

# Two newspapers include a Spanish section

CANBY (AP) — Growing numbers of Spanish-speaking residents in this and other small Willamette Valley communities have prompted two newspaper editors to try and reach their new neighbors in their own language.

The *Canby Herald* and its companion paper, *The Molalla Pioneer*, have begun publishing a Spanish-language page. It's called *El vecino hispano* — The Hispanic Neighbor.

"These people are a part of the community," said Mike Lucas, editor of *The Molalla Pioneer*. "They work here, they spend their money here, their kids go to school here. To call them 'migrant workers' is incorrect. They've been here for years. They're here to stay."

As many as 10 percent of Canby's 10,000 residents and 4 percent to 5 percent of Molalla's 4,000 people speak Spanish as their first language, said Cam Sivesind, editor of the *Canby Herald*.

"I could care less if we make a dime to support the page," Sivesind said. "I saw it as an opportunity for an entry point for

Hispanics to get involved in the community."

*El vecino hispano* appears in the third issue each month of the *Herald*, a 5,000-circulation weekly, and of the *Pioneer*, a 3,300-circulation weekly.

The page features people who are role models and includes community activities and recipes. Regular items include *A su salud*, a health column, and *Que pasa?*, a community calendar.

The two weeklies, which are both published by Eagle Newspapers Inc., launched the page in late August. The chain now is considering a Spanish-language page in the *Woodburn Independent*.

Milca Martinez said it's the first time she has seen such a dramatic outreach to the Spanish-speaking community.

"When I go out and I see people they always smile and say, 'Hi,' but it never goes beyond that," said Martinez, as she tucked a blanket around her sleeping baby daughter. "It's the language."

Jaime Castaneda, 13, likes *El vecino*

hispano because it's the only news his parents can read in Canby.

"Here it tells them all about the radio station that broadcasts in Spanish, and here it tells them about a cultural festival," Castaneda said. "They need to know about this, and they want to know about it."

But not all residents are ready to embrace the Spanish page.

After *El vecino hispano* first appeared, one English-speaking reader walked into the *Herald's* office and demanded her 50 cents back.

Two other readers canceled subscriptions. One told the editor that she hated Mexicans. Another wrote: "I don't like paying for the Mexican section. They live in my country, they can learn my language."

The reactions mirror the conflict simmering in the valley as more Spanish-speaking immigrants, initially recruited to pick summer crops, settle in traditionally homogeneous towns like Canby and Molalla.

Minerva Ruiz, owner of the El Chile Market in Canby, said she believes *El vecino hispano* is one way to bridge the communication gap.

"I guess people haven't gotten used to the fact that there are many Hispanics here in the community," she said. "People could start learning about it in this page. I read that page all the time."

Milca Martinez' husband, Tomas, said he and his wife settled in Canby because they want their son, Isai, 4, and baby daughter, Cesia, to have opportunities.

But he said the controversy over the Spanish page is a troubling sign.

"This page could be something that would help people who don't speak English, but now so many non-Hispanic people don't want to see a word of Spanish or hear us speak a word of Spanish," Martinez said.

"For the children's sake, I wish it seems like the community was more open," he said. "I want to set a good example for my children. They are capable of living a great future."

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## DMV concludes state projects

SALEM (AP) — The state has concluded a five-year construction boom with the \$10.76 million renovation of the Driver and Motor Vehicles Services Building.

The DMV project is the last of eight approved by the legislature since 1989.

The combined cost of more than \$120 million was financed through certificates of participation, which are similar to bonds. The state has several years to repay the debt.

Ground breaking for much of the construction began after the Ballot Measure 5 property tax limit took effect in 1991. The measure has put the clamps on state spending for education, public safety and social services.

The most controversial was the Archives Building, completed in 1992 at the Capitol Mall's north end. The building included \$800,000 of furnishings and decor that struck many Oregonians as lavish, including \$5,000 light fixtures and hand woven wool carpeting that cost \$127 per square yard.

By comparison, the 121,000-square-foot DMV headquarters is humble.

"You could call this the Chevrolet building,"

said DMV employee Judy Lamphear, "compared to the Cadillac building of the Archives."

Still, the newly renovated building is a marked improvement over the old DMV offices, which were dirty, cramped and had poor heating and cooling systems, employees said.

The only remnants of the old building are the walls, the roof and the foundation. Fresh plaster, paint, carpeting and an exterior of coated concrete allow the old to blend seamlessly with the new. About half the building, the north section, is new construction.

"If you really looked around, you could find some evidence of the old building," said Bill Seely, the DMV information services manager.

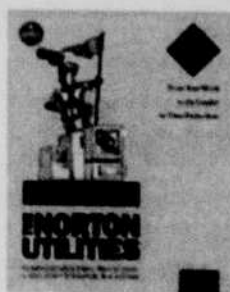
Like other state construction projects undertaken after the Archives Building, the DMV building emphasizes function, not form, state officials said.

The building's features include space-saving workstations, maximized window space and movable partitions. It also allows the DMV to consolidate its entire work force under one roof.

Much of the additional space is used for conference rooms, training facilities, warehousing space and a telecommunications room.

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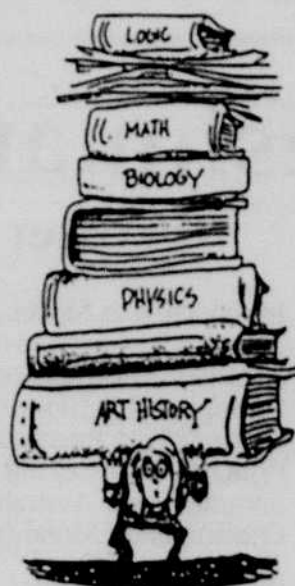


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