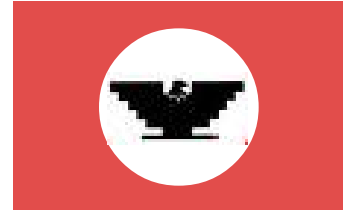


La Voz de Austin

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Volume 3 Number 6

FREE-GRATIS

June, 2008

Rick Noriega to Lead Texas Democratic Party Convention



People in the News



Simon Orta to Lead Mexican American Cultural Center

Simon Orta has been named the Education Program Managers of the Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC). A long time resident of the city of Austin and an experienced City of Austin employee, he brings to the center over seven years of supervisory experience in Latino cultural programming and thirteen years of experience in project management.

Mr. Orta has worked with outreach projects for youth, gallery programming, theater programming, music production, film

festival production, and development of art facilities. He was born in San Angelo, Texas and raised in San Antonio. In 1992 Mr. Orta graduated with an A.A. from Mineral Area College in Missouri where he majored in business.



Ruben Ruiz Releases New Book on Latino Wealth

San Marcos native, Ruben Ruiz has just released a new book titled: The Richest Latino in America. Written in the form of a novella, Mr. Ruiz through multiple voices in the book explains the seven miracles

that can lead to financial independence. Recently, the book won several awards at the 10th Annual International Latino Book Awards in Los Angeles, California. For more information about Mr. Ruben Ruiz and his books, visit the website: www.onehourhispanicmillionaire.com



Dolores Garcia Retires from UT Austin

Dolores Garcia, the "right hand" person of Dr. José Limón at the Center for Mexican American Studies at The University of Texas at Austin is retiring.

Originally from Lubbock, Texas, Garcia was the organizer behind many of the successful music and cultural events that have taken place recently. See her "despedida" interview on page 10. We wish her well in South Bend, Indiana.



Daniel Gonzalez appointed Municipal Judge

Daniel Gonzalez, a University of Texas at Austin alumni and graduate of the South Texas College of Law in Houston, Texas, was recently appointed a part-time municipal judge in the city of Cedar Park.

Gonzalez, has a wide range of legal experience and will continue his private practice in Austin. Gonzalez a graduate of Uvalde High School is married and has one child.



Eric Cruz Named Teacher of the Year in AISD

Eric Garcia, an English teacher at Austin High School was named Teacher of the Year at the 13th Annual Banquet held in conjunction with Partners in Education.

Mr. Cruz's journey to becoming Teacher of the Year began as a high school student himself. In one day, he made a decision to change his life's direction after being told by a guidance counselor that he was not college material. At his mother's urging to believe in himself, he chose to become a "harbinger of possibility, self-improvement, and merit."

A freshman English teacher and coordinator of Austin High's literary magazine, Mr. Cruz believes he has found his niche in teaching and inspiring students to express themselves through writing. Mr. Cruz joined AISD and has been teaching at Austin High School since 2003. He earned both bachelor's and master's degrees at St. Mary's University in San Antonio.



Juan Sanchez Wins LULAC Award in Los Angeles

See page 14 to learn more about the LULAC award Dr. Juan Sanchez received in Los Angeles.



ANUNCIO PÚBLICO
EMPRESAS DE NEGOCIO CON DESVENTAJA
FECHA: 1 DE JUNIO DEL 2008

Capital Metro por la presente anuncia su meta para el año fiscal 2009 de veinticinco por ciento (25%) para la participación de Empresas de Negocio con Desventaja (DBE) en consecuciones financiadas por fondos federales.

Una descripción de cómo se estableció esta meta estará disponible para inspección del público de lunes a viernes desde las 9 AM hasta 4 PM en las oficinas de Capital Metro, 323 Congress Ave., Austin, Texas durante cuarenta y cinco (45) días siguiendo este anuncio.

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On the Meaning of Father's Day

Father's Day comes around once a year. It is celebrated with BBQing, and relaxing with family and friends. It is a day to honor one's father, but to tell you the truth, for a long time I never celebrated Father's Day. I never celebrated Father's Day because I didn't have a father.

My parents grew up in the small South Texas town of **Uvalde**. They were married in 1951 and immediately moved to **Stockton, California**. From the old 16mm films and photos that I have seen, my parents seemed to have created a better life in the golden state. They were both working, they bought a new house in a nice neighborhood, they had parties and had an ever widening circle of friends.

My sister and I (she was born in 1953, I was born in 1952) were happy kids. In November of 1957 we were blessed with another member of the family when a brother was born. However, shortly after his birth, my father would come home from work and we were all told to be quiet as he strapped a pad around his arm. We watched as he pumped a black ball and observed the needle on a meter move back and forth. He was checking his blood pressure. I don't remember my mother telling us that my father was getting sick. I don't remember him losing a lot of weight or looking tired.

By May or June of 1958, my father couldn't work anymore.

Something was wrong. My mother and grandmother were very worried. They would discuss his health in Spanish to keep us in the dark about how grave things were becoming. In July I remember going to the county hospital to visit my father. My sister and I waited outside of this hospital wing with my grandmother. My mother brought my father out in a wheel chair. He was wearing a blue robe and remained seated. I still did not know what exactly was wrong.

Then a couple of weeks later my mother and grandmother came back from the hospital and asked my sister and I to come into the bedroom. We sat on the beds and my mother told us in a quiet voice that my father had died that morning. My grandmother cried softly as we tried to absorb that my father was gone. I later learned that my grandmother was in fact present when my father died. I also learned later that he had what is called Brights disease. Apparently, his kidneys had failed to develop as he grew up and they could not handle the work of cleansing an adult body.

I remember the funeral and I remember the flowers, but most of all I remember the church service and the priest walking around the coffin, and the smell of incense as it wafted through the church. I also remember seeing the tears on the faces of both men and women who came

to say good-bye to Junior. People called my father "Junior."

