

Trump loved, hated by Hispanics

By JILL COLVIN
Associated Press

LAREDO, Texas — There was an audible gasp from the gathered crowd as Donald Trump’s 757 lifted off the tarmac.

“Oh my God. Wow,” said Gina Gil, 48, after an excited shriek, reaching for her 11-year-old-nephew. “I think it’s a historic moment, ma’am. Seriously, I really do.”

Gil was referring to Trump’s visit Thursday to Laredo, Texas, a small city on the U.S.-Mexico border where the Republican presidential candidate spent less than an hour touring the border, bragged to reporters about the danger he faced, proclaimed Hispanics love him, and stopped traffic with a presidential-sized motorcade.

Yet beyond the spectacle The Donald seems to create wherever he goes, the billionaire businessman’s visit exposed evidence of a divided community whose overwhelmingly Hispanic population both decried Trump as racist and cheered his hardline immigration views. Interviews during and after the whirlwind tour with more than a dozen local residents underscored the danger Trump represents to the GOP’s relationship with Hispanic voters and his appeal to a vocal segment of frustrated voters, many Hispanics among them, who see a glaring problem on the nation’s southern border that requires attention.

Jessica Gonzalez, 79, a retired housewife who was born and raised in Laredo, said she’d watched as the city she’d grown up in had changed, with restaurants replaced with Mexican food and new people coming in.

“I think he’s right,” she said in the parking lot of a local CVS. “All we have is people from foreign countries. ... It’s not like it used to be.”

Gonzalez — a Democrat —



AP Photo/LM Otero

Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump speaks after arriving at the airport Thursday for a visit to the U.S. Mexico border in Laredo, Texas. Trump is touring the border area to highlight his concerns about immigration policies.

and her husband used to travel across the border frequently to shop and for entertainment, but are now afraid to cross because of violence from the drug cartels.

“I want to go down and say: Donald Trump, you’re on fire in Laredo! Because everybody feels what you think!” she said.

Outside Obregon’s Mexican Restaurant, Enrique Harrington Ramon, 75, said he felt Spanish-speaking immigrants “take advantage of us” in Laredo, and said people are responding to what Trump says “because it’s the truth.”

“I am sick of walking into a store and hearing ‘en que le puede ayudar?’ What country are we in?” he said.

Others in this growing city of about 250,000, where 95.6 percent

of the population identified as Hispanic or Latino in 2010, lashed out at Trump, who described some Mexican immigrants in the country illegally as “rapists” and “criminals” during his announcement speech last month and has refused to apologize.

“I wish he wouldn’t come down here,” said Raul Gonzalez, 65, a retired trailer and truck mechanic who was born and raised in Laredo. “He’s very disrespectful to Latinos.”

Laredo-born Tony Flores, 82, who was wearing a cap that identified him as a Korean War veteran, said of Trump: “He is poisonous. He is hatred.”

While Hispanic voters along the U.S.-Texas border have a unique perspective, the vast majority of the growing demo-

graphic supports more forgiving immigration policies that would allow a pathway to citizenship or permanent residency for immigrants in the country illegally, according to recent polls.

Trump, meanwhile, is viewed favorably by just 28 percent of Americans and unfavorably by 58 percent, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll conducted earlier in the month. About one-third of whites, but just 16 percent of Hispanics and 10 percent of blacks, have a favorable view of Trump.

At the airport, Patti Magnon, 43, who works for a law firm, said she brought her 6-year-old daughter to see Trump’s custom plane, emblazoned with his name in big gold letters, land and then returned to watch him go.

BRIEFLY

Turkish jets hit IS targets in Syria, Kurds in N. Iraq

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkish jets flying from a base in Turkey’s southeast have struck Islamic State group targets across the border in Syria for the second straight night, Turkish news reports said Saturday. The fighter jets also hit camps of Kurdish PKK militants in northern Iraq, the reports said.

There was no immediate official confirmation of the airstrikes reported by the state-run TRT television and other media. If confirmed, it would be the first time Turkey has struck Kurds in northern Iraq since a peace deal was announced in 2013 between Ankara and the rebel group, the Kurdistan Workers’ Party, or PKK.

The private Dogan news agency said the Turkish jets were targeting PKK training facilities, shelters and anti-aircraft batteries in northern Iraq.

Tensions have flared with Kurds in recent days after an IS suicide bombing in the southeastern Turkish city of Suruc on Monday killed 32 people. Kurdish groups blame the Turkish government for not combatting IS.

On Wednesday, the PKK claimed responsibility for the killing of two Turkish policemen near the Kurdish majority city of Sanliurfa, near the Syrian border.

AT&T is now biggest traditional TV supplier

NEW YORK (AP) — Even as TV watchers increasingly go online, AT&T has become the country’s biggest traditional TV provider with its \$48.5 billion purchase of DirecTV.

It got its regulatory approval Friday from the Federal Communications Commission after more than a year. The Justice Department had already cleared the deal on Tuesday.

AT&T Inc. now has 26.4 million cable and satellite TV subscribers.

That’s more than Comcast as well as a bigger Charter, which is seeking government approval to buy Time Warner Cable.

Suppliers of TV are buying one another as video from Internet competitors like Netflix gets more popular and costs rise for channels.

SUPPORT GROUPS

DAILY
OPEN AA MEETING, 12 noon, 680 Harper Road, Hermiston. (877-770-1670).

