

La Voz_{de} Hays County

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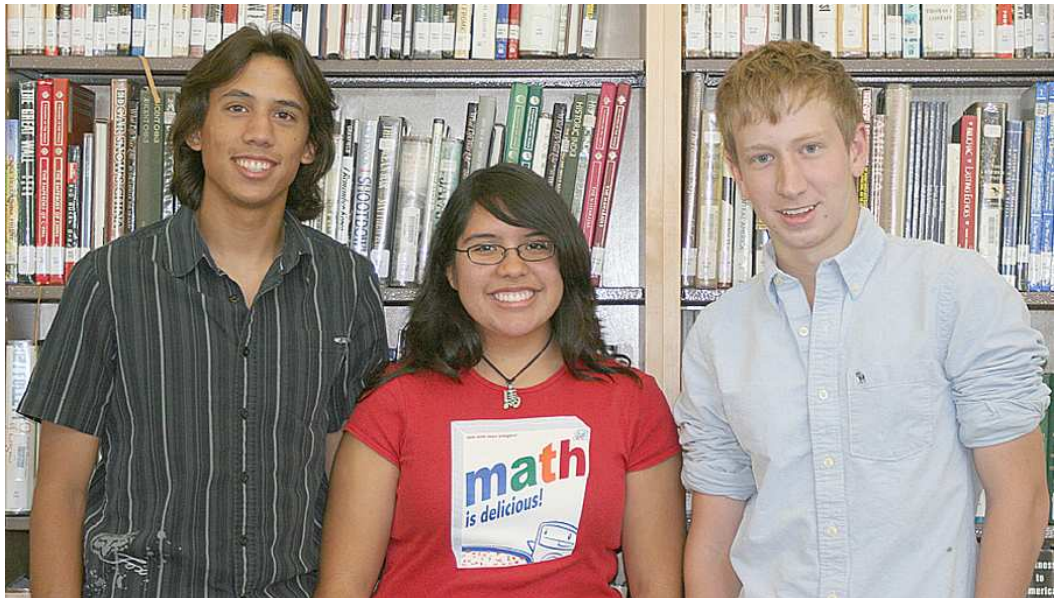
SMHS Scholars Earn Recognitions

By: Iris Campbell, Public Information Officer

San Marcos High School principal **Michelle Darling** announced that **Kathryn Dix** has been named a Commended Student in the **2009 National Merit Scholarship Program**. A Letter of Commendation from the school and **National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC)**, which conducts the program, will be presented by the principal to this scholastically talented senior.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2009 competition by taking the 2007 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

In addition, three students were selected by the College Board as 2008-09 National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) Scholars or Honorable Mentions. The honorees are **Gregory De la Iglesia**, **Kathryn Dix**, and **Kai Maness**. The NHRP was initiated in 1983 to identify outstanding Hispanic/Latino high school students. This year, the organization is recognizing nearly 5,000 students selected from a pool of over 200,000 students who took the 2007 tests and identified themselves as Hispanic. The list of recognized students is distributed to subscribing four-year postsecondary institutions of education in October of each year.



ABOVE: From left to right): Kai Maness, Kathryn Dix, Gregory De la Iglesia Photo by Linda Contreras

Rick Noriega Looking Good in Texas

Texas State Representative Rick Noriega (D-Houston) is moving ahead in the race to become the state's next United States Senator. **Noriega**, a lieutenant colonel in the **Texas National Guard** has built a tremendous political network around the state that is getting people out to vote. Currently touring the state for one last round with the voters, **Noriega** believes he may pull off the upset of year with a victory over **John Cornyn**, the first term incumbent. "We have worked hard and have a lot of committed people helping us. All we have to do is keep our foot on the gas and stay focused."

Last year when **Noriega** first declared for the Senate there were those who did not think he could pull it off. There were a lot of Mexican's shaking their heads no and saying, "No se puede. El Cornyn tiene mucho dinero." Now those Mexican's are starting to sing a different corrido. Ahora estan diciendo alguno de ellos, "Pues que tal vez el Rick si lo va hacer."

As of Friday, October 24, 2008, voter turnout has broken records in many counties across the state. If this turnout continues, stand by for a surprise on November 4th. Es todo!



People in the News



Dr. Ricardo Romo Receives Distinguished Alumnus Award

Dr. Ricardo Romo, President of the University of Texas at San Antonio, was recognized by the Texas Exes at their Distinguished Alumnus Awards on Friday, October 17. The award, created in 1958, recognizes annually up to six graduates or former students of The University of Texas at Austin who have distinguished themselves professionally and through service to the university. The Distinguished Alumnus Award is the highest award given by the Texas Exes.

Romo received his bachelor's degree in education from The University of Texas at Austin in 1967. He then attained a master's degree in history from Loyola University and a doctorate in history from University of California at Los Angeles, where he attended on a track scholarship. Romo became the first Texan to run a mile in less than four minutes and earned All-American honors in 1966.

Before becoming president of The University of Texas at San Antonio, Romo was a history professor and served as vice provost at UT Austin. Romo became the fifth president of The University of Texas at San Antonio in May 1999. During Romo's tenure at UTSA, enrollment has grown nearly 50 percent and the number of Ph.D. programs has increased from three to twenty-one.

Romo has also worked hard to improve the University's numerous programs, staff, and facilities to enhance the ever-growing student life at UTSA.

A talented photographer, Romo has done work for several art exhibits in the San Antonio area. Romo is also the historian and author of *East Los Angeles: History of a Barrio*, which is now in its ninth printing. President Romo is married to Dr. Harriett Romo. They have two children.



Legendary Songwriter Luis Silva Passes Away in Dallas

Luis Silva, who wrote many of the hit Tejano songs of the 1970s and 80s, died of a heart attack while visiting his daughter in Dallas, Texas.

He did a lot of collaborative work with Grupp Mazz and La Mafia according to Albert Davila of Radio KEDA in San Antonio, Texas. As a successful songwriter, he was inducted into the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers 2007 Premios A La Musica Latina Hall of Fame and has 177 songs registered with the organization.

Silva, who would have turned 65 on November 5th, was a well known man in La Onda Tejana circles. Three years ago he had heart bypass surgery and lived with diabetes but he was still a player in the music world. He is survived by his daughter Laura and son Luis Silva II as well as grandchildren.



Eva Longoria Playing a Part in Getting Out the Vote in America

Corpus Christi native and Hollywood actress Eva Longoria Parker is not one to forget that participating en la politica is important no le hace quien seas.

