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Time and again I've said that I am blessed to have compassionate and caring doctors on my team, who treat me as a whole, and not just my diseased parts. They listen to and advocate for me, and in doing so, perhaps spoil me.

The Ombudsman

Three major news agencies, on Barack Obama's first full day in office, gave the first sign that the media's honeymoon with the new president could be a trip.



PHOTOS BY LISA KRANTZ/lkrantz@express-news.net

Elisa Chan talks with Eduardo Parra, a recent immigrant from Venezuela, at Walker Historic Landmark Park, where Chan announced she'll run for City Council. Chan counts County Judge Nelson Wolff and auto dealer Red McCombs among her supporters.

City Council sees new challenger

Elisa Chan promises limited government, low taxes, more police and firefighters.

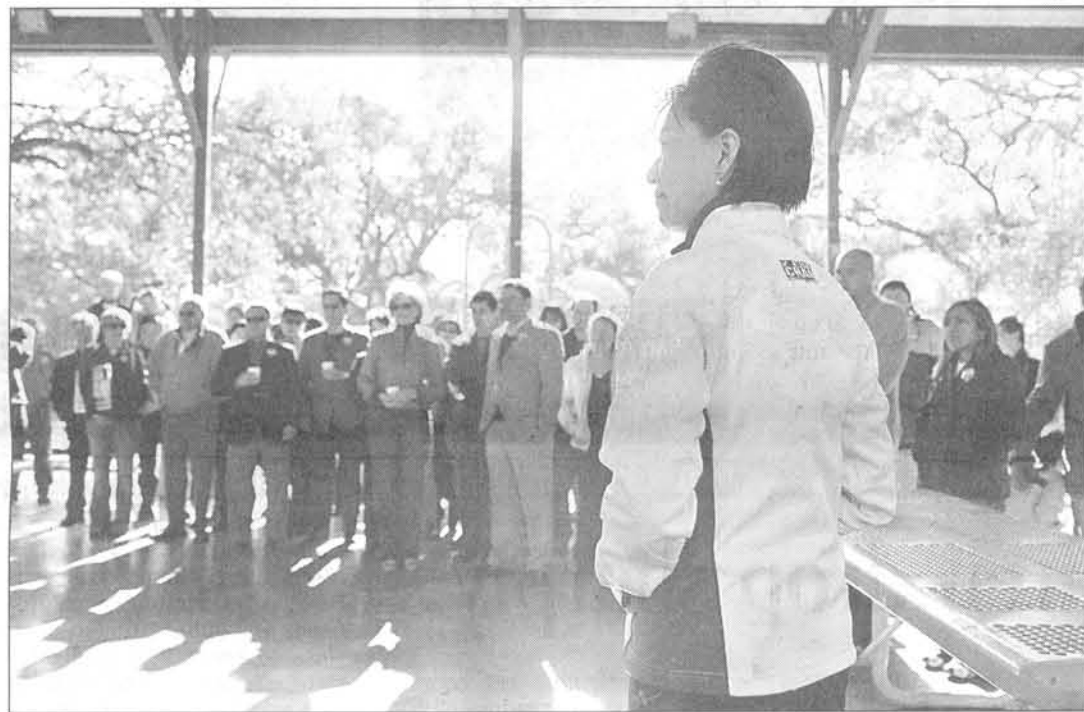
BY KARISA KING
kking@express-news.net

Shivering slightly in a cold wind, City Council candidate Elisa Chan launched her first bid for public office Saturday, promising that she would use the District 9 seat to push for economic development and higher-paying jobs.

"I believe in limited government," she told a crowd of about 75 supporters assembled under a pavilion at Walker Historic Landmark Park. "I believe in fiscal conservatism. I believe in protecting public interests, and I believe in having a proactive — not a reactive — government."

She also pledged to boost police and firefighter ranks, increase investment in public infrastructure and keep taxes low.

Political observers view Chan as a formidable candidate for the North Side seat, which is being vacated by appointed Councilman Louis Rowe. She counts about \$100,000 in her campaign chest, including a \$50,000 loan to herself, and a list of big names behind her. Among her supporters are County Judge Nelson Wolff, auto dealer Red McCombs, retired



About 75 people were on hand for the announcement of the former city planning commission member's first bid for public office.

AT&T CEO Ed Whitacre, SWBC owner Charlie Amato and NuStar Energy LP Chairman Bill Greehey.

"She has very broad support," said Christian Anderson, her campaign consultant. "Her involvement in the community has really built momentum for the campaign."

