



La Voz *de Comal County*

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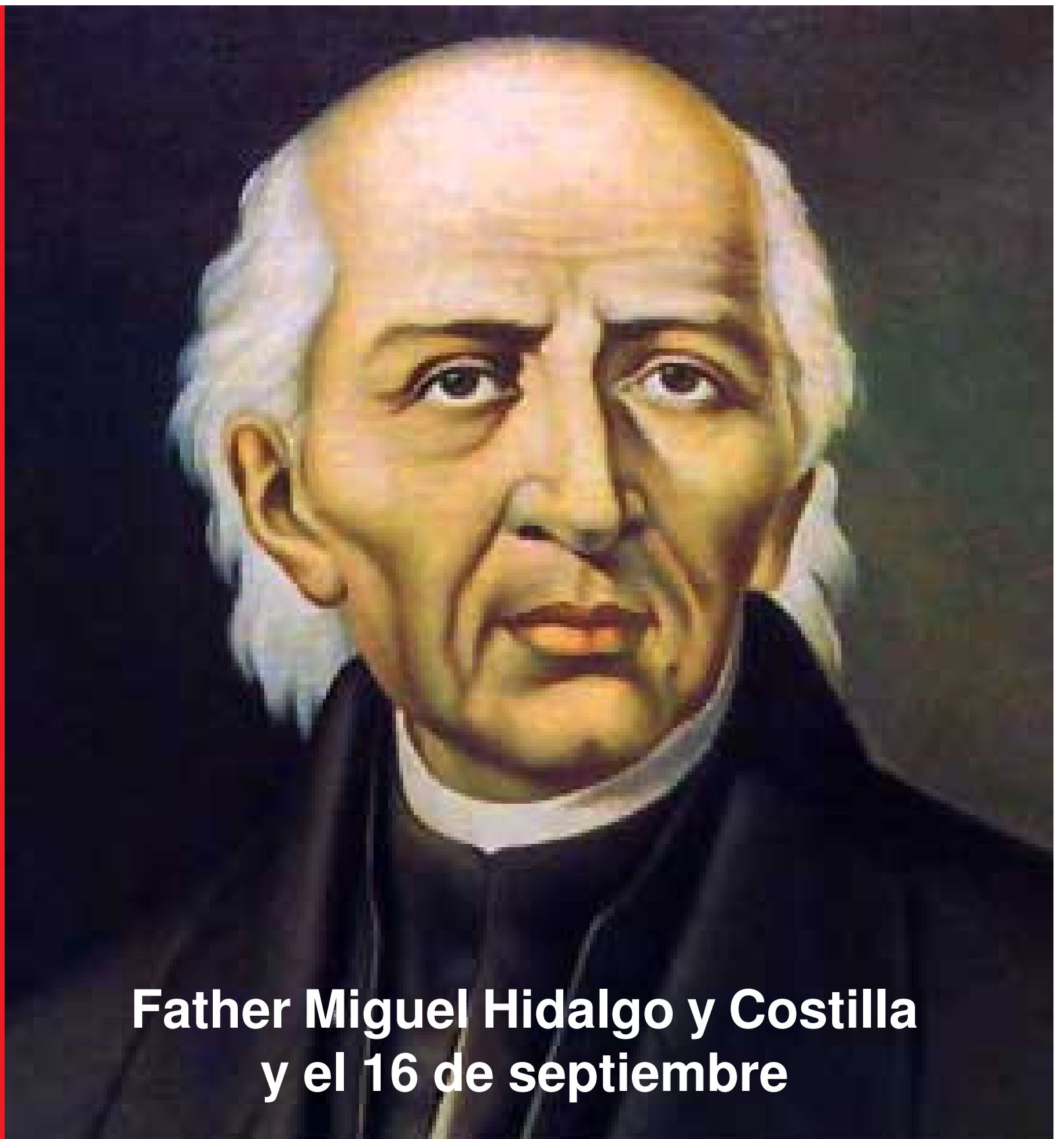
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People in the News



Anna Maria Chávez Selected Chief Executive Officer of Girl Scouts USA

Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) announced that **Anna Maria Chávez** has been appointed to the top post at the iconic organization. **Chávez's** appointment as the 19th chief executive of **Girl Scouts**, among the largest and most widely recognized nonprofits in the country, comes as the organization readies to launch a national celebration as part of its 100th anniversary designed to honor its legacy and create urgency around girls' issues.

"Girl Scouts is the premier leadership organization for girls with a trailblazing legacy that stretches nearly 100 years," said **Chávez**, who currently serves as chief executive officer of **Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas**. *"The country has never needed Girl Scouts more than it does today. What girls are accomplishing in Girl Scouting*

s inspiring. I have seen it firsthand in Texas, and I intend to tell that story far and wide."

Chávez grew up in a Mexican-American family in the small town of **Eloy, Arizona**, and later in Phoenix. She holds a law degree from the **University of Arizona College of Law** and a bachelor's degree in American history from **Yale University**. Bar admissions include the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona, **Arizona Supreme Court**, and U.S. Supreme Court. Her husband **Robert** is a financial industry executive and they have a son, **Michael**.



Sandra Tenorio Elected Chair of Tejano Democrats

Longtime political activists, **Sandra Tenorio of Buda, Texas** was elected Chair of the state-wide **Tejano Democrats** organization. She is the first female to hold that position in the organization's history.

Tenorio, who has also served as mayor of **Kyle**, has been a **Tejano Democrat** member since the organization's founding in 1993, and has served as chair and vice chair of the group's **Austin** chapter. She follows former **State Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos** as chair of the statewide organization.

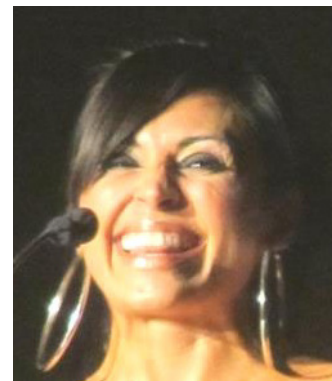


Celeste Villarreal Elected to Post with Hispanic National Bar Association

Celeste Villarreal, an **Austin** attorney, was elected Vice-President of External Affairs for the **Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA)** at their Annual Convention in **Dallas, Texas**. The **HNBA** is a national membership organization whose mission is to represent the interests of the more than 100,000 Hispanic attorneys in the United States.

Villarreal, who spent almost 25 years working in the media,

graduated from **The University of Texas at Austin** in 1982 and earned her law degree from **Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas** in 2005. In addition to her private practice she is also a part-time Municipal Judge for the city of **Austin**.



Elida Reyna Wins at the Tejano Music Awards in SA

Long time Tejano singer **Elida Reyna** took home a bunch of awards from the **30th Annual Tejano Music Awards** in **San Antonio, Texas** on September 10th, 2011.

A native of **Mercedes, Texas**, **Reyna** records with **Freddie Records** out of **Corpus Christi, Texas**. This year she won, Song of the Year, Female Vocalist of the Year, Entertainer of the Year and Album of the Year.



Dr. Rogelio Saenz Named New Dean at UTSA

The **University of Texas at San Antonio's College of Public Policy** is hosting a reception Tuesday, September 13th, 2011, at the **Pearl Brewery** to welcome its new dean, **Rogelio Saenz**. The reception is from 5 to 7 p.m. at the **American Institute of Architecture** of **San Antonio** at the Pearl, 200 E. Grayson St., Suite 110.