In a press conference out together by Barack Obama's campaign, Longoria stated, "Go out and tell your families, go out and tell your friends, go out and tell your communities to participate in this upcoming election."

U.S Congresswoman Hilda Solis de California joined Longoria in call for La Raza to do their part.

The Obama campaign is increasing its efforts to reach out to the Hispanic community in swing states such as New Mexico, Colorado and Nevada.

The National Council of La Raza (NCLR) and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) are also working to increase the Latino turnout during this year's presidential election.

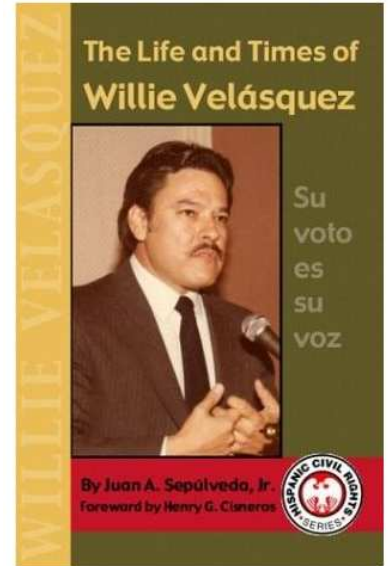


Remembering Willie Velasquez

Twenty years ago this year Willie Velasquez passed away. As the founder of the Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project (SVREP) he, along with his right hand man, Andy Hernandez, brought millions of Latinos into the political fold. Willie was just 44 years old when he passed away (kidney cancer).

Today there are many young people who have never heard his name and know next to nothing about his sacrifices and determination to make La Raza count not just on election day, but every day. Willie Velasquez taught many people that unless you get organized and get your friends and family organized, nothing is going to change.

Juan Sepulveda, a 1995 graduate of Stanford Law School wrote about Willie Velasquez's life and work (see cover above) and shared with readers many never before told stories about how Willie struggled to keep the SVREP alive and his family together. Many people are unaware how just how much the families of activists must do without when there just isn't the money to pay all the bills. Sepulveda also discusses how Willie felt that Latino leaders should be held accountable to their constituencies. After this election season is over, make it a point to get and read this book. It will provide you with a lot of information about *la politica* that you never knew. *Es Todo!*



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The Election Season Before Us

Editorial

Alfredo R. Santos c/s
Editor & Publisher

As we wind down the election season in America there is probably not a single voter who is going to be able to say with a straight face, that he or she did not know there was an election contest going on.

With the millions of dollars that candidates at all levels of government have spent to get the word out, I personally will find it very difficult to learn that some one didn't vote because they just didn't know what was going on November 4th, 2008.

That said, it has been a long time since so many have been fired up about voting. This past spring, in March, voters in many Texas counties turned out to vote in record breaking numbers. I heard stories of counties where the turnout was 10 times what it usually is. (**Brazoria County**)

Why are people turning out in such large numbers? The answer seems to be that people are in the mood for change. Over the summer, that mood began to change dramatically as the economy has taken a turn for the worse. People who have worked all their lives have lost big chunks of

money that they had invested in 401Ks or other retirement accounts.

Many who have worked all their lives and have played by the rules, made sacrifices to save money and put it in retirement accounts, are now shocked and mad that they have lost that cherished nest egg.

They are mad and they want to blame somebody. But the problem is that some of those people who had their hands directly on their money are disappearing. They don't return phone calls.

So people are left to wonder or hope that their elected officials can do something to straighten out the economic mess that they find themselves in. And so what many people will do is go into the voting booth and take it out on the candidate or party that they feel is the most to blame.

In the few days since early voting has begun, we are already seeing droves of people turning out to vote. Many expect, myself included, that we will see a number of surprises come November 4th, 2008.

La temporada de las elecciones ya esta en mocion por todo el país. No hay ningun votante que va poder decir que el o ella no sabia que las elecciones se estan llevando acabo.

Con los millones que han gastado los candidatos en los varios niveles de gobierno, es casi imposible que diga un persona que no sabia que es lo que estaba pasando o que es lo que pasar el 4 de noviembre.

En varios condados de Tejas se esta viendo cantidades de personas que estan saliendo a votar. En marzo, se vio en casi todo los 254 condados de Tejas miles de personas que salieron a votar en la primaria democrata. Ahora, eso si fue una sorpresa para todos.

Y porque la gente se esta saliendo a votar? Creo yo que la repuesta es que la gente esta enojada. Creo que la gente que han perdido dinero en el mercado quieren hecharle la culpa a alguien por sus perdidas. Muchos de ellos tal vez ven el hecho de votar como una manera de

culpar a aquellos que se les han robado su dinero

Unos van a salir a votar y piensan que los politicos van a poder arreglar sus problemas financieras. Tal vez si y tal vez no. Yo por mi parte no creo que los politicos van a poder regresar a ciertas gentes dinero que han perdido en el mercado.

Vamos a tener que esperar todos para ver que fin va tener todo esto de la economia. Por lo pronto, lo unico que puede hacer uno es estar al tanto de todo de lo que esta pasando. Por que si acaso se presenta algunas oportunidades, el que esta listo, es el que se va poder aprovechar.



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Rick Noriega
FOR U.S. SENATE

Nuestras Familias Primero

Votación Temprana: 21 a 30 de octubre
Día de Elección: 4 de noviembre

Cambios en la ley afectaran la licencia de manejo

Empezando el primero de octubre si usted quiere una licencia de manejar, va a tener que presentar preva que usted esta legalmente en los Estados Unidos. Bajo la nueva ley, el Departamento de Seguridad Publica puede pedir varios documentos para determinar su identidad y estado legal. El proposito de la ley es en parte controlar el robo de identidad que ahora es un problema muy grande. Cuando va a sacar su licencia preparase para estos cambios.

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La votación adelantada en persona principia el 20 de Octubre; la boleta incluye dos propuestas tocante la Carta Municipal

La votación adelantada para la elección del 4 de noviembre, que incluye propuestas tocante la Carta Municipal, principia el lunes, 20 de octubre en múltiples sitios a través de el condado de

Residentes del Condado de Hays pueden dirigirse a cualquiera de los sitios de votación adelantada en el condado en dónde viven para votar en las propuestas tocante la carta municipal. La lista de sitios de votación adelantada y sitios móviles se encuentra en el sitio Web de la Oficina de la Hays County: www.elections.co.hays.tx.us/ElectionInformation/tabid/57/Default.aspx La votación adelantada termina el 31 de Octubre.

