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 Coflyer and map, visit columbiaslough.org.



lumbia Boulevard. To download an event 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



Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore.

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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

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

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

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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.

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

further notice.

House leaders, meanwhile, said

leaders set aside the legislation until islation until a Senate bill is compass the measure eventually. The

they will not tackle immigration leg-Reid, D-Nev., said he hoped to mestic priority.

White House argued the setback Senate Majority Leader Harry was not fatal for Bush's top do-

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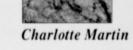
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Castro Appears on TV First long look since he fell ill

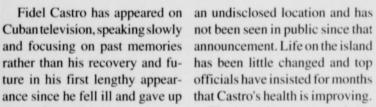
ance since he fell ill and gave up that Castro's health is improving. power last summer.

grayer beard and hair were welltrimmed and he looked rested and alert — no longer the picture edited. 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.

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



The interview was taped one The 80-year-old Castro's now day earlier and lasted about 50 minutes. It was impossible to tell whether the footage has been

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 "I tell my compatriots, I'm 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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Luis Izcuierdo-Olea Current Age: 7



Current Age: 3

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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)

> This public service announcement provided by the Portland Observer Newspaper.