Saenz, a sociologist and social demographer, is originally from the **Rio Grande Valley** town of **Mercedes**. He earned his bachelors degree in 1981 from **Pan American University**, an Masters degree in Sociology in 1986 from **Iowa State University** and a Ph.D in sociology, also from **Iowa State** in 1986.

Before coming to **UTSA** this summer, he had been a faculty member at **Texas A&M University** since 1986. **Saenz** replaces **Dennis Haynes**, a professor of social work, who was interim dean of the public policy school since 2008.

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Para cualquier
pregunta
llámenos

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Welcome!

Welcome to the first issue of **La Voz de Comal County**. This bilingual publication will appear monthly during the first week of each month and will see distribution in **New Braunfels** and many of the other communities throughout the county. We look forward to providing lots of interesting information, news and views on **Comal County** and its residents. Readers can especially look forward to information about scholarships and educational programs from around the state.

La Voz de Comal County is part of a small newspaper network called **La Voz Newspapers** that has publications in **Travis, Hays, and Brazoria** counties. At one time we owned **La Voz de Uvalde County**, but sold it in 2002 to the associate editor who continues to publish it twice a month. Because our publications are monthly we have the luxury of not having to work under pressure and deadlines. You will notice that some of the stories that will appear in **La Voz** are longer than usual and almost make the publication a magazine.

We invite letters to the editor and wish to extend an invitation to students who would like to write for **La Voz**. We pay 10 cents a word for stories upon publication. If you know of anyone who would like to try their hand at writing, have them contact the editor. We also invite our readers to submit items for our calendar of events. It is free and we will try to accommodate all submissions.

Lastly, this publication will carry stories and articles that are in both English and Spanish. As **Comal County's** Hispanic population has increased over the years, so have the number of people who enjoy getting their news and information in Spanish. Again, we want to welcome you to the first issue of what we hope will be a long lasting part of the community in **Comal County**.

Bienvenidos!

¡Bienvenidos al primer ejemplar de **La Voz del Condado de Comal**.

Esta publicación bilingüe a parecerá mensualmente durante la primera semana de cada mes y será distribuida en **New Braunfels** y otras comunidades en el condado. Esperamos proporcionar mucha información, junto con noticias y varios puntos de vista en el **Condado de Comal**. Los lectores pueden esperar en particular información sobre becas y programas educativos en el estado.



Alfredo R. Santos c/s
Editor & Publisher

La Voz del Condado de Comal forma parte de una red de periódicos que trabajan bajo el nombre **La Voz**. También tenemos publicaciones en los condados de **Travis, Hays y Brazoria**. Antes teníamos **La Voz de Uvalde County**, pero lo vendimos en 2002 al redactor asociado quien sigue publicándolo dos veces al mes. Ya que nuestras publicaciones son mensuales tenemos el lujo de no tener que trabajar bajo presión y a la carrera. Y por eso algunos de nuestros artículos son un poco extensos.

Queremos extender una invitación a todos los que quieran escribir al redactor para que nos manden sus cartas. También invitamos a estudiantes que quieran escribir para **La Voz** que se pongan en contacto con nosotros. Pagamos 10 centavos por palabra por artículos que se publiquen. También invitamos a nuestros lectores a enviar información para nuestro calendario de eventos. Es gratis y tratamos de acomodar todos los envíos.

Por último, esta publicación tendrá historias y artículos en inglés y español. Como la población hispana del **Condado de Comal** ha aumentado con los años, así también la cantidad de personas a quienes les gusta recibir sus noticias e información en español. Nuevamente queremos darles la bienvenida a todos de parte de **La Voz del Condado de Comal** y esperamos ser una parte de la comunidad en el **Condado de Comal**.



La paradoja de la vida

Dios creó al burro y dijo:

“Serás burro, trabajarás de sol a sol, cargarás sobre tu lomo todo lo que le pongan, y vivirás 30 años.”

El burro contestó: *“Señor, seré todo lo que me pidas pero.... 30 años es mucho, ¿por qué no mejor 10?”*

Y así Dios creó al burro.

Después Dios creó al perro y le dijo:

“Serás perro, cuidarás la casa de los hombres, comerás lo que te den y vivirás 20 años.”

El perro contestó: *“Señor, seré todo lo que me pidas pero... 20 años es mucho, ¿por qué no mejor 10?”*

Y así Dios creó al perro.

Luego Dios creó al mono y le dijo:

“Serás mono, saltarás de árbol en árbol, harás payasadas para divertir a los demás y vivirás 15 años.”

El mono contestó: *“Señor, seré todo lo que mi pidas pero... 10 años es mucho, ¿por qué no mejor 5?”*

Y así Dios creó al mono.

Finalmente Dios creó al hombre y le dijo:

“Serás el más inteligente de la tierra, dominarás al mundo y vivirás 30 años.”

El hombre contestó: *“Señor, seré todo lo que quieras pero...30 años es poco, ¿por qué no me das los veinte años que no quiso el burro, los 10 años que rechazó el perro y los cinco años que no aceptó el mono?”*

Y así es como el hombre vive 30 años como hombre, luego se casa y vive 20 años como burro, trabajando de sol a sol, cargando en su espalda el peso de la familia, luego se jubila y vive 10 años como perro cuidando la casa, comiendo lo que le den y termina viviendo 5 años más como mono, saltando de casa en casa de sus hijos, haciendo payasadas para los nietos.

How to Get a Passport in Comal County

The District Clerk in Comal County, Kathy Faulkner is one of the offices to go to. It is located at 150 North Seguin Street, Suite 304 in New Brunfels, Texas 78130. The office is open Monday thru Friday from 8:00am to 3:00pm. The telephone number is (830) 221-1250.

We DO NOT take PHOTOS in the office

Before visiting our office, please ensure you have the following supporting documentation and materials:

- Certified Birth Certificate with State, City, or County Seal or previous U.S. Passport, or Certificate of Naturalization, or Certificate of Citizenship, or Consular Report of Birth Abroad. Hospital birth certificates are NOT Acceptable.
- Forms may be picked up in office or online at • www.travel.state.gov
- Two identical, recently made 2" x 2" photos with image size between 1 and 1-3/8 inches from bottom of chin to top of hair with plain white background. Photos must be clear, front view, full face, taken in normal street attire (no hats or dark glasses).
- **Our office does not take photos.**
- Valid drivers license, military ID, or government ID (Federal, State, or Municipal).
- All applicants, regardless of age, must appear in person. Applicants 16 through 17 years of age must appear in person accompanied by a parent named on the birth certificate to apply. Applications for minors age 15 and under must be done in person by both parents named on the birth certificate and the child must be present. PLEASE NOTE: Passport renewals for children under 16 years of age must present both the expired passport AND a certified birth certificate.
- Certified proof of name change (required only when applicable).
- A fee for applicants 16 years of age and older in the amount of **\$110.00** for passport book & **\$30.00** for passport card - check or money order **ONLY** payable to Department of State. The fee for minors 15 years of age and younger is **\$80.00** for passport book and **\$15.00** for passport card - check or money order **ONLY**. NOTE: These prices are subject to change.
- **\$25.00** (cash, check, or *credit card) for execution fee. *MasterCard/Visa
- ALL REQUIREMENTS ARE MANDATED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Please keep your receipt until you have received your passport and submitted documents.