Los votantes deberán presentar uno de los siguientes documentos para votar:

- Tarjeta de registro de votante.
- Licencia de conducir o cualquiera otra identificación (ID) oficial con foto.
- Acta de nacimiento.
- Documentos de ciudadanía de los Estados Unidos o pasaporte.
- Una copia de su cuenta actual de servicios públicos, estado de cuenta bancaria, u otro documento oficial que indica el nombre y domicilio del votante.

Personas que votan por primera vez y que se registraron para votar por correo y que no han previamente proveido copia de su identificación (ID) deben mostrar otro tipo de ID además de su Certificado de Registro de Votante antes de votar.

Changes in Driver's License Rules Take Effect

Beginning Oct. 1, the Department of Public Safety will require applicants who are not U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States to present proof of their lawful status in the U.S. before they are issued an original, renewal or duplicate Texas driver license or identification card.

Administrative rule 37 T.A.C. § 15.171 adopted on August 25, 2008, is intended to enhance the security of the Texas driver license and identification cards, protect the integrity of the licensing process and reduce the risk of identity theft and fraud. Strengthening identity and residency requirements assists DPS in issuing secure documents that are routinely used by financial institutions, retailers, law enforcement and other entities to establish the identity of their customers.

Under the new rule, the DPS will issue driver licenses or identification cards to non-U.S. citizens only when acceptable documentation has been provided to the Department to confirm the applicant's lawful status in the United States. Upon verification of lawful status in the U.S. the individual will receive a license with a Temporary Visitor designation and status date on the face of the card. The new rule also requires the cardholder to provide proof that their lawful status has been updated or extended before DPS will issue a duplicate or renewal. DPS will cancel the license or ID card if the cardholder is unable to present valid documentation that shows federal approval to remain in the United States beyond the status date.

An applicant whose lawful admission period is less than six months will not be issued a driver license or identification card. An individual who is not legally present in the United States because he or she has entered the country without permission, or has stayed beyond the period authorized by federal authorities, will not be granted a DL or ID card

Attendance Zone Committee Presents Recommendations to Board, District Staff, and Community & Transition Plans

by: Iris Campbell, Public Information Officer

After months of deliberation and discussions, the **San Marcos CISD Attendance Zone Committee** made its recommendation of realigned campus attendance zones for the 2009-2010 school year to the Board of Trustees on Monday night, October 20. **Committee Chair Mike Abild**, SMCISD Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, presented the plans on behalf of the committee, along with professional demographers **Larry Blair** and **Brent Alexander** of School District Strategies.

Next comes a series of meetings to present the recommendation to district staff and the community. **SMCISD** personnel are invited to two sessions this week at which time they can present questions and comments as to how the realignment will affect them as employees. Superintendent **Dr. Patty Shafer** explained that the staff of four elementary schools will be shared to accommodate six schools: **Bowie, Crockett, De Zavala, Travis, Hernandez**, and **Elementary #6** which is yet to be named. However, most affected will be the staff of the current **Hernandez Intermediate School**.

"Hernandez Intermediate currently has 5th and 6th graders. All of the 5th grade students will go the elementary schools within their attendance zone, and the 6th grade students will go to either Miller or Goodnight Middle Schools. Therefore, only some of the Hernandez teachers will remain on that campus," Shafer said.

Also under consideration is the move of the district's Pre-Kindergarten program from the current **Bonham** location to a wing at the Hernandez campus. *"There is more than enough room for the Bonham staff and students to relocate to a newer and safer facility at Hernandez," said Abild at the Monday night meeting.*

Community Forums will be held at 6 pm on two evenings at which time the public will have an opportunity for input:

- **November 3 at Travis Elementary and**
- **November 10 at Bowie Elementary.**

School Board members will be on hand for the Community Forums.

On November 4, the fall *Soup with the Supt* event will be held at the **De Zavala Elementary Library** from 11:30 am to 1 pm to accommodate parents who can meet during their lunch hours. **Dr. Shafer** will discuss the proposed attendance zones and take questions. Lunch is provided: RSVP to 393-6930 or 393-6768 for the luncheon.

Thirty-eight committee members representing a cross section of the San Marcos community comprised the committee. This included three school board members—**Jesse Ponce, Kathy Hansen**, and **Margie Villalpando**—in addition to **Abild, Shafer**, and the principals of the elementary schools.

The committee's mission was to develop and present attendance zones for the six elementary schools and two middle schools that will be in operation for the 2009-2010 school year. The committee established priorities for consideration that included balanced student counts and socio-economic characteristics, close proximity of campuses to neighborhoods, safe walking and bus routes, minimal travel time and distance, future growth, and many others.

Two members of the Attendance Zone Committee, **Genie Rolfe** and **Grace Mueller**, addressed the board prior to the presentation of the plan. Both are SMCISD teachers and both are active representatives of teacher organizations. They also agreed on a message: the committee gave their fullest efforts to "what is best for the children" of the **San Marcos** community.

Abild added that the committee came up with some plans for smooth transitions, and the district will be considering others throughout the spring of 2009. Some of the recommendations include:

- Current 3rd, 4th, and 7th graders will have an opportunity to remain at their current schools, provided that their families make application to do so, that school capacity remains no more than 90%, and that families are willing and able to provide their own transportation.

Maps of the proposed zones are available for viewing on the district web site at www.smcisd.net and will soon be on display at the San Marcos CISD schools.



ABOVE: Genie Rolfe, a San Marcos Consolidated Independent School teacher and member of the attendance zone committee addresses the school board regarding the pending changes in attendance zones.



ABOVE: Grace Mueller, another member of the attendance zone committee shared with the school board her belief that the committee was sincere in its efforts to do what is best for the children of **San Marcos**.

News from the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District

SMCISD Opens More Lines of Communication

When the new school year began, San Marcos CISD had just rolled out a new and improved district Web site at www.smcisd.net. It is multi-tiered with district level announcements and calendar items, campus level communications and events, and classroom sites maintained by teachers. The teacher sites contain a variety of information from special projects, homework assignments, and curriculum guides.

The objective behind the development of the new Web site is to provide a cohesive system to enable teachers, students, administrators, and parents to use the Internet to improve communication. The site now has a custom design appearance throughout and unlimited pages for departments, clubs, etc. There are tracking and survey features that can be implemented, along with Web page archiving. The E-News component allows parents and community members to register to electronically receive updates, important reminders, emergency notifications, and other school-related news. Visitors must "opt in" to receive the categories that interest them most. Email addresses must be kept current, and one has the option to unsubscribe.