My mother tried to continue providing for us, but things were difficult. The house was sold and after about a year she decided to return to **Texas**. I guess my mother felt that her support network would be stronger in **Uvalde**. We went back on the train and although we stopped off for a few days in **Disneyland**, my mother was very sad.

Having to go back to the place she had left seven years earlier and start over with three kids in tow was going to be a challenge. Many years later I learned that my paternal grandparents felt very guilty their son had died and left a young widow with three children. This was the driving reason why I got to go back with them to **California** on several occasions.

As I moved on in school, I often found myself having to fill out forms that asked for parental information. For "father" I left it blank. Then one day a teacher introduced me to the word "deceased." It didn't sound as bad as "died." In time, this was the word I used when filling out forms. No one ever asked me any questions and I never brought up my father's passing.

I never forgot my father because every Sunday after church, my grandmother and I would go to the cemetery. We would kneel at his grave and say

Editorial



Alfredo R. Santos c/s
Editor & Publisher

our prayers together. Sometimes she would cry. But that was it. There was no Father's Day celebration for me. When Father's Day came around I just blocked the day out of my mind.

When my daughter was around five or six, she spent part of the summer with an aunt in **San Antonio** and made me a special Father's Day card. I could tell a lot of effort had gone into it. She was still learning to write and I began to realize that she was indeed very aware of the meaning of Father's Day.

I read the card and looked at her smiling at me. "What do you think daddy?" She asked. "Do you like it?" "Of course I like it." But I was thinking about something else. I was thinking about how the word "dad" had come back into my life. I was thinking of how a little girl had re-introduced to me to a word that I had left behind many years ago. And I thought about how Father's Day was indeed going to mean something once again.



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To the Editor - Literally

The Alfredos I know

Por teléfono:

Y la voz dice,
 "Alfredo Santos"

En persona:

Primero el bigote
 Luego, los ojos

En unos casos -
 Te extiende la mano

En otros casos -
 Te da su corazón

En todos -
 No se le pasa nada

En jornada:

Gran hombre es aquel el cual conoce sus delitios y perdona muchos más.

Allá entre ellos:

Tomando beer y comiendo cheesy fries and hamburgers.
 Acumulando splinters en el trasero.

Acá entre nosotros:

Tacos, tequila, y talk: es que, ¿qué más quieres?
 Brisket, cerveza, y frijoles: es que, así nos gusta vivir.

In the Resistance:

I feel you with me
 As a dreamer of Aztlán
 Glad to have met you here brother.

In family:

I knew you were a Garza!

Como dice nuestra gente,
 "¡Espero que tengas un feliz Día de los Padres—PRIMO!"

Muchas gracias por todo lo que haces compadre.

- *Maribel A. Garza*

Shout out to 2 family patriarchs that ascended this past semester:
 Roberto "Tio Beto" Alvarado Garza, Dallas, TX (de Pharr/Raymondville)
 Ricardo "Tio Callo" Garza Alvarado, Pasadena, TX (de Brownsville)



A GLIMMER OF HOPE
 F O U N D A T I O N



A Glimmer of Hope Foundation is requesting proposals for funding from nonprofit organizations working with disadvantaged youth (25 years and under) and Seniors in East and South Austin. Other areas (zip codes) that are eligible include: 78751, 78752, 78757, 78758. For more information and grant guidelines, please visit, www.aglimmerofhope.org or call 328-9944. Deadline for submission is June 30, 2008 - 5:00pm

**THE CAMPAIGN TO MAKE
POVERTY HISTORY**

EDITORIAL

Texas needs two senators who will back our veterans John Cornyn failed to stand up for our troops — I will

by State Representative Rick Noriega

Last Thursday, the **U.S. Senate** passed **Sen. Jim Webb's, D-Va.**, expanded version of the GI Bill, ensuring educational benefits for all service members, including activated National Guard and Reservists who serve at least three months of active duty after 9/11.

Called the bipartisan **Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Act**, this legislation is of vital necessity for the brave men and women who protect our nation every day, and I applaud the Senate's decision to support the bill. I was able to attend the **University of Houston** largely due to the assistance of a scholarship provided by the **Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC)**, so I understand firsthand the importance of providing higher education funding for our troops. My experience with **ROTC** began my three-decade-long career of serving this country in our nation's armed forces, and every moment of those years has been an honor and a privilege.

During this time when we celebrate Memorial Day, and I can think of no more fitting tribute to commemorate those who serve in the armed forces than the ratification of this new **GI Bill**.

As a veteran of **Operation Enduring Freedom** in Afghanistan, I have seen countless acts of valor and heroism performed by our troops. They risk their lives for us daily, asking nothing in return but the benefits they have been promised. The **Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Act** was proposed by Sen. Webb as a means of protecting and increasing the educational benefits for those who have served in the military since Sept. 11, 2001. Like the **GI Bill** enacted after **World War II**, this 21st century **GI Bill** will ensure that our soldiers are able to pursue the American Dream for which they have put their lives on the line to defend.

One of the most important economic policies of the 20th century was the



original **GI Bill**. That first bill has been credited with creating the modern middle class. With the educational benefits offered to them, millions of returning war veterans were able to become doctors, teachers, scientists, engineers, lawyers and artists. The **Post- 9/11 Veterans Educational Act** will restore benefits to what they once were, boost the economy for everyone and allow another generation of American soldiers to achieve their goals.

Today's veterans deserve the same sort of benefit that World War II veterans enjoyed.

Today's veterans deserve the same sort of benefit that **World War II** veterans enjoyed. It's not only good for the troops and their families, it's good for our nation as a whole, strengthening our economy and our military recruitment.