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LO MEJOR DE LA MUSICA TEJANA, NORTEÑA,
INTERNACIONAL Y MUCHO MAS

La Casa de Mi Abuelita

By Marisa Cano

“Oh, Mija, I am impressed,” exclaimed my mother as I pulled my pants over my oversized pamper for the first time, all by myself. It was Easter of 1988, I was just a month shy of turning two and we were having Easter supper at my Grandmother’s house. And yes, I was the baby of the hour. How do I remember this? Well, I don’t actually. It is on an old family videotape.

But I don’t need any videotapes to remember life at my grandma’s house. Even though I didn’t grow up there, I did grow up there. You see, I was born and raised in **Austin, Texas**, thousands of miles away from my grandmother’s house two-story house on 12th street in **Saginaw, Michigan**.

For months at a time, I was separated from the house, but for a few times of the year the house on 12th Street was my home. It was the place of good food, laughter and family. For those few weeks out of the year I truly knew what it was to have and be surrounded by family.

I have so many memories at that house, too many. But like I said, I don’t need any videotapes to remember. And I don’t need any videotapes to remember her, my grandmother, either. How can I forget her?

How many other grandmothers will tell you about your aunt’s conception! She was silly sometimes, but she was the family’s rock and center. She cooked good, she smelled good, she was good. She took care of everyone and somehow had a way of making everyone feel special. Sometimes this was by cooking for them, by talking with them or by giving them a precious gift. As for me, I was one of the ones who got to hear her stories. She told me about a lot of things — her life, her pains, her disappointments and her dreams and

through these stories I felt I had a better idea of where she came from, where I came from. I loved her for that. I always said that one day I was going to go to **Michigan** by myself and that I was going to stay and visit her for two weeks. Then she could tell me more stories and teach me how to cook. But I never did get to take that trip.

On Aug. 20, 2004, my world came crashing down when the morning before I was to move into my dorm my freshman year, my mother called and informed me that my grandma wasn’t doing so well. By the time I got home that afternoon, she was already gone. Two



days later, when I should have been meeting my floormates and celebrating my new college life, I was on a plane to **Michigan** and saying good-bye to one of the people I most adored.

That weekend was a blur. I don’t think I’d ever cried as much as I did that weekend.

That weekend was a blur. I don’t think I’d ever cried as much as I did that weekend. But once the funeral was over, I returned to **Austin** and tried to continue with my life. I knew that’s what she would have wanted. As time went on, I hurt less and the wound of emptiness I felt, though never to be whole again, began to heal. Until last month.

My mother returned home from one of another trips back to **Michigan**. She’d been going back every few months to work with her brothers and sisters on all the legal matters, so this was not out of the ordinary and like always, she brought more things home with her from the old 12th Street house. But this time was different. This time, she informed me that the house would be put up for sale this coming spring.

My heart dropped. All of the memories came flooding back. That house is everything to me

My heart dropped. All of the memories came flooding back. That house is everything to me. It is family reunions, weddings, graduations, birthdays, holidays. It is late night talks on the front porch, family picnics in the back yard, mariachi serenades. It is **Selena** look-alike contests; hide and go seek; all-night conversation with my cousins; goofing off with my aunts in the kitchen; yelling at someone to get out of the bathroom; seeing my mother smile. It is laughter, my childhood, life, death and everything in between.

How can I say good-bye to everything it stands for? How can I not be upset that the house my mother grew up in, that I grew up in, will no longer be ours? How can I not mourn the fact that my unborn children will never know what it means to be at the center of our family? How can I not be upset that this is one other part of me, of my family that my children will never know and never understand— that once the house is gone, they will never know *her*.

The chances of my going back to **Michigan** are **Michigan** before the house is sold are slim to none. Upon the news, I realized I will never step foot inside that house again. I will never see the Virgin

statue in the living room, the *recuerdos* and knick-knacks in the kitchen, the pictures on the wall, hot food on the table. None of it. I felt angry.

Maybe it’s better to remember the house just the way it was, before she passed away,

But then I got to thinking that, maybe, it’s better this way. Maybe it’s better to remember the house just the way it was, before she passed away, before it was cleaned out, when it was full of life and everything hers. When it *was* her.

I’ve been looking a lot in the mirror lately and slowly I am beginning to see her, and not just in the hips. I see her in my bluntness, my goofiness, my over-shares, my tears, my compassion, my pain, my patience, my honesty, my love for family, my sincerity and in my tireless ambition. And as much as it upsets me that my children will never know her or the house, I came to realize something: *I am her*. And for my children, I will be that house.

For my cousin Sarah

Marisa Cano graduated from
The University of Texas at Austin.



Marisa and her grandmother in one of the last photographs.

Comal County Hispanic Council

Established in June 2010, **Comal County Hispanic Council** is a 501c3 made up of citizens at large who saw a need for this group to help support our growing population and to address our issues in our community. **CCHC** will be focused on bringing community awareness, involvement, and resources together to improve and support our Hispanic community. We hope you will find this website helpful and encouraging.

The Members of the Board of the Comal County Hispanic Council



Diana Villanueva

Diana Villanueva is from **Corpus Christi, Texas** where she graduated fro high school and attended **Del Mar Community College**. She came to **New Braunfels** two years ago with her husband and three daughters. She is active in her church and works for **Time Warner Cable**. She enjoys the outdoors and likes to hunt and fish.



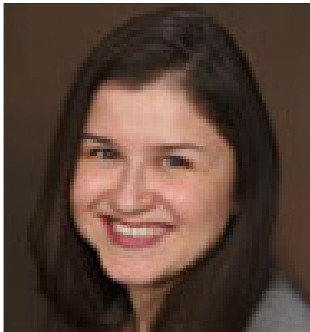
Domingo Medina

Domingo Medina Jr. was born and raised in **New Braunfels**. He grew up in **Mill Town** (near the Mission Valley Mill area) and attended school in **Comal ISD** where he graduated from **Canyon High School**. After high school he played football at **Angelo State University** and later transferred to **University of Incarnate Word** (in San Antonio) where he finished his degree in Business management. Domingo is married and has 4 children.



Jodie Cedillo

Jodie Cedillo was born in 1946 in **Palacios, Texas**. In 1964 she was the **Palacios LULAC Queen**. After her marriage to **Richard Cedillo** in 1966, they travelled the world as **Richard** moved to different construction jobs. The mother of two boys, **Carlos** and **Richard Jr.**, she has participated in many mission-ary trips where she has helped to build houses for the poor.



Rose Zamora

Rose Zamora is a native of **New Braunfels** and the daughter of **Aguinaldo “Nayo” and Cristina Zamora**. Her family is well-known in the area for their past involvement in the political and educational arenas in **New Braunfels**. **Rose** earned a degree in English and became a middle school teacher. After 3 1/2 years, she decided to pursue a career in law. In 2001, she graduated from **St. Mary’s University School of Law**. She has practiced in the criminal and civil areas for the past five years.



Albert Ruiz

Albert currently serves as Secretary on the Board of the **Comal County Hispanic Council**. He was born and raised in **New Braunfels, Texas** and attended **New Braunfels Canyon High School**. **Albert** graduated from **Texas State University** where he received a bachelors degree in Healthcare Administration. **Albert** is the President of **WireNet Solutions**, a Information Technology consulting company that specializes in **PACS** and **EMR** software installations for Hospitals and Physicians as well as specialty forensic IT consulting for law practices.



