

# EL OBSERVADOR

## Explorando el Columbia Slough Saturday festival at Whitaker Ponds

Area residents are invited to join the Columbia Slough Watershed Council for the sixth annual Explorando El Columbia Slough on Saturday, June 16 from 1p.m. to 5 p.m. at Whitaker Ponds in northeast Portland.

Explorando is an afternoon of free family fun and festivities celebrating the nature and history of the Columbia Slough. The event is targeted to the Hispanic community, with events and activities being offered in both Spanish and English.

Highlights will include free guided canoe trips, live music, folk dancing, environmental games and displays, bilingual storytelling, live birds of prey, guided nature hikes, arts and crafts, refreshments and more.

Guests will also receive the Spanish recreation guide to the Columbia Slough, which features outdoor locations for bicycle riding, walking, paddling and picnicking within the Slough Watershed.

There will be food for purchase by La Bonita. Festival participants also receive a free t-shirt while supplies last.

Explorando will be held at Whitaker Ponds Environmental Learning Center, 7040 N.E. 47th Ave., 1/4 mile north of Northeast Columbia Boulevard. To download an event flyer and map, visit [columbiaslough.org](http://columbiaslough.org).



Family events targeted to the local Hispanic community will bring celebrants to Whitaker Ponds in northeast Portland Saturday.

## Wyden Votes for English

(AP)—Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon joined nearly all Senate Republicans to support English as the national language of the United States.

Wyden and Republican Sens. Gordon Smith of Oregon and Larry Craig and Mike Crapo of Idaho supported an amendment

on Thursday making English "the national language." The amendment, sponsored by Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., was approved 64-33, with 17 Democrats joining 47 Republicans in support. Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., was the only Republican voting no.

Democratic Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell of Washington state voted no.

Jennifer Hoelzer, a spokeswoman for Wyden, said Wyden's vote confirmed the longtime status of English as the national language.

"As Americans and immigrants have known for more than two centuries, English is the national language. This vote confirms that," Hoelzer said.



Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore.

## Divisions Stall Immigration Reforms

(AP)—Senate divisions derailed a White House-backed immigration bill and seem to mirror the U.S. society's deep differences over the issue, according to polling data, lawmakers and analysts. Those gaps will challenge any effort to get the measure back on track.

While most Senate Democrats appeared to back the bill, several liberal members said it did too little to keep immigrant families together and protect jobs for U.S.-born workers.

The split in the Republican Party was more obvious. The issue pitted social conservatives, who insisted that illegal immigrants not be granted "amnesty" for entering the country unlawfully, against business groups hungry for willing workers in hotels, restaurants, construction sites and other comparatively low-wage, low-skilled workplaces.

A bipartisan group of senators tried for weeks to bridge the chasms, but fell glaringly short last week. Needing 60 votes to end debate and schedule a final vote on the bill itself, they won only 45. Senate



A woman joins hundreds of other immigrants during a rally in downtown Miami. (AP photo)

leaders set aside the legislation until further notice.

House leaders, meanwhile, said they will not tackle immigration leg-

islation until a Senate bill is completed.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said he hoped to

pass the measure eventually. The White House argued the setback was not fatal for Bush's top domestic priority.

## Castro Appears on TV

### First long look since he fell ill

Fidel Castro has appeared on Cuban television, speaking slowly and focusing on past memories rather than his recovery and future in his first lengthy appearance since he fell ill and gave up power last summer.

The 80-year-old Castro's now grayer beard and hair were well-trimmed and he looked rested and alert — no longer the picture of a man on the verge of death. But he did not speak of international issues and did not mention any plans to return to governing Cuba.

"I tell my compatriots, I'm now doing what I should be doing," Castro said, during the June 5 interview with Randy Alonso, host of the government's nightly "Round Table" program. "There are no secrets."

But his condition and exact ailment have remained state secrets since July 31, when Castro announced he had undergone emergency intestinal surgery and was stepping aside in favor of a provisional government headed by his 76-year-old brother Raul, the defense minister.

Castro has been recovering in

an undisclosed location and has not been seen in public since that announcement. Life on the island has been little changed and top officials have insisted for months that Castro's health is improving.

The interview was taped one day earlier and lasted about 50 minutes. It was impossible to tell whether the footage has been edited.

Castro sounded coherent but meandered from one topic to another, much as he typically had done in speeches before he fell ill. More than anything he said, the interview was notable for how much stronger and healthier Castro looked.



Cuban leader Fidel Castro is shown on television during an interview last week from an undisclosed location in Cuba.

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## Have you seen me?

Missing and Exploited Children  
**1-800-THE-LOST**

Endangered Missing



Luis Izquierdo-Olea  
Current Age: 7



Nieves Izquierdo-Olea  
Current Age: 3

Date Missing: November 1, 2006  
Missing From: Hillsboro, OR

Luis and Nieves were taken to Mexico by their non-custodial parent who has since returned to the United States. The whereabouts of the children is still unknown.

If you have any information please contact:  
The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children  
**1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)**

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