The telephone notification system (SchoolMessenger) was activated in September. The service provides notification services for parental outreach and student attendance for kindergarten through 12th grade. It is programmed to call the primary phone number of parents for reasons that impact the safety and academic performance of our students. In case of an emergency, the system can send out a message to all telephone numbers registered with the district (home, work, and cells) and can generate a mass emailing.

For SchoolMessenger to work effectively, the school district needs current telephone numbers and email addresses for families for both general announcements and emergency situations. Only direct lines can receive messages, so do not include extension numbers.

Providing up-to-the minute accurate information is of great importance to the San Marcos CISD. The web site and the telephone notification system will compliment current modes of communication, such as personal visits, paper-based notices, and updates through the media. The new tools will reinforce the district's commitment to remain personally connected to parents and the community.



ABOVE: Miller Junior High hosted the Austin Community College's Mobil GO Center on Parent Conference Day, October 8. Parents and students were able to log in for the latest in college readiness programs and university information available. ACC personnel were on hand to answer questions. Shown in this photo is Miller student Mary Tess Thompson. (Photo by Nelda Polanco)

SMCISD Reports on TEA's Adequate Yearly Progress Ratings

By: Joy Philpott, Director of School Improvement & Accountability

On October 14, the Texas Education Agency released Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) ratings based on 2007-2008 school year performance. AYP is a function of the federal school accountability system, No Child Left Behind. It measures progress of students in grades 3-8 and 10 in reading and math and rates both districts and schools as either "Met AYP" or "Missed AYP."

San Marcos CISD met AYP as a district. Bowie, Crockett, De Zavala, and Travis elementary schools, Miller Junior High, and San Marcos High School met AYP. Despite posting scores in the Recognized range in the state accountability system in both reading and math, Hernandez Intermediate and Goodnight Junior High missed AYP performance targets for special education subpopulations. Hernandez missed AYP in reading and math performance for its special education subpopulation. Goodnight Junior High missed AYP in math performance for its special education subpopulation.

2008 is the first year that all students, regardless of disability, have been tested on grade level. TAKS-A, TAKS-M, and TAKS-Alt tests are options for students receiving special education services. Scores for these tests are not included in the state accountability system in reading and math but are included in the calculations for the federal accountability system.

Dr. Patty Shafer, SMCISD Superintendent of Schools observed, "We continue to see gains in overall scores. Our mission is to ensure that all students have access to high quality learning environments and experiences."

Among the instructional practices and programs implemented to provide students receiving special education services access to general grade level curriculum are co-teaching arrangements in which general education and special education teachers teach core subjects together. Training for co-teaching follows the Power of Two model: general education and special education teachers train together and receive ongoing coaching. Special education teachers train alongside general education teachers in all literacy and math training. Moving with Math is a supplemental resource that provides additional support for math instruction. Individual student needs are assessed in student review meetings, and skills and knowledge needed to bridge the students to grade level expectations are addressed in "gap plans," individualized curriculums.

Acknowledging the challenge of instructing all students on grade level Kathy Hutto, SMCISD Director of Special Education, notes, "Students that have historically received off-grade-level instruction are now being held accountable for being on grade level with their peers. These students are demonstrating progress toward grade level goals."

Noticias de El Distrito Escolar de San Marcos



ABOVE: (left to right): Brooke Neal, Assistant Principal; Terry Yancey, Store Director; Cheryl Antu, Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year; Michelle Thornton, Operations Manager; and Pam Bebee, Human Resources.

Antu Nombrada Maestra del Año 2008 de Wal-Mart

Cheryl Antu – Travis Elementary School 4th Grade Teacher has been named the **San Marcos Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year 2008**. Wal-Mart presented **Antu** with a **Compaq** laptop and a gift card. In addition, she was awarded a \$1,000.00 check for **Travis Elementary**. **Travis Elementary** and **San Marcos CISD** congratulates **Cheryl Antu** for her exemplary teaching and thanks Wal-Mart for their educational support.

Cheryl Antu, maestra del grado 4 en la escuela de **Travis** fue nombrada **Maestra del Año de Wal-Mart** para el año 2008. La tienda **Wal-Mart** presento a **Señora Antu** un computadora de la marca **Compaq** y una tarjeta de regalo. Además, le entregaron un cheque de \$1,000 para la escuela **Travis**. La administración de **Travis** junto con el distrito escolar felicito a **Señora Antu** por su manera de enseñar y a Wal-Mart por su apoyo.

Congratulations...to the San Marcos High School Rattler Tennis Team that won the District Title by defeating Lehman 10-3.

Coach Jack Hughes reports that about 130 people were on hand for the Thursday semi-finals game, and about 50 persons came back on Saturday to cheer them to victory.

The team now travels to Katy for the Regionals on October 31, where they are considered one of the top four teams.

Go, Rattlers!



La Profesora Dice:

“LA DESERCIÓN ESCOLAR: UN RETO PARA TODAS LAS GENERACIONES”

“Necesitamos más motivación para los muchachos de parte de las escuelas y de los padres. Necesitamos más becas en lugar de cárceles. Más apoyo al arte y la música (porque) si no el resultado será más delincuencia,” dijo un padre del grupo de padres pioneros del *Mexican American Legal Defense Educational Fund* (MALDEF). Estas palabras indican que nos preocupa muchísimo este problema y que hay una crisis en la educación de los estudiantes latinos aquí en los Estados Unidos.

Veamos la situación a través de la vida escolar de tres estudiantes típicos que contribuyen al alto nivel de deserción escolar que conocemos como “*dropout*.” Miguel apenas tiene 14 años y acaba de llegar de un país latinoamericano. Se inscribió en una escuela en **Houston, Texas** y después de tres meses decidió salirse porque no sabía nada de inglés y no entendía las clases. No sentía que estaba aprendiendo nada, la escuela dejó de ser un reto y tristemente fue perdiendo la satisfacción de aprender.

Así, aunque no tenía un seguro social, consiguió trabajo en un McDonald's donde recibe el salario mínimo. Su deserción escolar no contó en las estadísticas porque el estado de Texas institucionalmente ha hecho conteos fugaces y mal



Dr. Alma Perez

representados. El 15% de los recién llegados dejan la escuela.

Sandra pertenece a la tercera generación de mexicanos en los Estados Unidos en su familia. Su abuelo llegó de **México** en 1898 y vino sin educación formal. Tuvo 8 hijos y ninguno terminó la escuela secundaria. Los padres de Sandra no terminaron la escuela porque siendo mexicanos vivieron la época de segregación en las escuelas públicas de **Texas** en donde se

proporcionaba un mínimo de educación al alumno mexicano.