Rose Zamora

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Comal County Hispanic Council

Los Comites

CCHC continues to focus on building relationships with local non-profits and businesses to establish a scholarship program targeting Hispanic youth in the greater Comal County area. Using both member support and community contributions, CCHC will ensure a long term and reliable resource for post-secondary education opportunities.

Our Event/Fundraiser Committee will oversee all public and fundraiser events we participate in. Some of those events are our quarterly mixers, festivals, and other social forums. If you like to help with this committee and can bring some organization and creativity....please join!

What's your family's legacy? What story does your family tell? CCHC is teaming up with the New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce and the Sophienburg Museum to pay tribute to the legacy of our local Hispanic heritage.

The Committees

Our Business Relations Committee will be focus on ways to bring CCHC and our Comal County business sector together. CCHC wants to establish ways to help support anyone entering the workforce, those with business ideas, and networking. Your business support would complement our actions and help CCHC reach our goals.

The Community Outreach Committee is dedicated to serving individuals and families in the Hispanic community through volunteer efforts, donations, gifts, and service. Our effort will be to inform and educate Hispanics of all ages of the programs available to them.

The Members of the Board of the Comal County Hispanic Council



Joe Vargas

Joe Vargas is a native of **New Braunfels** and a graduate of **New Braunfels High School**. He has spent over 20 years with **New Braunfels Police Department** and currently serves as the **Assistant Chief**. His community involvement includes helping with programs such as **Big Brothers/Big Sisters**, the **Comal County Crisis Center**, **Comal Cops for Kids**, the **United Way Community Needs Assessment**, and **Leadership New Braunfels**.



Jennifer Gonzales

Jennifer G. Gonzales is a native of **New Braunfels**. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from **Texas State University** and will graduate in May 2012 from **St. Mary's University School of Law**. She is a member of **Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church**, **Memorial Elementary PTA**, and is involved with **TEAM Youth Foundation**. She and her husband, **Gabriel**, have 2 sons, **Joshua** and **Joseph**.



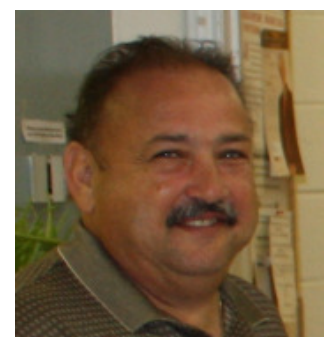
Robert Lopez, Jr.

Robert Lopez, Jr., is the Executive Director of the **Comal County Senior Citizen's Foundation**. He graduated from High School in **El Paso** in 1977 and attended the **Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary** in **San Antonio** for four years. **Robert** received his bachelors degree from the **Dallas Baptist University** in 1985. He is involved in a number of community based organizations including the **American Cancer Society** and the **MALDEF Leadership Program**.



Ramiro Ayala

Ramiro "Ram" Ayala was born and raised in **New Braunfels, Texas**. He went high school **New Braunfels High School** and graduated in 1975. After high he attended **San Antonio College** and then decided to join the **United States Navy** where he served from 1976 to 1980. He returned to **San Antonio** and started attending **St. Phillips College** where he received a degree as a radiology technician. He is married and has 3 children. In his spare time **Ramiro** enjoys the outdoors and all that it has to offer.



Joe Ayala

Ramiro Ayala was born in **New Braunfels** and is the 6th of seven brothers. His parents are from **Mexico** and married in 1955. **Ramiro** graduated from **New Braunfels High School** in 1977 and then enlisted in the **National Guard** where he served as a field artillery medic until 1983. **Ramiro** is married and has three girls. He is employed with **ABS** as an account manager. For the past 13 years his family has volunteered at the annual Thanksgiving Dinner in **New Braunfels**.



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Who was Doña Josefa de Dominguez: and what does she have to do with the 16th of September?

by Alfredo Rodriguez Santos c/s

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated around the county from September 15th to October 15th. As **Yvonne de la Rosa** points out in her column on page 4, **President Lyndon B. Johnson** first declared **National Hispanic Heritage Week** in 1968. It was **President Ronald Reagan**, who extended it to 30 days and proclaimed **National Hispanic Heritage Month** in 1988.

But Mexicans and Mexican Americans have been celebrating the **16th of September** for a long time. The photo on page eight shows a group of Mexican Americans in 1944 at a **16th of September** celebration in **Seguin, Texas**.

But did you know that the 16th of September is an historic 1 mistake? **El Grito de la independencia** by **Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla** was not suppose to happen on September 16th, 1810!

¿Qué fue lo que pasó?

At the end of the 18th Century, many of the monarchies of **Europe** began to see revolutions spreading like wild fire. People were tired of living under repressive regimes. The idea of living under the rule of king who told you when you could speak, when you could work and when you could sleep, was quickly falling out of favor.

The philosophers of the day, **Rousseau, Montesquieu, and Voltaire**, helped to fill the atmosphere of change with ideas of democracy, liberty and equality. And it was their books that a small "reading club" in **Querétaro, Mexico** found most intriguing.

As the **American Revolution** birthed the **United States of America**, other countries knew it was time to act. The French mobilized and push the **Royal**

Court back to **Paris**. The republic was proclaimed in 1792 and **King Louis XVI** was executed. The news spread and people knew the time had come to act.

All of these developments caught the attention of a woman named **Doña Josefa Ortiz de Dominguez**. **Doña Josefa** was the wife of **Miguel Dominguez**, the **Magistrate of Querétaro**.

A Passion for Justice

It was well known that **Doña Josefa** was vehemently against the abuse that the Spaniards— that is, the European-born Spaniards – exercised over the natives considering and treating them as second-class citizens. She always identified with the native's social problems, for they were relegated to secondary positions in public administration as well as in the military.

Throughout her life she fought for the recognition of the Indigenous people's rights, in addition to using her position as Chief Magistrate to involve herself in numerous charitable ventures.

"The Literary Club"

One of **Doña Josefa's** ventures included hosting a "literary society" where people came together to discuss literature and the works of the Enlightenment which at the time were banned by the **Roman Catholic Church**. These meetings were attended by many educated people include a priest named **Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla**.

It was at **Doña Josefa's** house where these "literary meetings" evolved into an underground movement called the **Querétaro**

Conspiracy that was to produce the armed struggle for independence from **Spain**. To be sure, there were others in Mexico making their own plans.

The **Querétaro Plan** was to gather weapons and supplies and transport them for an uprising set to begin on December 8th, 1810, right before the celebrations for **El Día de La Virgen de Guadalupe**.

But **Doña Josefa** and her group were betrayed by one of the members of her group and when her husband, **El Corregidor de Querétaro** found out he was furious that his wife would be involved in such activities. After having her locked in her room, he prepared to round up the would be revolutionaries, including **Father Miguel Hidalgo**.

The Betrayal

Doña Josefa managed to smuggle a note out of her room with the help of a maid. The note was for **Father Hidalgo** warning him that they had been discovered and that the soldiers were coming for him. An ally of **Doña Josefa** rode into the night and it was he who delivered the somber news to **Father Hidalgo** in **Dolores, Guanajuato** telling him what had happened.

Knowing that time was short, **Father Hidalgo** made the snap decision to go to the church at 2:00am and ring the bell to call the people to the church where he would give his famous **Grito de Dolores** and ignite the **Mexican War of Independence**.

