

Bexar Brazoria Caldwell Comal Ft. Bend Hays Travis Uvalde



Volume 18 Number 1
A Bi-Cultural Publication
January, 2023

La Voz

Free
Gratis



Person of the Year

Angeli Gómez

While some 376 law enforcement types spent a total of 77 minutes standing idly by Robb Elementary School, this mother of two students who was 20 miles away in Batesville, Texas *trabajando en la cebolla*, got word of the shooting and rushed to Uvalde.

When law enforcement refused to let go into the school to get her children, they placed her in handcuffs. They then took the cuffs off and when they did she went around them, jumped a fence and sprinted into the school.

A few minutes later, she emerged with her two kids in tow which was captured on video and can be seen on YouTube. This single act of courage in the face of danger is more than enough for us to award Angeli Gomez our Person of the Year honor. (See page # 7 for more on this heroic action.



People in the News



Dora Anguiano Joins Austin City Council District 3 Staff

Dora Anguiano has joined Jose Velasquez's team as his new Chief of Staff. She was born in San Marcos, Texas and raised in Austin, Texas. A mother to one son, Michael, she has three grandchildren. Dora is a former Emergency Medical Technician and has applied her skills as a volunteer during weather emergencies and large events.

Anguiano has been a City of Austin employee for over 22 1/2 years - 15 years in what is now the Housing & Planning Department (Zoning and Land Use Division) and 7 1/2 years in the office of outgoing Councilwoman Ann Kitchen, District 5 office. Dora brings much needed experience in administrative/office management, land use and zoning issues along with Constituent/Outreach service experience. Her plans to return and complete her education in Business Administration is in the works for the upcoming Spring. Dora is excited and ready to serve the District 3 community alongside her new office colleagues and Council Member-José Velásquez.



Matias Segura Appointed Interim Superintendent of Austin ISD

At a December 15th, 2022 meeting of the Austin Independent School District, Matias Segura was unanimously appointed the interim superintendent.

Prior to joining Austin ISD, he was the director of the Travis County Civil and Family Complex Program. He led the program to build a new courthouse, an office building, associated subsurface parking garage, surrounding infrastructure and site improvements. As the Chief of Operations for the district, Segura has 16 years of experience in construction management, real estate and operations.

Segura has a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from Texas Tech University and a Master of Business Administration degree in finance from The University of Texas at Austin. He is a Professional Engineer and an Austin ISD graduate.



Austin Area Tejano Legends Committee Hosts Reunion Breakfast at Casa Garcia Restaurant in Austin, Texas.

The Austin Area Tejano Legends Committee recently held their quarterly breakfast meeting at Casa Garcia where they honored a number of Tejano music legends. One of the honorees was Tony Ham Guerrero of the group Tortilla Factory out of San Angelo, Texas. Accepting the honor for his father who passed away a few years ago was Alfredo Guerrero, pictured above with Joe Olvera.

The Austin Area Tejano Legends Committee started meeting back in 2019. The organizer of this event Joe Olvera says, "If you are musician/dj from the 50's to the 70's we extend an invitation to join this reunion of folks from that era and from around Austin. Some of us have not seen each other in over 40 years!"

Members of the Austin Area Tejano Legends Selection Committee include Albert El Faz Torres Faz, Pete Diaz, Robert "Quarter Moon" Ortiz, Leonard Davila and Jesse Botello. These gentlemen offer a great support system to honor the Austin Area Tejano Legends. To learn more about this organization visit Joe Olvera on Facebook or send him an email at: jolvera27@gmail.com



Dyana Limon-Mercado to be Sworn in as the New Travis County Clerk

Dyana Limon-Mercado is the newly elected County Clerk. Dyana's professional experience includes working as the executive director of Planned Parenthood Texas Votes.

She has served on numerous boards of directors and commissions for causes that work to advance race equity and gender equity, including the Equity Advisory Committee for Austin ISD, City of Austin Commission for Women, and the YWCA Greater Austin.

She was elected as the Travis County Democratic Party Chair from 2018 to 2020, the first Hispanic person to do so, and ran one of the most successful and inclusive coordinated campaigns in the county party's history. Dyana's close relationship with women's issues, health care and racial equity comes from her personal experience as a mother, Latina, community advocate, grassroots organizer and leader.

She earned an Associate degree from Austin Community College in 2003, a Bachelor's degree from Texas State University in 2005, and a graduate degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio in 2008.



PRODUCTION

Editor & Publisher
Alfredo Santos c/s

Associate Editor
Yleana Santos

Contributing Writers
Alicia Perez-Hodge
Jose Onofre Gonzalez
Dr. Rogelio Sáenz

Distribution
Tom Herrera
Anna Valdez
Lalo Castillo
Dolores Diaz Miller

Email Address:
lavoztexas@gmail.com

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

La Voz is a monthly publication covering Bexar, Brazoria, Caldwell, Comal, Guadalupe, Hays, Uvalde, Williamson and Travis Counties. The editorial and business address is P.O. Box 19457 Austin, Texas 78760. The telephone number is (512) 944-4123. The use, reproduction or distribution of any or part of this publication is strongly encouraged. But do call and let us know what you are using. Letters to the editor are most welcome.

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Pensamientos

Bienvenidos otra vez a La Voz Newspaper. Más bien dicho, bienvenido al año 2023.

As mentioned recently on a Facebook post, I had to go to the hospital. On Sunday night (January 8th), I fell out of my chair while working on the January 2023 issue of **La Voz**. This was the fourth time in the last six months that I have fainted. I have been going to the doctors and we have been looking into what might be wrong with me.

I picked myself off the floor and went and laid down. After about an hour of still feeling light headed I told my wife we need to go to the hospital. (previously we called for an ambulance) Once at the hospital they hooked me up to all the machines.

But this time one of the machines showed a reading that was unusual. Basically, the top part of my heart was not "talking" to the bottom part of my heart. Then, all of sudden the reading changed and it was normal. It was in that momentary instance that the doctors discovered that it was my heart. We were suspecting that the fainting might have something to do with the brain.

So Monday morning at 4:00am I found myself being transported by ambulance from the **Cedar Park Regional Hospital** to the **Heart Hospital of Austin** on 38th Street.

It was there that they decided it was time for a pace maker. I was wheeled into the operating room and at 7:00pm they "opened me up." The operation was quick and successful and I am now at home with limited use of my left arm for a few weeks. I was born in 1952 and at times feel like a **1952 Chevrolet**. While I am grateful for the technology of today, getting old is going to be challenging. Thank you to all who have expressed concern for my well being.

