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Caroline Sweet Teacher of the Year See Page 5



SAVE
Texas
SCHOOLS



Erica Saenz Tapped for Community Relations spot at UT

Erica Saenz was recently named the the **Director of Community Relations for Diversity and Community Engagement at The University of Texas at Austin**. She moves up from her spot as a **Senior Program Coordinator**.

She says she is very excited about her new role and expects the transition to be a smooth one and completed by mid-summer. Erica is originally from **Edinburg, Texas** and graduated from **The University of Texas at Austin** in 1998, with a degree in Theatre. She received her Masters of Fine Arts in Dramatic Writing from **The University of California at Los Angeles** in 2008.



Solis Earns Masters Degree in Mexican American Studies

Gabriel Daniel Solis was born and raised in **Seguin, Texas**, where his family has lived for several generations. He graduated from **Seguin High School** in 2004 and attended the **University of Texas at Austin** where he earned a degree in Philosophy in 2008.

After college, **Gabriel** conducted research on the effects of violence, especially the death penalty, on

individuals and communities with the **Texas After Violence Project**, a small human rights organization in **Austin**.

In 2009, **Gabriel** entered the Masters Program at the **Center for Mexican American Studies** at the **University of Texas at Austin**. During this time, he was Staff Coordinator for **Refugio Center for Community Organizing and Graduate Research Assistant** at the **University of Texas Community Engagement Center**, part of the **Division for Diversity and Community Engagement**.

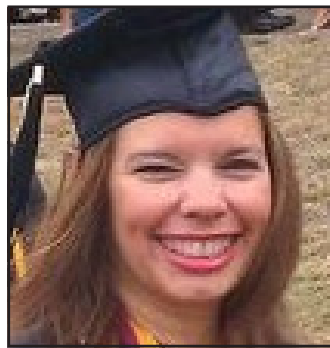
In May 2011, **Gabriel's** Masters Thesis, *"The Trial of Ricardo Aldape Guerra,"* received the **"L. Tuffly Ellis Best Thesis Prize for Excellence in the Study of Texas History"** from the **Department of History** at the **University of Texas at Austin**. **Dr. Emilio Zamora, Professor of History at The University of Texas at Austin**, served as **Gabriels'** committee chair.



Anabel Garza Named Secondary Principal of the Year

Anabel Garza was named **Secondary Principal of the Year** during the **Austin Partners in Education Salute 2011** event at the **Long Center** in **Austin, Texas** on May 18, 2011.

Garza, who is originally from **Brownsville, Texas**, earned her bachelors degree from **The University of Texas at Austin** in 1987 and her masters degree from **Texas State University** in 1994.



Marión Sánchez Graduates from Huston-Tillotson University

Marión Sánchez received her bachelors degree on May 7th, 2011 from **Huston-Tillotson University** in **Austin, Texas**. **Sánchez**, who is from **Caracas, Venezuela**, was one of a few top ranking graduates who participated in commencement ceremonies.

She began her career as an **Austin** broadcast personality for **KELG** radio station hosting a community relations program entitled *"La Papa Caliente,"* which addressed and analyzed issues affecting the Hispanic Community. She also served as creative director, copywriter and sales director before helping create and launch *"La Revista"* magazine for **KELG** in 1987.

In the fall of 1989, she established **Estilo Communications** and has developed numerous advertising and public relations campaigns throughout **Texas** for a variety of clients. She has received awards for community and professional work, including Business Women of the Year, Certificate of Appreciation by the General Council of Mexico, and Estrella Level to the Reforma National Conference, among others.

Altogether, **Marión** has more than 25 years of communications experience in creative design, public relations, community outreach and special event planning. currently working toward a Master of Science

in Organizational Leadership and Ethics from **St. Edward's University**.



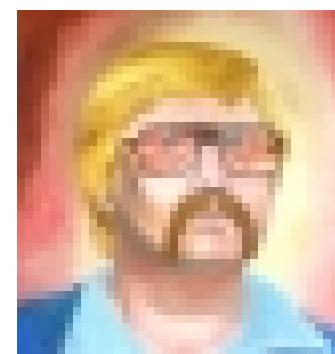
Alex Sanchez Named New Chief of Public Relations for AISD

AISD Superintendent Meria Carstarphen has named **Alejandro (Alex) Sanchez** as the **Austin Independent School District's Director of Public Relations and Multicultural Outreach**.

Mr. Sanchez was formerly the Director of Communications for Denver Public Schools. Two years ago, he assumed the role of Director of Multicultural Outreach for Denver Public Schools, launching an innovative new office to better connect with non-English speaking communities through the use of linguistically and culturally effective communication strategies, including an award-winning radio show for the Spanish-speaking community.

Mr. Sanchez will officially start in **Austin** on July 1, but plans are underway, working with the **Denver Public School District**, to make an effective transition beginning immediately. *"I am looking forward to coming to Austin and working with AISD staff, students, and parents, as well as the Austin community as a whole, to promote a great school district that's getting even better," Sanchez said. "This is a terrific community, and I'm delighted to join it."*

Sanchez earned his A.A. from **Colorado Mountain College** and a B.S. from **Colorado State University**.



Ramiro "Snowball" De La Cruz Passes Away in the Valley

Ramiro "Snowball" de la Cruz went to sing with the Lord on May 20, 2011 in **McAllen, Texas**. **Ramiro de la Cruz** was born on April 14, 1943, the second of twelve children and was raised in **El Barrio La Paloma** of **South McAllen**. He was given the nickname "Snowball" by a fellow musician because of his albinism. He was also known as **"El Guero Polvos"**. He graduated from **McAllen High School** and attended **Pan American University**.

Snowball is revered by the **Tejano** music community for his trendsetting guitar playing and musical arrangements. **Snowball** was part of many successful Tejano music bands, the first being a local band known as the **Personalities**.

Then **Snowball** joined **Los Fabulosos 4** and later graduated to **Los Unicos**. He also established **Snowball and Company** with famed singer **Laura Canales**. More recently he was singing as a soloist and as a part of a Christian musical group known as **Los Mensajeros de Cristo** with whom he recorded his final album.

In 2002 **Ramiro "Snowball" de la Cruz** along with his bandmates from **"Los Fabulosos 4** and **Los Unicos** were inducted into the **Tejano Roots Hall of Fame**. He was a true icon and a dedicated champion for Tejano music and "La Onda". He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He could always be heard playing his guitar and singing at family gatherings. **Snowball** shared his love of music with his children, some of which are musicians themselves.

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Whose View of the Future Are We Talking About?

On June 4th, 2011, I went to a rally at the **Texas State Capitol** to help call attention to the fact that public education is under attack in **Texas**.

As I stood in the rotunda of the Capitol shouting slogans and singing a modified version of the *Eyes of Texas Are Upon You*, I notice a little girl with her mother who was also singing. When the crowd broke into chants and punctuated the air with their fists for emphasis, this little girl, in her uncoordinated manner, did the same. She really seemed to be enjoying herself. I scanned the crowd and saw other young protesters with their parents who were also shouting and singing.

Allen Weeks, the organizer of the **Save Texas Schools** movement and the rally inside the capitol, called people forward to share their concerns about education. After a couple of adults spoke, the little girl that had been chanting raised her hand. **Allen** called her to the center and in the words of an innocent 10 year old child, she shared, in a calm voice, her concerns for school, as well as why she wanted her teachers to come back.

