

Brazoria, Comal. Guadalupe, Hays, Travis, Uvalde, Zavala

# La VOZ Newspaper

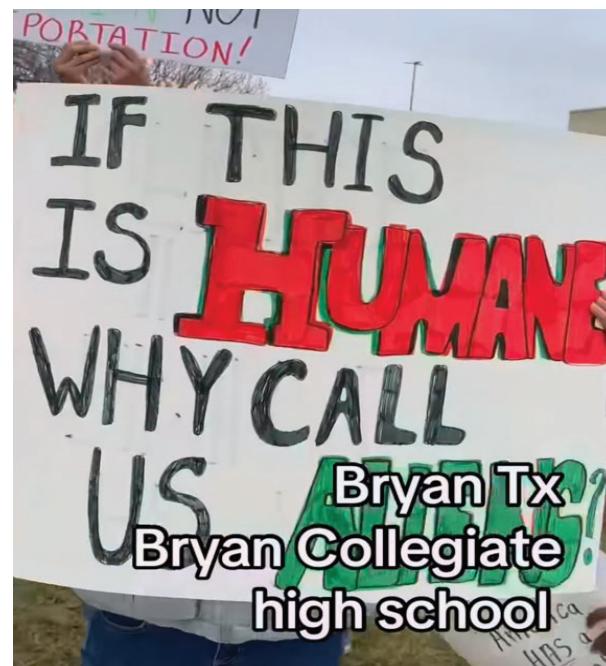
FREE/Gratis

February, 2026 Volume # 21 Number # 2

## Student Walkouts From Around the USA



Hispanos unidos jamá  
seremos vencidos  
odos juntos por nuestr  
comunidad hispana



Gov. Greg Abbott warned of  
consequences for school-day  
protests

# Mexican American Heritage Day - Feb. 2nd



**ABOVE from left to right:** Some of the committee members who were present for the City of Austin proclamation: Olivia Tamzarian, Maria Unda, Austin City Council Member Krista Laine, Mini Wilson, Austin City Council Member Natasha Harper-Madison, Martha Cotera, Dr. Angela Valenzuela, Austin City Council member Vanessa Fuentes, Dr. Emilio Zamora, Gavino Fernandez, Jr., Austin City Council Member Ryan Atler and long time community activist Linda del Toro

The **Mexican American Heritage Day Association** proudly designates February 2nd as **Mexican American Heritage Day**.

On February 2, 2026, starting at 8 a.m. PST, we will have a full day inaugural celebration that honors the depth, resilience, and vibrancy of Mexican American heritage, an identity rooted in centuries of presence in this country.

February 2 holds profound meaning for our community. On February 2, 1848, the **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo** was signed, formally ending the **U.S.-Mexico War** and redefining the borders of both nations. With that treaty, the people living in the newly annexed territories—our ancestors—became the first generation of what we now call **Mexican Americans**. The Treaty promised protections for our land,

culture, and language. Those promises were not upheld. Yet despite displacement, discrimination, and generations of struggle, we have flourished.

Today, **Mexican Americans** are woven into the fabric of the **United States**. Our communities stretch across the nation, and in many states, we are the dominant cultural presence—shaping art, labor, education,

cuisine, music, and public life. On dos dos, we recognize not only our survival, but our contributions, our creativity, and our ongoing commitment to justice and cultural pride.

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For more information on **Mexican American Heritage Day** contact **Ruben Barrera** at 512-512-554-3025

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# Pensamientos

Bienvenidos otra vez a **La Voz newspaper**. As you see from the cover collage, we have been following the student walkouts that have been taking place all across the country. For me, the walkouts are a bit personal because I participated in one when I was a student at **Uvalde High School** in 1970. En aquel entonces, I was 17 years old. Today I am 73 years old.

Like the students today, we didn't know all the particulars of our walkout in **Uvalde, Texas**. We knew the basics of why we had walked out but most of us were not able to articulate the particulars. But like the students of today, we felt in our hearts that walking out was the right thing to do at the time.

From what I have seen thus far, it appears that these walkouts are going to grow in size. The idea of masked men stopping ones parents and taking them away is extremely painful and people will not just stand by silently.

For those of us who have had the opportunity to study history and learn about what was done to the Jewish community before and during World War II, realize that those same tactics have now reached the United States. And so the question becomes, what will it take for each and everyone of us to act?

### Cambiando de temas

As you know, March 3rd is election day. We have already seen a big surprise in a special election up in the Dallas area. Hopefully we will see more surprises around the state. What you and I do not want is a surprise knock on the front door at 2:00 in the morning by people claiming to be with the government. Porque by then it will be too late.

# EDITORIAL



**Alfredo Santos c/s  
Editor & Publisher**

This photo was taken in 1980 in **Houston, Texas** when I was a school teacher at **Resurrection Catholic School** in **Denver Harbor**. I was all of 28 years old.



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**American Catholic Church**  
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**Compassionate**  
**CATHOLIC community**

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 M.A., M.B.A., M.Div., M.S., Ph.D  
 Senior Pastor



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 10:00 a.m. Breakfast in the Parish Hall  
 10:30 a.m. English Mass in the Chapel  
 12:00 p.m. Misa en español en la iglesia

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 Welcome Home!