Con esa historia familiar, Sandra ha decidido abandonar los estudios también pues nadie en su familia valora la educación y cree que ella tampoco podrá superarse. Sandra se ha conformado con su bajo nivel educativo y apenas puede leer y escribir. El centro de investigación llamado *Pew Hispanic Center* dio a conocer en un estudio que el 14% de los latinos que nacen en los Estados Unidos dejan la escuela. Esto afecta a los estudiantes de origen mexicano más que a cualquier otro latino, pues más del 80% de los estudiantes latinos son de origen mexicano.

Mary se siente hundida en la pobreza. A los 16 años de edad, ella se encuentra en su tercer año escolar de la secundaria (es *junior*) pero se encuentra embarazada y ha decidido abandonar sus estudios para después tomar el examen de acreditación

de la secundaria llamado GED. La vida de Mary no ha sido fácil. Ella es una de cuatro hermanos y su madre es madre soltera que mantiene a la familia con asistencia pública. A pesar de las dificultades, a Mary le gusta mucho la escuela y tiene unas calificaciones extraordinarias. Aunque Mary saque su GED (*General Education Development*), se le considerará un *dropout* porque abandonó la escuela. Lamentablemente, un 18% de estudiantes Latinos contribuyen a la deserción escolar por causa de la pobreza.

Como grupo latino, estas tres situaciones nos perjudican socialmente y económicamente; y lo que es peor, estas situaciones pueden llevar a nuestros muchachos a terribles consecuencias como puede ser el crimen. La realidad se muestra en muchas investigaciones. En especial, un estudio del *Intercultural Development Research Association* (IDRA) ha descubierto que de cada 100 estudiantes latinos que empiezan la escuela, menos del 50% se gradúan de *high school*.

Las causas de este fenómeno se atribuyen a varias razones. Por ejemplo: un currículo que no es culturalmente relevante, la falta de esfuerzos de cambios de legislación a nivel local, estatal y federal, y a diversas barreras que previenen el éxito en la educación del estudiante minoritario.

¡Pero ya basta de tanta negatividad! Todos creemos en el “*American Dream*”. Creemos que el “Sueño Americano” es

posible y lo deseamos. ¡No puede haber padres que no quieran que sus hijos se superen en este país! Como latinos, estamos dispuestos a conseguir lo que dice IDRA; queremos movernos de un estado negativo que relaciona al latino con la deserción escolar a un estado positivo de superación personal y de grupo, queremos cambiar “de *dropping out* a *holding on*.” Hay lugar para valorar a cada estudiante; hay un educador en la vida de cada estudiante que cree en su éxito total; hay un padre o una madre que cree en sus hijos, y están los muchachos que necesitamos que crean en sí mismos.

Ellos son nuestro cambio. Necesitamos que nuestras familias tomen parte de la escuela y de la comunidad, pues su apoyo es invaluable. También, se necesita un cambio drástico en la preparación de nuestros maestros que sea eficazmente cultural. La tecnología y el desarrollo profesional efectivos son herramientas clave para llegar a esta meta. Nuestra herencia latina y nuestra perseverancia en esta nación nos empujan a cambiar esas cifras en las estadísticas por cifras que nos llenen de orgullo latino.

En la próxima columna escribiré de un tema favorito, el derecho de los estudiantes indocumentados a la educación pública. Nos vemos...

Dr. Alma Perez received her Ph.D from the University of Texas at Austin.

Elect Justice Linda YAÑEZ FOR TEXAS SUPREME COURT

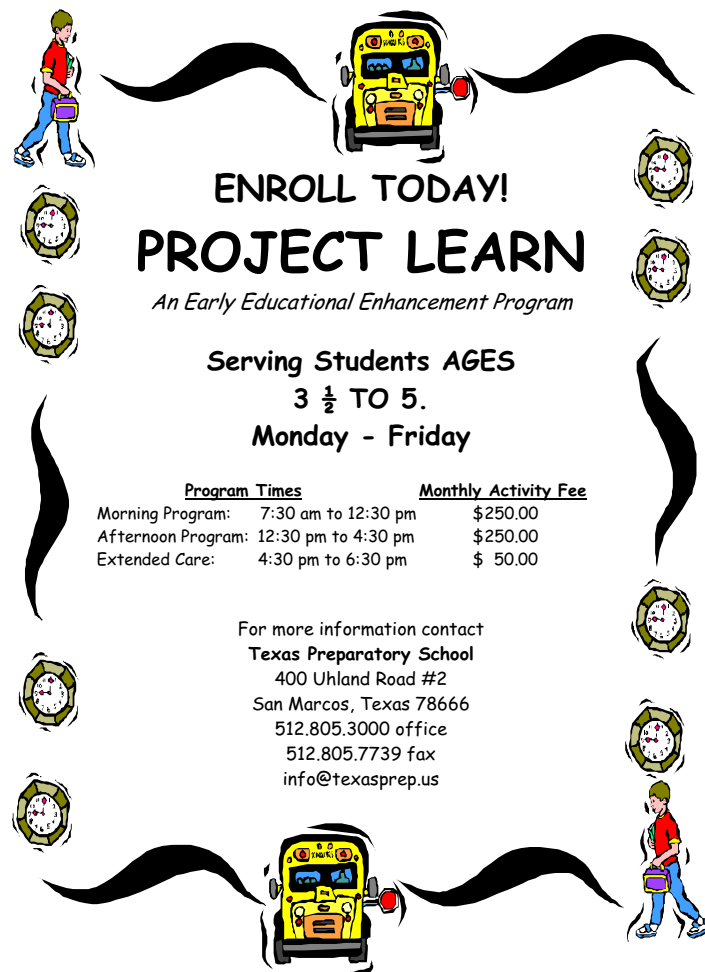


Date(s)