This little girl did not understand the complexities of what politicians do, nor she did not try to explain processes or connect the dots. Instead, she told everyone how she felt. She simply shared her feelings about her school and her teachers.

This little girl spoke from the heart and spoke volumes to why a good public school is essential for her development and hopes of what tomorrow might bring.

As I absorbed the moment along with all the other adults present, I realized that the debate about public education is not really about money. It's not about funding formulas and equity issues. I believe the current debate regarding public schools has to do with how one sees the future.

There are those elected officials who have read the latest Census figures, studied the bar graphs and charts and then slowly closed the report. These same elected officials have taken a look around the state and noticed there sure are a lot of students in school with last names like, **Avalos, Cotera, Hernandez, Pulido, and Zuniga**.

The question that drives some of these elected officials who like to invoke a Tea Party allegiance to fiscal austerity, is whether or not they want to help educate people who don't look like them. It's not that complicated. As the state turns increasingly Brown, there are those who are becoming increasingly worried about what the future will look like.

Add to this, the sensationalism from the folks at **FOX** television who showcase the many ingenious ways desperate people find to get around, over or under a multi-million dollar fence on the border, and the politicians are swamped with telephone calls from constituents who feel they are being invaded (*Pass the guacamole, please*).

There was a time in **Texas** when Mexican kids went to Mexican schools, Black kids went to black schools and Anglo kids went to the "regular schools."

When you step back and take a look at how **Texas** has changed or been forced to change over the years? The school house has often times served as the battleground for these issues. In the 1960s and 70s, students and parents who wanted improvements in the public schools staged massive walkouts. Some lasted two days and some lasted two weeks. Some, like the 1969 **Crystal City ISD** walkout, lasted four weeks. Where as, the 1970 **Uvalde CISD** walkout lasted six weeks.

But it was the walkout/boycott in **San Angelo, Texas**, done by Mexican American parents who wanted their kids to go to school with the Anglo kids, that lasted the longest. The school board told the parents that they would build them their own brand new schools. The parents said no, because they wanted their kids to go to school with the kids who had last names like, **Taylor, Moore, Smith and Jones**.

The local school board denied their demand and as a result, the parents kept their kids out of school for four years! For four years the parents held firm. What year did this take place? 1910.

For more than 100 years, the struggle to get a good education has been an on going battle in **Texas**. Yes, there have even been lawsuits. In 1930, Mexican American parents in **Del Rio, Texas** went to court over the two rooms that were to be the "Mexican school." In 1948, in **Bastrop, Texas**, parents went to court over segregated campuses with minimal facilities and a curriculum that was limited to vocational training.



Alfredo R. Santos c/s
Editor & Publisher

Time and time again, parents have had to stand up to defend their children from those who understand that once you allow a child to become educated, you cannot take away that knowledge, or the wisdom that comes along with it. You cannot uneducate a person who has learned how to read, who has learned how to think for themselves and who has learned how to question authority.

Today, much like the way the parents in **San Angelo, Texas** believed that the doctrine of "separate but equal" was not right, parents are finding out that a majority of **Texas** law makers are not only trying to change the essence of the public schools, but that they want to do it without even a public debate. These politicians have a very different view about the future and who should be a part of it.

Back to the rotunda: the other thing I heard people discussing at the rally was how, for many of them, it was the first time they had ever come to **Austin** to sing and shout and protest. A few said they never knew they could carry out this kind of activity. But what the politicians should really be worried about, are those people who said they actually liked the feeling of being in the **Texas State Capitol** and having their voices heard.



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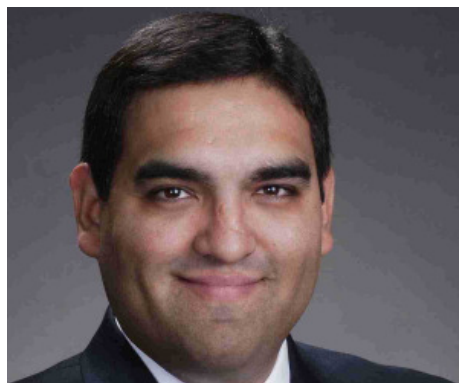
FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2011
TEXAS UNION BALLROOM
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On June 24th, 2011, Project MALES (Mentoring to Achieve Latino Educational Success) will host a one day symposium on the disappearing Hispanic male from the American education pipeline. The event will take place in the **Texas Union Ballroom** from 8:30am to 4:00pm.

Latino males have among the lowest high school graduation and post-secondary enrollment rates in the country. According to some scholars, Latino the educational gap between Latino males and females is continuing to grow. At both **Austin Community College** and **The University of Texas at Austin**, there are more Hispanic females than males enrolled.

Featured speakers will include local and national experts such as **Dr. Shaun Harper** (University of Pennsylvania), **Dr. Luis Ponjuan** (University of Florida), **Alphonso Rincon** (FACE), **Sandy Alcalá** (Con Mi Madre), and **John Kaulfus** (UTSA), among many other educators from K-12, higher education, and community-based organizations working directly with Latino male youth of all ages. According to **Dr. Victor Saenz**, one of the organizers of the event this Symposium is the first of its kind at **UT-Austin**.

Registration for this event is FREE and open to the public. Please RSVP by June 20th, 2011. Parking will be available at the San Antonio Parking Garage at 2420 San Antonio. Standard rates apply. For more information on Project MALES visit the website projectmales.org or email: projectmales@gmail.com.



Dr. Victor Saenz

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Top National Award Goes to Valencia and Book on Deficit Thinking

Educational psychologist **Richard Valencia's** newest book, *"Dismantling Contemporary Deficit Thinking,"* has garnered the **2011 Outstanding Book Award** from the **American Educational Research Association (AERA)**, with the awards committee describing the book as a "superlative treatment" of the topic of deficit thinking.



Scheurich, a professor in **Texas A&M University's College of Education and Human Development**. "While I highly prized his prior book on this subject, this new one will quickly take the prior one's favored place on my closest bookshelf and in the minds of my students."

Valencia's first book on the subject, *"The Evolution of Deficit Thinking: Educational Thought and*

Practice" (1997), has attracted considerable interest from scholars around the world over the past decade and is considered a "classic" on the topic.

The **AERA's** Outstanding Book Award is given annually to acknowledge the year's best book-length publication in the area of education research and development – this year there were 25 nominations. To be considered for the award, a book must address research-based ways in which the education process can be improved.

Only two **University of Texas at Austin** faculty members have won the Outstanding Book Award since it was established in 1983 and both are in the **College of Education**. In addition to **Valencia**, **Dr. Angela Valenzuela**, a professor in the **Departments of Curriculum and Instruction** as well as **Educational Administration**, was an award recipient.

"Dismantling Contemporary Deficit Thinking" also was nominated for the **American Educational Studies Association Critics Book Award** and **University Co-operative Society Robert W. Hamilton Book Award**. **Valencia's** book *"Chicano Students and the Courts: The Mexican American Legal Struggle for Educational Equality"* won a **2010 University Co-operative Robert W. Hamilton Book Award** and in early 2011, the third edition of his book *"Chicano School Failure and Success: Past, Present and Future"* was released. Over the past 20 years since its initial release, *"Chicano School Failure and Success"* has become a foundation text in the area of Mexican American education.

The **AERA** is the world's largest and most prominent professional organization for scholars of the education process and educational evaluation, and its Outstanding Book Award is deemed by many to be the top honor for authors of education-related publications.