**Caldwell County Democratic  
 Party Announces New Leadership**

Caldwell County, Texas —The Caldwell County Democratic Party announces that County Chair **Alfredo Munoz** is retiring and stepping down after holding the position since 2019. In his place, the **CCDP** county executive committee has unanimously voted to elect **Kaily Stewart** as the new chair.

*"It was an honor to serve the Caldwell County Democrats for 6 years as party chair," said **Alfredo Munoz**. "With **Kaily Stewart** stepping up to lead, I am excited and confident in passing the torch to the next generation."*



**Kaily Stewart**

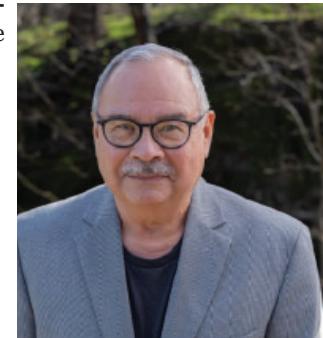
Under **Alfredo's** leadership, **Caldwell County Democrats** experienced record growth in fundraising, candidate and precinct

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# Arturo Garza Alonzo Se nos Fue

**Arturo Alonzo** entered his heavenly home on December 24, 2025, at the age of 96. He was born in **Muzquiz, Coahuila, Mexico** on March 26, 1929, to **Juan Hidalgo Alonzo** and **Socorro Garza**. He married **Concepcion Moreno** on May 26, 1948. **Arturo** and **Concha** were married 63 years.

**Arturo** is survived by sons **Arturo Alonzo (Janie)** from **Austin**, **Juan Alonzo (Bessie)** from **Raymore, Missouri**, daughters **Concha Resma (Alejandro)** from **Uvalde**, **Socorro Hughes** from **Uvalde**, **Gloria Harris (George)** from **Hillsboro, TX** and **Dora Cardenas (Leopoldo)** from **Uvalde**. Additional survivors include 15 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren, 4 great-great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, **Concha M. Alonzo**, son, **Lupe Alonzo**, parents, son-in-law **Henry J. Hughes**, daughter-in-law **Donna Alonzo Vaughn**, two sisters and four brothers.

**Arturo** spent the first 19 years of his life in **Mexico**. While there was no access to education, the lessons taught by his parents proved to be invaluable throughout life. His parents instilled in him and his siblings a great faith in God, love of family, the value of hard work and honesty.

In 1948, at the age of 19, **Arturo** immigrated to the **United States**. He worked briefly at a ranch near **Ozona** in west **Texas** as then worked for the next 11 years for **Bob Ingram** at a ranch west of **Uvalde**. It was with the assistance of **Mr. Ingram** that **Arturo** was able to bring his young wife, **Concha**, and three children to **Uvalde**. In 1960 **Arturo** found employment at **Mirasol Ranch**. At this time the family

had grown to six children and the youngest was born the following year.

It was at **Mirasol Ranch** that **Arturo** was first introduced to the **Santa Gertrudes** breed of cattle. It was also at **Mirasol** that **Arturo** would become a Master showman and a renowned breeder of purebred **Santa Gertrudis**. It was not uncommon for his colleagues in the cattle industry to use the word "legendary" when talking about **Arturo** and his vast knowledge of the cattle industry. Though **Arturo** never sought the spotlight nor any accolades, he gained a reputation that many claimed was unparalleled.

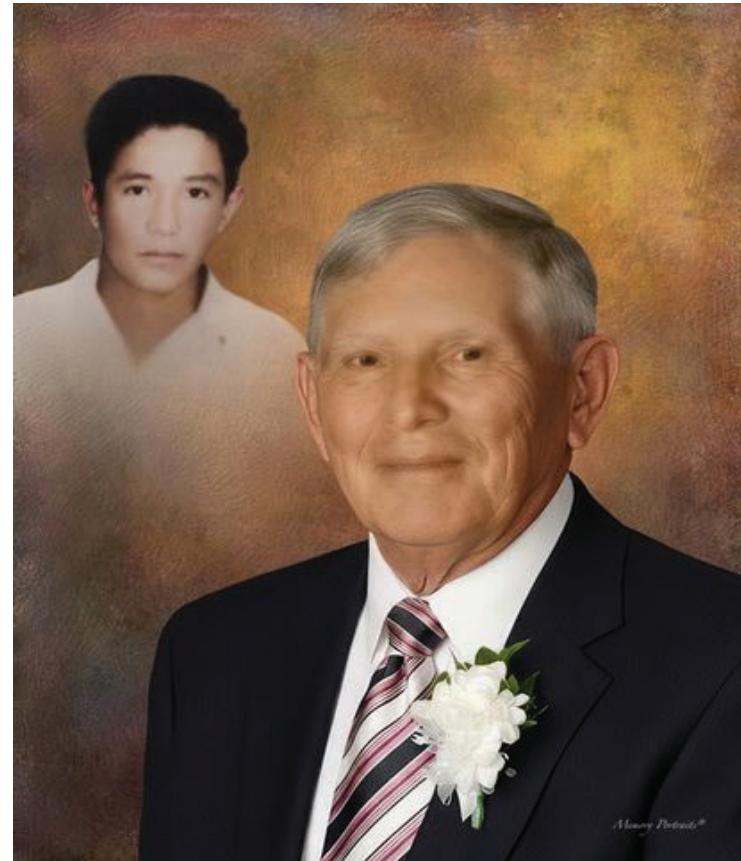
In 1973, **Mr. C. A. McDaniel**, owner of the **Mirasol Ranch**, sold the herd to **B.K. Johnson**, owner of the **Chaparrosa Ranches**. The story is that **Mr. Johnson** insisted that **Arturo** come with the sale of the herd or there would be no deal. He worked at the **Chaparrosa Ranch** for approximately 20 years as ranch manager, overseeing the cattle operation. After the ranch was sold in 1992, **Arturo** went to work at the **Texas A&M Ag Research Center** where he served as a groundskeeper. He retired in 2007 after 15 years of service.