Cambiando de tema

This issue of **La Voz** marks out 33rd year of buying ink by the barrel. We never imagined we would be do it for so long pero aqui estamos. As you can see from the cover, we have chosen **Angeli Gómez** as our **Person of the Year**. What she did on May 24th, 2022 in **Uvalde, Texas** was beyond bold. She showed everyone what real courage is all about.

On page 5 we would like to introduce our readers to the newest members of the **Austin**

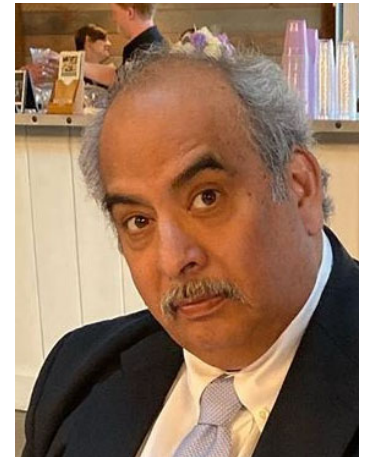
City Council. They each had to participated in a run-off election in December, but they persevered. Congratulations!

One page 9 is a plug for the play **Crystal City 1969** which is playing in **San Antonio** this coming weekend. Catch it if you can. On this same page is a short piece I wrote about our walkout in **Uvalde, Texas** that took place shortly after the one in **Crystal City**. *Los estudiantes de Crisal* really inspired us back then.

On pages 12 thru 15 is a piece by **Dr. Cythnia E. Orozco**. She invites readers to contact her as she is planning a book on the Mexican American experience in **Austin, Texas**.

And lastly, we want to call to your attention on page 18 a Spanish Spelling Bee that was held in **Phfulgerville, Texas** (just outside of Austin). Given that Spanish is such a phonetic language, I never thought a spelling bee in Spanish would work. Well, apparently there are those who believe otherwise. Do you know how to spell the word for artichoke?

EDITORIAL



Alfredo Santos c/s
Editor and Publisher
of **La Voz Newspapers**

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Welcome Home!

A Former Labor Organizer, Congressman Casar Aims to Bring a Grassroots Coalition to Congress

Congressman Greg Casar was officially sworn in to the U.S. House of Representatives earlier this month for the 118th Congress.

"It's time to get to work for Texans and for working families across America," said Rep. Greg Casar (D-Texas). "But we're not doing this work alone. I'm proud to be part of a growing movement of Texans who are committed to protecting our democracy, restoring abortion rights, raising wages, and tackling the climate crisis."



Casar added, *"While House Republicans continue to embrace authoritarianism and division, we stand united for a democracy that works for working Americans. No matter what reckless right-wing dysfunction lies ahead, I remain focused on serving our constituents."*

Casar represents Texas's 35th Congressional District, which runs down I-35 from East Austin to Hays County to the West Side of San Antonio. He will serve as the **Whip** for the **Congressional Progressive Caucus** this session, the third-highest-ranking position of the group.

**VOCES ORAL HISTORY
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JUNE 5-9, 2023



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in Corpus Christi, Texas
on 104.9 FM

New Members of the Austin City Council

Ryan Alter is a longtime Capitol staffer and attorney who has worked with **Senators Kirk Watson, Sylvia Garcia, and Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa** to fight for progressive policies that bolster voting rights, support public education, expand healthcare, and increase affordable housing opportunities.



**Ryan Alter
District 5**

Born at St.

David’s South, Ryan is a lifelong **Austin**-area resident who has experienced both the good and bad that has come with **Austin’s** explosive growth. Throughout his career, **Ryan** has advanced policies to improve the lives of all Texans regardless of their zip code. Despite the complexity of the school finance system, he successfully helped craft workable solutions that secured greater funding for our local public schools. In an environment designed to thwart any progress to address housing affordability or increase access to healthcare, he helped advance policies that make meaningful impacts on the lives of everyday people facing these growing challenges.

In the face of countless bills aimed to undermine our elections, weaken our cities, and pit neighbor against neighbor, **Ryan** played a central role in fighting back to reveal these attempts as nothing more than political ploys aimed to distract from the real issues facing Texans.

Trained with the analytical skills of an engineer from **UT Austin** and graduate of **Harvard Law School**, **Ryan** has the tools to tackle any challenge facing our community. Beyond his service at the Capitol, **Ryan** started a small family business with his sister that demonstrated development focused on smart growth can achieve greater affordability for Austinites.

Ryan and his wife **Rita** live in **South Austin** with their two children **Aurora** and **Atticus**. You can find them at the local farmer’s markets, on the trails, or at the playground, and if you do, please say, "Hi!"

The first born child of immigrants, **Zohaib** (“Zo”) moved to **Texas** at the age of 12 with his parents and two younger sisters--a younger brother was born 5 years later.

Zo moved to **Austin** to study at the **University of Texas in Austin**, starting a degree in biochemistry to pursue a career in medicine like his parents who he saw give back to their community through community healthcare. Later, having made the decision to switch paths and study government after being motivated to improve his community around **Austin** seeing the cost of living crisis affecting the most vulnerable in our city, **Zo** then received a Masters of Public Administration from **Texas State** and a second graduate degree from **Rice** in Global Affairs.

Since finishing his graduate studies, **Zo’s** worked in advocacy roles and on political campaigns. He worked on **Beto O’Rourke’s** 2018 race during his run for United States Senate. **Zo** later merged his academic knowledge with real world experience in the legislative process during his time as a legislative assistant in the **Texas House of Representatives**. **Zo’s** leadership skills and love of coaching others on how to reach diverse voters led him to **South Carolina** during the **2020 Democratic Primary**, where he helped lead **Senator Elizabeth Warren’s** campaign as a **Regional Organizing Director**.

With volunteerism never far from his mind, **Zo** has worked with local community groups like **Austin Needs Water**, the **Central Texas Food Bank** and **Del Valle Community Coalition** over the last two incredibly challenging years to ensure underserved communities throughout **Austin** had their basic needs met. He also serves on the Advisory Committee for the **Travis County Democratic Party**, and the boards of **Austin Muslim Democrats**, **Asian Democrats of Central Texas**, and **Engage USA**.



**Zohaib “Zo” Qadri
District 9**

Council Member José Miguel Anwar Velásquez is a community activist, thought leader and proud son of **Austin**.