Chan emigrated from China in 1988 and earned a master's degree in computer science. She worked in software development for 13 years and, together

with her husband, founded Unitech Consulting Engineers, an engineering design firm with about 50 employees. She also served on the city planning commission.

"She's going to bring a voice that we've not had before," said Wolff, whose wife, Tracy, works as Chan's campaign treasurer. "But that's just part of it. She's very well qualified for the job."

Chan's appeal also has reached beyond political insiders. Eduardo Parra, a civil

engineer from Venezuela who has lived in San Antonio for less than three weeks, came to Saturday's announcement to meet Chan and learn more.

"I feel very identified with her because she's also an immigrant," Parra said. "She wants to work hard for the country that gave her so much. That touches me. It means a lot."

Chan will likely face AT&T engineering design manager Weston Martinez in the May 9 city election.

NEWS ROUNDUP

SAN ANTONIO

Motorcyclist loses control, dies in crash

A motorcyclist was killed early Saturday morning when he lost control of his bike and crashed into a freeway retaining wall near the San Antonio International Airport.

Witnesses told police the man was riding a Honda motorcycle about 3:30 a.m. northbound in the 10400 block of U.S. 281 North when he lost control and crossed in front of another vehicle before crashing.

The biker, whose identity had not been released Saturday afternoon, died at the scene.

Cops probe teenager's death, await autopsy

Police are investigating a suspicious death of a 17-year-old male in the 800 block of Babcock Road Saturday morning.

Few details were immediately available. Police were dispatched to an apartment for a report of a suicide at 9:30 a.m.

The Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office pronounced the youth dead Saturday afternoon. His identity had not been released.

Medical examiner's investigators said an autopsy today should reveal whether the incident was a homicide or suicide.

Blood donations to be accepted at Alamo

The South Texas Blood and Tissue Center will host a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday at the Alamo.

The drive will take place in Alamo Hall behind the mission.

Identification is required and donors must be 17 years of age or older and weigh at least 110 pounds.

For more information call: (210) 225-1391 or visit southtexasblood.org.

Primer for council hopefuls slated

Residents who are interested in running for City Council or mayor are invited to attend the Election/Campaign Finance workshop hosted by the city and the Texas Ethics Commission.

The free public workshop runs from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Monday in the Development and Business Services Center Board Room, 1901 South Alamo.

Attendees will be taught the elements of running for City Council, including state and city campaign finance regulations.

For more information call: (210) 207-7255.

Area campuses mark Catholic Schools Week

Catholic schools around the country this week are celebrating Catholic Schools Week, a 35-year-old tradition of volunteerism.

The week's festivities will begin on Monday with a ceremony at 10 a.m. at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 2718 W. Woodlawn Ave. Archbishop José Gomez, Bishop Oscar Canto and Sister Carla Marie Lusch,

schools, will speak to San Antonio students about the community.

According to the survey, 13,717 students at Catholic schools

TEXAS

Parched conditions keep fire threat high

State officials warn of continuing fire danger as high wind and clear skies Saturday across the state. Wildfires had destroyed houses, killed a person and blackened more than 100,000 acres of grassland.

Nick Harrison, director for the Texas Forest Service, says the low humidity and high wind were hazardous conditions for south-central Texas. Winds were forecast Saturday.

"We're critical of the state," he said.

A blaze that started in Montague south of the Oklahoma state line was in its "early stages" Saturday, the department spokesman said.

Koresh's mother says her sister is innocent

HOUSTON — The infamous Branch Davidians leader David Koresh was found dead Saturday and his sister's custody Saturday after her slaying, authorities said.



Bonnie Clark was found dead Saturday afternoon at the home of her sister, Beverly Clark, in the area near Chandler, about 100 miles north of Houston. Henderson County officials said she was an attorney.

"It's still unclear what the motive was for this to happen," said Clark Saturday.

The sheriff's office made a 911 call Saturday to the deputies to be on the scene.

Clark was bonded in the court pending a court hearing. Officials said she had an attorney.

Pioneering donor dead

DALLAS — Judy Osborne, who became the first living organ donor when she gave a kidney to her ailing son in 1988, died Saturday.

Osborne died of Ashland, Ky., of complications from aspiration pneumonia. Her son, Burl Osborne, is a managing editor of the Associated Press publisher emeritus Morning News.

Juanita Osborne had a kidney in 1966, the most successful organ donor had been performed. She had identical twins, a risk of unsuccessful surgery, but Burl Osborne's end-stage renal

Renovations are pushed over vacations

Home & Garden show attendees encouraged to improve property value, save money.