Though **Arturo** was recognized and honored by many organizations for his exceptional skills and vast knowledge in the cattle industry, it was his family that was his greatest source of pride. His family was his most enduring legacy. He and **Concha** made it a priority to be present for every milestone in the lives of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They traveled

miles to attend parties, school events, graduations and weddings. He carried a playful side that came alive with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He often shared his deep love and trust in God with his children and at times he led by example, as when he would sit in prayer with his Bible. **Arturo** and **Concha** were active in their parish, particularly the **Holy Name Society**, as Mass greeters, and bible study group. He was also an outstanding mass lector and was often seen visiting his homebound friends or those in nursing homes until he could no longer drive.

**Arturo** epitomized the meaning of a true gentleman. Though he would describe himself as a "ordinary south Texas vaquero," he will be remembered for his incredible faith in God's goodness, humble service, outgoing personality, endearing smile and



**Papi/ Buelo....** Rest now peacefully in the arms of our Lord and in the presence of all His angles and saints. Well done our good and faithful servant.

The family wishes to express its appreciation to **Dr. Sameta Sosa** and the staff at **Uvalde Hospice** and to caregivers **Dolores Banda, Carol DeLeon** and **Cindy Luna** for their kind support and loving care.



# Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

Emilio Zamora, Emeritus Professor

On February 2, 1848, representatives of the Mexican and U.S. governments met in the town of **Dolores Hidalgo**, within **Mexico City**, to sign the **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo**.

The international agreement ended the 22month war of aggression against **Mexico**, which had begun soon after the **United States** annexed **Texas** in 1845. The treaty was concluded despite **Mexico's** earlier protests that the **United States** had unjustly invaded its territory in 1846 and its assertions that both the declaration of **Texas** independence (1836) and the act of an-

nexion (1845) violated international law and **Mexico's** sovereign rights.

After **Mexico's** military defeat and while still under U.S. military occupation, Mexican officials agreed to cede more than half of their nation's territory, including the present day states of **California, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico**, most of **Arizona** and **Colorado**, and parts of **Oklahoma, Kansas, and Wyoming**.

**Mexico** also relinquished its claims to **Texas** and recognized the **Rio Grande** as the southern boundary with the **United**

**States**. In return, **Mexico** received fifteen million dollars for the 916,000squaremile cession, which included **Texas**.

“The treaty offered U.S. citizenship, along with land and cultural rights, to the approximately 80,000 Mexicans who remained in the annexed territory.

Historians agree that these rights were not upheld. Moreover, the treaty failed to extend lawful status to the untold number of Indigenous people who asserted membership in the Mexican communities with whom they lived and identified. In

fact, **Mexico** granted the **United States** the authority to ‘control’ their movement across the new international boundary, effectively ensuring that they continued to be subjected to campaigns of relocation and extermination.

Although the imposed Mexican-Indigenous division did not always correspond to everyday lived experience, it has often run as deep as the international border separating **Mexico** and the **United States**.

## Fascism, the New U.S. Reality

by Rogelio Sáenz

Many Americans use the term fascism to describe nations headed by rogue dictators. Never here! But, one year into **Donald Trump's** second term as president, that comfort no longer exists.

What once seemed unthinkable is now clearly visible: a U.S. presidency that has drifted away from constitutional limits, the rule of law, and democratic principles.

From the start of his second term, **Trump** has acted as if legal rules no longer matter. At the outset, [he pardoned approximately 1,600 January 6, 2021 rioters](#). **Trump** also began a massive deportation operation. [The latest numbers](#): 353,000 arrests, 69,000 currently in detention, and over 352,000 deported.

At the same time, **Trump** has obscured the boundary between holding public office and private gain. His family and political allies have openly benefited from ventures in cryptocurrency, real estate, and artificial intelligence, without oversight or regard for conflicts of interest. The **New York Times** estimates that [Trump has pocketed \\$1.4 billion](#) from a wide variety of business ventures since taking office last year.

More troubling is the pattern of behavior. **Trump** has repeatedly disobeyed court or-

ders, publicly criticized judges, and retaliated against political opponents and critics. Prestigious law firms and universities have faced intense political pressure replete with heavy financial penalties and heavy-handed concessions.

Abroad, **Trump** has used tariffs as blunt tools, threatened or antagonized allies, and ordered killings of suspected drug carriers on **Venezuelan** shores. At home, he has treated the presidency less as a constitutional office and more as a personal instrument of power and branding.