He was raised in **East Austin** with his three siblings, by a hardworking, tenacious single mother who instilled in him a commitment to service and the heart to fight for his community. **José’s** mother worked two orthree jobs to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table but still found time to serve their community. Through her example, **José** learned that hard work and service to others was the only way to navigate life.

José went to work at age 11 in a local panaderia to help his mother with bills. That same year he wrote his first petition to help a classmate out of an unsafe environment. **José** has not quit working or serving his community since.

José is a proud **Metz Cobra, Martin Eagle, Austin High Maroon, and Huston Tillotson Ram**. He has served on numerous boards and commissions including; **Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, Latinitas Austin, East Austin Conservancy, City of Austin Hispanic / Latino Quality of Life Commission** and the **Mayor's Anti-Displacement Taskforce**.



**José Miguel
Anwar Velásquez
District 3**

Contact Info

Phone 512-978-2103

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 1088

Austin, TX 78767

Roberto Alonzo

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When folks talk about American spirit they would do well to look towards the mom in Uvalde, TX who **left** her difficult and skilled job that puts food on all of our tables as a farm worker, **drove 40 minutes**, was put in cuffs, got out, hopped a fence, knew exactly what classroom her kids were in, **measured the distance of gunshots** to safely rescue them, **called out the cops for cowardice**; was threatened with probation violation for talking to press, **did so anyway**, and then went back to work.

Fearless, brave, hard working and patriotic.

Latinos Make History Pursuing State Legislative Offices Nationwide in Election 2022

A record number of Latinos will serve in state legislatures, with a total of 376, an increase from 344 before Election 2022

There will be 103 Latinos serving in state senates and 273 in state lower houses

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The **National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO)** Educational Fund released its analysis assessing Latino gains in state legislatures across the nation following **Election 2022**. A full analysis of Latinos who will serve in state senates and state lower houses (including a breakdown by state and political party) is available here.

“Latino candidates made history in Election 2022 demonstrating that they can successfully run for state legislative seats across the country, winning races in areas with and without Latino population centers,” said **NALEO Educational Fund CEO Arturo Vargas**. With Latino candidates successfully running for state legislative seats across the country, there is no such thing as a Latino or non-Latino district anymore. Latinos once again are bringing the expertise and skills needed to secure support from a broad coalition of voters.”

As candidates, Latino leaders sought positions in state legislative offices across the nation in **Election 2022**. As a result, a record number of Latinos will serve in state legislatures with a total of 376, an increase from 344 prior to **Election 2022**. In addition, there will be 103 Latinos serving in state senates and 273 in state lower houses.

Key Findings from NALEO Educational Fund’s post-election analysis include:

• Latinos in State Senates Post-Election 2022:

Class: The number of Latinos serving in state senates is set to increase by four following Election 2022. 103 Latinos* will serve in the upper chambers of state legislatures.

Party Affiliation: Following Election 2022, 84 Democrats will serve in state senates, up from 83. Republicans in the upper chambers will also increase, growing from 16 to 19.

Gender: Latinos and Latinas made modest gains in state senates in Election 2022, with the number of Latinas serving increasing from 49 to 51 and male Latinos from 50 to 52 after Election 2022. The updated gains reflect a nearly complete gender balance among Latinos in the state senates.

• Latinos in Lower State Houses Post-Election 2022:

Class: The number of Latinos serving in state lower houses after Election 2022 will increase by 28, growing to 273*.

Party Affiliation: Following Election 2022, 228 Democrats and 45 Republicans will serve in the lower house of state legislatures, an increase of 14 for each political party.

Gender: The growth in Latinas serving in state lower houses helped fuel the overall increase of Latinos in these legislative chambers after Election 2022. The number of Latinas serving in state lower houses will increase by 24, from 105 to 129, which accounts for 86 percent of the total increase. In addition, one state legislative newcomer identifies as gender non-conforming, and one identifies as non-binary.

About NALEO Educational Fund

NALEO Educational Fund is the nation’s leading non-partisan, non-profit organization that facilitates the full participation of Latinos in the American political process, from citizenship to public service.



El Pleito Empieza

by Alfredo Santos c/s

In 1968, the Chicano Movement was sweeping through **Southwest Texas**. For those of us in high school, we struggled to understand how we could participate in the social and political change we saw taking place on TV. News of unfolding events in **Texas** didn't come easy to us, but we knew the time had come for us to stand up. The time had come for us to say and do something!

Our local **MAYO** chapter was the vehicle we used to make our voices heard. On Fridays we had **Chicano Day** at **Uvalde High School** where we would wear *zarapes* and bring *tacos* to eat in the school cafeteria. Eating *tacos* in public was taboo back then. At night during the week, we would picket the **Uvalde County Jail** to bring attention to police brutality issues.

In December of 1969, we learned that the students down in **Crystal City, Texas** had started a school walkout. They were protesting things in their schools they felt were unjust. **Oscar Castro**, a senior, and one of our student leaders invited a group of us to cut class and go down to **Crystal City** to help show that they had support from **Uvalde**. So we jumped in his blue station wagon and made the 39 mile trip.

In **Crystal City**, 75% of teachers were white, Mexican students were suspended or beaten with a paddle for speaking Spanish, and Mexican food was also banned from the school cafeteria. To be a cheerleader in **Crystal City**, one of your parents had to have graduated from high school. To top it off, only one of the four positions could be held by a Mexican-American female.

This play, **Crystal City 1969** captures the spirit and events of the walkout that helped to spark the **Chicano Movement** in **Texas**. In fact, it was the walkout in **Crystal City** that served to spark our walkout in **Uvalde, Texas** on April 14th, 1970. The **Uvalde** walkout lasted six weeks (until the end of the school year) but unlike **Crystal City**, the school board refused to negotiate with us. As punishment for participating in the walkout, many students were flunked and required to repeat the untire academic year.

While the **Crystal City** walkout is the most famous of all the walkouts, the **Uvalde** walkout was the longest on record. In fact, counting the discrimination lawsuit that was filed by **Genoveva Morales**, (one of the parents) the **Uvalde** walkout was not fully settled until 2016. This was 46 years years later.

The struggle for justice by Mexican Americans was often fought on the battlefield of education. In the 1930s, there was the **Salvatierra** case in **Del Rio/San Felipe, Texas**. In 1948, it was **LULAC** that filed a discrimination lawsuit against the **Bastrop Independent School District**.