OPEN AA MEETING, 12 noon, Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 241 S.E. Second St., Pendleton. Coffee is provided. (Ed 541-207-2548).

SATURDAYS
OREGON GREEN FREE MEDICAL MARIJUANA SUPPORT GROUP, 12 noon, 1607 Gekeler Lane, La Grande. Lunch will be provided. (Doreen 541-963-2529). Second Saturday

AA BOOK MEETING, 10 a.m., St. Johns Episcopal Church, 665 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, 7 p.m., Pilot Rock City Hall council chambers, 143 W. Main St. (Edward D. 541-207-2548).

OPEN AA MEETING, 7 p.m., United Church of Christ, 114 S. East St., Condon. (800-410-5953).

VISION FOR YOU OPEN AA MEETING, 7 p.m. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 420 Locust Rd S.W., Boardman. (Pat 541-215-2342, 503-752-7459).

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS, 7:30 p.m., United Methodist Church, 191 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS, 7:30 p.m., 248 S.W. 3rd St., Pendleton.

HEPPNER MIRACLES OPEN AA MEETING, 8 p.m., St. Patrick’s Church parish hall, 525 N. Gale St., Heppner. (800-410-5953).

OPEN AA MEETING, 8 p.m., 680 Harper Road, Hermiston. (800-410-5953).

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS, 8:45 p.m., 811 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton.

SUNDAYS
HUNGRY SPIRIT OPEN AA MEETING, 8:30 a.m., Roosters Restaurant, 1515 Southgate, Pendleton (800-410-5953).

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS, 7:30 p.m., 811 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton.

OPEN AA MEETING, 7 p.m., Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center, 73265 Confederated Way, Mission (800-410-5953).

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS, 7:30-9 p.m., Hermiston United

Methodist Church, 191 E. Gladys Ave.

OPEN AA MEETING, 8 p.m., 680 Harper Road, Hermiston. (800-410-5953).

MONDAYS
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, 6-7 a.m., St. Anthony Hospital conference room 3, 3001 St. Anthony Drive, Pendleton. (Ed 541-207-2548).

PARKINSON’S DISEASE SUPPORT GROUP, 1 p.m., Desert Lanes Bowling Alley, 1545 N. First St., Hermiston. (Carol and Charles 541-720-4256 or 541-567-9420). First Monday

PENDLETON PARKINSON’S SUPPORT/TELEHEALTH FAMILY, 2-4 p.m., Pendleton City Hall, 500 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. (Sue Peterson 541-276-4569). Second Monday

ALZHEIMERS AND DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP, 5:30 p.m., Good Shepherd Medical Pavilion room M1, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. For families and support members of people with dementia diagnoses. (Cathy Lloyd 541-390-1158). Last Monday except for May 18.

AL-ANON, 6:30 p.m., United Church of Christ, 114 S. East St., Condon. (800-410-5953).

HOPE FOR HEALING SUPPORT GROUP, 6-7:30 p.m., Good Shepherd Medical Office Plaza meeting room, 620 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. Bereavement support group dealing with loss and grief issues. (541-667-3543). Second and fourth Monday

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP, 6:30-8 p.m., Good Shepherd Medical Office Plaza meeting room, 620 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. English and Spanish. (Karen 541-561-6522, Shari 541-561-7404 or Esmeralda 541-720-7595). Third Monday

EASTERN OREGON DOWN SYNDROME SUPPORT GROUP, 6:30-7:30 p.m., The Arc Building, 215 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. (Angela Bonzani 541-720-7880). Third Monday

OPEN AA MEETING, 6:30 p.m., Echo Methodist Church, 21 Bonanza Street. (541-571-6257, 800-410-5953).

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS, 7 p.m., 352 S.E. Second St., Pendleton.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS, 7 p.m., Christ the King Lutheran Church, 325 S.W. Sixth Ave., Milton-Freewater.

OPEN AA MEETING, 8 p.m., United Church of Christ, 114 S. East St., Condon. (800-410-5953).

TUESDAYS
TOPS, 8:30 a.m. weigh-in, 9-10 a.m. meeting, Landmark Baptist Church, 125 E. Beech Ave., Hermiston. (Barb 541-580-8668).

CANCER SURVIVORS LUNCHEON, 1 to 2 p.m., St. Anthony Hospital, 2801 St. Anthony Way, Pendleton. (Lori Weaver 541-278-3233). Second Tuesday

WOMEN’S AA MEETING, 1:15 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 241 S.E. Second St., Pendleton. Children are welcome.

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP, 1-2:30 p.m., Good Shepherd Medical Center Wellness Center, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. (Marian 541-377-9761). Third Tuesday

LOST AND FOUND YOUTH OUTREACH, 4 p.m., Hailey Place Apartments community room, 696 S.W. 30th St., Pendleton. Help for youth 12-18 facing challenges. (Danny 541-379-4250 or Leslie 541-276-3987).

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS OPEN GROUP, 5:15 p.m., Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 241 S.E. Second St., Pendleton. (Edward D. 541-207-2548).

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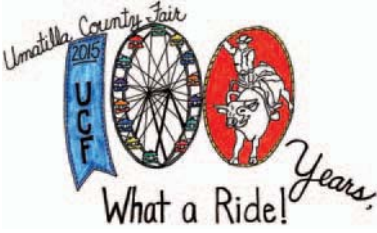
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