Texas Preparatory School Events

October 31	TPS STORY BOOK PARADE from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Students can come dressed in their FAVORITE Story Book Character. Parents are encouraged to attend and invite parents with children 3 ½ to 5 years of age to attend. Corporate Give-a-ways, Prizes, Games, Gifts card for BEST costume categories and Food. All are WELCOME.
November 1	Blue & White Marketplace at TPS from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Parents and Community Members are encouraged to clean out the GARAGE and come set up a FREE booth in the school parking lot. For more information, please contact Ms. Maria Cabrera at 512.557.1540, we will only take the first 30 participants.
BBQ	Dinners will be sold as a fundraiser from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm.
December 3	Family & Friends Night at TPS is from 5 – 7 pm. The open house will begin and dinner will be served at 5:00 pm. The talent showcase will start at 6:30 pm.
February 1	Super Bowl XLIII Party time and place TBA.
February 11	Family & Friends Night at TPS is from 5 – 7 pm. The open house will begin and dinner will be served at 5:00 pm. The talent showcase will start at 6:30 pm.
April 1	Family & Friends Night at TPS is from 5 – 7 pm. The open house will begin and dinner will be served at 5:00 pm. The talent showcase will start at 6:30 pm.
April 4	Blue & White Marketplace at TPS from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Parents and Community Members are encouraged to clean out the GARAGE and come set up a FREE booth in the school parking lot. For more information, please contact Ms. Maria Cabrera at 512.557.1540, we will only take the first 30 participants. BBQ Dinners will be sold as a fundraiser from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm.
May 8	End of the Year Recognition Celebration at the place TBA from 6:30 to 9:00 pm

For more information contact us at: Texas Preparatory School, 400 Uhland Road, San Marcos, Texas 78666. 512.805.3000 or 512.805.7739 fax. www.texasprep.us or info@texasprep.us.



ENROLL TODAY!

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An Early Educational Enhancement Program

Serving Students AGES
3 ½ TO 5.
Monday - Friday

	<u>Program Times</u>	<u>Monthly Activity Fee</u>
Morning Program:	7:30 am to 12:30 pm	\$250.00
Afternoon Program:	12:30 pm to 4:30 pm	\$250.00
Extended Care:	4:30 pm to 6:30 pm	\$ 50.00

For more information contact
Texas Preparatory School
400 Uhland Road #2
San Marcos, Texas 78666
512.805.3000 office
512.805.7739 fax
info@texasprep.us

Texas Preparatory School Learning is FUN!



Our History

For eight years the Texas Preparatory School has been in the forefront of the school choice movement throughout the South Central Texas communities.

The school actively seeks to enrich the lives of boys and girls that attend through a creative and unique education experience. We are dedicated to ensuring that our community's youth have choice in obtaining a quality education within the public school setting to enhance their lives and shape their future.

400 Uhland Road #2
San Marcos, TX 78666

Phone: 512-805-3000

Fax: 512-805-7739

Email: info@texasprep.us

Web: www.texasprep.us

A Free Open Enrollment School

Grades K- 6th

Our Mission

To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring responsible citizens.

Our Methods

TPS adopts the learning methodology of multi-aged grouping. Through this learning method students are allowed to advance as their readiness and potential allows, or remediate as needed. Multi-aged grouping allows students to work cooperatively with their peers that might be different ages and academic levels.

Core Courses include:

MATHEMATICS
READING
SCIENCE
SOCIAL STUDIES
WRITING

Elective Course include:

Primary Students (grades K-3)

ART
MUSIC

SCIENCE PROJECTS

Intermediate Students (grades 4-6)

CHEER
DANCE
PASSPORT TO MANHOOD
SMART GIRLS
SOCCER
CLUB CHALLENGE

Patrick Rose

For State Representative

Blanco Caldwell and Hays Counties

District 45

Meet Patrick

State Representative Patrick M. Rose represents Blanco, Caldwell and Hays Counties in Texas Legislature and is serving his third term. A leader known for his fierce independence, Rep. Rose has built a record of delivering results to the Texans he serves.

As Chair of the House Human Services Committee, Rep. Rose is holding hearings across the state to find ways to improve services for all Texans, from children in foster care to our aging population. He is also leading efforts to ensure that the Health and Human Services Commission takes the necessary steps to clean up Accenture's \$800 million privatization debacle and protect Texas taxpayers. During the last session, Rep. Rose led efforts in the House to restore budget cuts to the Children's Health Insurance Program. Expanding the number of working families that can participate in the program and increasing the number of insured children saves taxpayers money by decreasing the reliance on emergency rooms as a way to access healthcare. That is why business leaders and medical professionals both praise Rep. Rose's leadership.

In addition, Rep. Rose serves as a member of the House Higher Education Committee. Texas State University—San Marcos is the largest employer in House District 45 and an important asset for the Central Texas business community. Rep. Rose's service on this committee has helped Texas State make progress on many of its goals, most recently securing funding for a nursing program. As the author of the "Rose Amendment," legislation funding millions of dollars in merit-based scholarships, Rep. Rose believes that the state needs to find more ways to help middle class students and make college more affordable.

During the 80th Legislature, Rep. Rose passed over 25 bills including legislation to promote Texas' manufacturing industry, to protect Texas seniors, and landmark legislation creating the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas that will invest \$3 billion in cancer research and prevention over ten years.

Rep. Patrick Rose is an attorney with the Ratliff Law Firm in Austin, TX and is a licensed realtor. A native Texan, Rep. Rose lives in his hometown of Dripping Springs and is a lifelong member of Dripping Springs United Methodist Church.

2008 Reelection Campaign Endorsements

- Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas (CLEAT)
- Texas Hospital Association
- National Federation of Independent Business, Texas
- National Rifle Association
- Texas State Rifle Association, A+ Rating
- Texas State Teachers Association
- Texas Municipal Police Association (TMPA)
- Lone Star Chapter, Sierra Club

Awards & Honors

Rep. Rose efforts during the 80th Legislature have been recognized by:

- 2008 Austin Business Journal — "Health Care Hero Award"
- 2008 Texans Care for Children — "Phil Strickland Child Advocate Award"
- 2008 The Susan G. Komen for the Cure — "Legislative Champion of the Year"
- 2008 Texas Association of Business — "Fighter for Free Enterprise"



***I respectfully
ask for your
vote on
November
4th, 2008***

UFW Members from the Valley Going to Colorado to help Obama

by Steve Taylor
Rio Grande Guardian

Seven members of the **United Farm Workers** union in the **Rio Grande Valley** traveled to **Colorado** to help **Barack Obama's** presidential campaign. The seven, all women, trying to convince Hispanic voters that **Democrat Obama** would make a better president than **Republican John McCain**. "We

want to reach out to the Spanish-speaking community in **Colorado** and tell him why they should vote for **Barack Obama**. This election is so important and **Barack Obama** can bring about the change we desperately need," said **Cristela Gonzalez** of **Edinburg**, speaking in Spanish.

Gonzalez has not been to **Colorado** before, and neither has her **UFW** colleague, **Maria Gomez**, of **Pharr**. "We are excited about going to **Colorado**. It is probably going to be colder than **South Texas** but we are looking forward to going," **Gomez** said. "We have to tell the migrants why this election is important. We need to talk about the important issues, like repairing the economy, passing comprehensive immigration reform, the need for universal health care, and better public education."