The Center for Mexican American Studies at The University of Texas at Austin
in association with the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center

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Center for Mexican American Studies
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In the Community



ABOVE: Bianca Garcia being sworn in as the Judge of County Court of Law # 3



ABOVE: Lulu Flores is the new Texas State Representative for District 51.



ABOVE: Jose Velasquez, Austin's newest city councilmembers with members of his staff.



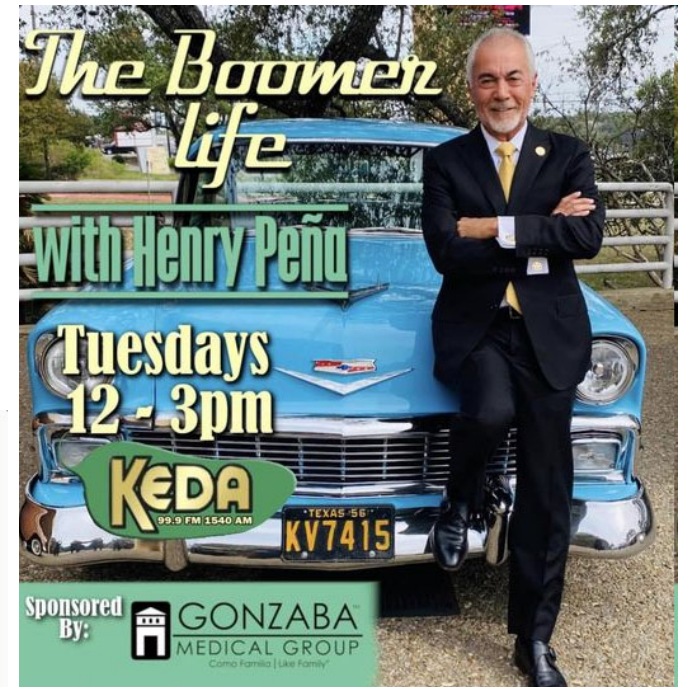
ABOVE: Judge Cliff Brown awore in his daughter to the State of Texas Bar



En la comunidad



LEFT: |Austin City Council member Vanessa Fuentes (D2) stands with the newly elected Mayor of Austin, Texas, Kirk Watson



The History of Mexican Americans in Austin

by Dr. Cynthia E. Orozco

The history of **Mexican Americans** in **Austin** is largely an unexplored and unwritten history. No book or scholarly article about the topic has been written and if a computer search is conducted using the key words “Mexican American”, “history”, and “Austin”, not one book can be located.

This is not to say that no one has written on **Mexican Americans** in **Austin** because several dissertations, theses, student papers, essays, and newspaper articles have been written. However, without a book or a journal article, access is difficult.

This situation parallels the history of **Tejanos** and **Tejanas** in general—more is needed. This brief history outlines some patterns of Mexican life in **Austin** based on a quick survey of archival materials at the **Austin History Center** and use of the *Handbook of Texas*.

The history of Mexican Americans in Austin does not begin with the arrival of Stephen F. Austin to Texas in 1823.

The history of Mexican Americans in **Austin** does not begin with the arrival of **Stephen F. Austin** to **Texas** in 1823. Native Americans lived and settled in the area, the most significant group being the **Tonkawas**. This area was largely their domain though **Apaches** and **Comanches** could also be found here. Spanish explorers were the second group in the area although no permanent settlement by way of a mission, presidio, or pueblo was built here.

As early as 1691 on his way to **East Texas**, **Domingo Teran de los Rios** passed through the southeast corner of present-day **Travis County**. In 1716 **Domingo Ramon** also bound to **East Texas** passed through the area and in 1720 the **Marquis de Aguayo** cut across the northern part of the county on his way to the missions.

Around 1730 the missions **San Francisco de los Neches**, **Nuestra Senora de la Purisima Concepcion de los Hasinai**, and **San Jose de los Nazonis** were temporarily located near the **Colorado** near the site presently known as **Barton Springs**. The Spanish initially intended to missionize and Christianize the **Tonkawa** but finally abandoned these efforts in 1752.

Spanish explorers made their ways through again in 1732, 1754-1755, and 1766. In 1766 the **Marques de Rubi** and cartographer **Nicolas de Lafora** recorded the existence of three “rancherias de gentiles” on the **Colorado River** near present-day **Austin**. In summary, during the Spanish colonial era up to 1821, there was no permanent settlement to provide a basis for a town.

1820s

With the creation of the republic of **Mexico** in 1821, the Mexican government sought to establish a more permanent foothold in its northern frontier and allowed white settlers empresario grants to settle colonies and families. **Stephen F. Austin** received such

a grant. Some Mexicans were granted land titles in this area of **Coahuila y Tejas**. In 1828 **Santiago del Valle** received a land grant where the **Montopolis Recreation Center** is now located. Mexicans, then, were present in what became the town of **Austin** in 1839 after the republic of **Texas** was created in 1836.

Mexicans, then, were present in what became the town of Austin in 1839 after the republic of Texas was created in 1836.

Racial discrimination intensified after the **Texas** revolt in 1836 and especially after the **US/Mexico** war ended in 1848. Persons of Mexican descent were largely considered “greasers”. The new **Texas** republic was intimately linked to the South and the **United States**. Slavery as an institution, economy and culture, was established in **Texas**

1840s

In 1840 the city fathers wrote **Austin’s** first ordinance on slavery. It forbade “any white man or Mexican” from “making associates of slaves.” The **Tejano**



community found itself on both sides of the slavery question in the **Civil War** from 1861 to 1865. Indeed, just as some **Austin Tejanos** helped slaves, others like **Antonio Priba** served as a private in **Company G** in the **Flournoy Regime of Texas Volunteers for the Confederacy**. The post-Civil War era saw the breakup of the slave economy and the rise of livestock raising, small tenant farming, and sharecropping in **Travis County**. This period also witnessed the beginnings of industrialization of **Austin** in general.

1870s

In the 1870s two railroads made their way through **Austin** which helped to give rise to food processing and furniture and

pottery factories. An 1872 newspaper article reported that Mexican men in **Travis County** were “mostly teamsters and farm laborers.” Mexicans in the county were still largely a rural population.

In 1875, census taker **Joe Costa** reported 297 Mexicans within **Austin’s** city limits. A barrio and an urban economy was evident. The permanent nature of this new **Tejano** community was evident with the establishment of Mexican churches. In 1883 **Menchaca Elementary School** was built to serve residents. Likewise, Mexicans formed their own schools to further their education.