The Legacy



The struggle to free **Mexico** from the rule of **Spain** would take 11 years and cost many lives. **Father Hidalgo** would not live to see **Mexico** free, but his words, actions and spirit live on today. And it is this that many Mexican American celebrate each 16th of September.

But it is the role of **Doña Jose de Dominguez** that has not received much attention. Thanks to **La Corregidora's** timely alert, many conspirators were able to escape before being arrested and jailed, though she herself was the victim of **Captain Arias'** betrayal. She was arrested and taken to **Mexico City**, where a trial was held in which she was convicted of treason. She was jailed in various convents until finally, in June of 1817, her

husband was able to have her released.

Once **Independence** from the Spanish rule was achieved, **Agustin Iturbide**— who proclaimed himself emperor – invited her to be part of his court, but she refused the appointment because she considered that the Empire was completely contrary to the ideals for which the War of Independence had been fought. Moreover, she refused any reward for her services to the insurrection.

Doña Josefa Ortiz de Dominguez died on March 2, 1829 at the age of 61 in Mexico City. Her remains were moved to the city of **Queretaro** and deposited, along with her husband's, in the **Mausoleum of the Illustrious in Queretaro**.



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The Execution of Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla

by Dan Arellano

We all know how **Father Hidalgo** cried out for a new government on the 16th of September, 1810; starting a revolution in **Mexico**; but we know nothing about the death he suffered at the hands of his executioners.

There were several eye witness accounts of **Father Hidalgo's** heroic and tragic death but it is best described by the leader of the execution squad, **Captain Pedro de Armendariz**. **Captain Armendariz** explains that he reluctantly accepted the assignment and recruited the execution squad from amongst his men; who had no desire to kill a priest.

On the day of his execution, his soldiers, in complete silence, marched **Father Hidalgo** towards his place of execution, the silence broken only by the prayers of **Father Hidalgo**. His soldiers, already shaking like a leaf for what they were about to do; their nerves frayed even further listening to his prayers. Arriving at the stool placed for his execution, he hands his prayer book to a priest and in silence and on of his own accord sat in the assigned place.

His arms were bound by two musket slings and a bandage was placed over his eyes against the post. Ready to meet his maker he raised his crucifix with both hands and faced his executioners, which were in formation two steps away, three deep and four abreast.

According to **Armendariz**, when he ordered the first row to fire, several of the men, being nervous and trembling, managed to only wound him in the arm and abdomen. His head, jerking due to the pain, caused his blindfold to fall from his head revealing his beautiful brown eyes which he affixed upon his executioners; and the soldiers could see that he was weeping.

Hurriedly he orders the second squad to fire and all of the bullets miss his heart, some striking him in the abdomen and some going astray. Father Hidalgo showed little reaction and his unwavering gaze remained upon his executioners. His tears flowing from his brown eyes caused such a reaction that even some of the soldiers began to weep.

Armendariz orders the third squad to fire; his soldiers trembling caused the bullets to miss their mark, only managing to cut his back and abdomen to pieces; obviously no one wanted to kill a priest.

At this point he orders his men to march forward and orders them to place their muzzles over his heart, firing point blank, and that is the way he was finally killed. It took sixteen bullets to kill **Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla**.



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The Touch of a Teacher

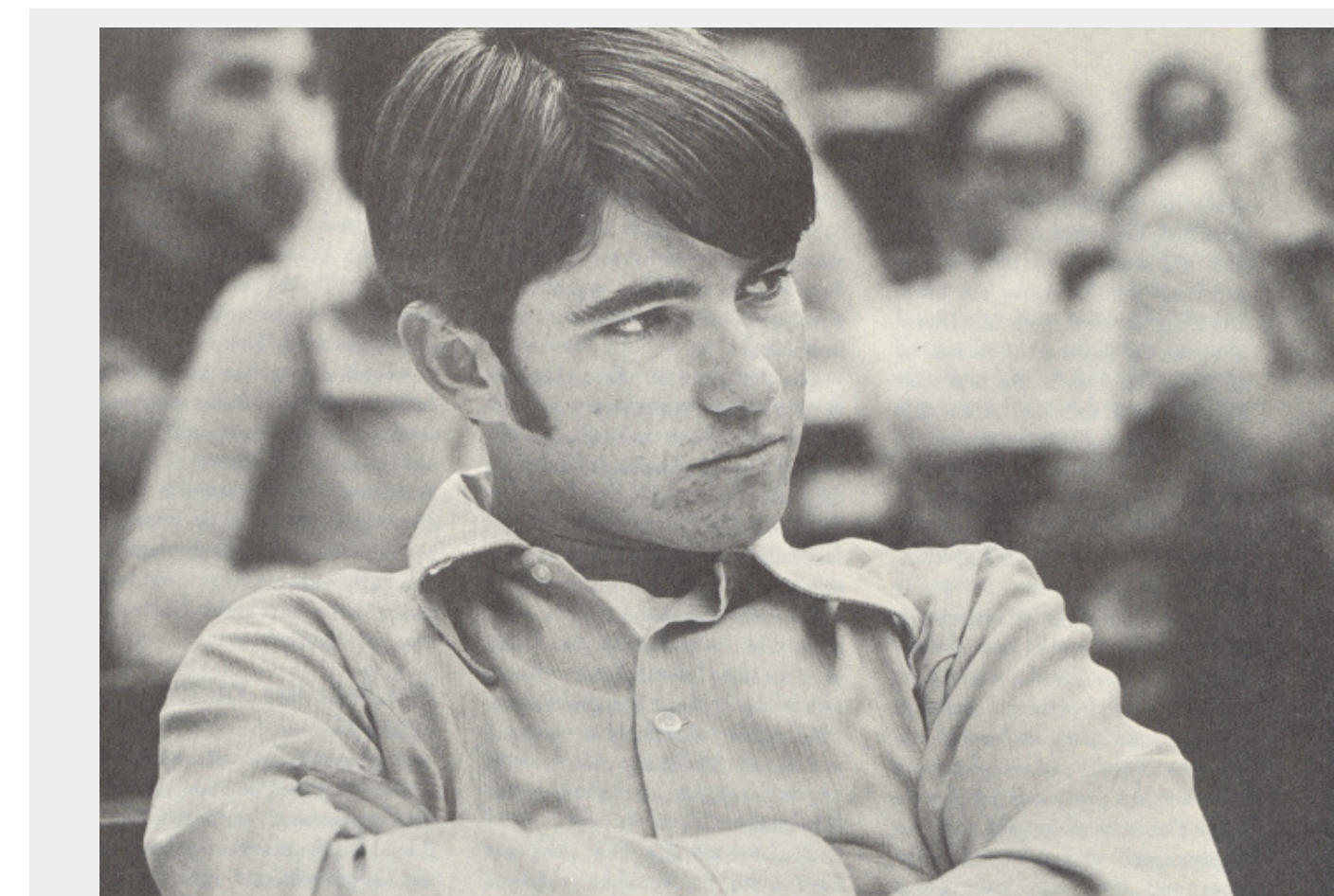
How a little time in the life of a child can make all the difference in the world

School has just started in Texas. Most students will begin the term with new clothes and all the nervousness that comes from advancing to the next grade. But not all the children will begin the new school year at the same time. Those that have spent the summer up North with their parents who work in the agricultural fields will not be arriving until mid September or even October.

The story you are about to read concerns one of these students. It was written by his fifth grade teacher. If you are a teacher, you may have had a student like **Juan Garza** in your class. Or maybe you knew a student like him when you were going to school.