Valencia, a professor in **The University of Texas at Austin College of Education's Department of Educational Psychology**, is one of the leading national authorities on "deficit thinking," an approach to academic failure that is based on racial and class bias.

"Deficit thinking blames the student, who is actually the 'victim' in this instance," said Valencia, *"rather than looking at ways in which schools and education policies systematically impede the learning and success of poor students and students of color."*

In his landmark book, he examines three current deficit-based approaches to student academic failure – the genetic pathology model, the culture of poverty model and the "at-risk" model, in which poor and ethnic minority students are pathologized and marginalized.

The book offers critiques and alternative explanations for the academic failure of so many of the nation's children as well as comprehensive critiques and anti-deficit thinking alternatives to the pseudoscience of deficit thinking. **Valencia** also examines several promising, research-based anti-deficit thinking suggestions from the areas of teacher education, educational ethnological and educational leadership.

"Richard Valencia has unquestionably become the expert on critiquing deficit thinking in education and educational research," said **Dr. James Joseph**

Caroline Sweet's

Teacher of The Year Acceptance Speech that Rocked the House

Metz Elementary School Teacher Caroline Sweet was named **Austin's 2011 Teacher of the Year** at the **16th Annual Austin Partners in Education 'Salute' to Educators Reception** on May 18th, 2011.

Ms. Sweet is a fourth grade bilingual teacher at **Metz Elementary School**. *"I didn't mean to be a teacher,"* she says, having earned a degree in Journalism and working as a television news reporter in **Missouri**.

However, a volunteer stint at a center for Latino immigrants opened her eyes to the satisfaction of helping children overcome language roadblocks and achieve great things. "The need for bilingual education became so apparent to me," she says. *"How could a child be asked to participate every day in a school that does not value the child's home language and culture?"* Feeling obligated to use her Spanish language skills, she entered the teaching profession through the alternative certification program, and has been at **Metz Elementary** for six years.

"Wow. Thanks guys, this is really overwhelming. It was such a pleasure to get to know you **Kim** and **David**. You guys are amazing. I hope we get to keep in touch or something. It was really neat to get to know you guys." [Award placed in front of her on the podium] "It feels weird to be standing here alone, because what I do everyday is such a team effort. I work with some really amazing fourth grade teachers, **Barbara Sassen** and **Carolyn Estrada**. Thank you. I



love you guys. Thank you, you have taught me so much." [Applause]

"This has been the hardest year of my professional career. I'm in **UT** grad school, I have a kid that just turned two, but I also have an amazing husband, who takes care of that child when I'm studying, and will go buy tennis shoes when one of my students needs them. So I love you **Jorge**, thank you very much." [Applause]

"I want to tell you about some of the principals I've had the opportunity to know. **Catherine Carter**, are you here?" [Searches the room] "**Ms. Carter**, [waves] hi." [giggles] "As a **Brentwood Elementary** student in the early

80's, I had the opportunity to have really wonderful, creative, innovative teachers and now I as a teacher understand that you were a big part of that, so thank you." [Applause] "**Mr. De La Garza**, where are you?." [searches the room] "Oh hi **Mr. D!**" [waves and giggles] "**Mr. D** thanks for hiring me. I don't know if you knew at the time, I had no idea what I was doing." [laughs] "And to my current principal, **Valerie Galbraith**, thank you for trusting teachers. For letting us do what we know is best for the students.

I think there's many high quality teachers that haven't had an opportunity work with such strong leaders as these three that I

mentioned. And for that reason maybe never reached their full potential.

I think principals and administrators here today should look at these three and use them a models of good principals, of principals that trust their teachers, and allow for creativity." [Applause]

"I'd like to say the next part in Spanish. Quiero dar gracias a algunas mamas. Dos mamas en particular. A la **Señora Rodríguez**, gracias por enseñarme que los obstáculos de la vida nos hacen más fuertes, que podemos enseñar esto a nuestros hijos.

Y a la **Señora Hipólito**, gracias por compartir conmigo tu historia y enseñarme que las mejores lecciones no vienen de libros o maestros, sino de los corazones de las mamás quienes quieren lo mejor para sus hijos. Ustedes me inspiran a hacer mi trabajo con todo corazón, porque esto es lo que los niños merecen.

And I'd also like to tell you about one really important person, who you heard a little bit about up there. **Peggy Sweet**, my mom, who [Applause], yeah [claps and giggles]. **Peggy Sweet** worked in **AISD** for 35 years; she just retired last year. My parents met teaching at **Regan High School**. Mom in Home Economics, Dad in ISS." [laughter and applause]

"**Peggy Sweet** worked with pregnant and parenting teens for most of her career. She never had an opportunity like this to be recognized, to stand in front of a bunch of people, but she really should have. I know what **Peggy**

Sweet did for the lives of so many young women. I saw it in the long hours I spent in her classroom, just wishing she would take me home." [pause for laughter]

"She spent hours in the hospital holding hands of young women about to about to become mothers and then hours holding their babies, showing them how to be the kind of mother that she was. She made sure that they could get their work done at school and then eventually graduate. Her dedication to her students has really set my standards high.

So I can only hope that I can positively affect as many lives as she has over the years. And I can only hope that I can be the kind of educator that she showed me how to be.

And to my fellow teachers, we **MUST** use our classrooms to break the cycle of poverty for our students. **DON'T** just do what the district tells you, and there are several district people in here today that probably walk in your room and tell you what to do.

DON'T just do what's in the textbooks; **DO** what the students need!" [Applause] "You need to show your students that they can be agents of change, but model that for them, starting with yourself. **SUPPORT** bilingual education! **SUPPORT** dual language! **SUPPORT** the Dream Act! [Applause]

Thank you Austin partners, thank you for this award, thank you for this recognition. I really appreciate it, thanks."

Travis County Constable Maria Canchola Monthly Column

Many Texans are not exactly clear on what a **Texas Constable** does. Most people believe constables just deliver court papers. Others know that a Constable is a law enforcement officer, but are not sure about their powers and enforcement authority.

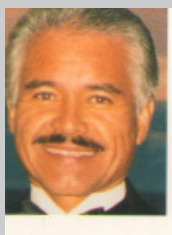


Constables have served the Justice Court system for over 600 years. The **Texas Constitution of 1876** provided for the election of Constables. Shortly after **Texas** became a state, the legislature specified that the constable was "*the conservator of the peace throughout the county... it shall be his duty to suppress all riots, routs, affrays, fighting, and unlawful assemblies, and he shall keep the peace.*" By 2000 the **US Bureau of Justice Statistics** reported that there were 2,630 constables and deputy constables in **Texas**. Less than three percent of the elected Constables are women.

Every Justice of the Peace has a Constable serving as the law enforcement arm of the court. Precinct Four deputies ensure the public's constitutional right to have their day in court by serving civil processes issued by Justice, County, and District courts all across **Texas** as well as some from other states. Constables also function as bailiffs for the Precinct Four Justice Court and execute arrest warrants issued by the presiding JP. Community needs are better served because Constables are elected by their neighbors. Deputies provide victim assistance, conduct crime prevention education, perform handicap parking enforcement, and assist with school safety initiatives throughout the precinct.

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¿Conoces tus responsabilidades financieras?

Empezando este mes, Ranferí Carbajal-Solis, estrá compartiendo información sobre asuntos financieros con los lectores de La Voz. Este mes el tema toca el asunto de responsabilidades.