In town, Mexicans worked in various occupations. In the 1870s Mexican women owned and

La Historia del Mexico Americano en Austin

worked in candy-making and tamale-making businesses. In the 1890s **John M. Valdez** worked as a blacksmith repairing horseshoes. Nevertheless, Mexicans in **Travis County** continued to be primarily rural throughout the 1890s.

In 1890 and 1899 **La Iglesia Metodista Unida Emmanuel** and **La Primer Iglesia Bautista Mexicana** were founded respectively. Mexican Catholics continued to attend **St. Patrick's Catholic** church founded in 1852 which reportedly maintained segregated pews for some time. The first **Mexican American** to attend the **University of Texas at Austin** was **Marius Garcia** in 1894

1900s

By 1900 many Mexican Americans worked in chili factories. The 1905 **Austin** city directory listed **Endoxio Chapa** as its first Mexican druggist. The founding of **Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe** in 1907 and **El Buen Pastor**, a Presbyterian church, in 1913 added a stronger foundation for the community. In 1908 **Ben Garza** and his wife established a meat market.

In 1910, most Mexican families worked as sharecroppers in the county. In an oral history, **Earl Herrera** noted, *"In those times almost all the Mexican Americans lived in rural areas. The economic life was limited. For example, the*

Mexican usually worked as a sharecropper. And he had to go to the American to look for the crops ripened. The American would give to the Mexican so much provision and after the crops came in the Mexican would go to the store and pay."

The **Mexican Revolution** of 1910 stimulated immigration to the north so **Austin**, like **San Antonio** and **Houston**, saw an increase in their respective populations. Likewise, the **United States** witnessed the decline of family farming, more sharecropping as well as the rise of an urban populace.

Between 1913 and 1920 **Valentin Arcala Herrera**, a teacher in **Mexico**, opened schools in his home for children of **El Buen Pastor** teaching fifteen to twenty children. At was in 1916, that the **Austin** school board decided to send non-English-speaking children to separate schools.

Also taking place around 1916, was the rise of a small middle class. This is evidenced by the arrival of **Dr. Alberto Garcia**, a physician, and his wife **Eva Carrillo**. In 1919 **Miguel Oyervide** was working as the first Mexican policeman. e to a tiny middle class.

1920s

As the 1920s continued to unfold, Mexican students attended the **Comal School**, a separate four-room school for first and second grade. In 1921 a **Diez y Seis**

celebration on **East Avenue** drew 6,000 participants.

The 1920s also saw the birth of numerous Mexican organizations. In 1921, **Camp Cerezo No. 252, Woodmen of the World**, a mutual aid society existed. A Spanish language newspaper **El Vanguardia** edited and published by **Dr. Alberto Garcia** and **Eva Carrillo** appeared.

In the 1920s Mexican-descent cemeteries like **San Jose Cemetery I and II** in **Montopolis** were still the norm. They were opened in 1919 by **La Union Fraternal Mexicana**. Housing and real estate development also reflected racial segregation.

In 1927 **Tomas Galindo** and **Eustacio Cepeda** founded the **Sociedad Funeraria de Agricultores "Mariano Escobar" de Creedmoor y Austin**. **Club Anahuac** another voluntary society. And in 1927 **Austin** permitted the first Mexican descent person, **Consuelo Mendez**, to teach in the **Austin Independent School District**.

Researcher **Earl Connell** reported that *"Mexican men, women, and children follow the city wagons to the dump to pick out the old rags, cans of spoiled food, partly rotten apples and other fruits, old boxes, and old cakes. That which is not eaten on the spot is carried to their houses, along with the worst kind of filth."* His report expressed racism typical of what whites considered "the Mexican problem".

Population in Travis County Over Decades 1900 to 2020

Decade	Total Population	Hispanic Population	Percent Hispanic
2020	1,227,771	416,213	33.90%
2010	1,024,266	342,766	33.46%
2000	812,280	229,048	28.20%
1990	576,407	121,689	21.00%
1980	419,573	72,288	17.22%
1970	295,516	39,399	13.33%
1960	212,136	Not available	
1950	160,980	Not available	
1940	111,053	Not available	
1930	77,777	10,225	13.14%
1920	57,616	2,612	.045%
1910	55,620	1,954	.035%
1900	47,368	936	.019%

SOURCE: US Bureau of the Census

In 1928 many people of Mexican descent were now living in what is today downtown **Austin**. A white-dominated city council devised a master plan marginalizing the Mexican community to East Austin. The **Catholic Diocese** even moved **Nuestra Senora Catholic Church** to 9th Street.

In 1929, Mexican women participated in the **Cruz Azul**, a group similar to the **American Red Cross** but which worked closely with the **Mexican Consulate**. These organizations were important to a largely working-class community. Mexican women also worked as laundresses, domestics, candy-makers, and tamale-makers.

Because of racially-defined work and gender-defined work and thus low wages, Mexicans were forced to supplement earnings.

1930s

By 1930 Mexicans constituted 10% of the **Austin** population. **Roy Velasquez** had established his taxi company and other **Mexican Americans** were also opening business. The **Zavala School** added permanency as did the **Santa Rita Courts**, public housing established in 1939. Expensive housing and racial covenants in housing also ensured that Mexicans would stay on their side of town. **Dr. Carlos E. Castaneda** became a professor of history at **The University of Texas**

The History of Mexican Americans in Austin

at Austin in the 1930s. In 1936, the **Lorenzo de Zavala** school, the first school specifically for the Mexican community was constructed and in 1937 **Seton Nursing School** graduated its first Mexican American nurse.

1940s

The 1940s saw the growth of a Mexican American community in South Austin. By then Austin's population was 87,930. In 1939 San Jose church was organized to serve 126 families in that area. Some South Austin whites did not welcome Mexican American neighbors. Signs were posted in yards: "Go home, Mexicans." This occurred while **Henry S. Terrazas** fought for his country in World War II and with **Daniel Ortega** who was killed in action in France while carrying a wounded soldier to safety.

The late 40s saw increased political activity by the Mexican community. Soldiers who returned home after World War II were not content to go back to the way things were. The **Longoria Affair** in **Three Rivers, Texas** where a Mexican American soldier was refused a decent funeral produced outrage across the county and served to spark a flurry of activity among Mexican Americans.

