

# PAGE 2

## ON THE BLOGS

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### Earth Matters

Pundits, political hacks and journalists have been parsing the polls ever since the dust settled on the midterm elections. Not surprisingly, Iraq, corruption and a general 'throw the bums out' type of attitude seem to have driven many of the results.

### Country Music & Outdoors

It's as close as you can get to shooting fish in a barrel. You take more than 260,000 farm-raised rainbow trout, release them around the state and let the action begin. It's the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's annual trout stocking.

# Craving the magic of the mariachi? It's coming to the Instituto

Maybe we in this town have gotten inured to the sight of mariachi musicians along the River Walk or at weddings and quinceañeras.

Here's a chance to rediscover some of the magic. A couple of members of Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán are giving a talk Wednesday about their own creative process and a little about the history of the genre.

Think of it as "Inside the Actors Studio" meets "MTV Unplugged." Mostly en español.

It's called "Noche de Cultura" (Night of Culture), and it's happening at the Instituto



**EDMUND TIJERINA**  
AROUND THE TOWN

Mariachi Vargas concert Satur-

de México. The presentation features harpist **Julio Martínez** and guitarist **Arturo Vargas** from the group.

They're here for a week of various mariachi-related activities that culminates with this weekend's student competition and Mariachi Vargas concert Satur-

day at Municipal Auditorium. If you haven't seen the full group, check it out.

### Downtown

Since this space is always a huge booster of downtown, here's a recommendation.

On Friday, the Downtown Alliance is presenting its third edition of the Urban Spaces Tour, an opportunity to come downtown to see the inside of some of the buildings that most of us usually just see from the street.

The walking tours depart every half hour from 4:30 p.m. until 8 p.m., and the tour costs \$50. Call the Down-

town Alliance office at (210) 225-3862 to reserve a spot.

### Just a bit south

For a completely different experience, there's the King William Home Tour on Saturday.

These are the Victorian-style homes just south of downtown that are a popular walking tour for out-of-town visitors.

It starts at 11 a.m. at the corner of Alamo and Pereida streets.

The \$15 tickets are available at the beginning of the route or by calling the association at (210) 227-8786.

### Star struck

Although we avoided the madhouse of last weekend's **Mario Lopez** extravaganza at a crowded nightclub, we received plenty of reports about it.

It's hard to say which stories were more amusing — the women angling for time with the "Dancing with the Stars" hero or the guys trying to hit on the women.

Or the prominent local folks — you know who you are — who insisted that they had to be on the invitation list.

Sounds like local people

put on much more of a show than the imported talent.

### Our mistake

An earlier item misspelled the first name of construct industry heavyweight **Bar Zachry**.

We only put one "I" in the first name.

Our apologies. It won't happen again.

Got news? We want to know. Contact Ed Tijerina at (210) 250-3215 or e-mail [etijerina@express-news.net](mailto:etijerina@express-news.net). His column appears on Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.