While 2026 is still in its infancy, **Trump's** lawlessness has accelerated. He has already unilaterally invaded **Venezuela**, threatened various countries, defended lethal actions that took the life of **Renee Nicole Good**, a 37-year-old woman, and more recently that of **Alexi Petti**, a 37-year-old man, at the hands of federal immigration agents during protests in **Minneapolis** with **Trump** sheltering the killers from prosecution, and opened an investigation of **Jerome H. Powell**, chair of the **Federal Reserve**. These exploits reflect a governing philosophy rooted in domination rather than democratic consent.

The most sobering reality is that the traditional checks on presidential power are be-

coming less effective. Congress has shown little desire for confrontation. The courts, shaped by **Trump's** judicial appointments, regularly side with him. An analysis demonstrated that [Trump-appointed appellate judges, who he refers to as “my judges,” have supported him 92% of the time](#).

Still, cracks are starting to show. Several GOP lawmakers have stood up to **Trump**. Some of his supporters are also expressing dissatisfaction, especially about economic pressures and rising living costs. [Latino voters who supported Trump in 2024](#) have strayed from him in recent elections. Business leaders are growing more uneasy about labor shortages and economic instability linked to mass deportations. [Four polls in early January 2026](#) show increasing levels of voter disapproval of **Trump** with approval ratings ranging from 36% to 44%.

The upcoming midterm elections are a crucial test. **Trump** recognizes this, which is why he has already begun to [influence the electoral landscape](#). Unusual mid-decade redistricting, pressure on election officials, and early claims of voter fraud all indicate a familiar tactic: discredit the elections unless the results favor him.

The U.S. has entered perilous territory. In

a span of a year, **Trump** has eroded democratic standards and normalized authoritarian behavior. The months ahead will decide whether Democrats can build an effective platform beyond that they are not **Trump**; they must provide a compelling vision that tackles economic insecurity, institutional reform, and democratic renewal.

The longer-term challenge is even more serious. Around the world, fascist leaders have extended their control by manipulating laws, courts, and elections. **Trump** has already tried this five years ago and will certainly do it again when his term ends.

Democracy slowly erodes, then suddenly it is a distant memory. The damage that the U.S. has already sustained will decades to repair. Whether that process can start now depends on the willingness of citizens, institutions, and political leaders to recognize what is happening and to act before the erosion becomes irreversible.

**Rogelio Sáenz** is Professor of sociology and demography at the **University of Texas at San Antonio**. This essay reflects his own opinions and not those of **UT San Antonio**.

## Texas State University's New Program Helps 'LIFT' Small Business Growth

**AUSTIN, Texas** – More than 300 small business leaders recently completed **Texas State University's Learning and Insights for Forward Traction (LIFT)** accelerator, a six-week program designed to strengthen marketing skills and help small businesses grow.

**LIFT** was developed by **Texas State's Sustainable Cultivation and Advancement of Local Enterprises with University Partnerships (SCALEUP)** initiative and delivered in collaboration with the **Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce (TAMACC)** and other community partners.

Small businesses are a driver of the economy. “*The economic strength of Texas and other states depends on small businesses having practical tools they can use now,*” said **Pauline E. Anton**, President and CEO of **TAMACC**. “*Through our statewide chamber network, TAMACC shares resources, like the LIFT program, with entrepreneurs across Texas to advance their businesses and enhance economic prosperity.*”

**SCALEUP** developed **LIFT** by pairing research with applied training. “*SCALEUP conducts research to better understand the challenges small businesses face when growing. Then, we use those insights to develop practical tools small business leaders can use,*” said **Dr. Josh Daspit**, director of **SCALEUP** and associate professor at **Texas State University**.

To broaden access, **SCALEUP** and its partners attracted more than 3,000 applicants. The first **LIFT** cohort included over 350 business owners, most based in **Texas** (82%), with 24 additional states also represented. Participants advanced from foundational marketing principles to topics such as platform analytics, content strategy, and goal setting.

“*LIFT helped me realize that your brand is more than a logo. It's what customers feel,*” said **Rebecca Acosta-Ojeda**, owner of **Salon One 12** in **Buda, Texas**. Participants also had access to an AI Business Coach trained to address growth-related challenges with guidance tailored to each participant's business and goals.

“*When business owners have practical tools to improve customer access, they're better positioned to grow revenue, create jobs, and stabilize local economies,*” said **Dr. Marlene Orozco**, **LIFT** program lead and **SCALEUP** research fellow.

**LIFT** was developed with financial support from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. Future opportunities are currently being planned. To receive updates on upcoming programs, visit <https://scaleup.txst.edu/>.

### About TAMACC

Founded in 1975, the **Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce (TAMACC)** is a statewide nonprofit business organization that promotes business leadership, creates economic opportunity, and provides legislative advocacy for the Hispanic business community in **Texas** through its statewide network and convening power.

### About Texas State University's SCALEUP Initiative

**SCALEUP** (Sustainable Cultivation and Advancement of Local Enterprises with University Partnerships) is an initiative of Texas State University. Through research, partnerships, and evidence-based programming, the aim of **SCALEUP** is to help small businesses grow. Learn more at <https://scaleup.txst.edu/>.