LULAC Council #85, which was founded in 1938 sought to register voters and drew up a civil rights bill. The **American**



G.I. Forum also organized a chapter in Austin.

Desegregation efforts were of major concern in the 1950s. By then Austin's population was 131,964. Throughout the 50s, the newspaper **El Demócrata** founded in 1943 and which existed until 1966 served the Mexican descent community. The bands of **El Conjunto Cielito**, the **Mat Velasquez Orchestra**, the **Nash Hernandez Orchestra**, and the **Manuel "Cowboy" Donley Orchestra** were in full swing.

In 1951, a young attorney by the name of **Patricio Mendez** ran for a place on the **Austin City Council**. He received 2,844 votes (19.54%) and lost but he was the first of many Mexican Americans who had come home from the war and began to "test" the waters.

1960s

By the 1960s, Mexican Americans numbered between 15,000 and 20,000 in Austin or about 20%. Mexicans represented 20% of the workforce around 1960 mostly in unskilled or semiskilled occupations in small employer units in non-manufacturing activity. At the time, Austin was a non-industrial city dominated by institutional and white-collar employment. The development of **Interstate 35** further solidified what is known as "East Austin."

Researcher **Sam Parigi** noted, "To the casual visitor, Austin appears to be a prosperous town, but an examination of the income

of Latins in Austin (and the rest of Texas) discloses "poverty in the midst of plenty." The 1960 median income for Austin families was \$5,058 but for Austin Mexican Americans it was under \$3,000.

The 1960s witnessed at least three successful unionization efforts. In one of these firms, Mexicans earned \$1.00 an hour while Anglos received \$1.25. **Jose**

Garcia, **Benny Martinez**, and **Reverend Frank Briganti** of **Cristo Rey Roman Catholic** church proved key in unionization efforts at a concrete products firm and at a plastic pleasure boats firm. Perhaps even more important was the **Economy Furniture** strike, which began in 1967 when 252 workers went on strike, 40% of who were women.

Patricio Mendez, the First Mexican American to Run for City Council in Austin, Texas

Patricio Mendez was a well known community activist in the Mexican American community. He was born on August 16, 1909 in **Mission, Texas**. After graduating from high school he attended **Edinburg Junior College** and later transferred to **The University of Texas at Austin**.

When **World War II** broke out he enlisted in the Army and served for three and a half years including a tour in **Europe** before being discharged as a sergeant. Upon his return to **Texas** he decided to further his education and enrolled at **The University of Texas School of Law**. He graduated in 1947 and opened his law practice in **Austin**.

Patricio Mendez was married to **Consuelo Herrera** who was a school teacher in **Austin**. She taught for many years before retiring in 1972. **Mendez Middle School** in **Dove Springs** is named after her. **Patricio** and **Consuelo Mendez** were both active **LULAC** members and held elective office in various councils. When **Mr. Mendez** ran for city council there were a total of 14 candidates on the ballot. He received 18% of the vote.



The **Chicano** movement also arose in the late 60s giving saliency to more activism and cultural florescence. The **Brown Berets** were active as was the **Raza Unida Party**, a third political party and a challenge to **Democrats** and **Republicans**.

The 1970s saw the rise of political representation. In 1970, **Richard Moya** was elected the first Mexican American to a county-wide office, the **Travis County** commissioner's court. **Gus Garcia** was elected in 1972 as the first Mexican American to the school board. **Gonzalo Barrientos** became a state representative, winning only by 84 votes in 1974. **John Trevino Jr.**

La Historia del Mexico Americano en Austin

was the first **Mexican American** to be elected to the **Austin City Council** in 1975.

In 1974 the **East Town Lake Citizens Association** was organized after families were displaced by the expansion of **Fiesta Gardens** and in 1978 confrontations with the police occurred over boat races.

Mexican American women organized politically in conjunction and independently from men. Throughout the 70s, **Martha P. Cotera** represented the feminist inclinations of a sector of **Austin** women. In 1974 women formed the **Mexican American Business and Professional Women's Association** reflecting the development of a female middle class as well as the development of Chicana feminists.

In 1980 **Margaret Gomez** became the first elected **Mexican American** woman in **Travis County** as a county commissioner and **Lena Guerrero** was elected as state representative. In 1983 and 1986 new schools were named after **Emma H. Galindo** and **Consuelo Mendez**. In 1987 the local chapter of the **Hispanic Women's Network** was formed. **Austin** gays and lesbians founded **ALLGO**, the **Austin Latina/o Lesbian and Gay Organization** in 1985.

Newspapers have served the community since the 1920s. A

publication called "*Para la Genete*" emerged in the 1970s. Culture and art institutions include **League of United Chicano Artists (LUCHA)** (1977), **La Pena** (1982) and **Mexic-Arte** (1984).

1980s

In the decade of the 1980s, a total 126 **Mexican Americans** would run for elective office in **Travis County**. **Richard Moya** on the right, would become the first **Mexican American** to win elective office in **Travis County**.

The tradition of community organizations would continue over the years with over 150 in existence 2005. With regard to public school enrollement, Latino children would come to make up the majority of the **Austin Independent School District** population by 2015.

The history of **Mexican Americans** in **Austin** is a rich history. The history of people, organizations, institutions, churches, businesses, workers, women, men, children, musicians, artists, and writers, it is a history waiting to be collected, written, seen, and heard. We invite your participation.

**Dr. Cynthia E. Orozco. Professor of History,
Eastern New Mexico University, Ruidoso.**

My email is
Cynthia.Orozco@enmu.edu



KEEP COMMISSIONER RICHARD

MOYA

PRECINCT 4

FOR CONTINUED EFFECTIVE
PEOPLE-ORIENTED COUNTY GOVERNMENT

VOTE

MAY 1, 1982

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

ABOVE: Richard Moya campaign push card

RIGHT: Edna Cannio was the first Mexican American woman to run for elective office in **Travis County**. She ran for **Austin Independent School District Trustee Place 4** in 1970 and got 4,918 votes (42.02% of the vote)

GÓMEZ

MARGARET GÓMEZ · FOR RE-ELECTION
CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 4

Vote Demo • May 5, 1984



Pol. Adv. Pd. by Citizens for Gomez, Constable, Pct. 4, Texana Faulk
Conn, Treasurer, 1102 E. First St., 480-8219.