Unfortunately, my opponent, **Sen. John Cornyn**, failed to stand up for our troops. Cornyn was one of only 22 senators to vote against the **Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Act**, continuing his history of turning his back on veterans. Adding insult to injury, **Cornyn** went so far as to condone



and encourage a presidential veto of the bill. **Webb's GI Bill** passed with the support of 75 senators, including **Texas' senior Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison**.

Texas needs two senators fighting for our veterans and our families. It is reprehensible that **Cornyn** supports keeping our troops in

Iraq and Afghanistan but refuses to provide for our soldiers once they return home. As a public servant, as a soldier and as a **Texan**, I am ashamed of **Cornyn's** continued efforts to deny our troops the benefits they earned defending the United States.

Sen. Cornyn argues that financing higher education for veterans would encourage soldiers to leave the military to attend college. The notion that we should limit benefits to force our troops to stay in the military is morally repugnant. The knowledge I gained while attending college is instrumental in the work I do as a member of the **Texas House of Representatives** and as a lieutenant colonel in the **Texas Army National Guard**. I



believe that higher education should be a reality for any American who wants it, and I am disheartened by **Cornyn's** desire to deny this valuable right to the honorable

men and women of the armed forces. A stronger **GI Bill** will help military recruitment, attracting America's most capable and gifted volunteers to the military during a time when we need more troops than ever.

While we take today to honor the sacrifices made by the American soldiers who put their lives on the line to protect this nation, let us not forget their dedication and sacrifice every day of the year. Our armed forces deserve our support while they are in service to America and after they return home.

We call these young men and women the "next greatest generation," and given the opportunity to represent **Texas** in the **U.S. Senate**, I will do everything in my power to make sure they are treated that way.

Noriega, a Democrat who has represented his eastside Houston district in the Texas House since 1999, is running for the U.S. Senate seat held by John Cornyn.

Directora de la Escuela Secundaria Johnston Renuncia Su Puesto

El martes 21 de mayo, la directora de la **Escuela Secundaria Johnston**, **Dr. Celina Estrada-Thomas**, dio noticias de renunciar su cargo efectivo al fin del año escolar. En una reunión privada al fin del día escolar, **Dra. Estrada-Thomas** informo al personal de la escuela sobre su decisión.

Tres años después de iniciar su carrera con el **Distrito Escolar de Austin**, en 2002, **Dr. Estrada-Thomas** fue nombrada como directora de la **Escuela Johnston**. Anteriormente fue directora de la **Escuela Media Dobie**.

“**A** pesar de los retos formidables que enfrentan a la **Escuela Johnston**, **Celina** ha logrado éxito como líder de la comunidad escolar,” comento Superintendente **Pat Forgione**. “Siempre enfoco sus prioridades sobre el bienestar de los estudiantes y del pueblo Johnston.

“**A**unque todavía falta mucho trabajo para completar en **Johnston**, se lograron muchos mejoramientos mientras que ella estuvo allí. Agradecemos su dedicación a la **Escuela Johnston**, los estudiantes, personal y padres de familia,” comento **Dr. Forgione**.

Según los oficiales del Distrito, la renuncia de **Dr. Estrada-Thomas** no debe ser tomada como noticia ninguna sobre el futuro estado de la **Escuela Johnston**. Los administradores del Distrito continón su tarea actual con los oficiales estatales para determinar el futuro del plantel.

En cuenta a su renuncia, **Dra. Estrada-Thomas** dijo que no estará disponible a los medios de comunicación para dar una declaración. Además, la directora solicita la cooperación de los medios y pide que se mantengan a lo largo para que los estudiantes puedan enfocar sus esfuerzos en sus preparaciones para los pendientes exámenes finales de año.

Directora de la Escuela Secundaria Johnston a Renunciar Su Puesto Aquí esta su declaración:

Hace tres años yo di mi palabra de permanecer en la Escuela Johnston por el plazo de tres años. Ya he cumplido con esta obligación. La Escuela Johnston esta a punto de rehacerse de nuevo, y la realización de esta visión requiere un compromiso de largo plazo. Con el hecho de mi renuncia, un líder nuevo tendrá la oportunidad de tomar a cargo de inmediato de su equipo para realizar la Visión Nueva en JHS.

En cuenta a mi carrera, yo permanesco dedicada al sistema de educación publica y espero continuar en esta profesión.

Los recuerdos del personal, los estudiantes, los padres de familia y la comunidad de la Escuela Johnston siempre estarán con mi. Sobre los últimos tres años realizamos mucho progreso y quiero agradecerles a todos en la comunidad que contribuyeron de sus esfuerzos y ayuda. Además, logramos muchos mejoramientos académicos, y el establecimiento de un ambiente positivo que ayuda cultivar el animo para aprender entre nuestros estudiantes. Se que se continuara mejorar la calidad de la educación que reciben los estudiantes en la Escuela Johnston, aun se acelerara con el Plan de Nueva Visión para JHS.

Dr. Estrada Resigns from Johnston High School Here is her statement:

I gave Johnston a three-year commitment and that commitment has been fulfilled. Johnston High School is embarking on a new vision that requires another long-term commitment. I am stepping down from my position so that a new leader can take the reigns for the New Vision at JHS. I plan to remain in education in a different capacity. I am committed to public education and will continue working in that realm. The Johnston teachers, staff, student body, parents, and the community will always be a part of me. I want to acknowledge the work that has been done at Johnston and to thank everyone who pledged their support of the campus over the last three years. We have made tremendous progress and are proud of what we have accomplished in terms of building a positive learning environment and setting the course for continuous academic improvement. I am optimistic about the future for the school. I have no doubt that quality education will continue and that the current trend of improvement will accelerate with the New Vision Plan for JHS. Celina Estrada Thomas, Ph.D. JHS Campus Principal 2005-2008

Johnston High School: Why Our Boat Won't Float

By Liz Carmona, Chris Laughlin and Leo Zermeno

Over the last several weeks **Johnston High School** has been in the news regarding its possible closure. Most people understand that possible closure will be due to under performance on the **TAKS** tests and issues with attendance. If we do not make the gains necessary this month, our school will fall into its fifth year as an unacceptable campus.