1. Aprende como manejar tu dinero responsablemente con una cuenta de banco. Ganar acceso a servicios bancarios y financieros es una parte importante para lograr muchas de tus metas. Contrario a lo que muchos piensan, no se requiere tener una grán cantidad de dinero para establecer una cuenta de banco. Lo importante es recordar que siémpre hay metas que lograr en cada etapa de tu vida y existen servicios financieros para tales.

2. Aprende como establecer una identidad de crédito. Tener buen crédito es poder, y poder es tener buen crédito. Crédito es una calificación que usan los prestamistas para determinar si eres responsable. Cuidado con los tres pecados financieros: no tener crédito, gastar lo que no tienes, y no ahorrar. Todo esto se traduce en limitaciones. Sin embargo, un buen crédito te permitirá ayudar a financiar la compra de tu casa, la educación de tus hijos, o simplemente recompensarte por tu buen comportamiento.

3. Aprende a proteger tu vida y la de tu familia. El grán politico Estadounidense Benjamin Franklin solía decir, "la única certeza en la vida son los impuestos y la muerte." Por consiguiente, es importante tener una buena protección, pero si eres el único que soporta los gastos de tu hogar, tienes que asegurarte. Por otra parte, es importante pensar en la vejez y lo que esto implica; estarás preparado financieramente cuando ya no trabajes?

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Campamentos de Verano con LATINITAS en Austin

El 20-24 de junio: Campamento de las artes multimediales – Desde la fotografía hasta el collage, los medios de comunicación no solo es un medio para informar, sino también una forma creativa para expresarse. Las chicas de 9-14 años son invitadas a participar en una semana de actividades de arte, por ejemplo la escritura, la fotografía, la radio, el video y actividades de arte de estudio.

El 27 de junio – el 1ero de julio: Campamento de Hollywood – Se ha descrito Austin como la "tercera costa" en cuanto a la producción de películas. Las chicas de 9-14 años son invitadas a participar en una semana de producción de películas, la creación de programas de la tele, el blogging sobre, y entrevistas con, los famosos.

El 11-15 de julio: 'Adelante con la moda'-campamento - ¿Sabes reconocer las tendencias de moda? ¿Te conocen como la chica que sabe combinar un conjunto de Goodwill que podría aparecer en la portada de Vogue? Las chicas de 9-14 años se van a divertir mucho escribiendo sobre la moda, la fotografía, críticas, los videos y van a crear su propia revista de moda.

El 18-22 de julio: Campamento del cuerpo y el alma – Los temas serán la salud, el bienestar y los deportes. Este campamento invita a las chicas de 9-14 años a quienes les interesan la escritura, la fotografía, el video, el diseño y otras actividades desde clases de yoga hasta escritura de críticas de comida, mientras explorando y creando proyectos sobre cómo los medios de comunicación nos influyen.

Los campamentos diurnos con **Latinitas en Austin** empiezan a las 9am y terminan a las 4pm y cuestan \$200 por una semana. Para registrarse o para más información acerca de los campamentos o las becas disponibles llamen a 512.447.4440 ext. 137 o manden un correo electrónico a latinitascamps@yahoo.com.



‘I am Not a Problem That Must be Handled’

Rep. Hernandez Luna: “I know how this bill will push immigrants into the shadows. Mothers that will be afraid to go to the store to buy groceries for the family, as my mother once was.” **Rep. Ana Hernandez Luna**, D-Houston, just delivered the most powerful speech the Texas House of Representatives has seen in years. Fighting back tears, she not only told her personal story as an immigrant, but showed House Bill 12 – the so-called **sanctuary city** bill – for the cowardly piece of race-baiting that it is.

HB12, so much of the Republican agenda this session, was hammered through with little debate by the GOP supermajority. Hernandez Luna’s personal privilege speech may have served only as a sad afterthought as the bill speeds with undue haste to the Senate: However, we reprint the text in full below:

Mr. Speaker, members, thank you for allowing me this time to speak. I know that **HB12** has already passed and in the long run, there was nothing that could be done about its passage. But what is important for me is to express my concerns and why this issue is so important to me. Immigration and all that it encompasses is very personal for me because I was an undocumented immigrant. You may prefer to use the word illegal alien, but I’m not an alien, I am not a problem that must be handled, I’m a human – a person standing before you now as a Representative for the Texas House.

I was born in **Reynosa, Mexico** and brought to the **United States** as an infant child with the hope of a life my parents never knew or could dream I might have. My parents along with my sister and I came on a visitor’s visa and overstayed our visas. We lived in undocumented status for 8 years until the **Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986** was passed under **President Ronald Reagan**, an icon which I must remind many of you that you state as being one of yours. Under this Act we were able to become Temporary Residents, then Legal Permanent Residents. At age 18, I went through the citizen naturalization process to become a United States citizen.

I still remember my interview with the immigration officer. I was 18 years old, had attended **Texas** public schools from kindergarten through high school, graduating when I was sixteen years old and was a sophomore in college, yet I was very nervous over the questions that would be asked during the citizen examination. I was so nervous that when asked to name the capitol of the United States, I responded **Austin, Texas**. The officer re-asked his question ... name the capitol of the United States, and I then quickly responded **Washington, DC**.

During the time we lived in undocumented status, I remember the constant fear my family lived with each day. The fear my parents experienced each day as their two little girls went to school, not knowing if there would be an immigration raid that day, and they wouldn’t be able to pick up their daughters from school, and not knowing who would take care of them if they were deported.



Texas State Representative Ana Hernandez Luna

My parents worked hard to provide a better life for my sister and I. My mother worked the day shift and my father worked the night shift to make sure one of them would always be there for us. The daily task of going to the grocery to buy the food needed to provide your family nourishment may seem like a simple task, but for my family, it was the food we went to buy that might be the death sentence to our family that came in the form of an immigration officer.

As an elementary school student, I remember being embarrassed and shy away whenever my classmates discussed where they were born. I knew I was not a US citizen and feared the reactions from my classmates if they knew I was not a citizen.

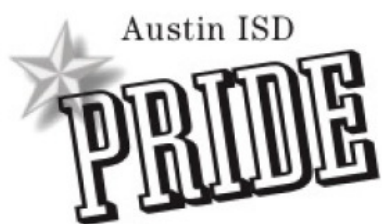
Some say that immigrant children are a drain on our public schools, but I don’t consider myself a drain. I graduated at age 16 with honors, earned by bachelors and law degree and was elected to the **Texas House of Representatives** at age 27. I know there are many other immigrants out there like me waiting to be given the opportunity that I was given

and part of me believes that the hurt and turmoil I went through is justified in this fact.

My parents never asked for government assistance, they paid their taxes and instilled excellent family values in their two daughters.

I know firsthand the impact that **HB12** will have on many families that are currently in the same legal status in which my family once was. I know how this bill will push immigrants into the shadows. Mothers that will be afraid to go to the store to buy groceries for the family, as my mother once was.

Because of my background and the many opportunities afforded to me, it is incumbent upon me to continue fighting to ensure that others can have the America Dream – and let them know that you can make it here if you try and work hard. Even if those elected to serve and protect you don’t believe it for you.



