

## OBITUARIES

### OSCAR PABLO TREVIÑO



Oscar Pablo Treviño, 69, passed away Saturday, Feb. 12, 2005.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2005, from the Hernandez-Lopez and Sons Northside Chapels, 800 Boston St.

Holy Mass was celebrated at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church.

Committal services, interment with full military honors provided by the United States Army Honor Guard of Fort Sam Houston of San Antonio, and the playing of Taps by the American Legion Post 59 of Laredo were held in the Veteran's Section of the Laredo city cemetery.

Pallbearers were Antonio Treviño, Oscar Treviño, David Treviño, Daniel Treviño, Alberto Treviño and Jorge Hernandez.

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### JULIAN RAMOS DIAZ

Julian R. Diaz, 71, passed away Feb. 13, 2005, in a local hospital.

He is survived by his beloved



wife of 44 years, Norma G. Diaz; sons, Julian Diaz Jr. from Corpus Christi, Diego and Andres; daughters, Diana, Elvia, and Rosalinda Diaz, all from Laredo; brother, Mr. Roberto R. (Virginia) Diaz from Skidmore, Texas; mother-in-law Concepcion G. Garza; and 15 grandchildren.

He is also survived by a beloved niece, Elma (Alfredo) Hinojosa and numerous relatives and friends. He will be greatly missed by all.

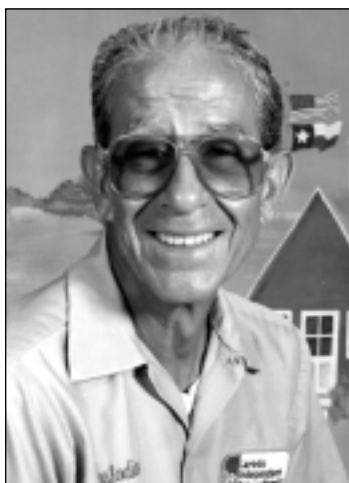
Mr. Diaz was retired from the Texas Army National Guard.

The Honor Guard was provided by the American Legion Post 59. Funeral services were held Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2005, at 8:30 a.m. followed by a Mass at San Luis Rey Church.

Pallbearers were Ricardo Gonzalez, Julian Diaz Jr., Diego Diaz, Ernesto H. Gonzalez Jr., Alejandro Gonzalez, Eduardo Ramos and Jose Alejandro Jaime.

Burial services were at the Veteran's Section of the city cemetery.

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### TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Feb. 17, the 48th day of 2005. There are 317 days left in the year.

**Today's highlight in history:**

Feb. 17, 1801, the House of Representatives broke an electoral tie between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr, electing Jefferson president; Burr became vice president.

**On this date:**

In 1817, a street in Baltimore became the first to be lighted with gas from America's first gas company.

In 1865, Columbia, S.C., burned as the Confederates evacuated and Union forces moved in. (It's not known which side set the blaze.)

In 1897, the forerunner of the National PTA, the National Congress of Mothers, was founded in Washington.

In 1904, Giacomo Puccini's opera "Madama Butterfly" was poorly received at its world premiere at La Scala in Milan, Italy.

In 1935, Newsweek was first published.

In 1947, the Voice of America began broadcasting to the Soviet Union.

In 1964, the Supreme Court ruled that congressional districts within each state had to be roughly equal in population.

In 1972, President Nixon departed on his historic trip to China.

In 1985, Murray P. Haydon became the third person to receive a permanent artificial heart as doctors at Humana Hospital Audubon in Louisville, Ky., implanted the device. (Haydon lived 488 days with the heart.)

In 1992, serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer was sentenced in Milwaukee to life in prison (however, he was beaten to death in prison in November 1994).

**Ten years ago:** Colin Ferguson was convicted of six counts of murder in the December 1993 Long Island Rail

Road shootings (he was later sentenced to a minimum of 200 years in prison).

**Five years ago:** A House panel said in a report that the program to inoculate all 2.4 million American military personnel against anthrax was based on "a paucity of science" and should be suspended; the Pentagon defended the program and vowed to continue the inoculations.

**One year ago:** John Kerry won the Wisconsin Democratic presidential primary, with John Edwards placing second and Howard Dean coming in a distant third. Cingular Wireless agreed to pay nearly \$41 billion in cash to buy AT&T Wireless Services. Former Mexican president Jose Lopez Portillo died in Mexico City at age 85.