We would like to share some things about **Johnston High School** that do not get discussed very often in public. Think of **Johnston High School** as a big ocean liner. Our principal, **Dr. Celina Estrada Thomas** has been the captain for the last three years. She has done her very best to keep our ship on course. Think of the students as the sailors. We all have jobs to do to help keep our ship afloat and running properly. Sometimes it is hard work but we know that hard work and sacrifice are part of the price for rewards in the future.

But here is one of our problems: not all of the sailors are doing their jobs. Not all of the sailors want to be on the ship. They don't come to school on a regular basis. As of February of this year **Johnston High School** had to file 332 truancy charges in the



ABOVE: From left to right, Chris Laughlin, Hipolito Mendoza, Joel Mendoza, Destiny Garza and Elizabeth Carmona. They are all members of the Johnston Stand Up Club.

local **Justice of the Peace Court** against students and their parents. There are only about 700 students currently enrolled at **Johnston High School**. This many filings is almost half the school. How are students supposed to learn if they do not come to school? How can a ship sail from one port to another if the sailors do not help with the operation of the ship?

Our other problem is with those students who do come to school but do not come to learn. They come to play around, disrupt classes and give people a bad time. When these sailors disrupt classes, they take away valuable teaching time from the teacher and they take away valuable learning time from students. They make it very difficult for those students who want to learn and come prepared to class.

But it seems that no one wants to talk about these students. No one wants to say that they are making the teacher's job more difficult. When adults say that all children can and want to learn, that is not true. There are students who come to school with another agenda. This year at **Johnston High School**, in just the 9th grade, there were, at the end of February, 1,377 referrals. According to school

records, 196 freshmen generated these referrals. On average, that is about 7 referrals per student. A student can get a referral for using profanity, disrupting the class and a host of other things. Most of the referrals were for various violations of the student code of conduct. There are only 220 freshmen at **Johnston High School**. What is going on here? How is the boat supposed to float if that many sailors are getting in trouble?

With just these two problem areas, it is no secret why **Johnston High School** is constantly in trouble. Earlier this month there was a big meeting in the school cafeteria with **State Senator Kirk Watson, Dr. Forgione** and members of the school board. They were talking about a "New Vision" for **Johnston High School**. They want to create something different. We don't need a new vision, what we need is for someone (adults) to deal with the fact there are sailors (students) who do not want to be on the ship. And there are other sailors who do not want to do their job. This is why our boat won't float.

Liz Carmona is a senior, **Chris Laughlin** is a freshman and **Leo Zermeno** is a sophomore at **Johnston High School**. They are all members of the **Austin Voices for Education and Youth Stand Up Club** at the school.

When a student has 10 or more days of unexcused absences, the campus is required to file truancy charges in a **Justice of the Peace Court** or a Municipal Court. The student and his parents are then required to appear in court to answer the charges. They can plead guilty, not guilty or no contest. "No con-

test is basically an acknowledgement of the charges without an admission of guilt. If a student is found guilty or pleads guilty or no contest they can be fined \$287. In the **Justice of the Peace Court Precinct 1**. Part of this fine, \$87.00 goes to court costs. If there is a deferment an additional \$25 can be added.

Truancy Charges

In addition to the student having to pay the fine, under **Texas** law, the parent must also pay the same amount. This can result in a grand total of \$574.00 per family per incident. There are ways around this fine with community service and other alternatives.

According to a recent **News 8 Austin** story, just during this academic year (2007-2008) the students and parents of **Johnston High School** have paid fines totaling over \$70,000 dollars for truancy cases that have been filed against them. As **Gonzalo Robles**, the dropout prevention specialist at **Johnston High School**

commented, "the parents of the students at **Johnston High School** cannot afford to pay these incredible amounts of money." What is also very interesting about the fines that parents and students are assessed is that part of the money goes back to the school district from the JP Courts.

Austin Tejano C

Johnny Degollado has been playing the accordion for more than 50 years. An **Austin** original from **El Barrio de Montopolis**, **Mr. Degollado** is a prolific song writer and composer. Many Tejano musicians have recorded his songs over the years. Over the last several years **Mr. Degollado** has organized the annual Tejano Conjunto Festivals in **Austin**. With his many contacts throughout the state he manages bring in a variety of músicos cada año.



ABOVE: Joe Gonzales, the accordion player for Dueto Carta Blanca de George y Mague



ABOVE: La gente bailando en el Tejano Conjunto Festival en Austin, Texas. Esta tocando Johnny Degollado y su Conjunto



ABOVE: Bailando cachete a cachete en Austin, Texas.



ARRIBA: Dueto Carta Blanca de George y Mague de San Antonio, Texas.



onjunto Festival



ABOVE: Members of **Los Fantomas del Valle** standing with **Julian Fernandez** who helped organize this year's festival.

BELOW: Each year at the **Tejano Conjunto Festival** there is a dance contest. Below are the winners of the 2008 contest: From left to right, **Ramiro and Toña Borrero** from **Austin**, 2nd Place, **Arminda and Bill Grote** from **Dripping Springs**, 3rd Place, and **Jesse and Grace Flores** from **Kyle, Texas**, 1st Place.



ABOVE: **Johnny Degollado**, "El Montopolis Kid"



La Despedida de Dolores

An Interview with Dolores Garcia

Dolores Garcia is retiring from the **Center for Mexican American Studies** at **The University of Texas at Austin**. Over the years she has worked very hard to engage the community in the affairs of **UT** with many outreach programs and events. She made many friends during her time in **Austin**. We thought (**Cynthia Perez** and **Martha Cotera**) it would be most appropriate for **Dolores** to share some of her thoughts *antes que se fuera. Así es que, le traemos esta entrevista.*

La Voz: ¿A donde vas Dolores?