Juan's letter came today and now that I have read it, I will place it in my cedar chest with the other things that are important in my life. The letter started out with: *"I wanted you to be the first to know. . . ."*

I smiled as I read the words he had written and my heart swelled with a pride that I have no right to feel. I have not seen **Juan Garza** since he was a student in my class some 17 years ago. It was early in my teaching career. I had only been teaching two years but from the first day that he stepped into my classroom, I disliked **Juan**.



Teachers are not supposed to have favorites in a class, but most especially they are not to show a dislike for a particular child. I thought I was quite capable of handling my personal feelings along that line until **Juan** walked into my class.

I'm sorry to say it, but **Juan Garza** was one student I disliked. First of all he was dirty. Not just occasionally, but all of the time. Second, he smelled. He smelled like the crops he and his family were picking. And of course the smell varied with whatever was being harvested. His hair hung low over his ears and he actually had to hold it out of his eyes as he worked on assignments in class.

By the end of the first week of school, I knew he was hopelessly behind all the others. And not only was he behind, but he was also just plain slow. As each day passed, I began to withdraw from him. While I didn't actually ridicule the boy, my

attitude was obviously apparent to the rest of the class for he quickly became the class goat, the outcast, the unlovable, the unloved.

He knew I didn't like him but he didn't know why. He also knew that other teachers in the school didn't like him either. As the days rolled on we made it through the fall festival, Halloween and Thanksgiving. By the time the Christmas season arrived I knew **Juan** was going to have to repeat the entire school year.

**To justify holding him back,
I went to his cumulative folder
from time to time.**

To justify holding him back, I went to his cumulative folder from time to time. He had very low grades for the first four years but no grade failures. How he made it . . . I do not know. I closed my mind to the per-

sonal remarks that had been written by other teachers over the years. Remarks like:

1st grade - Juan shows promise but has a poor situation at home.

2nd grade - Juan could do better, but his mother is terminally ill. He receives little help at home.

3rd grade - Juan is a pleasant boy, but misses too many days of school. Mother passed away at the end of the school year.

4th grade - Very slow but well behaved. Show some talent for art. Father absent often. Believed to be working in California.

Well they passed him four times, but he will certainly repeat the fifth grade. "Do him good," I said to myself.

The day before the holidays arrived we had a school Christmas party. Teachers always get gifts, but for some reason this party seemed bigger and more elaborate than ever. There wasn't a student who hadn't brought me a gift. And each unwrapping brought squeals of delight as the students tried to guess who it was from.

Juan's gift wasn't the last one I picked up . . .

Juan's gift wasn't the last one I picked up. In fact, it was somewhere in the middle of the pile. It's wrapping was accomplished with a brown paper bag. For decorations he had colored Christmas trees and bells all around it and used masking tape to hold it together. The tag said: For **Miss Johnson** from **Juan**.

The class was completely silent as I began to unwrap **Juan's** gift. As I removed the last bit of masking tape, two items fell out and onto my lap. One was a gaudy rhinestone bracelet with several stones missing. The second item was a bottle of dime store cologne that was half empty. I could hear the snickering and whispers of the other children. At first I was embarrassed. Then I thought no. . . there is no reason for me to be embarrassed.

I looked at Juan and said "Isn't this lovely?"

I looked at **Juan** and said "Isn't this lovely?" I placed the bracelet on my wrist and asked him to help me fasten the clasp. There were a few oohs and aahs as I dabbed the cologne behind my ears. I continued to open gifts until I reached the bottom of the pile. We drank our refreshments and played games until the bell rang signaling the end of school for the holidays. Everyone gathered their belongings and filed out of the room with shouts of Merry Christmas. Everyone except **Juan**. He stayed behind.

With just us in the room, **Juan** walked toward my desk clutching his books. "You smell just like my mom," he said softly. "Her bracelet looks real pretty on you too. I'm glad you like it." Then he quickly left the room.

I locked the door to my classroom, sat down at my desk and wept quietly. When the tears stopped I resolved to make up for the way in which I had been treating **Juan**. For months I had deliberately deprived him of a teacher who truly cared.

Beginning in January, I stayed after school every afternoon with **Juan**. We did extra problems in math. We did extra work in reading and spelling. Slowly but surely, he started to improve. By April, he was really moving along. Even the other students noticed that something was very different about **Juan**. Only once did I panic when



he missed several days of school. It turned out that had to go work in the fields.

When the school year ended Juan had one of the highest averages in the class.

When the school year ended **Juan** had one of the highest averages in the class. And even though I knew he would be leaving for **California** to work in the strawberry fields, I believed that he had found a new confidence and outlook on who and what he could be.

I continued to teach and never again heard from **Juan** . . . until seven years later. He wrote me a letter from **Watsonville, California** that started out:

Dear Miss Johnson,

I wanted you to be the first to know, I will be graduating from high school next month, second in my class.

Very truly yours,

Juan Garza.

What a surprise. I sent him a card of congratulations and a small pen and pencil gift. **Juan Garza**, I wondered what he would do after graduation?

Four years later, **Juan's** second letter came. It had a postmark from **Ann Arbor, Michigan**:

Dear Miss Johnson,

I wanted you to be the first to know, that as of this writing I am now Juan P. Garza, M.D.. How about that! Harvard was hard but I have no regrets. I will be returning to California to do a residency at UCLA and work on pesticide issues as they effect farmworkers.

And I am going to be married in July . . . the 27th, to be exact. I wanted to ask you if you could come and sit where Mom would sit if she were here. I'll have no family present as Dad died last year. It would mean a lot to me. I can send you the plane tickets.

Very truly yours,

Juan

I'm not sure what kind of gift one sends to a doctor upon completion of medical school. I'll have to think about it for a moment But my note cannot wait.

Dear Juan,

Congratulations. You did it by yourself in spite of those like me, and not because of me. This day has come for you. God Bless you. I'll be at that wedding with great joy.

Very truly yours,

Miss Johnson

Dear Miss Johnson,

I wanted you to be the first to know that I was informed I'll be graduating first in my class. The University has not been easy. Although I received a small scholarship from the farmworker's union, I had to work part-time all four years to help cover the costs. But I loved every minute of it.

Very truly yours,

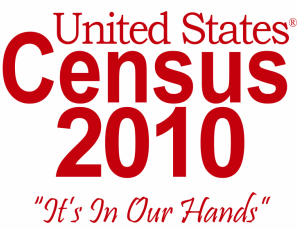
Juan P. Garza

Juan is graduating from college? I thought back for a moment at how quickly the years had passed and the fact that he still remembered me. I also recalled that Christmas party. I decided to send him a nice pair of sterling silver monogram cuff links and a card. I was so very proud of him. The **University of Michigan at Ann Arbor** is one of the best schools in the world. He was doing good, very good!

Today, I received **Juan's** third letter with a postmark from the **Boston** area. Like his other letters he started it with:

We know there is a **Juan Garza** in every school in America. We know there are students who cry out for teachers who truly care. Look carefully and you might be able to find a **Juan Garza** in your school. But an equally important question is whether or not there is a **Miss Johnson** in every school. Where are the **Miss Johnson's**? Just a little time, a little more caring, that's all some children need.

This story was adapted from an anonymous letter that passed out many years ago at a teacher conference. The original author is to be commended for an excellent story structure.