**Today's birthdays:** Actor Marc Lawrence is 95. Bandleader Orrin Tucker is 94. Author Margaret Truman Daniel is 81. Actor Hal Holbrook is 80. Singer Bobby Lewis is 72. Country singer-songwriter Johnny Bush is 70. Football Hall-of-Famer Jim Brown is 69. Actress Mary Ann Mobley is 66. Singer Gene Pitney is 64. Actress Brenda Fricker is 60. Actress Rene Russo is 51. Actor Richard Karn is 49. Actor Lou Diamond Phillips is 45. Basketball player Michael Jordan is 42. Actor-comedian Larry, the Cable Guy is 42. TV personality Rene Syler is 42. Movie director Michael Bay is 41. Singer Chante Moore is 38. Rock musician Timothy J. Mahoney (31) is 35. Rock singer-musician Billie Joe Armstrong (Green Day) is 33. Actor Jerry O'Connell is 31. Country singer Bryan White is 31. Actor Jason Ritter ("Joan of Arcadia") is 25. Actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt is 24.

**Thought for today:** "Life has got to be lived — that's all there is to it. At 70, I would say the advantage is that you take life more calmly. You know that 'this, too, shall pass!'" — Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962).

### JOSE MARIA RAMIREZ JR.

Jose Maria Ramirez Jr., 73, passed away Monday, Feb. 14, 2005, at his place of residence.

Visitation was held and a



rosary was recited Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2005, in the Hernandez-Lopez and Sons Northside Chapels, 800 Boston St.

Funeral services will begin at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, 2005, from the funeral home chapel.

Holy Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. at St. Patrick's Catholic Church. Interment will then follow in the Veteran's Section of the Laredo city cemetery.

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### RODOLFO MONTOYA SR.

Rodolfo Montoya Sr., passed away Friday, Feb. 11, 2005.

Funeral services were held at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 16,

2005, from the Hernandez-Lopez and Sons Northside Chapels, 800 Boston St.

Holy Mass was celebrated at 9:50 a.m. at San Luis Rey Catholic Church. Committal services and interment were held in the Calvary Catholic Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Candido Idrogo, Ramon Montoya, Rodolfo Montoya Jr., Jacob Montoya, Enrique De Leon, Mark Montoya, Jerry Rodriguez and Arturo Martinez.

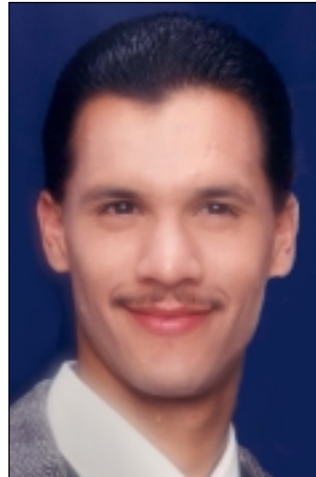
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### ROBERT BLANCO PATINO

Robert Blanco Patino, 27, passed away Saturday, Jan. 15, 2005.

Mr. Patino was born in Houston, Texas, and had been a resident of Laredo most of his



life.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather, Hector Patino Sr., and by his maternal grandparents, Francisco Carrillo and Elvira De Leon.

He is survived by his parents, Rev. Hector M. and Sandra Patino; brothers and sisters Hector Lee (America) Patino, Ysenia Sujue (Gabriel) Mireles, Delaila Patino, Jacob Patino, Priscilla Patino and Lisa Damaris Patino; paternal grandmother, Lilia G. Patino; nephews; nieces; uncles; aunts; other relatives and many, many friends.

Visitation will be held Thursday, Feb. 17, 2005, from 5 to 9:30 p.m. and a religious service will be held at 7 p.m. at the Centro Familiar Cristiano located at 3320 Anna.

Funeral services will be held Friday, Feb. 18, 2005, with visitation beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Centro Familiar Cristiano.

A religious service will be held at 10 a.m. with Rev. Hector M. Patino officiating. Interment will immediately follow in the Laredo city cemetery.

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## Hackers steal customers' private information from data collection firm

By RACHEL KONRA  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — A company that collects consumer data warned thousands of Californians that hackers penetrated the company's computer network and may have stolen credit reports, Social Security numbers and other sensitive information.

ChoicePoint Inc., which sells such data to government agencies and a variety of companies, acknowledged Tuesday that several hackers broke into its computer database and purloined data from as many as 35,000 Californians.

Last fall, hackers apparently used stolen identities to create what appeared to be legitimate businesses seeking ChoicePoint accounts, said Chuck Jones, a spokesman for Alpharetta, Ga.-based company. They opened about 50 accounts.

