrea B. Uribe gave to the students to prepare them for this special annual event. Congratulations To All Zapata Mariachi Groups!

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The Zapata Middle School Varsity Mariachi traveled to San Antonio this past Friday. They placed 3rd at the Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza. The Directors are Mr. Oscar Martinez and Mr. Juan Luis Villarreal. The group performed "El Crucifijo De Piedra" sung by Samantha Valadez, and "El Sihuualteco" sang by Eloy Martinez and Carmen Paredez.

Viva San Antonio

Y Que Viva El Mariachi Halcon

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to our Mariachi Halcon Program for a job well done this past weekend in San Antonio. Zapata County ISD's Mariachi Halcon Program continues to make us all **HAWK PROUD!!** The presence of **HAWK PRIDE** was all over San Antonio's Municipal Auditorium this past weekend as our Zapata Middle School, Junior Varsity and Varsity Mariachi groups competed at the Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza. The three groups performed wonderfully.

Mariachi Halcon Juvenil placed third in the middle school division and our award winning Mariachi Halcon put on a show for the ages as they placed first and earned the privilege of opening for Mariachi Vargas on Saturday night.

The community of Zapata was also very well represented in the vocals competition by soloists, Samantha Valadez, Eloy Martínez, Ashley Flores, Pete Morales and Adela Renee Alvarez. These five mariachi singers were selected to compete in the finals from over hundreds of entries sent in from all over the country.

In saying the best for last, Mariachi Halcon, what a performance on Friday night, words cannot describe the feeling of **HAWK PRIDE** we felt as your performance was the best of show at all division levels including the university level. **MARIACHI HALCON ROCKS!!!!**

To our senior Mariachi Halcon members; Ademar Martinez, Joseph Cantu, Mara Benavides, Mario Zavala, Oscar Araiza, Pete Morales, Ramon Lara, Rico Griffin and especially our very own and very special Mariachi Halcon senior, Adela Renee Alvarez, **THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES, THEY LAST A LIFETIME!!!!!!**

Beaming with Hawk Pride,

The Alvarez and Salinas Families