ABOVE: Margaret Gómez campaign push card

EDNA CANINO

FOR

School Board, Pl. 4

VOTE

Saturday, April 4

Equal Opportunity to

Quality Education for All Students

Broader Communications

Bilingual - Able to Communicate

with English and/or Spanish Speaking Parents



Comisión de Calidad Ambiental del Estado Texas



AVISO DE SOLICITUD Y DECISIÓN PRELIMINAR PARA UN PERMISO TPDES PARA AGUAS RESIDUALES MUNICIPALES

RENOVACIÓN

PERMIT NO. WQ001335001

SOLICITUD Y DECISIÓN PRELIMINAR. La ciudad de Sugar Land, P.O. Box 110 Sugar Land, Texas 77487 ha solicitado a la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental del Estado de Texas (TCEQ) para una renovación del Sistema de Eliminación de Descargas de Contaminantes de Texas (TPDES) Permiso No.WQ001335001, que autoriza la descarga de aguas residuales domésticas tratadas a un flujo promedio anual que no exceda los 1,350,000 galones por día. La TCEQ recibió esta solicitud el 5 de abril de 2022.

El sitio está ubicada en 902 Tara Boulevard, en el condado de Fort Bend, Texas 77469. El efluente tratado se descarga a través de Rabbs Bayou, de allí a Rabbs Bayou Diversion Channel, de allí a Middle Bayou, y luego al Río Brazos abajo del Río Navasota en el Segmento No. 1202 de la Cuenca del Río Brazos. Los usos no clasificados del agua receptora son el uso limitado de la vida acuática para Rabbs Bayou, Rabbs Bayou Diversion Channel y Middle Bayou. Los usos designados para el Segmento No.1202 son la recreación de contacto primario, el suministro público de agua y el alto uso de vida acuática. Este enlace a un mapa electrónico del sitio o la ubicación general de la instalación se proporciona como cortesía pública y no es parte de la solicitud o aviso. Para la ubicación exacta, consulte la aplicación. <https://tceq.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=db5baC44afbC468bbddd36of816825of&marker=-95.687777%2C29.547222&level=12>

El Director Ejecutivo de la TCEQ completó la revisión técnica de la solicitud, y preparó un borrador del permiso. El permiso, si se aprueba, establecería las condiciones bajo las cuales la instalación debe operar. El

Director Ejecutivo ha tomado una decisión preliminar de que este permiso, si se expide, cumple con todos los requisitos legales y reglamentarios. La solicitud de permiso, la decisión preliminar del Director Ejecutivo y el borrador del permiso están disponibles para ver y copiar en el Ayuntamiento de Sugar Land, 2700 Town Center Boulevard North, Sugar Land, Texas.

COMENTARIO PUBLICO / REUNION PUBLICA

Puede enviar comentarios públicos o solicitar una reunión pública sobre esta solicitud. El propósito de una reunión pública es dar la oportunidad de presentar comentarios o hacer preguntas acerca de la solicitud. La TCEQ realiza una reunión pública si el Director Ejecutivo determina que hay un grado de interés público suficiente en la solicitud o si un legislador local lo pide. Una reunión pública no es una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso.

OPORTUNIDAD DE UNA AUDIENCIA ADMINISTRATIVA DE LO CONTENCIOSO. Después del plazo para presentar comentarios públicos, el Director Ejecutivo también

considerará todos los comentarios oportunos y preparará una respuesta a todos los comentarios públicos relevantes y materiales, o significativos. **A menos que la solicitud haya sido referida directamente a una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso, la respuesta a los comentarios y la decisión del Director Ejecutivo sobre la solicitud serán enviados por correo a todos los que presentaron un comentario público y a las personas que están en la lista para recibir avisos sobre esta solicitud.** Si se reciben comentarios, el aviso también proveerá instrucciones para pedir una reconsideración de la decisión del Director Ejecutivo y para pedir una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso. Una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso es un procedimiento legal similar a un procedimiento legal civil en un tribunal de distrito del estado.

PARA PEDIR UNA AUDIENCIA ADMINISTRATIVA DE LO CONTENCIOSO, USTED DEBE INCLUIR EN SU PEDIDO LOS SIGUIENTES DATOS: su nombre; dirección; teléfono; nombre del solicitante y

número del permiso; la ubicación y la distancia de su propiedad/actividad con respecto a la instalación; una descripción específica de la forma cómo usted sería afectado adversamente por el sitio de una manera no común al público en general; y la declaración "[Yo/nosotros] solicito/solicitamos un/a audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso". Si presenta por parte de un grupo o asociación el pedido para una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso, debe identificar el nombre y la dirección de una persona que representa al grupo para recibir correspondencia en el futuro; debe identificar un miembro del grupo que sería afectado adversamente por la planta o la actividad propuesta; debe proveer la información ya indicada anteriormente con respecto a la ubicación del miembro afectado y la distancia de la planta o actividad propuesta; debe explicar cómo y por qué el miembro sería afectado y como los intereses que el grupo desea proteger son pertinentes al propósito del grupo.

Después del cierre de los períodos para los pedidos y comentarios, el Director Ejecutivo enviará la solicitud y los pedidos para reconsideración o por una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso a los Comisionados de la TCEQ para su consideración en una reunión programada de la Comisión.

La Comisión solo puede otorgar una solicitud para una audiencia de caso impugnada sobre asuntos del solicitante presentado en sus comentarios oportunos que no fueron retirados posteriormente. **Si una audiencia es concedido, el tema de una audiencia se limitará a cuestiones de hecho o mixtas en disputa cuestiones de hecho y de derecho relacionadas con preocupaciones relevantes y materiales sobre la calidad del agua preocupaciones de calidad del agua presentado durante el período de comentarios. TCEQ puede actuar sobre una solicitud para renovar un permiso para descargar aguas residuales sin brindar la oportunidad de un audiencia de caso impugnada si se cumplen ciertos criterios.**

ACCIÓN DEL DIRECTOR EJECUTIVO. El Director Ejecutivo puede emitir una aprobación final de la solicitud a menos que exista un pedido antes del plazo de vencimiento de una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso o se ha presentado un pedido de reconsideración. Si un pedido ha llegado antes del plazo de vencimiento de la audiencia o el pedido de reconsideración ha sido presentado, el Director Ejecutivo no emitirá una aprobación final sobre el permiso y enviará la solicitud y el pedido a los Comisionados de la TCEQ para consideración en una reunión programada de la Comisión.