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**FERNANDEZ JR.**

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Austin Tejano Democrate, Hon. Gina Hinojosa, Hon Celia Israel  
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POL, AD, PD, BY Doug Greco Campaign

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March 3rd. Take a Friend  
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**Laurie EISERLOH**

**FOR DISTRICT JUDGE**

Paid political announcement by the candidate

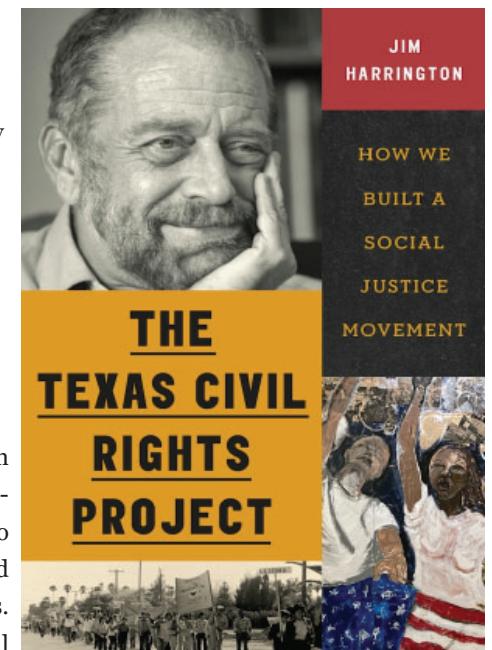
## The Texas Civil Rights Project

by Jim Harrington

The Texas Civil Rights Project by Jim Harrington offers a compelling and deeply personal account of one lawyer's decades-long fight for justice in one of the most politically and socially complex states in the country.

As the founder of the Texas Civil Rights Project (TCRP), Harrington reflects on his journey as a civil rights attorney, highlighting the legal battles, social movements, and ethical challenges that shaped both his career and the organization he helped build.

The book traces the origins and evolution of TCRP, a nonprofit legal advocacy organization that Harrington founded in 1990 to provide legal representation for marginalized individuals and communities across Texas. Rooted in principles of human dignity, social justice, and grassroots empowerment, the Project took on cases involving police brutality, immigrant rights, disability access, voting rights, free speech, and institutional discrimination. Throughout the book, Harrington provides behind-the-scenes insight into many of these cases, showing how legal advocacy can be a powerful tool for systemic change.



*"The Texas Civil Rights Project makes you feel you are there, with Jim, reliving the experiences, learning as he was, and gaining the motivation to follow his footsteps into activism. Jim's life story gives us so many examples of faith in action and belief in one's own power. This book is an inspiration and a blueprint for all who believe in justice." ~Dolores Huerta*

At the heart of the book is a call to action: that the fight for civil rights is not over, and that every generation must carry forward the torch of justice. Harrington challenges readers to get involved—whether through advocacy, community organizing, voting, or simply by standing in solidarity with those whose voices are often silenced.

The Texas Civil Rights Project is a timely and inspiring read for lawyers, activists, students, and anyone interested in the intersection of law and social change. It offers both a sobering look at the realities of injustice and an uplifting reminder that committed individuals can make a lasting difference—even in the face of great resistance.

**\$29.95**

**The Texas Civil Rights Project**  
How We Built a Social Justice Movement  
by Jim Harrington

328 Pages, 6.00 x 9.00 x 1.40 in, 21 b&w photos

<https://utpress.utexas.edu/9781477332344/>

**This week for Black History Month, I celebrate trailblazers whose courage, vision, and determination shaped history and continue to inspire me today.**

### **Malcolm X**

**Malcolm X** fought for freedom and justice, challenging systemic racism at every turn. He encouraged Black Americans to demand their rights boldly and unapologetically. His leadership reshaped the civil rights debate and inspired generations to stand strong against oppression.

### **Thurgood Marshall**

**Thurgood Marshall** won the landmark **Brown v. Board of Education** case, ending legal segregation in schools. He became the first **Black Supreme Court Justice**, breaking barriers at the highest levels of law. His work ensured that equality under the law became a real and enforceable standard for all Americans.

### **John Lewis**

**John Lewis** dedicated his life to protecting voting rights and democracy. As a **Freedom Rider** and civil rights leader, he risked his life to challenge injustice. His courage helped millions of Black Americans have a voice in shaping the future of the country.

### **Carter G. Woodson**

**Carter G. Woodson** founded what became **Black History Month** to ensure Black achievements were recognized and preserved. He believed understanding history was key to empowerment and equality. His work laid the foundation for generations to honor and study Black history.

### **W.E.B. Du Bois**

**W.E.B. Du Bois** was a scholar, activist, and co-founder of the **NAACP**. He used intellect and scholarship to challenge racial injustice throughout his life. As the first Black Ph.D. from **Harvard**, he showed that knowledge and truth are powerful tools for change.

### **Shirley Chisholm**

**Shirley Chisholm** became the first Black woman elected to **Congress**. She later ran for president, proving that Black women could lead at the highest levels of government. Her courage opened doors and changed the political landscape forever.

### **Bessie Coleman**

**Bessie Coleman** became the first Black woman pilot in history. She earned her international license despite racial and gender barriers. Her achievements continue to inspire generations of Black women and girls to reach for the skies.

### **Dr. Charles Drew**

**Dr. Charles Drew** revolutionized blood banking, saving countless lives during **World War II** and beyond. His medical innovations made blood storage safer and more efficient. He also paved the way for Black professionals in medicine to gain recognition and respect.