Dolores: Lots of changes are occurring in my life right now. For example, in the past couple of weeks, I have become engaged to **Gilberto Cárdenas**. I retired from the **University of Texas at Austin** with 30 years of service, and I will be moving to **South Bend, Indiana**, at the end of the summer.

La Voz: You have been at the **Center for Mexican American Studies** for several years, how did your job change over time?

Dolores: My position at **CMAS** has changed from an administrative support role to one providing administrative, financial, outreach and programmatic oversight.

La Voz: List a few outstanding events that you have coordinated or served on the planning committee.

Dolores: Well let's see, I helped organize: the **Latino USA** coming out party on May 5, 1993 at the **National Public Radio** conference in Washington, DC. **President Clinton** who was accompanied by **Henry Cisneros** and **Federico Peña** was our guest speaker at that event. This was the first time in the history of **NPR**

annual conference that the **President of the United States** attended their event.

I coordinated in the October 12, 2004 **1st Annual Día de la Raza Celebration Building Cultural Community through the Arts** (*Forjando Lazos culturales/comunitarios a traves de la artes*) featuring **José Montoya, raul salinas, Carmen Tafolla, and Conjunto Aztlan**

In January, 2005, I had the opportunity to plan and coordinate a presentation called: **Premeditated: Meditations on Capital Punishment: Recent Works by Malaquias Montoya** which included an Art Exhibit **Doughtery Arts Center**.

In January of 2005, I spent a lot of time helping to bring together the: **Siglo XXI: Latino Research into the 21st Century: An Inter-University Program for Latino Research Triennial Conference**.

But I had the most fun working on an event titled: **Los Grandes de la Musica Tejana** which was held at the **UT PAC Bass Concert Hall** and featured **Ruben Ramos, Little Joe and Sunny Ozuna**. These are just a few of the most recent events and activities that I have been blessed to be a part of over the years.

La Voz: How has **CMAS** changed over the years?

Dolores: The focus has changed from a national scope to a more community-based outreach approach which is more aligned with the approach used when **CMAS** was first founded. **CMAS** now works collaboratively with university units and community based organization to offer a wide array of cultural and educational programs.

I'm proud to state that **CMAS** has established partnerships with the **Serie Project**, the **Mexican American Cultural Center**, **La Peña** and **Resistencia Bookstore**.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with **Sam Coronado** (Serie Project), **Amparo García-Crow**



ABOVE: Dolores Garcia with members of the **CMAS** staff earlier this year. On the far right is **Dr. Nestor Rodriguez** from the **University of Houston** who was visiting the day this photo was taken.

(**MACC**), **Cynthia & Libby Perez** (*La Peña*) and last but definitely not least the late **raul salinas**.

La Voz: When you think of all the students you have worked with over the years, what comes to mind?

Dolores: I'm always amazed at the depth of talent, social consciousness and intellect of the students who I've encountered during my tenure at **CMAS**. I have learned so much from these young scholars. Some of the students who will always hold a very special place in my heart are: **Elisa Huerta, Alex Chavez and Esteban Ascona**. All of them are now Ph.D. candidates. They really exemplify **CMAS'** commitment to the academy. It makes me proud to have been associated with such brilliant and kind individuals. I would especially like to thank **Alex and Estevan** for their assistance in helping me to organize the musical component of all the public programs that I coordinated. More specifically, I would like to recognize their efforts with the **Tejano concert** and the **Abriendo Brecha Conference**, which brought

Quetzal and Guillermo Hernandez to Austin.

La Voz: A couple of years ago, you received your own bachelors degree. How long had this been your goal?

Dolores: After the birth of my daughter in 1974, my best friend convinced me to enroll in a class at **Texas Tech University**. That was Fall 1975. It only took me two decade to finish my degree (halha!)

Dolores: **Dr. José E. Limón**, director of **CMAS**, was instrumental in providing encouragement and support in pursuing my degree as were my parents and children. However, it was **Dr. Limón** when he first became director who asked me why I didn't have a bachelors degree, and I told him that I had been busy working full-time and raising a family, thus I had postpone that endeavor. He is the person I give credit to the most for getting me motivated to complete my



ABOVE: Dolores Garcia with her parents on her graduation day from **The University of Texas at Austin**.

La Voz: What event or person finally convinced you that the time had come to make a commitment and earn that degree?

coursework and graduate. **Drs. Limón and Richard Flores** were critical in assisting me secure a summer internship at the **Smithsonian Institution**.

Since I love cultural activities and the visual arts, that internship will be an experience that I will remember always.

La Voz: Share with our readers a little bit of where you are from originally and how you got to **Austin**.

Dolores: I was born and raised in **Lubbock, Texas**, the home of the Red Raider and the birth place of **Buddy Holly**. I come from a family of six siblings and was blessed to have an abuelita who cared for us while my parents worked. My father, **Joe Chavez Carrillo**, instilled a strong work ethic and political orientation—he was a yellow-dog Democrat. My mother, **Lilly Almarez Carrillo**, nurtured a love for family and provided comic relief during difficult times. I believe I possess the best characteristics of both of them. In 1989, my former husband was transferred to **Austin, TX**. That's how I came to be an Austinite. I love **Austin, Texas**, and will miss it dearly as I start this new chapter in my life.

La Voz: Looking back on all that you have done in life what has surprised you the most?

Dolores: How fun the journey has been! I've worked extremely hard in every job that I have held and feel I've reaped the rewards from that hard work. I will be forever grateful to all my former bosses who have helped me realize my dreams.

La Voz: When people ask you, what has been the biggest influence in your life, what do you tell them?