0. Henry Middle School Art Club Students Dedicate Mosaic to Retired Counselor



Generations of future O. Henry Middle School (OHMS) students, parents, and community members will enjoy the Art Club's OHMS Mustang mascot mural recently installed at the campus. At its installation, the mural was dedicated to retired counselor David Freeman (center), who guided students and

helped to mentor faculty for 39 years. Mr. Freeman retired two years ago. Art teacher, Club sponsor, and licensed Art Therapist Wanda Montemayor (center, behind Freeman) says the retired counselor excels at assisting sixth grade students' transition into middle school from elementary.



Art Club members began the mosaic project in August, and eighth-grade student Chase Durand developed the mural's design. Parent volunteer Amy Moran and Club members assisted the entire O. Henry campus create individualized ceramic tiles for the mural. Montemayor says that schoolwide collaboration helped to nurture Mustang pride and spirit. The O. Henry Middle School Mariachi performed for the 100-plus guests at the event. AISD Building Operators Frank Valencia and Roy Diaz, who were recognized by the teacher, mounted the work to the gymnasium entrance.



Additional pictures of the



installation are posted on the AISD multimedia online gallery at <http://tinyurl.com/3zn9a9v> or on the District's facebook page at Austin ISD.

Hohner Squeezebox App For Apple iPad, iPhone, and iPod

Hohner announces the introduction of a revolutionary new app for the Apple iPhone and iPod Touch: the Hohner SqueezeBox.

GLEN ALLEN, VA - Hohner announces the introduction of a revolutionary new app for the Apple iPhone and iPod Touch: the Hohner SqueezeBox. Mimicking the layout of Hohner's **Classic** diatonic accordion, this intuitive virtual accordion app features a super realistic fingerboard that plays and sounds like the traditional instrument.

The **Hohner SqueezeBox** allows musicians to practice chord combinations, scales, and more. It goes in five different key combinations and colors. Headphones can be used for private practice. The audio output of the virtual accordion can be amplified by plugging into computer speakers or sound enhancing devices. Players have the option to display the note names on the screen, simulated pearloid buttons and with the touch of a button, the tonality can easily be changed from "dry tuning" for a more animated sound, to "dry tuning."

"SqueezeBox is ideal for the beginning student or professional musician who needs a virtual companion to compliment his or her actual accordion" commented **Accordions.com** owner **Reyes Jr.** "It's great for Tex-Mex, Conjunto, Norteño, Cajun, Zydeco, Vallenato, Blues, or any style of music. While not intended to replace a real accordion, it is an easy tool for practicing, learning, or teaching."

The Hohner SqueezeBox App is available on the iTunes App Store for the introduction of the following key combinations: Hohner-GCF, Hohner-FBbEb, Hohner-EAD, Hohner-BbEbAb. The Hohner-Mini version is available in GCF for the iPhone and iPod.



or The od Touch

Pad, iPhone and iPod

v app for the Apple iPad,
ner's iconic Corona
responsive, three-row

scales, and songs on-the-
private practice or, the
er speakers or other
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ly be changed from "wet

needs a simple carry-on
Product Manger Gilbert
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e app is a convenient and

oductory price of \$1.99 in
ohner-ADG, and Hohner-
Touch at \$.99.



FBbEb



ADG



Friday, July 15
6-9 pm

Sat., July 16
8 am - 4 pm

STATE CONFERENCE

Thompson Conference Center, UT-Austin

Let's Take Back Texas!



During the 2011 legislative session, public schools suffered devastating cuts for the first time since World War II. Without a new set of legislators, 2013 will bring even more!

The Save Texas Schools State Conference will prepare you to find and support pro-education candidates during the primary and general election seasons.

Schedule:

Registration: 4:30-6 pm
Dinner and Speakers: 6-9 pm

Saturday:

Continental Breakfast: 8 am
Training and Strategy Sessions: 8:30-4 pm
Box lunches provided

Conference Fee: \$30 per person

- \$10 additional for Friday dinner
- Discounted Hotels Available
- Scholarships Available

Go to

www.savetxschools.org
for registration and information

What Would You Do?

by Franco Martinez

“Look down” I told my brother *“Whoa grab it”* he told me *“Nah u grab I got your back”* I replied. I looked around, nobody was looking I gave him the sign to go.

He bent down and grabbed a wad of cash that was on the floor. He gave it to me and we stepped in the restroom. I took off the clip and started counting. There were a couple of credit cards with it but I left them in the restroom.

“Fifty, Hundred, One fifty, two, two fifty, three! Three hundred and fifty-five dollars!!” I told him *“What? Let’s go to the mall!”* he yelled out We grabbed the socks and walked to the register to pay for them. I handed her the money and walked out. We speed walked to the truck; we were exited. We got into the truck and started play fighting. *“Mall time!”* I yelled out.

I couldn’t believe our luck I found this money on the floor, just sitting there staring at me. We were at **Academy** buying **Nike** socks. Well we planned on stealing them but plans changed. I took the money instead of returning it. Little did I know that I was going to pay the price for it. Karma’s a bitch. I got on the truck and took off.

We got to the mall, got off and walked in. I looked around and asked my little brother where he wanted to go first. *“Finish Line”* He told me, we started walking. I bought a couple Polo shirts, a pair of shoes and cologne; **Mark** bought some shirts, socks and some pants. After all that, we decide that it was time to head back home. We were by **Academy**; we stooped to chill for a minute. We walked around wasting time, talking, and fooling around; what we usually do.



“Let’s go.” **Mark** said *“Yea lets go”* I replied

We were by the entrance when I found out my keys were missing. I quickly retraced my steps. But, no keys. I walked to the cashier and asked if they had found any keys? They said no. I retraced my steps again, walking up and down aisles looking in by the socks, basketballs and the

restroom. Still no keys to be found. I started to worry; I didn’t want someone to take off with the truck. *“Go outside and wait by the car.”* I told my brother mark *“Ok”* he mumbled

I walked back inside feeling nervous for the outcome. I started thinking about my parents and how mad they would be. When all of a sudden a cashier calls me over and asked me what color were the keys.

“Black” I told her, she pulled them out; it was a sign of relief. *“They turned them in”* and she pointed to this girl and her little brother *“Thank you so much”* I told her *“I found them by the restroom”* she said *“Thank you for turning them in”*

I walked off, and then remembered how I found the money but didn’t turn it in and they could have done the same thing. I sometimes feel bad that I didn’t do the right thing because I felt like my stomach was turning while I was looking for them. That’s exactly how the person that lost the money felt. If I can go back in time I would have turned it in instead of keeping it.

Franco Martinez just graduated from Travis High School. He will be attending college in the fall.

Gamaliel Altamirano-Cancino

Austin Partners in Education A.I.S.D student of the year

This is Gamaliel’s acceptance speech that he delivered on May 18th at the Long Center.

Good evening, and thank you for attending tonight. I stand here before you with great joy in receiving this great scholarship towards my academic expenses. My love for people, the sciences and medicine have led me to pursue a career in the medical field. My life goal is to help people return to health, live longer and lead happier lives. This fall I plan on attending **Texas A&M at Corpus Christi** where I will be majoring in nursing.

Growing up as a child of a single mother, I faced many hardships. These hardships led me to believe that attending a university would be an impossible accomplishment. During my middle school days, I had an inner anger, this inner anger got to the point where I could not control myself. This darkness inside stemmed from the absence of a father role in my life. I wanted to give up, I didn’t want to attend school anymore. At this point I was ready to either hurry up and graduate or simply drop out.

