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The Modesto Bee

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Miners' ordeal ends

Crew leader stresses spirit and strength

BY MICHAEL WARREN
The Associated Press

SAN JOSÉ MINE, Chile — The last of the miners, the foreman who held them together when they were feared lost, was raised from the depths Wednesday night — a joyous ending to a 69-day ordeal that riveted the world. No one has ever been trapped so long and survived.

Luis Urzua ascended smoothly through 2,000 feet of rock, completing a 22½-hour rescue operation that unfolded with remarkable speed and flawless execution. Before a jubilant crowd of about 2,000 people, he became the 33rd miner to be rescued.

"We have done what the entire world was waiting for," he told Chilean President Sebastián Piñera. "The 70 days that we fought so hard were not in vain. We had strength, we had spirit, we wanted to fight, we wanted to fight for our families, and that was the greatest thing."

The president told him: "You are not the same, and the country is not the same after this. You were an inspiration. Go hug your wife and your daughter." With Urzua by his side, he led the crowd in singing the national anthem.

The rescue exceeded expectations every step of the way. Officials first said it might be four months before they could get the men out; it was 69 days and about eight hours.

Once the escape tunnel was finished, they estimated that it would take 36 to 48 hours to get all the miners out. That got quicker



HUGO INFANTE/CHILEAN GOVERNMENT

Miner Esteban Rojas hugs his wife Wednesday. He has promised her the church wedding they never had.

Latinos outlive others in U.S.

Despite poverty, they live 2 years longer than whites

BY MIKE STOBBE
The Associate Press

ATLANTA — U.S. Latinos can expect to outlive whites by more than two years and blacks by more than seven, government researchers say in a startling report that is the first to calculate Latino life expectancy in this country.

The report released Wednesday is the strongest evidence yet of what some experts call the "Hispanic paradox" — longevity for a population with a large share of poor, undereducated members. A leading theory is that Latinos who manage to immigrate to the United States are among the healthiest from their countries.

A Latino born in 2006 could expect to live about 80 years and seven months, the government estimates. Life expectancy for a white is about 78, and for a black, just shy of 73 years.

Researchers have seen signs of Latino longevity for years. But until recently, the government didn't calculate life expectancy for Latinos; they were included among the black and white populations. The new report projecting life spans is based on death certificates from 2006.

By breaking out the longer-living Latinos, the life expectancies for non-Latino whites and blacks declined slightly, said the report's author, Elizabeth Arias of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Latinos are the largest, fastest-growing minority in the United States, accounting for 15 percent of the population.

An estimated 40 percent of them are immigrants, who in some cases arrived after arduous journeys to do taxing manual labor. That takes a fit person, suggesting that the United States is gaining some of the healthiest people born in Mexico and other countries, said Dr. Peter Muennig of Columbia University's school of public health. He has studied life expectancy in different countries.

However, experts say that immigrant hardiness diminishes within a couple of generations of living here. Many believe it's because the children of immigrants take up smoking, fast food diets and other habits blamed for wrecking the health of other ethnic populations.

On the Net: www.cdc.gov/nchs.

SEE BACK PAGE, MINERS

Riveting images touch a world that's in mood for happy endings

BY TIM HUBER AND GREGORY KATZ
The Associated Press

They were inspired by the miners' fortitude and camaraderie. They were amazed by the engineering feat that saved the men's lives. And they were grateful for some good news for a change.

From Australia to the coal fields of Appalachia, people in seemingly every corner of the world followed the Chilean miners' rescue Wednesday on TV and the Internet, and many were uplifted by the experi-

ence. "It's a heartwarming story. It's family values. It's leadership. It's everything that we should have here," Mark Vanucci said as he watched TV at a restaurant in New York's Times Square. His wife, Susan, said: "Instead of those guys in the mine turning on each other, they worked together, they bonded."

The riveting images of the men being brought to the surface to see the sun, breathe fresh air and hug their loved

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INSIDE & ONLINE

■ Shift leader helped crew stay calm, alive; meet the men of the mine; drilling company basks in its success. **Page A-3**

■ Columnist Jeff Jardine recalls California mining tragedies. **Page B-1**

For the latest news on the miners, go to www.modbee.com/world.



HUGO INFANTE/CHILEAN GOVERNMENT

Foreman Luis Urzua, the last miner to get out, pumps his fist. He told Chilean President Sebastián Piñera, at right, 'We have done what the entire world was waiting for.'

Survey: I'm sick, but I'll be your server this evening anyway

BY DIANE STAFFORD
The Kansas City Star
 AND MARIJKE ROWLAND
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A cough. A sneeze. Perhaps a bead of sweat from a fevered brow.

They're not ingredients that are supposed to come with a food order, but a national survey of restaurant workers released this month served up an unsavory possibility.

Two-thirds of 4,323 food servers and preparers surveyed admitted they had worked while sick in the past year.

It's a truth that most diners say they try to forget when eating out.

"I don't want to think about it, to be honest," said Modesto resident Anoil Youkhaneh, 24, as he finished his lunch at the Vintage Faire Mall food court.

The "Serving While Sick" report, commissioned by Restaurant Opportunities Centers United, a labor coalition for restaurant workers, pinpoints two reasons workers don't stay home: Nearly nine in 10 food-service workers said they lacked paid sick days.

More than six in 10 said they had no health insurance.

The survey sponsors say those

numbers heighten public health risks if the nation's 10 million restaurant industry employees, working in more than 568,000 food-and-drink establishments, spread disease.

The National Restaurant Association, representing restaurateurs, took issue with the report. It presents a "distorted image of the res-

SEE BACK PAGE, SICK

Weather



Plenty of sun
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 Complete forecast, **Page B-8**

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 Heroin addiction among high school students is on the rise, and many avoid detection for months.



B1 LOCAL NEWS
 Repairs to a leaking gas line backed up traffic, and more work is planned.

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Love often ends up hurting. But in its early stage, it can lessen pain, a study says.

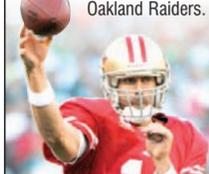


A13 OPINIONS

Governments can't promote future prosperity through ambitious projects anymore because they are strangled by self-indulgence.

C1 SPORTS

49er QB Alex Smith vows to be less cautious when his team faces the Oakland Raiders.



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