Dolores: My dad's strong work ethic. I've always worked hard and feel I have reaped many rewards from that hard work.

La Voz: Looking forward, can you share with us some of your plans for the future?

Dolores: As I mentioned earlier, this summer I will be moving to **South Bend, Indiana** and planning a fall wedding. After a three to six-month hiatus, I would like to secure a position with a Cultural Affairs division of either an educational institution or corporation that would allow me to continue collaborating with community-based organizations in bringing and showcasing Latino artists from throughout the U.S.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire **CMAS** extended familia for their support and encouragement in every project I have worked on. Thank you also for the wonderful memories that I will carry with me always!

La Voz website
www.lavoznewspapers.com

Tejano Music: It May Be Absent From Local Radio, But by No Means Is It Gone From The Hearts of Fans

BY LIZ HERNANDEZ

Austin, Texas - In the past two years, changes in radio station ownership, marketing, and programming have all but completely eliminated the beloved music of the Tejano community from terrestrial radio in **Austin**. Many have said that the glory days of the Tejano music industry are gone. But are they? Tejano music fans, artists, and industry professionals who disagree haven't thrown in the towel just yet.

Organized in 2006 and led by then **Texas Senator Gonzalo Barrientos**, the **Austin Tejano Music Coalition (ATMC)** armed itself with the mission to keep the historical and cultural importance of Tejano music at the forefront. Just as devoted and strong today, the **ATMC** has raised awareness, collected thousands of petition signatures and has educated the public on important issues facing the Tejano music industry.

Of major concern is that of all the Spanish language radio stations broadcasting in **Austin**, only one offers its audience Tejano music programming, and even then it is only for four hours on Sunday nights. Now retired, former **Senator Barrientos** continues to denounce **Border Media Partners**, the largest of the media giants responsible for erasing Tejano music from the **Austin** airwaves. *"Tejano music is systematically being removed from local radio stations and it is simply unacceptable"* **Barrientos** has said. *"It is the music of our people and we take the growing concern seriously."*

Newly elected **ATMC** officers, **President Leonard Davila** and **Vice-President Liz Hernandez**, share the same sentiments as **Barrientos** and others in the Tejano community. *"Four hours on a Sunday night isn't enough. We have been told there isn't a market in Austin for Tejano music," Davila states. "We say they are wrong. Our own Tejano culture is being discriminated against and it's time to stand up for our rights and our music."*

So is it really the end of the road for the Tejano music industry? If you look outside of **Austin, Texas**, it certainly doesn't appear so. Coalitions similar to **ATMC** have taken root in **North Texas, Houston** and **Dallas**, while Tejano music advocates in other areas express interest in starting their own groups.

The **Tejano Music National Convention**, one of the largest Latin music conventions in the U.S., is a clear sign that the music hasn't lost its popularity. After four successful years in **Las Vegas**, the Convention is coming to **Dallas, Texas** on August 15-17, 2008. The three-day event being held at the downtown **Reunion Hyatt Regency** will bring the type of visibility the industry needs and more importantly what it deserves.

The Convention will feature a stellar lineup of Tejano artists, a fanfare and expo, seminars, dance instruction and contests, and an evening of Tejano Mega Dances at the **Dallas**

Convention Center. Last year's convention in **Las Vegas** drew 5000 Tejano music fans from across the United States. This year, **Founder and Executive Producer David Chavez of Olathe, Kansas** is expecting more than 7,000 Tejano music fans and industry leaders, including 300 artists and performers. Comedian/actor **Cheech Marin** will be on hand to serve as Convention host.

And for those still looking for a reason to travel to **Las Vegas** this summer, the **San Antonio** based **Academy of Tejano Artists and Musicians** is hosting their first ever "Tejano Super Dance" at the **Riviera Hotel and Casino** over the 4th of July weekend. The two day event will feature Tejano superstars such as **Ram Herrera, Jay Perez, Los Bad Boys Del Valle, Jessy Serrata, David Lee Garza y Los Musicales, Roberto Pulido, Los Desperadoz** and **Jaime y Los Chamacos**.

Who said Tejano music is dead?

Closer to home, **San Antonio** remains the "Tejano Capital of the World" visited by hundreds of thousands of Tejano fans each year. A stream of new Tejano music websites, MySpace pages and music broadcasts have surfaced on the Internet, allowing the music to now reach a worldwide audience. Included is **Austin's PureTejanoRadio.com** which strives to fill the void left by terrestrial radio locally. *"We are about the music and being able to connect to the Tejano community,"* says owner **Michael Borrero**. *"We want to give the people somewhere to go to listen to the music and find out about local events."*

At this year's **Austin Music Awards**, hosted by **The Austin Chronicle** and **SXSW**, **Julian Fernandez's** popular Tejano/Conjunto band "**Los Texas Wranglers**" took home the award for "Best Latin Traditional Band" beating out **Los Lonely Boys**. With the national media spotlight on bands and showcases such as the upcoming Convention and Tejano Super Dance, the positive shift can only be good news for the future of Tejano music.

The Austin Tejano Music Coalition's banner slogan seen on bumper stickers throughout the community says it best, **"Don't Mess With Tejano Music"**. Thousands of fans in the **Central Texas** area who have continued to show support and appreciation for this true American art form can't all be wrong. Tejano music is a part of our culture and our soul and its here to stay.


This column is brought to you by the Austin Tejano Music Coalition. For more information on how you can support Tejano music, visit www.austintejanomusic.com or call 512-845-6458.



New *BOOK* ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mexican American Center for Community and Economic Development is pleased to announce the fourth edition of The Directory of 100 - A Guide to Latino Organizations in Austin, Texas. This directory continues the tradition set by long time Austin community activist Martha Cotera who produced the first directory in 1976.