Their legacies remind me that Black history is not just for February—it's a story of strength, achievement, and change that deserves to be honored every single day.

**Esta semana, con motivo del Mes de la Historia Negra, celebro a los pioneros cuyo coraje, visión y determinación forjaron la historia y continúan inspirándome hoy.**

### **Malcolm X**

**Malcolm X** luchó por la libertad y la justicia, desafiando el racismo sistemático en cada oportunidad. Animó a los afroamericanos a exigir sus derechos con valentía y sin disculpas. Su liderazgo transformó el debate sobre los derechos civiles e inspiró a generaciones a mantenerse firmes contra la opresión.

### **Thurgood Marshall**

**Thurgood Marshall** ganó el histórico caso **Brown contra la Junta de Educación**, poniendo fin a la segregación legal en las escuelas. Se convirtió en el primer juez afroamericano de la **Corte Suprema**, rompiendo barreras en los niveles más altos del sistema judicial. Su trabajo garantizó que la igualdad ante la ley se convirtiera en un estándar real y aplicable para todos los estadounidenses.

### **John Lewis**

**John Lewis** dedicó su vida a proteger el derecho al voto y la democracia. Como activista de los **Freedom Riders** y líder de los derechos civiles, arriesgó su vida para luchar contra la injusticia. Su valentía ayudó a millones de afroamericanos a tener voz en la configuración del futuro del país.

### **Carter G. Woodson**

**Carter G. Woodson** fundó lo que se convertiría en el **Mes de la Historia Negra** para garantizar que los logros de la comunidad afroamericana fueran reconocidos y preservados. Creía que comprender la historia era clave para el empoderamiento y la igualdad. Su trabajo sentó las bases para que generaciones futuras honraran y estudiaran la historia afroamericana.

### **W.E.B. Du Bois**

**W.E.B. Du Bois** fue un erudito, activista y cofundador de la NAACP. Utilizó su intelecto y conocimientos para luchar contra la injusticia racial a lo largo de su vida. Como el primer afroamericano en obtener un doctorado de Harvard, demostró que el conocimiento y la verdad son herramientas poderosas para el cambio.

### **Shirley Chisholm**

**Shirley Chisholm** se convirtió en la primera mujer afroamericana elegida al **Congreso**. Posteriormente, se postuló a la presidencia, demostrando que las mujeres afroamericanas podían liderar en los niveles más altos del gobierno. Su valentía abrió puertas y cambió el panorama político para siempre.

### **Bessie Coleman**

**Bessie Coleman** se convirtió en la primera mujer piloto afroamericana de la historia. Obtuvo su licencia internacional a pesar de las barreras raciales y de género. Sus logros continúan inspirando a generaciones de mujeres y niñas afroamericanas a alcanzar sus sueños.

### **Dr. Charles Drew**

**El Dr. Charles Drew** revolucionó la transfusión de sangre, salvando innumerables vidas durante la **Segunda Guerra Mundial** y posteriormente. Sus innovaciones médicas hicieron que el almacenamiento de sangre fuera más seguro y eficiente. También allanó el camino para que los profesionales afroamericanos de la medicina obtuvieran reconocimiento y respeto.

Sus legados me recuerdan que la historia afroamericana no es solo para febrero; es una historia de fortaleza, logros y cambio que merece ser honrada todos los días.

# BLACK HISTORY IN THE HEADLINES

**MALCOLM X**  
"Malcolm X Demands Freedom by Any Means Necessary"  
Global voice for Black self-determination reshapes the civil rights debate.

**THURGOOD MARSHALL**  
"Marshall Wins Brown v. Board, Segregation Struck Down"  
Civil rights lawyer makes history before becoming first Black Supreme Court Justice.

**JOHN LEWIS**  
"John Lewis Leads the Fight for Voting Rights"  
Freedom rider and congressman puts his life on the line for democracy.

**CARTER G. WOODSON**  
"Woodson Launches Negro History Week"  
Historian ensures Black history is studied, preserved, and respected.

**W.E.B. DU BOIS**  
"Du Bois Becomes First Black Ph.D. from Harvard"  
Scholar and NAACP co-founder challenges racism with truth and intellect.

**SHIRLEY CHISHOLM**  
"Chisholm Elected to Congress—Barriers Fall"  
First Black woman in Congress runs for president and changes politics forever.

**BESSIE COLEMAN**  
"Bessie Coleman Takes Flight Against All Odds"  
First Black woman pilot earns international license and breaks aviation barriers.

**DR. CHARLES DREW**  
"Dr. Drew Revolutionizes Blood Banking"  
Medical pioneer saves countless lives during WWII and beyond.

## Tommy Wyatt Passes Away



**Tommy Wyatt**, a prominent figure in Austin's Black community, passed away at the age of 88. He was known for his dedication to local publication and journalism, especially relating to the stories of **Black Austin**.

**Wyatt** co-founded **The Villager Newspaper**, a free, weekly publication that focused on providing news to and about **Austin's Black** communities. He was also known for his political and civic engagement, serving as the first **African American** member of **Austin's Jaycees** and a founding member of the **Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce**. Wyatt's legacy continues through his work in journalism and community service.



# Uvalde, Texas School Cop Is Not Guilty. The Whole Corrupt System Is Guilty — Explained

by Ruben Navarrette

I'm the product of a mixed marriage. My father was born in **California**. But my mother was born in a foreign country... called **Texas**. Texans are a proud people. And they've done many things to be proud of.

