

**"Don't Suffer Alone"**  
**337-1111**  
 MARTINEZ & ASSOCIATES, PLLC

**OIL & GAS**  
**JOB FAIR**  
 San Antonio Express-News mySA.com monster

**Tuesday, March 13**  
 San Antonio Express-News mySA.com monster  
 mySA.com/jobs



Traffic | Weather | Subscriber Services | e-edition | Register | Sign In

Friday, March 02, 2012  
**83**°F San Antonio, TX  
 Scattered Clouds

**myDAILY DEAL**  
 Delicious Mexican Food at Fajita Taco Place  
**50% OFF** Click here to get this deal!

Search mySA Web Search by YAHOO! Businesses

Home News Sports Spurs Business Life Food A&E Obituaries Shopping Coupons Jobs Autos Homes Classifieds

Index ▼

Local | Education | Environment | Energy | Mexico | Military | Politics | Religion | Columnists | Communities | Data Central | Traffic | Weather

### Gov's husband pushing for literacy funding

SANDRA BALTAZAR MARTINEZ, Santa Fe New Mexican

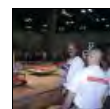
Published 01:06 a.m., Friday, January 20, 2012



FILE - In this Nov. 4, 2010 photo, New Mexico's first-ever "first gentleman" Chuck Franco talks to supporters at the campaign headquarters of his wife, Gov.-elect Susana Martinez, in Albuquerque, N.M.,. With about 46 percent of New Mexico's native English speakers reading at a sixth-grade level or below, the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy is pushing the Legislature for more funding. And helping drive their efforts is first gentleman Chuck Franco. The husband of Gov. Susana Martinez spoke at a news conference this week about his support for expanding such services and the goal of eradicating illiteracy in New Mexico. Photo: Susan Montoya Bryan / AP

#### Latest News Slideshows

Displaying 1-3 of 10



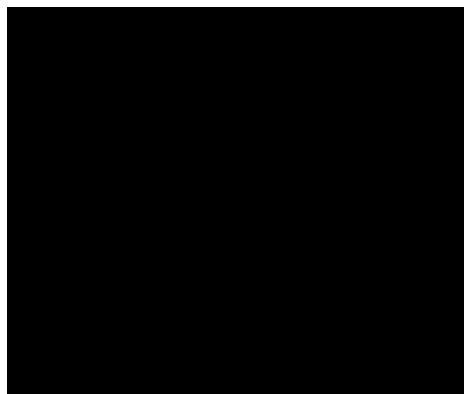
FIRST Event



Sports Illustrated Swimsuit cover: Kate Upton, 19



Last day of 2012 San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo



Most Read | Most Commented | Most Emailed

1. Woman guilty in boyfriend's murder
2. Teacher quits, leaves wife, moves in with student
3. Justices: \$1.5 million bail is fair in cop slaying case
4. Bicyclist killed by hit-and-run driver in Kerrville
5. Battle of Medina site found, geologist says
6. Arizona sheriff unveils Obama birth probe
7. Teacher arrested for on-campus sex with student

0 Likes 0 Comments

Like +1 in Share

Comments (0) Email This

Larger | Smaller Font

Printable Version

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — With about 46 percent of New Mexico's native English speakers reading at a sixth-grade level or below, the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy is pushing the Legislature for more funding.

And helping drive their efforts is first gentleman Chuck Franco.

The husband of Gov. Susana Martinez spoke at a news conference earlier this week about his support for expanding such services and the goal of eradicating illiteracy in New Mexico.

"My interest in adult literacy came to me when I was in law enforcement," Franco told a small crowd gathered at St. Francis Hotel in downtown Santa Fe.

Adult literacy is one of three causes Franco has decided to take

#### Recent Headlines

- Medina Valley EMS sells assets, agrees to audit
- Justice proves elusive in Bandera man's case

- 2 ex-TSU players accused of theft, coach's home
- Red flag warning issued for region
- Bar employee scares off assailants with flashlight

on. The others are Horses for Heroes and the [Youth Diagnostic Development Center](#) in Albuquerque.

Franco said that when he started working with troubled youth, he realized that their issues ran beyond behavioral problems. Having parents at home who couldn't read was one of them.

Having a well-educated population is important for New Mexico's economic advancement, Franco said. Companies interested in coming to New Mexico want to know that there is a prepared workforce.

Supporting the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy also complements Gov. Susana Martinez' push to improve K-12 education in the state, Franco said.

"I think we all need to participate in order to give New Mexico the workforce we need," Franco said. "If we wait for another generation to slip through the cracks, we are going to be in bad shape."

The coalition, which has been in Santa Fe for 25 years, is one way to help improve adults' reading skills, Franco said.