Each organization has been contacted personally to confirm their existence and the accuracy of their organization's public profile. The directory is updated regularly and contains the name of the organization contact, mailing address, telephone number, fax number, email address, website address, number of members, and the year the organization was founded

Included in this directory are 159 Latino organizations in the following categories:  For more information about the directory please visit: www.mexicanamericancenter.com or call (512) 944-4123.

The Directory of 100

A Guide to
Latino Organizations in
Austin, Texas

2008

Mexican American Center
for Community and Economic Development

Directory Categories	
1. Arts	9. Music
2. Business	10. Political
3. Civic	11. Professional
4. Cultural	12. Religious
5. Dance	13. Social Services
6. Educational	14. Student
7. Immigrant	15. Theater.
8. Media	16. Otras

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Linda's Monthly Column

"The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens The Ultimate Teenage Success Guide"

a must have summer reading book for teens and parents!

Wouldn't it be nice if everyone were handed a manual on how to survive adolescence on his or her 13th birthday? Life as a teenager is no easy task! Ask anyone that is or has been a teen and they will attest to that. Teenagers are challenged every day with their self-image, peers, and parents. How can they tackle this?



Linda Medina, M.Ed

The answer is read the book *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* by **Sean Covey**. This book provides a step-by-step guide to help teens improve self-image, build friendships, resist peer pressure, achieve their goals, get along with their parents, and much more. It is filled with cartoons, clever ideas, great quotes, and incredible stories about real teens from all over the world.

Well...what are the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens?

Habit 1: Be Proactive
Take responsibility for your life.

Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind
Define your mission and goals in life.

Habit 3: Put First Things First
Prioritize and do the most important things first.

Habit 4: Think Win-Win
Have an "everyone-can-win" attitude.

Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood
Listen to people sincerely.

Habit 6: Synergize
Work together to achieve more.

Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw
Renew yourself regularly.

Share the book, check out the book at the library, or buy it for someone. Use this summer to rejuvenate, self-reflect, and grow. Enjoy!

This column is sponsored by YHPAA: The Young Hispanic Professional Austin Association (YHPAA) is an official non-profit and a 501c3 Tax Exempt Status organization registered in the State of Texas. It was founded in January 2006 to serve as the principal professional resource for young Hispanics in the Austin and Central Texas area. Members build a foundation for their professional, community, and personal development. This organization supports and encourages Hispanic higher education through scholarships and mentorships.



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**Laura
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Paid Political Announcement by the Laura Morrison Campaign

Calendar of Events

- June 4 and 5, 2008** **Texas State Democratic Party Convention in Austin, Texas** at the **Austin Convention Center**. For more details, visit the party website at: www.txdemocrats.org
- June 6, 2008** **Rick Noriega Campaign Party** at the Hilton Hotel in Downtown Austin, Texas (500 East 4th, Fourth Floor) Heavy Appetizers and Cash Bar Tickets \$25 Sponsorship - Write or Raise \$250 All sponsors will be listed on our event materials, receive tickets to a private pre-reception and receive two drink tickets. To sign up for sponsorship or to purchase your tickets, please visit Act Blue at http://www.actblue.com/page/state_convention or contact Laura Welch by email alaura@ricknoriega.com or by phone at (512) 472-7425.
- June 7, 2008** Join the Indigenous Cultures Institute at the MACC for the "Original Texas Indians Lecture Series and Conference", sponsored by The Humanities Texas Grants Program. This dynamic series will explore the culture, language, and history of Texas Indians on the last Saturday of each month, at 2:00 p.m. On Saturday, June 7th, Dr. Lisa Cortez Walden will discuss Native American languages and efforts to revitalize them.
- June 7, 2008** The 8th Annual Father's Day Event. Please come out on Saturday, June 7th and enjoy a cherished Austin family-strengthening tradition! This year there will be a **\$500** and **\$100** cash prize opportunity! The 8th Annual Father's Day Parade & Celebration will take place the weekend before Father's Day - Saturday, June 7th, 2008 from 10AM to 3PM. Registration for dads start at 9:30AM at River City Youth Foundation and the Father's Day Parade starts at 10:30AM at RCYF. There will be a Father's Day Field Day and Father's Essay Contest.
- June 7, 2008** Frank Gomez Band at Baby Acapulco on Stonelake (7:00pm) Saturday/Sunday - June 7 & 8 - Cristo Rey Jamaica at Fiesta Gardens with Grupo Sentido, Foco Rojo and Los Texas Wranglers on Saturday and Mariachi Corbeta, Bobaso, Johnny Degollado, ATBoyz and Ram Herrera & The Outlaw Band on Sunday.
- June 9, 2008** Girl Scouts to be honored at the Texas State Capitol For more information please contact Dora Valdez at (512) 584-0707 or via email to dorav@gscctx.org.
- June 9, 2008** Club Latinitas, Arte y Teatro Camp and Cine Joven begins at the Mexican American Cultural Center. For more information please contact:
- June 12, 2008** Austin Tejano Music Coalition Meeting Will Be Held on Thursday, June 12, 2008 - 6:30 p.m. at Parque Zaragoza Recreation Center - Meeting Hall 741 Pedernales Austin, Texas (Behind the Sonic Drive In on East 7th Street

To get your events listed in *La Voz de Austin* please call: (512) 944-4123

Word Power

En 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, 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 Austin*.