The **Obama** campaign has reached out to the Valley residents because they are fluent in Spanish and because they are experienced community organizers. **Gomez**, in particular, has a lot of experience working on city and county election campaigns in the Valley. Most were migrant farm workers in their youth and traveled the United States in search of seasonal work.

In 2004, **President Bush** narrowly defeated **John Kerry** in **Colorado**. Recent opinion polls show **Obama** with a slight lead over **McCain** in the key battleground state.

Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, **McCain's** pick for vice president, was in three Republican strongholds in **Colorado** on Monday to ignite GOP get-out-the-vote efforts. The Hispanic population in **Colorado** is growing

Quinnipiac University/Wall Street Journal poll, released in late September, showed Hispanic support for **Obama** in **Colorado** at 68 percent, with support for **McCain** at



ABOVE: From left to right they are: Edna Morin, Cristela Gonzalez, Maria Gomez and Veronica Villarreal. I have also attached individual photos of Cristela and Maria.

fast. In the 2004 presidential election about 204,000 **Colorado** Hispanics were registered to vote, and 165,000 actually cast ballots.

In 2006, the respective numbers had jumped to 228,000 and 158,000. According to the **William C. Velasquez Institute**, a nonpartisan think tank, **Obama** and **McCain** would be in a statistical tie in **Colorado** if Hispanic voters were not included. With Hispanics factored in, the **Velasquez Institute** says **Obama** is heavily favored to win the battleground states of **Colorado**, **New Mexico** and **Nevada**. A

26 percent.

The timing of the visit could not have been better for the seven Valley residents, given that they back **Obama**. The Democratic Party is holding rallies in seven **Colorado** cities - **Denver**, **Colorado Springs**, **Fort Collins**, **Pueblo**, **Commerce City**, **Aurora** and **Longmont** - as part of an initiative called **Viva el Voto!** "If Latinos get out there and vote and vote early for this ticket, our voice will resonate," **Denise Maes**, chairwoman of the **Denver Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**, said at a news conference. **New Mexico**

Gov. Bill Richardson and **California Democratic congressmen Xavier Becerra** and **Joe Baca** will be among the **Obama** surrogates at the rallies.

The **UFW**, which was founded in 1962 by **Cesar E. Chavez** and **Dolores Huerta**, endorsed **Obama** for president in June. "Throughout his career, beginning as a community organizer to his present position as Senator, **Barack Obama** has shared the values of the **United Farm Workers**," said **UFW President Arturo Rodriguez**, at the time of the endorsement.

"He understands the tremendous role played by our country's farm workers in helping to feed our nation. **Sen. Obama** stands firm in his conviction for comprehensive immigration reform. He has been a strong supporter of the **UFW**-sponsored **AgJOBS** - legislation that would help stabilize our nation's agricultural workforce." **Rodriguez** said that as president, **Obama** would continue to "hold fast to his convictions by signing comprehensive immigration reform, increasing the minimum wage and making sure every American has affordable and quality health care. The **United Farm Workers** will do everything in our power to make sure **Barack Obama** reaches the **White House** this fall, because we know he will be a voice for all working Americans."

The **Denver Post** on Monday cited a **CNN** story about unnamed **McCain** strategists and advisers saying the prospect of the **GOP** winning **Colorado** was bleak. **CNN** reported that the **Obama** campaign was in a better position to get out the vote in **Colorado**. **McCain's** regional spokesman **Tom Kise** says the **CNN** story is not true and that "pulling back in **Colorado** is not on the table."

Hispanic Scholarship Fund



Visit their website for
information about
scholarships.

www.hsf.net

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I will work independently to represent our local hill country interests, Create legislation to enable local county commissioners to save us from quarries, lighted billboards and unplanned development.

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- People deserve a voice before tolling existing roads.
- NO to Trans Texas Corridor and foreign control.
- Stabilize property taxes, support education and offer course testing.
- NO more TEKS testing.

Please help me work to save the Hill Country of Texas – and Please vote.

There is much to be done. I will independently represent the interests of the people.

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Celebrating the Day of the Dead

In many places of the Southwest, people of Mexican descent still observe and celebrate a unique Mexican Holiday called "El Dia de los Muertos" or the Day of the Dead.

This is a custom, that many native people in Mexico still observed. Before the Spaniards came and is a holiday that takes place in the fall. The native people believed that in that day the spirits of family members who have died are allowed to return from their afterlife to visit the family. Although they cannot be seen nor heard, they will take comfort in knowing they are remembered.

In order to celebrate the holiday, an ALTAR is made in the home. The altar is made from tables and boxes in the shape of a pyramid and decorated with a tablecloth. Traditional items, food and articles which belonged to the person who died. People often decorate their altar with paper cutouts called "Papel Picado," candles, skeleton toys and sugar candies made in the shape of skulls. Fresh fruits and vegetables, favorite foods and something to drink are also left overnight on the altar.

The belief is that those who have died visit in the evening of November 1st. The family prays and burns candles to "light the way for the spirit". It is said that tears will only make the spirit's path slippery. The next day, "El Dia de los Muertos" the family and relatives come together for a meal. After the holiday is over the altar is taken down. In some towns in

Mexico, the family goes to the cemetery and celebrates the holiday at the graveside.

Besides the serious side of "El Dia de los Muertos" there are many humorous customs. This is very much a holiday for children.



The markets in Mexico have many toys for children made of wood in the form of skeletons which dance and do tricks. There are also candies in the form of sugar skulls, with names written across their foreheads, that children buy to give their friends, similar to our custom of chocolate – covered Easter eggs or candy hearts.

This holiday takes place just a day after Halloween and at first seems to be like Halloween with all the skeleton images. But it is not scary like Halloween. Children do not dress up in costumes, and the skeletons are more like clowns. "El dia de los Muertos" is a time to remember that death is real and will come to everyone.

Celebrando el Día de Los Muertos

En muchos lugares del Sureste de los Estados Unidos, la gente de descendencia Mexicana aún observan un día de fiesta muy original llamado "El día de los Muertos."

Esta es una costumbre que la gente nativa de Mexico observaba

colorean frutas, legumbres y algo para tomar y se dejan toda la noche sobre el altar.

Se cree que esos que han muerto visitaran la noche del primero de Noviembre. La familia reza y prenden velas para alumbrar la senda del espiritu. También se dice que lagrimas so lo sirven para hacer el camino resvaloso. Al siguiente día, "El día de los Muertos" todos los familiares se juntan para una comida. Cuando ya pasa este día, se quita el altar. En algunos pueblos de Mexico, la familia va la cementerio y celebra wste día junto a las tumbas.

