LOCAL & STATE
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GROUP CELEBRATES HISPANIC HERITAGE

Son del Sur members Mauricio Sanchez (left) and Nicholas Carter perform Sept. 23 at the Assumption Home in Cold Spring.

Casa Guadalupe hosts local events aimed at bridging community

By Stephanie Dickrell

COLD SPRING — National Hispanic Heritage Month wrapped up Saturday, but the mission and projects of Casa Guadalupe Multicultural Community in Cold Spring never cease.

The nonprofit organization provides services and events for Latinos in 18 counties. Executive Director Mayuli Bales said.

The organization is in its 19th year, she said, though the Hispanic community has been established in the area for longer.

"We consider ourselves to be a bridge between the newcomers and the community that's already established," Bales said.

She helps people navigate health, judicial and education systems in the area.

"We help to open doors," Bales said.

They also serve as support for youths and women in the community with their Youth Program and with Las Comadres, a women's educational and support group.

In addition, they offer interpretation and translation services, English language classes, citizenship classes and leadership training for civic participation.

There are also logistical services: free Internet, fax and copying; free tax preparation for low-income families; and a home furnishings donation program.

Casa Guadalupe relies

See EVENTS, 5A

Sanchez performs Sept. 23 during the Son del Sur concert at Assumption Home in Cold Spring.

Census: Area Hispanic population burgeons

By Stephanie Dickrell

The 2010 census numbers show a rapidly growing Hispanic population in certain Central Minnesota communities.

The change also is

Fig. 53. "Hispanic Heritage" article featuring CGMC and Son del Sur (who played at the Cold Spring Mural Inauguration). Also "Hispanic Population" article featuring Cold Spring Mural. Front page of St. Cloud Times "Local & State" section: Oct. 17, 2011.

Census: Area Hispanic population burgeons

By Stephanie Dickrell

The 2010 census numbers show a rapidly growing Hispanic population in certain Central Minnesota communities.

The change also is reflected on the national level. More than half of the total population growth in the U.S. in the past 10 years was because of the increase in the Hispanic population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

That ethnicity grew 43 percent, from 35.3 million to 50.5 million. They are 16 percent of the total U.S. population of 308.7 million.

See NUMBERS, 5A

Volunteers work Aug. 16 on a mural on the Laundromat wall in downtown Cold Spring. The mural, titled "Drawing on Cold Spring" and designed by College of St. Benedict senior art and Spanish major Shannon McEvoy, reflects the relationship among the Latino and other cultures in the area. TIMES PHOTO BY KIMM ANDERSON, KANDERSON@STCLOUDTIMES.COM