My freshman year was the turning point of my life. For me to be here in front of you tonight, I have many people to thank. Teachers, counselors, coaches, friends, and especially my beautiful mother, all played a very important role in my life but the one person who pushed me to be the best I could be was my older sister, **Telvi Altamirano**. She didn’t verbally inspire me, or neither do I think she intended to play a significant role in my pursue pursuit of a higher education but thank God she did, right? As a freshman I witness my sister, a senior at the time, take that next step in becoming a successful member of society and saw her hard work and dedication paying off when she received her acceptance letter to **Texas A&M**. That day I saw what I could be through her. If my sister, my blood, could do it, why couldn’t I? Why couldn’t I work hard to attend college? I took what she did and used it as a source of motivation.

Life is full of circumstances, some unpleasant, some advantageous; whatever they are, I will fight to the end to be the best I can be. It is my moral obligation to make something of myself and I will commit to this duty for the rest of my life. Thank you **Austin Parterns in Education**.



You are invited

**Join CONGRESSMAN LLOYD DOGETT
for his Neighborhood Office Hours**

(During the 11th Annual Father’s Day Parade and Fiesta)
River City Youth Foundation
5209 S. Pleasant Valley
(Near the corner of Pleasant Valley and Stassney)
Saturday, June 18
11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Free parking and shuttles available at Mendez Middle School

*“Listening to you is my number
one priority in Washington.”*
— Rep. Lloyd Doggett

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Business Profile

by Monica Peña

Escobar Construction, LLC

Escobar Construction, LLC is a family owned **Austin** based business with over 20 years of experience. It provide the highest quality of workmanship and pride it self on excellent customer service and is accredited with the Better Business Bureau and a high rating on Angie's list. www.escobarconstruction.com



Juan Escobar

Owner, Juan Escobar helped build homes from the ground up since high school. **Juan** knew he had a passion for different structure styles and improving existing ones. His journey led him to study architecture, testing soil for building structures in **Florida**, work for an architect when he moved back to **Austin**, and manage projects for a builder.

After working on home projects for close family and friends, an overwhelming response from observers needing home upgrades had **Juan** working every weekend. The enormous demand for his work led him to start **Escobar Construction, LLC** full time on word of mouth referrals only. **Juan** enjoys hearing feedback from satisfied customers and watching ideas for improvements or new structures become a reality.

Juan was born in **Mexico** and is the oldest of 6 siblings. He was raised in **Alpine, Texas**. He came to **Austin** more than 15 years ago and attended **Austin Community College** where he studied architecture. To contact **Juan Escobar** please visit his website at: www.escobarconstruction.com or call: (512) 627-3943

**Congratulations to
Yleana Elyse Santos,
Associate Editor
La Voz Newspapers
for Graduating from
The University of Texas at Austin
with a Bachelors Degree in
English on May 21, 2011**

The Great Switch by the Super Rich

by Robert Reich

Forty years ago, wealthy Americans financed the U.S. government mainly through their tax payments. Today wealthy Americans finance the government mainly by lending it money. While foreigners own most of our national debt, over 40 percent is owned by Americans – mostly the very wealthy.

This great switch by the super rich – from paying the government taxes to lending the government money — has gone almost unnoticed. But it's critical for understanding the budget predicament we're now in. And for getting out of it.

Over that four decades, tax rates on the very rich have plummeted. Between the end of World War II and 1980, the top tax bracket remained over 70 percent — and even after deductions and credits was well over 50 percent. Now it's 36 percent. As recently as the late 1980s, the capital gains rate was 35 percent. Now it's 15 percent.

Not only are rates lower now, but loopholes are bigger. 18,000 households earning more than a half-million dollars last year paid no income taxes at all. In recent years, according to the IRS, the richest 400 Americans have paid only 18 percent of their total incomes in federal income taxes. Billionaire hedge-fund and private-equity managers are allowed to treat much of their incomes as capital gains (again, at 15 percent).

Meanwhile, more and more of the nation's income and wealth have gone to the top. In the late 1970s, the top 1 percent took home 9 percent of total national income. Now the top 1 percent's take is more than 20 percent. Over the same period, the top one-tenth of one percent has tripled its share. Wealth is even more concentrated at the top — more concentrated than at any time since the Gilded Age of the late 19th century.

So what are America's super rich doing with all this money? They're investing it all over the world, wherever they can get the best return for any given level of risk. Treasury bills — essentially loans to the U.S. government — have proven good and safe investments, particularly during these last few tumultuous years.

You hear a lot of worries about foreigners dumping Treasuries if they lose confidence in the dollar because of our future budget deficits. What you hear less about are these super-rich Americans, who are just as likely to abandon Treasuries if spooked by future budget deficits. The great irony is if America's super rich financed the U.S. government the way they used to — by paying taxes rather than lending the government money — that long-term budget deficit would be far lower.

This is why a tax increase on the super rich must be part of any budget agreement. Otherwise the great switch by the super rich will make the income and wealth gap far wider. Worse yet, average working Americans who can least afford it will either lose the services they depend on, or end up with a tax burden they cannot bear.

Robert Reich is **Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy** at the **University of California at Berkeley**. He has served in three national administrations, most recently as secretary of labor under **President Bill Clinton**. He has written thirteen books, including *The Work of Nations*, *Locked in the Cabinet*, *Supercapitalism*, and his most recent book, *AfterShock*. His "Marketplace" commentaries can be found on publicradio.com and [iTunes](http://itunes.com).



Workers Defense Project

Proyecto Defensa Laboral

WDP's Wage Theft Bill was signed by Governor Rick Perry and is now law! This bill makes it easier for police departments across Texas to arrest employers who don't pay their workers, and closes an important loophole which allowed employers to avoid criminal theft of services charges by making a minimal payment to their workers. With the passage of this bill, thousands more workers will be able to recover their well-deserved wages!

Austin Chapter of the
National Association of
Hispanic Real Estate
Professionals
Celebrates
10-Year anniversary

by Monica Peña

Since **NAHREP** was chartered in May of 2001, the **Austin** chapter has been one of the fastest growing chapters in the United States with an overall goal of increasing the percentage of homeownership for Hispanic Americans.

President **Oliva Lerma** with **Efinity Lending** explains about the group's membership, *"We strive to give our members the tools that they need to be the best at servicing to their Hispanic clients. We have a diverse group of members that assist with Credit and Legal Advice."*

Pres-Elect, **Nicole Torres Cook** with **Schmooze Networking**, recaps the group's numerous accomplishments, *"In the first two years we grew to 300 members and became the model chapter in the nation. In our third year, National decided to hold their National Conference in **Austin**, the first time off-site."*

The **Austin Chapter** has raised money for Scholarships while partnering with other industry groups to hold mixers, education seminars and membership drives. *"For the public, **NAHREP Austin** has participated in the TU CASA Expos providing education to those interested in purchasing a home and held events such as a Foreclosure Prevention seminar, Homebuyer/Seller fairs, worked on Habitat projects and assisted in fundraising efforts for various charities targeting the Hispanic community,"* continued **Torres Cook**.

URBAN ROOTS COMMUNITY LUNCHESES
LOCAL CHEFS VOLUNTEER TO TEACH
AUSTIN YOUTH HOW TO PREPARE
PRODUCE THEY GREW IN EAST AUSTIN

This summer four local Austin chefs will each spend a day with Urban Roots youth preparing and presenting a meal for the Austin community.

