



EL OBSERVADOR

Community
Calendar

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Monterrey Touted As Model Mexican City

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP) — Nestled among jagged mountains 120 miles south of the Texas border, this city in many ways is everything Mexico is not: It's modern, the residents are university graduates and you can drink the water.

Monterrey is also what anti-globalization activists fear, with its suburbs, mini-malls and U.S. chains.

When world leaders converge on Monterrey next week, Mexico will be presenting this industrial metropolis as the poster child for how to develop the third world.

Monterrey is playing host to the U.N. International Conference on Financing for Development, an unprecedented world summit on how to combat poverty and redistribute wealth

around the globe.

During a side meeting of anti-globalization activists, a group of European nongovernmental organizations denounced recent pledges by industrialized countries to spend billions more on aid, calling it "cosmetic" and another move to keep poor nations dependent.

Fifty-two heads of state are expected to attend the summit, including President Bush and Cuban President Fidel Castro.

U.N. spokesman Tim Wall said Mexican President Vicente Fox chose Monterrey to show world leaders its economic success "rather than a scenic place with great cocktails."

"Monterrey is not what you would call a great town for tourism,

it's not a center of colonial architecture, it doesn't have a beachfront, but it's an economic powerhouse," Wall said. "It's the home of Latin America's first steel mill, it has manufacturing, trade, commerce, high-tech industries."

With more millionaires per capita than any other area in Mexico, the Monterrey metropolitan area of some 3 million people boasts the highest standard of living in Mexico.

Wages for laborers can be as much as five times higher than in the rest of the country — where the urban minimum wage is \$4 a day — and the people of Monterrey study an average of three years more than other Mexicans. The crime rate is among the lowest for Mexico's metropolitan ar-

reas, and its police are considered among the least corrupt.

The city is home to Mexico's richest businesses, including Cemex, the world's third-largest cement company. Dotted the green mountains outside the city are sprawling estates with swimming pools, helicopter pads and horse stables. Versace and other world-class designers have stores here.

Mercedes and BMWs zoom to strip malls and supermarkets. Many residents spend weekends at beach homes on Padre Island off the Texas coast of the Gulf of Mexico, and have adopted English words like "shopping."

But some anti-globalization activists say the glossy image is nothing more than a Hollywood prop.

Garcia Clinic Earns Praise

Senator Gordon Smith went to the floor of the U.S. Senate early this month to praise the efforts of the Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center in providing primary health care services to migrants, seasonal farm workers and other low-income groups in Washington County.

"The Virginia Garcia Clinic does a wonderful job at bridging the large gap between access to coverage and access to care," said Smith. "The clinic staff represent the kind of health care heroes we desperately need in our quest to ensure that every person in this country has access to health care. Today, I salute the work and workers of the Virginia Garcia Clinic, true heroes for Oregon."

Virginia Garcia was a 6-year-old girl who died from a treatable infection in the 1970s. She died, not because she lacked health care, but because nobody spoke to her family in the only language they knew — Spanish. The clinic, located in Cornelius, serves nearly 8,000 patients a year, 80 percent of whom are Spanish speaking and 90 percent of whom are below the poverty level.

Workshop Teaches Brazilian Dance

The Portland State University's World Dance Office presents an eight-week Samba workshop with Sheyla Mattos and the local band, Lions of Batucada.

Mattos, the workshop instructor is from Sao Paulo, Brazil. She frequently returns to her homeland for intensive studies of Brazilian folkloric dance to inspire and share the beauty and energy of Brazilian dance and culture with her students.

The dance workshop will be from April 9 — May 30, every Tuesday and Thursday, from 6—7:30 p.m. at PSU's Peter Stott Center, Room 207. Beginners of Samba dance will join with advanced and returning students of Mattos. Members of the legendary Lions of Batucada will provide live accompaniment for all classes.

For more information, call the World Dance Office at 503-725-5670.



The streets of Portland liven up as dancers of all ages move to Samba music.

Linking Creative Services to Hispanic Businesses

Creative Services' contributions in Oregon is the topic at the Hispanic Chamber meeting on Tuesday, March 26, from 11:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m. in the Benson Hotel, located at 309 SW Broadway in Portland.

"The goal of this forum is to increase the participation of Hispanic

businesses to economic opportunities in Oregon's creative services industry, and to increase communication and networking between the Hispanic community and the creative services industry.

"Presenters from the Creative Services Association, Downstream Digital

and the Metropolitan Group will provide an overview of the industry and how they work with Hispanic businesses and the Latino community," says Gale Castillo, executive director of the Chamber.

To attend, call 222-0280 or email to hmcc@uswest.net. The Hispanic Chamber website is at www.hmccoregon.com.

celebrating Cops Helping Kids" auction benefiting youth, on Saturday, April 6, 5 p.m. at a location in downtown Portland. PAL serves thousands of youths through their juvenile crime prevention program. Call Deborah Munn or Maria Elmore at 823-0250, or go online to www.palkids.org.

Learn Local Demographic Analysis

Learn about how to do local demographic analysis at three different workshops on the subject. The workshops will be held March 20 and 22 at the Portland Building. They are designed for human service providers, neighborhood activists, grant writers, planners or anyone who would like to easily look up and analyze social data. For more information, contact Gina Clemmer at 234-5959 or go online to www.smartgirltechnologies.com.

Men's Gospel Music Workshop

For all male youths and adults who can sing gospel, the New Hope Baptist Church, located at 3725 N. Gantenbein, will be having a gospel music men's workshop choir on March 21 and 22 at 7 p.m. and on March 23 at 10 a.m., followed by lunch at 1 p.m. A New Hope Church free concert is scheduled for March 25, 6:30 p.m. Call 281-0163, 698-5447 or send an email to newhope@jps.net.

Chinese Kite Festival

The Portland Classical Chinese Garden celebrates the tradition and history of Chinese kites during the Clear Brightness Festival. On Saturday, April 6 and Sunday, April 7, from noon to 3 p.m., children 6 years and older can learn to make kites in a Chinese opera mask motif. The garden is located at NW 3rd and Everett. Call 228-8131 or go online to www.portlandchinesegarden.org.

Wildlife Conservation Lectures

The Oregon Zoo is having a Wildlife Conservation Lecture Series. This year, Peter Matthiessen, an acclaimed writer of two dozen books will be speaking on the preservation and revitalization of the world's dwindling crane populations. The event will be held on Tuesday, March 26, from 7:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m. Call 226-1561.

Pacific University Lecture

Immigration policy post-September 11 will be a topic of discussion at the Pacific Questions Town Hall "People Without Papers," on Wednesday, April 3 at 7 p.m. in Taylor Auditorium in Marsh hall on Pacific's campus in Forest Grove. The event is free and open to the public. Call 359-2211.

Women's HIV/AIDS Support Group

For women with HIV/AIDS, a support group is available through Sister's Keeper. It meets every 2nd and 3rd Monday, from 7 — 8 p.m. at the Allen Temple CME Church, 4236 NE. Eighth Ave. Call Renee Ward at 249-1719.

Continuing her commitment
to family and community

THE JOYCE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Joyce Washington was tireless in her devotion to children and building a better community.

The *Portland Observer* is continuing this loving legacy by awarding high school seniors from our community scholarships to help them achieve their dreams.

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