

DA seeks maquinitas forfeiture

By JASON BUCH
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

The District Attorney's Office is seeking the forfeiture of more than 200 gambling machines seized by police in January raids at two maquinitas establishments.

Police seized 192 8-liner machines and \$33,000 on Jan. 14 at the North Side Amusement Center on West Village Boulevard and 58

machines Jan. 17 at the Casino Game Room on Calle del Norte.

The raids came after undercover officers received more than the \$5 cash payout from the maquinitas establishments allowed by state law, said Investigator Jose E. Baeza, a Laredo Police Department spokesman.

No formal charges have been filed as a result of those raids, said First Assistant District Attorney Pete Garza, but prosecutors are ask-

ing a judge to order the business owners to relinquish ownership of the seized machines and money.

"They're doing this as a business, and this hurts them in the pocketbook," Garza said.

If a judge agrees that the machines are contraband and should be forfeited, they will be sold and the money will be split by the Police Department and District Attorney's Office, he said.

Police ask help in hit-and-run

By ERIKA LAMBRETON
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

The Laredo Police Department seeks information on an auto-pedestrian accident just north of the Lincoln-Juarez International Bridge that killed 73-year-old Manuela Rangel on Monday night.

Investigator Jose E. Baeza, LPD spokesman, said an orange sport utility vehicle hit Rangel, a Mexican national who became caught underneath the car.

Rangel was dragged for about two blocks. The body finally rested in the 800 block of Victoria Street.

"It's a terrible thing" Baeza

said, adding that the person driving may have been in shock, but now has the opportunity to surrender.

Police and Crime Stoppers ask citizens with information regarding the accident, or who may have spotted an orange SUV with front-end damage, to come forward.

"Hopefully, we will get a break in the case," Baeza said.

Calls can be anonymous. If the information leads to the apprehension of the person, the caller may qualify for a reward of up to \$1,000.

Call Crime Stoppers at 727-TIPS or the Laredo Police Department at 795-2800.

Joy Gift Exhibit will open today

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

The Season of Joy Gift Exhibit, hosted by Gallery 201 and Bejeweled Boutique, is scheduled for today from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at 513 San Bernardo Ave.

The gift show will move to Bejeweled, in the Times Square shopping center, on Friday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Featured in the exhibit will be Anna E. Garcia and Kimberly Walton; unique jewelry, bags and clothing from Rocio, Claudia and Pati of Bejeweled; silk scarves,

handbags and silver jewelry by Pineda Covalin of Mexico; homemade brownies from Pilar Deschamps and whimsical art from the students of Artexpressions.

Garcia was born and raised in Laredo. She knew, since childhood, artistic expression would be a part of her life. Garcia received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Southwest Texas State University with a concentration in commercial art and a certificate in all level art education.

She taught art at the secondary level for 20 years and just recent-

ly purchased Rapidprint, a local printing company. The preferred medium for her work is hand-rubbed chalk pastel. She uses vivid color combined with a bold reference to natural subjects.

A native of South Carolina, Walton received her Bachelor in Fine Arts from Winthrop University. While in the Carolinas, she was a freelance artist for Springs Industries. Walton moved to Laredo in 2005 and has lived in South Texas for the past six years. In Laredo, she has continued her professional career as a contem-

porary artist and art educator.

Walton teaches studio art classes at TAMIU and has taught children's after-school and summer art classes for the nonprofit group Hecho En Encinal.

Matamoros Street repairs under way

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Matamoros Street, from Santa Isabel to San Leonardo avenues, will close today until Wednesday, Dec. 10, as part of the Matamoros Street Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project.

Instituform Technologies will complete the project designed to improve the wastewater collection system tributary to the Zacate Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Work will be done in sections. Approximately 1,000 linear feet of sewage lines will be worked at a time or two blocks per day.

In residential areas, work goes from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and in busi-

ness areas, work will be done from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m.

This schedule should reduce traffic congestion. No parking will be allowed on Matamoros Street during the work.

It begins with a cleaning and a closed circuit TV inspection of the sewage line.

A traffic control plan requires the closing of one or more lanes as work progresses. Customers are urged to be patient.

Drivers should heed traffic control signs and devices to ensure the safety of workers, motorists and pedestrians.

The project should take eight weeks. Updates will be announced.

Deadline for parade is today

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Applications for the IBC Youth Parade Under the Stars and the Anheuser-Busch Washington's Birthday Parade are due today by 5 p.m.

Applications are available at the WBCA office, 1819 E. Hillside Road, during business hours Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Applications received after the deadline will be assessed a \$100 late fee. The IBC Youth Parade Under the Stars is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 19, at 6 p.m. The Anheuser-Busch Washington's Birthday Parade is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 21, at 9 a.m.

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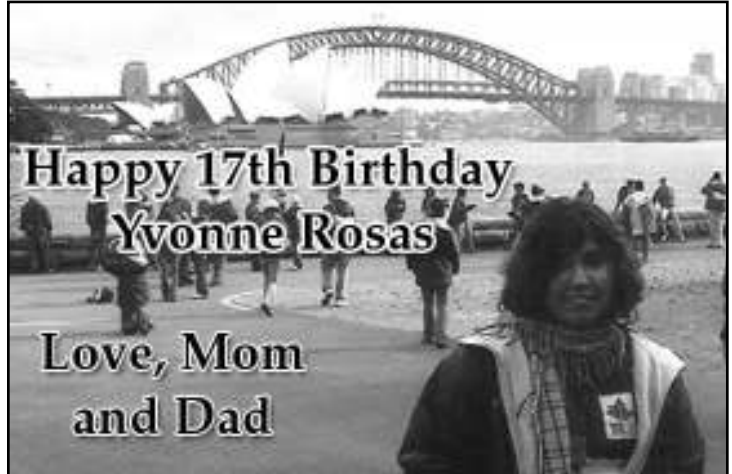
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Texas A&M International University
Campus Activities Board and Student Government
Invite you to the:

Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 7 p.m.
Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library Front Lawn
5201 University Boulevard

This event is free and open to the public!
Donations will be accepted for Cover Laredo 2008: sweaters, blankets, shoes appreciated.

Enjoy hot chocolate, snacks, pictures with Santa, caroling by local schools and goody bags for kids!

For more information, please call TAMIU Office of Student Activities at 326-2280 or e-mail student_activities@tamiu.edu

The Nutcracker
Compañía de Ballet Laredos
in association with

Mary Help of Christians School
Instituto Cultural Mexicano de Laredo
Walgreens Drug Stores

15 years of tradition

and Fernando A. Salinas Trust
J.B. Santos Trustee
present

The Nutcracker
by Piotr Illich Tchaikovsky
Director - Rebecca Salinas Chapa

Sunday, Dec. 7, 2008, 5:00 P.M.
Civic Center Laredo, Tx.

Tickets will be sold at the door.
Adults \$8⁰⁰ Children under 10 years. \$4⁰⁰

Fernando A. Salinas Charitable Trust
Laredo, Texas
Jaime B. Santos, Trustee