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 a nuestros lectores de *La Voz de Austin* una lista de palabras en español con sus equivalentes en inglés.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ¿Que quieres? | What do you want? |
| ¿ Quién es? | Who is it? |
| ¿ Quiénes son? | Who are they? |
| ¿Cuál es tu libro? | Which one is your book? |
| ¿Cuáles son tus libros? | Which ones are your books? |
| ¿Cómo tomas el café? | How do you take your coffee? |
| ¿ Cuando vamos al teatro? | When are we going to the theater? |
| ¿Cuánta leche quieres? | How much milk do you want? |
| ¿Cuántas manzanas quieres? | How many apples do you want? |
| ¿Dónde está el carro? | Where is the car? |
| ¿Adónde vas? | Where are you going? |
| ¿De dónde eres? | Where are you from? |
| ¿ Por qué gritas? | Why are you yelling? |

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LULAC PRESENTS SOUTHWEST KEY FOUNDER/CEO WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD

Austin-based nonprofit receives awards and resolution of commendation at California State Convention

Dr. Juan Sanchez, founder and CEO of Southwest Key Programs, Austin's third largest nonprofit, was honored at the 61st Annual California LULAC convention last week. The California League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) recognized Dr. Sanchez with a "Rising to the Challenge" Social Justice Award 2008 for improving the quality of life for the Latino community. Southwest Key board member Victor Garza was also recognized at the annual convention for his advocacy and activism on behalf of immigrants and veterans in California.



Dr. Juan Sanchez

In addition to the two awards, California LULAC passed a statewide resolution of commendation in support of Southwest Key's work with unaccompanied immigrant children. Through the resolution, LULAC recognized Southwest Key for reunifying thousands of unaccompanied immigrant children with their families in the United States and abroad each year while providing shelter, food, education, counseling, legal and medical services in its ten shelters in Texas, Arizona, and California. The resolution states: "Southwest Key Programs honors and respects the individual cultures and traditions of the children in their care and provides humanitarian services in a nurturing and therapeutic environment 24 hours per day to support them through their journey."

The resolution pledged that LULAC would work jointly with Southwest Key Programs to address issues related to Hispanic communities across the country. "After visiting these shelters, LULAC leaders believe Southwest Key Programs must be replicated around the country to provide a much needed service to immigrant children in the United States," says Argentina Davila-Luevano, California LULAC State Director. "At a time when anti-immigrant sentiment is again on the rise in America, programs like Southwest Key are a welcome sanctuary for our immigrant children."

The theme of the convention was "LULAC Rising to the Challenge for Education, Immigration, and Healthcare." Dr. Sanchez was recognized for his efforts to step up to the plate and help LULAC meet those challenges. Southwest Key recently started five local LULAC councils in the Govalle/Johnston Terrace neighborhood of East Austin. The councils will work with residents and Southwest Key to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, and civil rights of the Austin Latino community.

About Southwest Key: Southwest Key Programs is a national nonprofit organization headquartered in Austin, Texas. Southwest Key's creative and diverse staff of over 1000 employees operate juvenile justice and family wraparound programs, safe shelters for immigrant children, alternative schools, youth empowerment and fatherhood programs, and job creation and child care initiatives in seven states. Southwest Key celebrated its 20th Anniversary this year with the construction of a 30,000 square foot East Austin Community Center. Southwest Key is funded through a variety of government agencies, corporations, and private foundations. Founder and CEO, Dr. Juan Sánchez, was among the first Chicanos to receive his doctorate from the School of Education at Harvard University and is available for interview by appointment. www.swkey.org

Social Justice Awards

Sponsored by
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Michael Lofton

Congratulations to Michael Lofton, a 2008 Doyle Valdez Social Justice Award honoree. For nearly 15 years, Mr. Lofton has sought to create positive change in the lives of young black men and women through his work with the Austin Independent School District (AISD), community conferences, public access media, and volunteer projects.



A native Austinite, Mr. Lofton has attended Austin public schools, Austin Community College, and Texas A&M University Continuing Education Engineering Management Courses. He was a commissioner for the City of Austin for almost six years, serving on Resource Management and Community Development Commission Boards. Mr. Lofton has received many community service awards, including honors from state, city, and county elected officials; the NAACP; the Austin Area Urban League; and AISD. In December of 2006, he was named an "Austin Hero" by the Austin American Statesman.

While Mr. Lofton is known for his involvement with many community projects, he is perhaps best known as producer, editor, and host of "The Michael Lofton Talk Show" on Austin's Public Access Community Television, whose roster of guests includes former President Bill Clinton. First aired in 1993 and now celebrating over 3000 episodes, the weekly show is dedicated to exploring issues faced by disadvantaged people in Austin and improving their communities. The show aims to strengthen communities by promoting cultural awareness; inspiring volunteerism; developing partnerships between communities, businesses, and government agencies; and recognizing student achievement.

Virginia Badaoui

Congratulations to Virginia Badaoui, a 2008 Doyle Valdez Social Justice Award honoree. Ms. Badaoui's distinguished career as an educator, advocate, and liaison with Manor Independent School District (MISD) reflects her long-standing commitment to connecting Texas children and their families with education resources.



Virginia Badaoui's history with MISD spans 19 years. In 1989, she was hired as a Special Education Content Mastery Teacher and remained in that position for six years. She later transitioned into a position with the Student and Family Services department as a Parent Liaison, where she has worked for the past thirteen years. As a liaison, she works with at-risk middle school and high school youth in need of academic and emotional support.

Ms. Badaoui's position as liaison has often necessitated that she ferry the divide between home and school environments and spend countless hours outside of school as an advocate for students and their families. For more than a decade, she has helped students and families find legal counsel, fight domestic violence, navigate with issue

"It is an honor to work with Ms. Badaoui," said Mr. Don Wise, principal of Manor Middle School. "Her work ethic is impeccable. She works longer hours than any other education professional I have ever seen. Her love of the job and the students she works with is amazing and even though she works incredible hours, she always has a smile and a gentle personality that inspires everyone around her."

On June 7th, Ms. Virginia Badaoui and Michael Lofton will be presented with 2008 Doyle Valdez Social Justice Awards. Her unflagging dedication to serving MISD, counseling families in need of assistance, and inspiring students to pursue their goals sets an example for all Texas educators.



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