Comisión de Calidad Ambiental de Texas

PERMIT NO. WQ001335001

LISTA DE CORREO. Si somete comentarios públicos, un pedido para una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso o una reconsideración de la decisión del Director Ejecutivo, la Oficina del Secretario Principal enviará por correo los avisos públicos en relación con la solicitud. Además, puede pedir que la TCEQ ponga su nombre en una o más de las listas de correos siguientes (1) la lista de correo permanente para recibir los avisos de el solicitante indicado por nombre y número del permiso específico y/o (2) la lista de correo de todas las solicitudes en un condado específico. Si desea que se agregue su nombre en una de las listas designe cual lista(s) y envía por correo su pedido a la Oficina del Secretario Principal de la TCEQ.

Todos los comentarios escritos del público y los pedidos para una reunión deben ser presentados a la Oficina del Secretario Principal, MC 105, Texas Comisión de Calidad Ambiental, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or por el internet a www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment dentro de 30 días desde la fecha del periódico de esta noticia

INFORMACIÓN DISPONIBLE EN LÍNEA. Para obtener detalles sobre el estado de la solicitud, visite

la base de datos integrada de los comisionados en www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Busca en la base de datos utilizando el número de permiso para esta solicitud, que se proporciona en la parte superior de este aviso.

CONTACTOS E INFORMACIÓN.

Los comentarios y solicitudes públicas deben ser enviados electrónicamente a www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment, o por escrito a Texas Comisión de Calidad Ambiental, Oficina del Jefe Secretario, MC 105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Cualquier información personal que envíe al TCEQ se convertirá en parte del registro de la agencia; Esto incluye direcciones de correo electrónico. Si necesita más información en Español sobre esta solicitud para un permiso o el proceso del permiso, por favor llame a El Programa de Educación Pública de la TCEQ, sin cobro, al 1-800-687-4040. La información general sobre la TCEQ puede ser encontrada en nuestro sitio de la red: www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

También se puede obtener más información de Ciudad de Sugar Land en la dirección indicada arriba o llamando al Ms. Cathy Dominguez, Brazos River Authority, 254-761-3176.

Fecha de emisión: 21 de diciembre de 2022

The University of Texas at Austin • College of Fine Arts • School of Music

Tex-Mex CONJUNTO Spring 2023



Undergraduate Course # ENS 106C, Unique # 22075
Graduate Course #'s ENS 186C, Unique # 22305

Enroll in the UT School of Music Conjunto Ensemble
Directed by Joel Guzman and J J Barrera

Learn to play diatonic button accordion, bajo sexto, drums, electric bass!
Sing lead voice and/or harmonies in Spanish! No musical experience necessary.
This course offers men, women, novices, music majors and music lovers the opportunity to open new avenues of musical expression utilizing the genre of Texas Conjunto and Mexican Norteño music! Instruments are provided.

Meeting times: T TH 5:00 - 6:30pm in MRH 6.252

<https://www.facebook.com/University-of-Texas-Conjunto-393882754364821/>
jjb7853@gmail.com joelguzman@austin.utexas.edu



Phfulgerville ISD Students Compete in District Spanish Spelling Bee

Estudiantes de PflISD compiten en concurso de ortografía oral en español



On December 10, 2022, Pflugerville ISD Multilingual Instruction hosted the annual Spanish Spelling Bee at Highland Park Elementary. 22 students from all over the district competed.

¡El 10 de diciembre 2022, ¡el departamento multilingüe de Pflugerville ISD organizó el concurso anual de deletreo en español en la escuela primaria Highland Park! 22 estudiantes de todo el distrito compitieron.

Congratulations to our top 3 winners:

Jorge Herrera, Spring Hill Elementary

Eimy Escobar, Parmer Lane Elementary

Juan Pablo Rodríguez, Caldwell Elementary

Felicidades a nuestros 3 primeros ganadores:

Jorge Herrera, Spring Hill Elementary

Eimy Escobar, Parmer Lane Elementary

Juan Pablo Rodríguez, Caldwell Elementary

The winning word was “alcachofa,” which is Spanish for artichoke. Jorge will go on to compete in the National Spanish Spelling Bee in El Paso this summer.

La palabra ganadora fue “alcachofa”. Jorge competirá en el Concurso nacional de deletreo en español en El Paso este verano.

What is the artichoke capital of the US? Castroville, California

The town, nicknamed “the Artichoke Capital of the World,” is home to Ocean Mist Farms, a major producer of artichokes and other crops on farms dotting the length of California.



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*.

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* una lista de palabras en español con sus equivalentes en inglés.

Young

Joven

Old

Viejo

Time went by so quickly

El tiempo pasó tan rápido

Who knows?

¿Quién sabe?

The next time

El tiempo nexxt

I wonder what

Me pregunto qué

Saying good-bye is going

Deciendo adiós

to be difficult

va ser difícil

One never knows

Uno nunca sabe

Once on the other side

Una vez en el otro lado

I am ready

Estoy listo

There just wasn't

Simplemente no había

enough time

suficiente tiempo

Saying Hello to the future

Saludando al futuro

There is more time than life

Hay más tiempo que vida

I believe its true

Creo que es cierto



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The City of Clute

is accepting applications for the position of

Code Enforcement Officer/ Health Inspector

Must have or be able to obtain a certification in Code Enforcement through TEEX. Knowledge of applicable statutes, codes, and ordinances, a plus. Great communication skills and work ethic are needed for this position. Applicants must possess a valid Texas Drivers License and a High School diploma or GED.

Applications may be obtained online at
www.clutetexas.gov or at

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Women-Owned Procurement Program please contact
the Small & Minority Business Resources at 512-974-
7600 or visit www.austintexas.gov/smb.



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CONTROL
DE TU
FUTURO**
en ACC



EMPIEZA AHORA

Las clases de verano comienzan el 31 de mayo
Las clases de otoño comienzan el 22 de agosto

austincc.edu

Arte Texas Unveils New Cesar Chavez Mural in East Austin



Located at 1204 E. Cesar Chavez St., near the corner of Waller Street in **Austin, Texas**, the collective **Arte Texas** has completed a new community mural honoring **Cesar Chavez**. It is the first one of the new year. **Arte Texas** collaborated with other neighborhood groups on the project, including the **East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Contact Team** and the **East**

Town Lake Citizen Neighborhood Association, as well as the owners of the business where the mural stands. Joining **Bertha Rendon Delgado** at the dedication are **Mando Martinez, (aka Taner) Amado Castillo III** and **Mark Anthony Gonzales**