Unfortunately, the way they handled a massacre at **Robb Elementary School** in the small 15,000-person town of **Uvalde, Texas** on May 24, 2022 – and its aftermath – is not one of those things.

**Texans are taught to never forget the Alamo. But who cares? What I care about is that they all remember Uvalde.**

Texans are taught to never forget the **Alamo**. But who cares? What I care about is that they all remember **Uvalde**.

This week, a jury acquitted former **Uvalde** school police officer **Adrian Gonzales** despite his lax and inadequate response. **Gonzales** faced 29 counts of child endangerment, and the jury found him "not guilty" on all counts.

**Gonzales** was one of the first officers on the scene. Prosecutors alleged he did not follow his training and failed to confront the shooter. Thus, they argued, he endangered the lives of the 19 students who died (most of them **Mexican American**, and just 10 or 11 years old) and an additional 10 students who were wounded but survived. Also killed were a pair of fourth-grade teachers, **Irma Garcia** and **Eva Mireles**. According to media reports, the teachers appear to have died heroically trying to shield their students from gunfire.

**Gonzales** pleaded not guilty to the child endangerment charges, and his lawyers argued he was unfairly being offered up as the scapegoat as part of a cover-up of what was a much larger-scale failure that day by **Texas** law enforcement.

Here's the backstory. On May 24, 2022, a gunman named **Salvador Ramos** walked

into **Robb Elementary School**, which he had once attended. The 18-year-old had a history of psychological and emotional problems. This being **Texas**, that means he might have had trouble voting but no problem obtaining a military-style AR-15 assault rifle capable of leveling a village.

**Especially if it's a village of idiots. Despite being armed to the teeth, the 376 law enforcement officers who descended on the scene from seven agencies acted like cowards.**

Especially if it's a village of idiots. Despite being armed to the teeth, the 376 law enforcement officers who descended on the scene from seven agencies acted like cowards. That includes dozens of the fabled **Texas Rangers**, who showed themselves to be – as they say in the **Lone Star State** – "all hat and no cattle."

The battalion of law enforcement officers staked out the school for 77 minutes, checking their guns and playing with their phones, before a special tactical unit of the U.S. Border Patrol finally ran out of patience. It stormed one of the classrooms and killed Ramos.

Naturally, the parents of the slain children are never going to get over this tragedy or the terrible loss it inflicted upon them. And so, as you can imagine, the jury's acquittal of **Gonzales** left them disappointed and angry. But for **Mexican Americans** who grew up in **Texas**, being disappointed and angry is normal.

One of those parents is **Jacinto Cazares**, whose 9-year-old daughter **Jackie** died



in the shooting. For him, the real verdict delivered in that courtroom was that his daughter's life, while precious to him, meant nothing to the rest of society. For **Mexican Americans** in

**Texas**, that feeling is also normal.

"We had a little hope, but it wasn't enough," **Cazares** told reporters outside the courtroom. "Again, we are failed. I don't even know what to say."

I'll say it. It's ok to have mixed feelings. Two things can be true at the same time, even when those things appear to be diametrically opposed to one another.

In this case, it's true that **Jackie Cazares** and all the children who were killed or wounded that day at **Robb Elementary School** deserve justice and that their lives mattered. Ditto for **Garcia** and **Mireles**, the heroic teachers.

But it's also true that there can't be justice until accountability reaches all the way to the top. **Gonzales** is at the bottom of the food chain. He's a nobody, a patsy. He was a school officer for crying out loud, someone with no rank and very little authority. Does anyone really believe that – with 376 law enforcement officers descending on that school, all those badges and egos, all that testosterone – that they all submitted to the will of little **Adrian Gonzales**?

**This guy was the fall guy, the little fish tossed into the frying pan by a system that is determined to shield the big fish from accountability for their fuckups.**

This guy was the fall guy, the little fish tossed into the frying pan by a system that

is determined to shield the big fish from accountability for their fuckups.

Understand one thing: The big fish of **Texas** law enforcement are white people. That is who was running the show on that fateful day.

And they don't get any whiter than the command staff of the **Texas Department of Public Safety**. It was **DPS** personnel – including the **Texas Rangers** – that made up the bulk of the officers at the school. The buck should have stopped with **Col. Steve McCraw**, who was then the director of the **DPS**. If there's a villain in this story, it's **McCraw**. When questioned, he skirted accountability, lied to the media, misled **Gov. Greg Abbott**, and shifted blame to lowly school police officers.

If the operation at **Robb Elementary** had been successful, if the kids had all been rescued safely and the shooter eliminated, you can bet that **McCraw** – who retired at the end of 2024, quietly and on his own terms with his pension intact – would have strutted around like **Patton** or **MacArthur**. But when the operation turned to shit, he was nowhere to be found. That's not leading. That's covering your ass.

The horror story of the **Uvalde** massacre isn't done yet. How could it be? The truth has yet to write its chapter.

There, that should explain things.