Aparte del aspecto serio de "El Dia de los Muertos, hay muchas costumbres comicas. Este es un día de fiesta para niños. Los mercados en Mexico venden juguetes hechos de madera en forma de esqueletos

antes que llegaron los Españoles y es un día de fiesta que se festeja en el Otoño. La gente indigena tenia la creencia que en este día los espiritos de los miembros de familia ya fallecidos se les permitia regresar del más allá para visitar a sus familiares. Aunque no se pueden ver ni oír, se conforman al saber que son recordados.

Para celebrar este día, se hace un altar en la casa. El altar se construye con mesas y cajas en forma de un piramide y se decora con un mantel, articulos tradicionales, comida y en efecto que pertenecían a la persona fallecida. También se decora el altar con papel picado, velas, juguetes con forma de esqueletos y dulces hechos en forma de calaveras. Se

hechos de madera que bailan y hacen chistes. Se venden dulces en forma de calaveras de azucar, con nombres escritos en la frentey los compran y se los regalan a sus amigitos. Una tradición parecida a la nuestra de regalar dulces de chocolate en forma de huevos de la coneja a dulces en forma de corazón

Este día festivo se lleva acabo un día después de Halloween y al principio parece que es Halloween con todas las imagenes de los esqueletos. Pero este día no es un día de espantos como Halloween. Los niños no se visten con trajes y disfraces y los esqueletos se parecen más a los payasos. "El Día de los Muertos" nos recuerda que a todos nos llegara el día de nuestra muerte.

NCLR CHALLENGES DISTORTIONS MADE ABOUT MINORITY COMMUNITIES

Washington, DC—Janet Murguía, President and CEO of the **National Council of La Raza** (NCLR), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States, expressed grave concern about the atmosphere of attacks and distortions on cable television and other media that have focused negative attention on low-income and minority communities. Pundits and others have blamed these groups for the financial crisis and accused them of subverting the political process. **Murguía** noted that these attacks, broadly aimed at low-income communities and communities of color, encourage division and discord at a time when Americans should be coming together to address our nation's concerns.

Since January, **NCLR** has shined the spotlight on organizations and media outlets that demonize immigrants and minorities. Through its website, www.WeCanStopTheHate.org, **NCLR** has documented the proliferation of hate groups and the extent to which they appear as "experts" in the media on issues like immigration.

"We will not stand by while outright distortions dominate the airwaves," said Murguía. "These falsehoods foster fear of minority communities and attempt to scapegoat them for our nation's financial crisis and other problems."

Murguía noted that for several weeks, pundits and others have made outrageous arguments that mortgage loans to minorities pursuant to the Community Reinvestment Act caused the financial crisis. Since then, respected economists have refuted this claim convincingly.

Recently, the **Social Contract Press**, an organization with well-documented ties to white supremacists and a long history of publishing white supremacist works, released a study alleging that large numbers of immigrants have improperly registered to vote. Attorney generals from several states have looked into this claim and found no truth to the allegation. *"It is a sad day when some try to taint the intentions of a new generation of eligible voters at a time when there is an unprecedented level of enthusiasm for the political process," she added. "Everyone who is eligible to vote should register and participate in this historic election. We cannot tolerate voter suppression and intimidation."*

NCLR LANZA SU SITIO WEB "WE CAN STOP THE HATE"

Washington, DC—El Consejo Nacional de la Raza (NCLR por sus siglas en inglés) develó hoy un sitio web que documenta cómo los grupos extremistas y de odio en los Estados Unidos se han energizado con el debate migratorio y cómo la creciente intolerancia de parte de éstos ha aumentado la incidencia de crímenes por odio en contra de los latinos. El sitio titulado www.WeCanStopTheHate.org, compagina y analiza las acciones y afirmaciones de odio por grupos, portavoces, y miembros de los medios que apoyan el movimiento antiinmigrante.

"Dada la realidad de que docenas de comentaristas radiales y organizaciones antiinmigrantes han venido a vociferar sus mensajes de odio al Capitolio esta semana, es sumamente importante que el público tenga acceso a los mensajes y las plataformas que ellos patrocinan para que podamos combatirlos", denotó Janet Murguía, presidenta de NCLR. "Independientemente de cuál sea la opinión de cada cual acerca del debate migratorio, es claro que un debate matizado por el odio es inaceptable".

El sitio se lanzó originalmente en enero de este año, y ha sido rediseñado para facilitar la navegación de los usuarios de manera que éstos puedan obtener boletines y mantenerse al tanto de lo que acontece respecto a este tema. Los visitantes pueden acceder una extensa videoteca con enlaces a testimonios de portavoces a favor y en contra del debate migratorio. Además hay un glosario con las palabras "código" que usan los comentaristas en los medios de comunicación para perpetuar el odio y un sin número de páginas de datos. Una sección titulada, "The Latest", publicará los incidentes más recientes del uso de odio en los medios y cualquier acto de odio que se perpetúe por políticos o comentaristas.

El sitio se puede acceder en: www.WeCanStopTheHate.org.

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 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 Hays County**.

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

Joe	Jose
Plumber	Plomero
worried	preocupado
about more taxes	sobre más impuestos
bald man	viejo pelon
not too old	no muy viejo
speaking on TV	hablando en TV
no license	no licencia
owes taxes	debe impuestos
new hero to some	nuevo hero para unos
symbolizes who	simboliza quein
this election is almost	este elección es casi
time to get some rest	tiempo para descansar
see you next year	nos vemos el año que entra

Su Voto Es Su Voz





VOTE DEMOCRAT!

The Hays County Democratic Party invites you to attend a
Vote for Change RALLY at the **San Marcos River Park Stage**
 (corner of Hopkins & CM Allen Parkway)

November 1st from 10am to 2pm

We will have music, free food & drinks, candidates, vendors & FUN!
 Free and Open to the Public!

We also invite all Democrats to join us on

November 4th

Election Day Watch Block Party

beginning at 7pm and ending when we find out the election results!

Volunteers & supporters can begin congregating in San Marcos at the Café on the Square, 126 N. LBJ Drive, Green Parrot back room at 124 N. LBJ Drive, or the The Wine Cellar, 202 N. LBJ Drive. Refreshments served. Cash Bar.

For more information please call (512) 392-4775 or log on to
www.haysdems.org. Se Habla Espanol.



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