Anthony Alejandro of Tacos & Tequila / TNT on Wednesday June 15th

Rene Ortiz of La Condesa on Wednesday June 22nd

Jack Gilmore of Jack Allen's Kitchen on Wednesday June 29th

Terry Wilson of Aquarelle on Wednesday July 6th

Community lunches are held at the East Austin Urban Roots farm (7651 Delwau Lane, Austin, TX 78725) from 11:30 am to 1pm. Each chef will spend a morning with **Urban Roots** youth preparing and presenting a meal to roughly 40 members of the Austin community. The meal is centered around fresh produce grown and harvested by our youth on the **Urban Roots** farm. The chef and our youth present the meal to lunch guests and speak about their experience working together.

Community lunches are an excellent opportunity for the youth and community members to enjoy the produce we have worked so hard to grow on the **Urban Roots** farm. To attend please RSVP on our website: www.youthlaunch.org.

Urban Roots is a youth development program of YouthLaunch that uses sustainable agriculture to transform the lives of young people and increase access to healthy food in **Austin**. Youth interns aged 14-17 learn to become active leaders in their communities through cooking classes, workshops, sustainable agriculture training and community service opportunities. This year **Urban Roots** plans to harvest 30,000 pounds of produce, donating 40% to local soup kitchens and food pantries, and selling the rest at farm stands and farmer's markets.

For more information or to schedule an interview with youth or staff, please call **Audrey Gabe** at 512-342-0424 ext. 105 or email Audrey at audrey.gabe@gmail.com. For more information about **Urban Roots** and **YouthLaunch**

please visit
www.youthlaunch.org.

443-8800

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hay espacio en la nuestra

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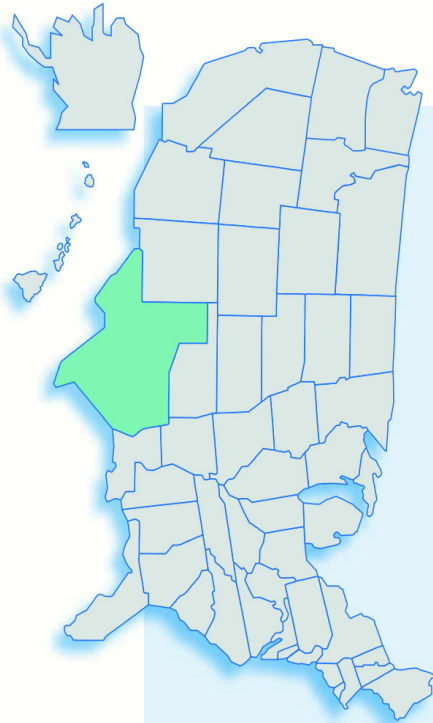
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NATIONAL CONTEXT

Ranking by State



The tables below show how Texas compares to the rest of the country by data category. For each category, there are data for the two highest-performing states, the two lowest-performing states, and Texas in context of the two states that performed just above and below it in ranking.

Graduation Rate at Four-Year Institution

Rank	State	%
1	Massachusetts	68.4%
2	Washington	68.0%
16	Tennessee	50.5%
17	Texas	49.3%
18	Iowa	48.1%
49	Arizona	35.9%
50	Alaska	25.1%

Educational Attainment*

Some college, no degree			Associate degree			Bachelor's degree			Graduate degree		
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
1	Alaska	27.5%	1	North Dakota	11.8%	1	Colorado	22.5%	1	Massachusetts	16.0%
2	Utah	26.6%	2	Wyoming	10.0%	2	Massachusetts	21.7%	2	Maryland	15.6%
19	South Dakota	21.3%	44	Maryland	6.4%	25	Wisconsin	16.9%	33	Montana	8.5%
20	Texas	21.2%	45	Texas	6.3%	26	Texas	16.9%	34	Texas	8.2%
21	Iowa	21.1%	46	New Jersey	6.1%	27	Maine	16.9%	35	South Carolina	8.2%
49	Pennsylvania	15.5%	49	Arkansas	5.6%	49	Kentucky	11.9%	49	Mississippi	6.5%
50	New York	15.4%	50	Louisiana	4.7%	50	West Virginia	10.4%	50	Arkansas	6.4%

SAT Scores

Critical Reading mean			Math mean			Writing mean		
Rank	State	Score	Rank	State	Score	Rank	State	Score
1	Iowa	603	1	Iowa	613	1	Iowa	582
2	Wisconsin	595	2	Minnesota	607	2	Minnesota	580
34	Georgia	488	33	Maryland	506	36	Georgia	475
35	Texas	484	34	Texas	505	37	Texas	473
35	South Carolina	484	35	Nevada	501	38	Hawaii	470
36	Hawaii	483	39	Georgia	490	39	South Carolina	468
37	Maine	468	40	Maine	467	40	Maine	454

Average Tuition

Public, two-year			Private, four-year			Public, four-year		
Rank	State	\$	Rank	State	\$	Rank	State	\$
1	New Hampshire	\$6,262	1	Rhode Island	\$30,142	1	New Jersey	\$10,575
2	Vermont	\$4,876	2	Massachusetts	\$28,887	2	Pennsylvania	\$10,557
44	Mississippi	\$1,849	29	Arizona	\$17,964	27	Colorado	\$5,671
45	Texas	\$1,796	30	Texas	\$17,769	28	Texas	\$5,623
46	Arizona	\$1,646	31	Tennessee	\$17,602	29	Arkansas	\$5,571
49	New Mexico	\$1,285	49	North Dakota	\$10,898	49	Florida	\$3,319
50	California	\$730	50	Mississippi	\$10,734	50	Nevada	\$3,237

Average Faculty Salary, All Ranks

Public and Private, two-year			Public and Private, four-year		
Rank	State	\$	Rank	State	\$
1	California	\$77,532	1	Rhode Island	\$81,404
2	Hawaii	\$67,701	2	Connecticut	\$78,076
27	Iowa	\$49,575	14	Virginia	\$63,504
28	Texas	\$48,882	15	Texas	\$63,457
29	Pennsylvania	\$48,770	16	Utah	\$63,273
49	Montana	\$41,061	49	Kansas	\$49,813
50	North Dakota	\$37,362	50	North Dakota	\$48,520

Federal R&D Obligations

Rank	State	\$
1	California	\$3,487,825
2	New York	\$1,991,832
5	Massachusetts	\$1,491,859
6	Texas	\$1,418,120
7	North Carolina	\$1,076,694
49	Maine	\$29,494
50	Wyoming	\$27,751

ACT Scores

Average Composite		
Rank	State	Score
1	Massachusetts	24
2	Connecticut	23.7
32	Alaska	21.1
33	Texas	20.8
34	Georgia	20.7
49	Kentucky	19.4
50	Mississippi	18.8

Median Household Income

Rank	State	\$
1	Maryland	\$69,272
2	New Jersey	\$68,342
24	Oregon	\$48,457
25	Texas	\$48,259
26	Iowa	\$48,044
49	West Virginia	\$37,435
50	Mississippi	\$36,646

Educational Appropriations per FTE

Rank	State	\$
1	Alaska	\$15,362
2	Hawaii	\$13,739
21	California	\$7,043
22	Texas	\$7,001
23	Maine	\$6,883
49	New Hampshire	\$3,505
50	Vermont	\$2,962

SOURCE: Texas Public Higher Education Almanac produced by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Calendar of Events