Demographic Snapshot of Comal County

Table 1			
Population of Comal County by Race and Hispanic Origin			
GROUP	1990	2000	2010
White	46,821	69,501	97,044
Black	443	741	1,727
American Indian or Alaskan Native	148	414	645
Asian	164	360	849
Native Hawaii or Pacific Islander	-	23	51
Some other race	4,256	5,449	5,808
Two or more races	-	1,533	2,348

Hispanic	11,864	17,609	26,989

SOURCE: US Census Bureau, P1, P3, P4 from 1990, 2000 and 2010

Table 2 below shows the change in population in Comal County since 1920. It was fairly steady up until 1970, when it started to grow significantly.

El cuadro 2 abajo muestra los cambios en la población en el Condado de Comal desde 1920. Como se puede ver, la población se mantuvo estable hasta 1970, y luego empezó a crecer significativamente.

The table on the left shows the population changes by race and Hispanic ethnicity in **Comal County** since 1990. Every group in **Comal County** has seen an increase in its respective population for the last 20 years.

It should be pointed out that there is a difference between race and ethnicity. For the Census Bureau race refers to the social-political construct that people use to self identify themselves and not the scientific or anthropological definitions that one would find in the university.

Ethnicity on the other hand is more about how people identify themselves through a common heritage using language, culture and ancestry. During the decennial **Census**, respondents are asked a question about race and a question about ethnicity. Thus a person could identify themselves as being “white” and Hispanic or “black” and Hispanic.

When one looks at the total population for Comal County, it is important not to double count using the Hispanic category because it represents people who have identified themselves in one of the categories above.

El cuadro a mano izquierda muestra los cambios por raza e hispanidad en la población del **Condado de Comal** desde 1990. Como se puede ver, en cada grupo ha habido crecimiento en su población respectiva en los últimos 20 años.

Se debe notar que hay una diferencia entre raza y etnia. Para el censo, raza se refiere a la construcción soci-política que utiliza la gente para autoidentificarse y no a las definiciones científicas o de la antropología académica.

La palabra “etnia” tiene más que ver con la manera en la cual la gente se identifica en términos de herencia, idioma o cultura. Durante el **censo** de cada 10 años, se les hacen dos preguntas, una de raza y otra sobre la etnia. Así es que es posible que una persona se considere miembro de la raza blanca y al mismo tiempo hispana. O uno puede marcar que es miembro de la raza negra e hispano.

Cuando uno ve los totales para el **Condado de Comal** es importante evitar el conteo doble usando la categoría hispana cuando ya se han identificado como miembro de una de las razas señaladas.

Table 2										
Population Growth Over Time					Crecimiento de la Población dedes 1920					
YEAR	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
POP.	8,824	11,984	12,321	16,357	19844	24,165	36,446	51,832	78,021	108,472

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Do You Know the Signs of a STROKE?

During a BBQ, a friend stumbled and took a little fall - she assured everyone that she was fine (they offered to call paramedics) and just tripped over a brick because of her new shoes.

They got her cleaned up and got her a new plate of food - while she appeared a bit shaken up

They got her cleaned up and got her a new plate of food - while she appeared a bit shaken up, **Ingrid** went about enjoying herself the rest of the evening. **Ingrid's** husband called later telling everyone that his wife had been taken to the hospital - (at 6:00pm, Ingrid passed away.)

She had suffered a stroke at the BBQ. Had they known how to identify the signs of a stroke, perhaps Ingrid would be with us today. Some don't die. They end up in a helpless, hopeless condition instead.

It only takes a minute to read this...

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke...totally. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within 3 hours, which is tough.

RECOGNIZING A STROKE

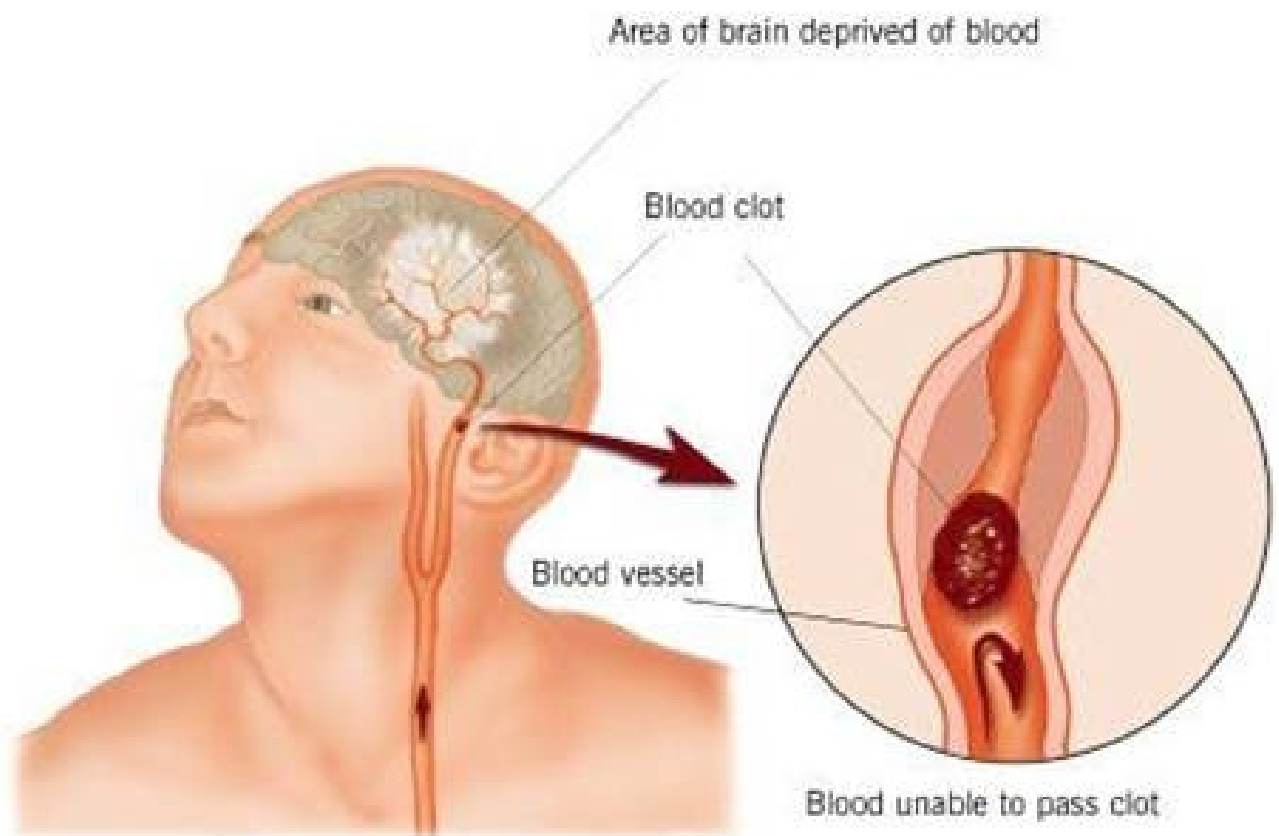
Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

S * Ask the individual to SMILE.

T * Ask the person to TALK to SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently) (i.e. It is sunny out today.)

R * Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.

NOTE: Another 'sign' of a stroke is this: Ask the person to 'stick' out their tongue. If the tongue is 'crooked', if it goes to one side or the other that is also an indication of a stroke. If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call 911 immediately!! and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.