The attack appears to have resulted in at least six cases of identity theft in Los Angeles County. It's unclear whether data of people outside California were exposed. But law enforcement agents, who have arrested one person on six counts of theft, say hundreds of thousands

"It'd be like robbing a bank that wasn't FDIC insured so the robber wouldn't have to be prosecuted by the FBI."

ATTORNEY NICK AKERMAN

of Americans elsewhere may be at risk.

ChoicePoint has not notified consumers in other states, nor is it working with law enforcement agents elsewhere, Jones said.

"California is the focus of the investigation and we don't have any evidence to indicate at this point that the situation has spread beyond California," Jones said. "If at some point in time we get information that it's in other areas, we'll revisit the disclosure."

Security experts dismissed the notion that hackers would limit their attack geographically.

"I've never heard of a hacker doing something just to make a company comply with a state statute — that's ridiculous," said Nick Akerman, partner and co-chair of the computer fraud division of law firm



Photo by Donna McWilliam | AP

Conjoined Romanian twins Tatiana Dogaru, front, and Anastasia move around the room as Anastasia maneuvers the two while their parents Claudia Dogaru and Alin Dogaru look on Wednesday, Feb. 2. The twins are in Dallas to undergo evaluation for possible separation.

## Separation considered for conjoined twins

By JAMIE STENGLE  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — When Claudia and Alin Dogaru's twin daughters were born conjoined at the head a year ago, doctors told them nothing could be done.

But the Romanian couple found renewed hope when they learned that Dallas surgeons successfully separated then 2-year-old Egyptian conjoined twins in 2003. Now the entire family is in Dallas as Tatiana and Anastasia undergo evaluation for possible separation.

"If we can do nothing, then that will be so, but we will search for a second opinion," said Alin Dogaru, 50.

The case is complex — the top of Tatiana's head is attached to the back of Anastasia's and each girl relies on the other for basic functions — so it could be a month or so before doctors know if surgery is even possible.

Still, the separation of Ahmed and Mohamed Ibrahim has given doctors hope as well. The boys, who were once also joined at the head, were brought to Texas by the foundation and are now active 3½-year-olds, walking and talking.

"I think that we are more optimistic today than we were five years ago in the separation of craniopagus twins because of our experience with the boys," said Dr. Kenneth Salyer, a craniofacial surgeon and founder of the World Craniofacial Foundation.

Born Jan. 15, 2004, in Rome, the girls were brought to Texas in October by the Dallas-based World Craniofacial Foundation to be evaluated for separation.

The Dogarus, who live in Italy, are together again after Alin arrived in Dallas a couple of weeks ago to be with his wife, the twins and their 4-year-old daughter Maria Cristina.

Twins born joined at the head — called craniopagus twins — are extremely rare, occurring in about 1 in 2.5 million births.

After the girls were born, doctors told them nothing more could be done, and the family was sent to their home in the southern Italian town of Calabria, where Alin Dogaru has served as a Byzantine Rite Catholic priest for the past three years.

"No one in Italy could do anything," said Alin Dogaru.

Besides sharing a series of veins, there are other complications. Anastasia, who is larger than her sister, only has a small portion of her kidneys. So most kidney function is taken care of by Tatiana. And Tatiana doesn't eat much, relying on her sister for nutrition.

"Anastasia is living because of Tatiana's kidneys," Salyer said.

Shortly after coming to Texas, Tatiana underwent heart surgery at Medical City Children's to fix a constriction of the main vessel of her heart, Salyer said.

Salyer said that he hopes for a decision on surgery in one to two months. From there, doctors must work on a separation plan. The plan for the Egyptian boys took more than a year to formulate.

Doctors also need to work out what to do about Anastasia's lack of kidney function. One option is a transplant, Salyer said.

## California's High Tech Task Force Identity Theft Detail, said agents believe several other people were involved.

ChoicePoint sent e-mail notifications to Californians last week. State residents were the only Americans notified because the state has a unique law requiring companies that do business with residents to warn them when they've had holes in corporate computer networks.

Since the law went into effect in July 2003, organizations have alerted customers whenever "unencrypted personal information was, or is reasonably believed to have been, acquired by an unauthorized person."

Identity theft is the country's fastest-growing crime, and more than 9.9 million Americans were victims last year. The crimes cost a total of \$5 billion, not including lost productivity, according to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

Oct. 27, California sheriff deputies arrested Olatunji Oluwatosin, 41, when the Nigerian national went to his office to receive a fax ostensibly from ChoicePoint. Police were waiting for the North Hollywood resident at his office in Los Angeles. He's been in jail since then and is scheduled to appear in Los Angeles County Court on Thursday.

Robert Costa, the lieutenant in charge of Southern

