



Washington's Birthday Celebration Association™

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## **Jalapeño Festival Spices It Up for 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

LAREDO – The Washington's Birthday Celebration Association (WBCA) Jalapeño Festival Committee announced the entertainment line-up for the 2008 Jalapeño Festival on **Tuesday, October 30, 2007 at the WBCA Office located at 1819 E. Hillside Rd. at 11:00 a.m.**

The 2008 festivities mark the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the annual Jalapeño Festival. The Jalapeno committee co-chairs Victor Garcia and Pati Guajardo made the official announcements of the line up for the two-day event.

Taking the stage on Friday, February 22, 2008 will feature **The Reunion Tour of David Lee Garza y Los Musicales, Ram Herrera and Emilio Navaria**. The opening act for the Reunion Tour will highlight the sounds of **La Conquista**.

The Reunion Tour featuring David Lee Garza y Los Musicales, Ram Herrera and Emilio Navaria individually each of the artists have been captivating audiences for over 25 years with their musical blend of Tejano and regional Norteño music. Friday night's performance will feature a David Lee Garza Reunion featuring Ram Herrera and Emilio Navaira. Ram Herrera, known to his fans as *The Most Wanted Man*, was the first lead singer for David Lee Garza y Los Musicales before striking out on his own as a solo artist. Emilio Navaira joined David Lee Garza y Los Musicales after Ram Herrera's departure. After several album recordings with David Lee Garza, in 1989, Emilio Navaira left the band and formed Emilio y Grupo Rio.

Saturday, February 23, 2008 will focus the bright light on the sights and sounds of the International pop-rock singer **Gloria Trevi**. The ever-popular **Mango Punch** will be the opening act for Gloria Trevi.

Gloria Trevi recently released a new CD entitled "*Una Rosa Blu.*" Gloria Trevi began her musical career in 1985 when she joined the female group "*Boquitas Pintadas.*" In 1990 she released her first CD as a solo-artist entitled "*Que hago aqui?*" Gloria's popularity intensified not only among youths, but also among children and adults as well setting off a wave of *Trevimania*.

"In honor of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Jalapeno Festival for 2008 will celebrate with the ever popular Tejano music line-up and something a little different on Saturday," said Pati Guajardo, WBCA Board Member and Chairperson of the Jalapeño Festival.

Also being featured during the festival is **FUZZ** a local rock band that will be playing on Saturday afternoon.

The Jalapeño Festival was formed in 1978 by the “New Generation Committee” of the Washington’s Birthday Celebration Association and was originally referred to as the Jalapeño Street Festival. The founding committee was comprised of Nando Zuñiga, Tim Herring, Hank Sames, David Killam, and Richard Powell. In later years, a separate association was established to oversee the event.

What began as a small gathering highlighting local talent has now become an international musical weekend featuring mainstream artists such as Selena, Sammy Kershaw, Los Palominos, Solido, Los Kumbia Kings and La Mafia.

In 2006, the Washington’s Birthday Celebration Association re-acquired the Jalapeño Festival and the “Next Generation Committee” was formed. Last year’s “Resurrection Tour” of the Jalapeño Festival brought back crowds to the City of Laredo’s Park and Ride to celebrate the *hottest* weekend of the year. “This year’s festival committee plans to make the festival even hotter,” said Victor Garcia. The committee comprised of WBCA board members and volunteers meet year round to plan, organize and execute one of the biggest festivals in South Texas.

The Washington’s Birthday Celebration, founded in 1898, is the largest Celebration of its kind in the United States. The almost month-long celebration includes parades, a

carnival, an air show, fireworks, live concerts and many other fun and exciting events for every member of the family. Combined, WBCA events attract nearly 500,000 residents and visitors, and yearly contributes an estimated \$14 million to the local economy.

The Jalapeño Festival will take place February 22 - 23, at the El Metro Park & Ride on Hillside Road. Tickets for the Jalapeño Festival will be \$7 pre-sale and \$10 on the day of the event. Sponsors of the Jalapeño Festival include La Costeña, AT&T, Anheuser-Busch, and Miller Lite.

For additional information, click on the media tab at [www.wbcalaredo.org](http://www.wbcalaredo.org), email [wbca@wbcalaredo.org](mailto:wbc@wbcalaredo.org), contact the WBCA office at (956) 722-0589, or visit the office located at 1819 E. Hillside Road. ##