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Comal County Hispanic Council Joins with Chamber to Promote School Program

All year long we have been hearing how **Texas** school districts are experiencing large budget cuts and having to make some very difficult decisions. Decisions that include teacher and staff cuts, bus route changes, cancelling support programs (Communities in Schools) and ending certain classes (like art).

CCHC strongly supports education and is working with the **New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce Business and Education Partnership Committee** to support their new program called “Adopt a School”. This program allows local organizations and business to work with a selected number of elementary schools and their principals to find out what has been cut from their budget and what can we help as a community to fill some of those cuts.

CCHC has asked to help **Lone Star Elementary** and their principal, **Mrs. Callahan** to find solutions to items that are no longer funded this year. After a few meetings, we found out **Lone Star** will not have a library budget. This library budget helped cover the purchase of new books, replace old books, bilingual books, and any accelerated reading books for the 300+ students at **Lone Star**. This is a huge loss to every student and we want to help.

How can you help? We are asking every **CCHC** member and supporter to donate at least \$10 toward the **Lone Star Library Fund** and help us reach our goal of \$1,000. We will be campaigning for the whole month of September and plan to present our check to **Mr. Callahan** by the end of the month. We also ask that you help pass this email through your email contacts to help us reach more people. If you like to mail a check, please mail it to **301 Main Plaza #109, NB TX 78130**.



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Word Power

En Las Palabras Hay Poder

No one can ever argue in the name of education, that it is better to know less than it is to know more. Being bilingual or trilingual or multilingual is about being educated in the 21st century. We look forward to bringing our readers various word lists in each issue of **La Voz de Comal County**.

Nadie puede averiguar en el nombre de la educación que es mejor saber menos que saber más. Siendo bilingüe o trilingüe es parte de ser educado en el siglo 21. Esperamos traer cada mes a nuestros lectores de **La Voz de Comal County** una lista de palabras en español con sus equivalentes en inglés.

¿Pero cuando?	But when?
Tu sabes	You know
¿Deveras?	Really
Era tiempo	It was about time
¿Nos vamos?	Shall we go?
¿Quien te dijo?	Who told you?
¿Cuando te dijeron?	When did they tell you?
¿Porqué te dijeron?	Why did they tell you?
No te creas	Don't believe it.
¿Quien vas a apoyar?	Who are you going to support?
¿Creas que puede ganar?	Do you believe he can win?



Lauren Krock

Shannon Hanz

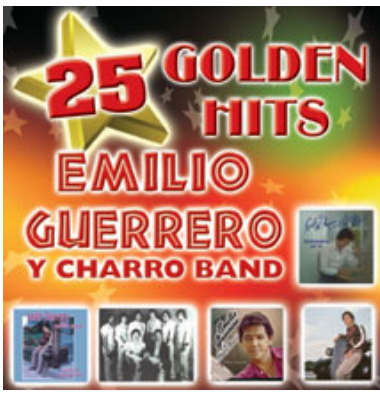
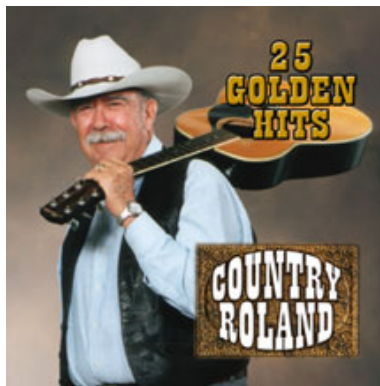
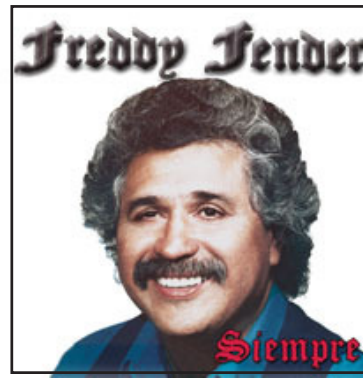
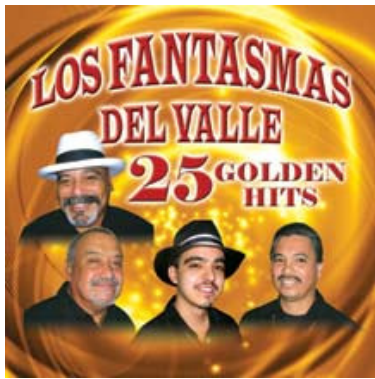
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Hispanic Heritage Month

SEPTEMBER

Thursday, September 15
“Fiesta en la Plaza”

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. • Alumni Plaza

Come and join us for a special celebration with music, food and dance. The event will feature the Son Jarocho Group “Son Armado” with traditional music of the state of Veracruz and a performance by Aztec dancers, plus food, drinks and festive colors. Free and open to the public.

Tuesday, September 20

Fiesta

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. • ASC, Graf Lounge

Students come make crafts, hear great music, and enjoy free food! Come celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month fiesta style!

Thursday, September 22

Mexican Revolution Series on PBS

4:00 p.m. • Dunne Conference Center

Given that last year was the 100th anniversary of the Mexican Revolution, the San Antonio station KLRN has created a new series called “Children of the Revolution.” In it, they explain how the Mexican Revolution had a direct impact on the San Antonio area. It would be wonderful to relate a historical event of such magnitude to your actual life and surroundings, don’t you think? Come and learn about it.

Monday, September 26

Honduras Mission Trip

4:00 p.m. • Dunne Conference Center

For 25 years, a group of Seguin residents has been going to Honduras to offer its voluntary work in public health and veterinary services. This last May, eight students and a professor from TLU joined their efforts and they will talk about their remarkable experience in the Central American country. A reception with traditional Honduran food and drinks will follow. Free and open to the public.

Wednesday, September 28

Robert Rivard –

San Antonio Express News Editor

7:30 p.m. • Wupperman Little Theatre

“Mexico and its struggle to break from its past to find a new future.” Veteran reporter and news editor Robert Rivard will relate his experience as a journalist covering events in Mexico, and share some reflections on the role of a free press, as Mexicans strive to transcend a seemingly relentless cycle of violence. Robert Rivard is the chairman of the Inter American Press Association (IAPA) Committee on Freedom of the Press and Information and he is also editor of the San Antonio Express News.

OCTOBER

Tuesday, October 4

***Study Abroad in
Spain and Costa Rica***

4:00 p.m. • Dunne Conference Center

Students who studied abroad this last summer will share their experiences with wonderful stories and beautiful images. Come and find out the opportunities TLU offers to study abroad.

Monday, October 10

Dr. Refugio Rochin

10:00 a.m. • Chapel

Tuesday, October 11

***Lecture by Dr. Refugio Rochin:
An Educational Journey***

9:30 a.m. • Jackson Auditorium

Recently honored as one of the Peace Corps 1962–1964 alumni, Dr. Refugio Rochin has been designated as one of “America’s Top 100 Influential Hispanics,” by Hispanic Business magazine. He will speak about his own educational journey, the challenges he has faced and will have advice for all students entering today’s workforce.

Thursday, October 20

Ojalá Concert

7:30 p.m. • Jackson Auditorium

Ojalá is an Austin based band that mixes both Spanish and Arabic in their songs. The music traditions of the South of Europe and the North of Africa are clearly linked (Spain was under Muslim rule for over 700 years). Therefore, instruments, voice register and rhythms are shared. This group recovers that common background and makes us aware of those ties. These ethnic rhythms will delight you and enrich your sense of belonging to a global community.

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