Funded by the [Department of Cultural Affairs](#) through the [New Mexico State Library](#), the coalition currently operates on a \$325,000 budget, down from the \$755,000 budget it had before the economy tanked. The coalition funds 23 literacy programs throughout the state, including Literacy Volunteers of Santa Fe.

Executive Director [Heather Heuenermund](#) said funding cuts reduced services across the state. During the Legislature's current 30-day session, the organization will ask for an additional \$347,200, she said. To help ease the strain, [Public Service Co. of New Mexico's Resources Foundation](#) awarded the literacy coalition a \$20,000 grant on Wednesday.

The number of illiterate or functionally literate adults in New Mexico derives from various sources: [U.S. Census Bureau](#) data and a 1993 National Assessment of Adult Literacy Survey (the most recent survey available). In the near future, the coalition plans to work with [New Mexico State University](#) to create a localized literacy survey.

Some New Mexico residents might feel ashamed to admit they don't know how to read, said [Donna Aragon](#), the coalition's state volunteer training coordinator.

"The hardest population to reach is the native English speakers," Aragon said. "English learners come looking for the service."

Information from: The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#), <http://www.sfnewmexican.com>

Printable Version
 Email This
 Like
 Tweet 0
 0
 Share

### We Recommend

- 7 accused of largest Medicare fraud ever
- You know you're from San Antonio if ...
- Beautician arrested for doing breast augmentations
- Food truck program in the prep stage
- Oil boom produces a gusher of problems
- 'Top Chef' crowns a deserving Texan

### From Around the Web

- 10 Cars That Refuse to Die (*Kiplinger*)
- Khloe Kardashian's Shocking Confession About Dad's Identity... (*The Stir By CafeMom*)
- Kissing Angelina Jolie Was 'Awkward, Sweaty, And Not Very Nice' (*Zimbio*)
- Vietnam's Cu-Chi Tunnels (*Away.com*)
- 4 risky places to swipe your debit card (*Bankrate.com*)

[what's this?]

### Comments

#### Add Your Comment

New to the site?

Already a member?

To use commenting, you need to sign up.

Please log in.

[\(Forgot Password?\)](#)

Email

Password

[Register](#)

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**  
 ★ **PREMISE** ★  
**ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES**  
**Competitive fun sales environment**  
 Click Here For More Information

### NEWS



Jewish school's basketball team wins at hardball

### ENTERTAINMENT



SNL alum Kattan makes S.A. debut

### SPORTS



No. 8 Marquette, No. 11 Georgetown play for 2nd

Remember Me [Sign In](#)

**NTRR Boosts Stock!**

Bio-Energy Boost Turbocharges  
NTRR's New Weight-Loss  
[www.BestMicroCapStock.com](http://www.BestMicroCapStock.com)

**Woman is 51 But Looks 25**

Mom publishes simple wrinkle secret  
that has angered  
[ConsumerLifestyles.org](http://ConsumerLifestyles.org)

**Mortgage Refinance 2.375%**

Federal Credit Union Mortgage Rate  
Drop. Refinance Now &  
[Credit-Union.MortgageSavingZone](http://Credit-Union.MortgageSavingZone)

[Ads by Yahoo!](#)

<b>MYSA</b>	Life	<b>TOPICS</b>	<b>MARKETPLACE</b>	<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b>LOCAL SERVICES</b>	<b>ABOUT US</b>
Home	Events Calendar	Community	Autos	Calendar	Air Conditioning Contractors in San Antonio	Contact Us
News	Multimedia	Health	Classifieds	Contests	Car Dealerships in San Antonio	Advertise online
Blogs	National/International	Living Green SA	Find San Antonio jobs	Photos	Cleaning Services in San Antonio	Advertise in print
Business	Obituaries	Military	Real Estate	<b>OTHER EDITIONS</b>	Family Doctors in San Antonio	Newspaper Delivery
Sports	Politics	Outdoors	Shopping	e-Edition	Furniture Stores in San Antonio	Place a classified ad
Columnists	Travel	Visitors' Guide	Business Directory	iPad App	Injury Attorneys in San Antonio	Buy Photos
Editorials	Traffic	SA Paws	Fan Shop	Mobile	New Car Dealers in San Antonio	Archives
Education	Weather	SA Cultura		Facebook	Real Estate Agents in San Antonio	Privacy Policy
Entertainment	Food			Follow us on Twitter	Real Estate Attorneys in San Antonio	Terms & Conditions
Forums	Spurs			Express-News in Education	Restaurants in San Antonio	Ethics Policy

**San Antonio Express-News**

© 2012 Hearst Communications Inc.

**HEARST** newspapers