June 8th, 2011 - Official Press Conference regarding the Raulito Show at the **Guadalupe Cultural Arts Theatre** in San Antonio, Texas starting at 10:00am. Show host Raulito Navaira, Tejano music legend with multiple awards including a Grammy and Latin Grammy awards will again bring his unique style of humor to the TV screen. Navaira said he is thrilled about the upcoming season. As he states, *“I’m very excited to start season two, the response from our viewers has been great, and has provided strong encouragement to reach out to our Hispanic audience and those that want to learn and appreciate the Hispanic culture.”***The Raulito Radio Show** will air for one hour on the weekends on numerous radio stations from the Rio Grande to the Red River. For more information please call Orlando Salazar at (210) 921-0161

June 10th, 2011 - **Mariachi Tamazula** will perform at El Sol y La Luna 600 East 6th Street, Austin, Texas from 8 to 10pm. For more information call: (512) 444-7770

June 15th, 2011 - Retirement Party for Roberto O. Martinez at Nuevo Leon Mexican Restaurant in Austin, Texas. Event starts at 6:00pm

June 17th, 2011 - **Mariachi Tamazula** will perform at **El Sol y La Luna** 600 East 6th Street, Austin, Texas from 8 to 10pm. For more information call: (512) 444-7770

June 17th, 2011 - Sonidos del Barrio - Showcase 2011 at the Mexican American Cultural Center in Austin, Texas 600 River Street.

June 18th, 2011 - **Mary Welch y Los Curanderos** will perform at **El Sol y La Luna** 600 East 6th Street, Austin, Texas from 8 to 10:30pm. For more information call: (512) 444-7770

June 18th, 2011 - Run Off Election for Austin City Council. Polls open 7 to 7

June 23rd - 25th, 2011 - NALEO (National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials annual conference in San Antonio, Texas

June 24th, 2011- Hispanic Male Symposium at The University of Texas at Austin in the Texas Union. For more information see page 4.

June 28th, 2011 - **Cine de Oro at the Mexican American Cultural Center** in Austin, Texas 800 River Street. Feature film: La Devoradora with Maria Felix: Maria Felix is considered the greatest diva in the history of Mexican cinema. She starred in 47 films in her career, and called herself “a woman with a man’s heart.” Known for her bold, charismatic, and larger-than-life persona both on and off the movie set, she refused the small parts offered her by American directors, thus never achieving widespread fame in the U.S. However, her celebrity in Latin America and Europe was huge, which was bolstered by her marriages to famous Mexican icons like Agustin Lara and Jorge Negrete. Born in the state of Sonora, she grew up in Guadalajara, lived part of her life in Paris, and died on her 88th birthday in Mexico City, in 2002.

July 15 and 16, 2011 - **Save Texas Schools Conference** at The University of Texas at Austin, Thompson Conference Center. See page 13 for more details. (512) 450-1880

Word Power

En Las Palabras Hay Poder

No one can ever argue in the name of education, that it is better to know less than it is to know more. Being bilingual or trilingual or multilingual is about being educated in the 21st century. We look forward to bringing our readers various word lists in each issue of **La Voz de 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 cada mes a nuestros lectores de **La Voz de Austin** una lista de palabras en español con sus equivalentes en inglés.

La Educación	The Education
El Camino	The Path or the road
La Maestra	The Teacher
La Mansana	The Apple
¿Qué es importante?	What is important?
Los Estudiantes	The Students
¿Quien va enseñar?	Who is going to teach?
¿Donde estan los fondos?	Where are the funds?
¿Usted paga impuestos?	Do you pay taxes?
¿Usted vota?	Do you vote?
¿Quien es su representante?	Who is your representative?
¿Cuantos miembros hay en su familia?	How many members are there in your family?

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Austin Schools Offer Tuition-Supported Prekindergarten

The Austin School District will offer tuition-supported prekindergarten classes for four-year-olds for the first time this fall. Children who are four years old on or before September 1, and who do not qualify for either the Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities or the state-mandated prekindergarten program, are eligible.

The program will offer students a six-hour day of quality educational programming led by certified teachers who are specifically trained to work with young children. Tuition-supported prekindergarten will be offered at the following schools:

Allison, Baldwin, Becker, Boone, Brentwood, Casey, Casis, Davis, Dawson, Govalle, Gullett, Hill, Kocurek, Mills, Odom, Palm, Perez, Ridgetop, Summitt, Sunset Valley, Travis Heights and Zilker.

Parents must apply at the Carruth Administration Center, 1111 W. 6th Street, **before June 15**, to be considered for the first-round lottery. Parents may choose to send their student to any tuition-supported campus in AISD but parents must provide their own transportation if the campus selected is not their designated home school.

When applying for the program, parents must bring the child's official birth certificate, photo identification of the parent/guardian who is enrolling the student, social security card of the child (if available), proof of residency in AISD (such as a current electric bill or lease), and a current immunization record signed by a physician.

The annual tuition is \$4,656 per student. A \$50 non-refundable application fee (payable by check or money order only) will be collected with the application. A \$100 non-refundable supply and materials fee will be collected at the time of notification of placement in the program. Parents will be notified by June 30 if their student has been placed in the program.

For additional information about the Austin School District's prekindergarten program, parents may call the office of Early Childhood Education at 414-4790.



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**Texas Department of Insurance
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Austin, TX 78701**

REGISTRATION INFORMATION CONTACT:

<https://wwwapps.tdi.state.tx.us/inter/asproot/purchasing/hubreg/registration.asp>
Jennifer Feliciano, TX Dept. of Insurance
Jennifer.feliciano@tdi.state.tx.us | 512.322.4203

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Free parking is available at Parking Garage N located at 333 San Antonio Street, approximately one block west of the Hobby Bldg.

Kathie Tovo

For Austin City Council



June 18th, 2011
Run-Off Election

Early Voting 6-6-2011 to 6-14-2011

To Volunteer or put up a sign in
your yard call: (512) 614-1802

**The individuals
listed below sup-
port Kathie Tovo
for Austin City
Council**

Fernando Alborno
Steven Aleman
Hugo Alvarado
Silvestre Alvares
Larry Amaro
Adam Amaya
Connie Amaya
Richard Arriola
Rossana Barrios
David Bustamante
Armando Cantu
Maria Cantu
Mary Jane Cantu
Rodrigo Castilleja
Y.R. Castillo
Dora Chavez
Tom Cisneros
Albert Cortez



***No Vengo a Ver Si Puedo, Si
No, Porque Puedo Vengo!***

Juan Coter
Martha Coter
Ruben Cubillos
Marcos de Leon
Lulu Flores
Steve Garcia
Ruben Gonzales
Linda Guerrero
Alfonso Hernandez
Paul Hernandez
Michael Huerta
Narda Martinez Hurt
Giovanni Jimenez
Kisla Jimenez
Emily Limon
Gilbert Limon
Martha Limon
Daniel Llanes
Lizzie Martinez
Melanie Martinez
Diana Martinez
Frances Martinez
Nash Martinez
Cynthia Mata-Valadez
John McKiernan-Gonzales
Sandy McMillan
Jessica Medel
Matthew Medel
Theresa Medel
John Medrano
Margarita Medrano
Diego Mendez-Sabre
Celeste Padilla
Suzanne Pena
Alicia Perez
Elvia Perez
Jimmy Perez
Pete Perez
Elizabeth Quintanilla
Raymond Ramirez
Jennifer Reyna
Jose Reyna
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Leticia San Juan
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Hon. Guadalupe Sosa
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Mario Villafranca
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