



Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez salutes a military officer after returning to power. Chavez vowed to make sweeping democratic changes with his second chance after a failed coup attempt and public demands for his resignation.

## Chavez Thanks Venezuelan Paratroopers

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — President Hugo Chavez, newly restored to office after a botched coup attempt, told paratroopers who remained loyal to him "I will always be with you," but also made a conciliatory gesture to opponents.

The normally pugnacious president, after two days as a captive of the military high command, said in a nationwide televised address that he had reflected on his mistakes and was prepared to correct them. Venezuelans waited to see if Chavez had indeed changed, and whether a split in the military and problems in the state-run oil consortium could be smoothed over.

The issues are critical: Venezuela is the fourth-biggest oil exporter in the world and No. 3 supplier to the United States, with sales fueling the South American nation's economy. Also, military unrest could erupt into further bloodshed and destabilization.

One member of the military high command said Sunday that the armed forces' deep divide over Chavez would be difficult to mend. The number of people killed during the upheaval that followed Chavez's ouster was still being counted. The streets were mostly calm Sunday except for scattered looting.

A report released by two local human rights groups,

COFAVIC and the Archdiocese of Caracas Human Rights Vicar, said 23 people were killed Saturday, and accused security forces of being responsible for most of the deaths. Witnesses have said police opened fire Saturday on pro-Chavez demonstrators in several poor neighborhoods of Caracas.

In all, about 40 people are known to have been slain after the military high command confronted Chavez and announced that he had resigned, setting off street protests and a rebellion by some military commanders who didn't go along with the plan.

On Sunday, Chavez visited an army paratrooper base in Maracay, 25 miles southwest of Caracas, to thank the troops there for sticking by him. Gen. Raul Baduel, commander of the base where Chavez himself had trained as a soldier, had rebelled Saturday against the coup attempt.

"Soldiers, all of you, how great you are," Chavez told the troops. "I will always be with you. I will never go away."

The Bush administration, which showed no remorse when the military ousted Chavez, advised him to make good use of his second chance "by correcting its course and governing in a fully democratic manner."

The leftist Chavez had irritated Washington by cozying up to Cuba as well as Iraq, Iran and Libya.

## MLK Businesswoman Finds Niche in Water Quality

Pat Carter is the "Water Lady" at the Water Express store.

The northeast Portland businesswoman is on a mission to supply customers one of the cleanest water products on the market, for a price that is affordable to all.

She has the most up-to-date water accessories, including the ever-popular 8-glass water bottle (jug), and water bottles of various sizes for the home and office. The "Water Lady" also offers an attractive variety of dispensing units that are as affordable as any on the market. All or most items carry a 5-year warranty.

Carter puts a premium on affordable prices with absolutely zero compromise on water or product quality. The Water Express store is located at 3909 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. where customers can see all the products that are being offered.

"You will be amazed at how affordable quality water can be," she said. "Our Life and the life of those you care about are important enough for you to do the research. Ask your doctor, shop around, buy where you like, but don't compromise on your family's health when the price is now within your means and located so close."



Pat Carter finds a niche for quality in the water market at her Water Express store at 3909 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

### Subcontractors - Interstate Max System Element 10S

Transdyn Controls is bidding the Tri-Met Interstate Max System Element 10S Central Control System, the replacement of the central computer control center at Ruby Junction. Please submit qualifications for your firm directly to the fax number listed below or contact their local DBE coordinator FM Burch and Associates, Inc. at 503 735-9455/936-6898 Cell for any questions. Plans and specs are available at Tri-Met offices 710 N E Holladay and the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs 4134 N Vancouver plan center. Certified Disadvantaged Businesses and M/W/ESB's are encouraged to submit qualifications.

Areas of work include, supplies, computer and display equipment, low voltage electrical installation and misc. installation of communication equipment interfacing.

Qualifications due no later than 10:00AM Thursday, April 25, 2002. Submit information to Bob Boardman, Transdyn Controls-5669 Gibraltar Drive, Pleasanton, California 94588 phone 925-225-1600 fax 925-225-1610 e-mail RBoardman@Transdyn.com.

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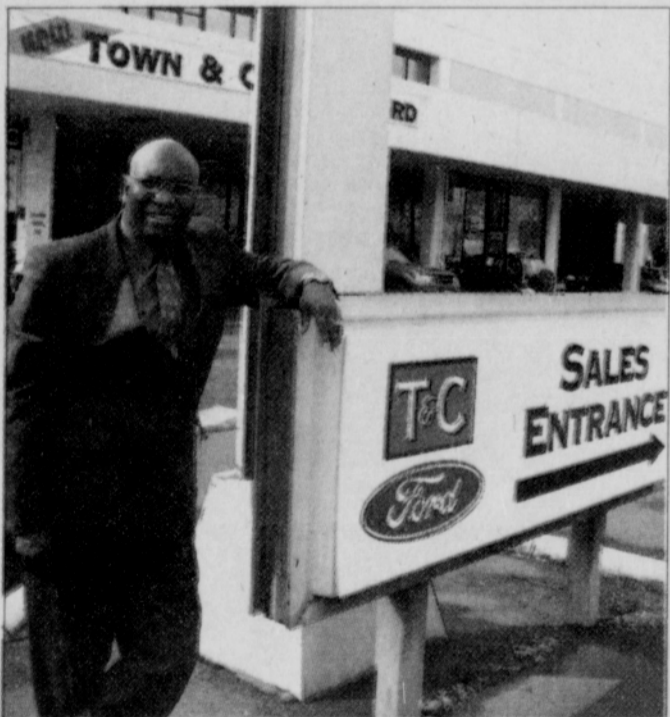
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