## Who is Ruben Navarrette?

Syndicated Columnist,  
Washington Post Writers Group  
Columnist for The Daily Beast  
Member of the USA Today  
Board of Contributors  
Fox News Commentator  
Radio Talk Show Host  
Fellow, George W. Bush Institute



# Still Making Texas: An Anniversary Symposium

David Montejano's seminal *Anglos and Mexicans in the Making of Texas, 1836-1986* is celebrating 40 years in print by the University of Texas Press. A generation of scholars continue to cite Montejano's work as a model for revisionist historical sociology. This symposium will gather inter-generational voices to reflect on the book's lasting legacy and influence on new scholarly directions.

Featuring these and many more field-defining scholars:



David Montejano



Sonia Hernandez



Benjamin Johnson



Monica Muñoz-Martinez



Carlos Blanton



Emilio Zamora



Neil Foley

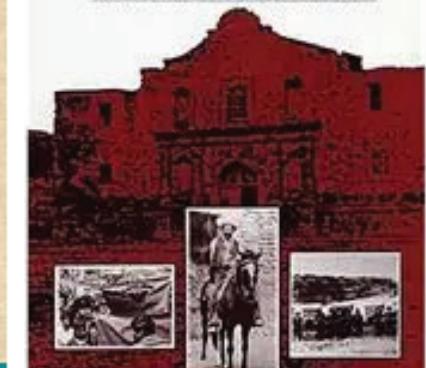


All are welcome to join us February 20-21, 2026 at the Gordon White Building for panel discussions with prominent scholars from across the United States, as well as a graduate student-focused showcase of emerging scholarship and two evening plenaries on the past, present, and future of the field of Texas history.

## Leadership with a Latino Twist.

The mission of the Center for Mexican American Studies (CMAS) is to serve Texas and the nation as a leader in the intellectual development of Mexican American and Latina/o studies. Faculty and students affiliated with CMAS study the cultural practices, historical development, and socioeconomic conditions of Mexican American and Latina/o communities.

Born of the civil rights movement, the Center was established in 1970 with renown Professor Américo Paredes as one of its principal founders and its first director. The University's establishment and continued support of CMAS represents the institutional recognition that the Mexican American and Latina/o communities are crucial to understanding the past, present, and future of the United States and the Americas.



February 20-21, 2026  
Gordon White Building  
210 W. 24th St



The University of Texas at Austin  
Department of Mexican American  
& Latina/o Studies  
College of Liberal Arts



# Calendar of Events

**February 7th, 2026** - *Toma Mi Corazón* at La Peña in Austin, Texas.

**February 8th, 2026** - Memorial for Daniel Llanes at the Cathedral, 2403 E. 16th St. in Austin, Texas from 1pm until 4pm.

**February 13th, 2026** - *Los Tigres Del Norte* out of San Jose, California with origins in Rosa Morada, a sindicatura in Mocorito, Sinaloa, Mexico will headline a concert at the Moody Center in Austin, Texas from 8:00pm to midnight.

**February 11th, 2026** - Backyard Bites and Beats Fundraiser for Gina Hinojosa starting at 6:00pm. RSVP to julie@ginafortexas.com

**February 14th, 2026** - Celebrating 50th Anniversary of **Fiesta Ballroom** in Seguin, Texas. Headliner: **Little Joe y La Familia y La 45**. Event starts at 7:00pm. For more information please call 830-372-0161

**February 17th, 2026** - Early Voting starts in Texas.

**February 17th, 2026** - Tejano Democrats Meeting 7:00pm Casa Maria, 4327 S 1st St #102, Austin, TX 78745, Start time: 5:00 p.m. All candidates and guests are welcome! Feel free to reach out to **Brian Pena** at brian.pena.atx@gmail.com with any questions!

**February 20 and 21st, 2026** - **David Montejano** and others will review and speak about the 1986 book. The Making of Texas 1836 1986- See Page 13 for more information.



**Celebrating 50th Anniversary**

**FIESTA BALLROOM**

Grammy Winning **LITTLE JOE y La Familia**

A Special Farewell to Seguin

&

**LA 45**

With Special Guest **Sunny Ozuna**

Dinner & Dance

**FEBRUARY 14, 2026**

**7 pm to 1 am**

**830-372-0161**

# 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.

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

<i>ox</i>	buey
<i>slowering fool</i>	tono baboso
<i>crazy</i>	demente
<i>short sighted</i>	corto de vista
<i>Common sense</i>	sentido común
<i>No sense</i>	sin sentido
<i>no hope</i>	sin esperanza
<i>potential</i>	potencial
<i>expendable</i>	desechable
<i>brain</i>	cerebro
<i>surprise me</i>	sorpréndeme
<i>psychologist</i>	psicólogo
<i>psychiatrist</i>	psiquiatra
<i>ice</i>	hieli



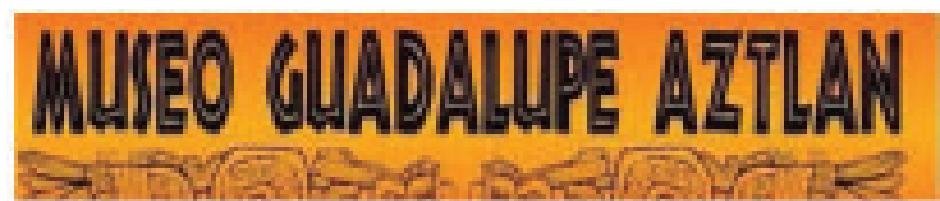
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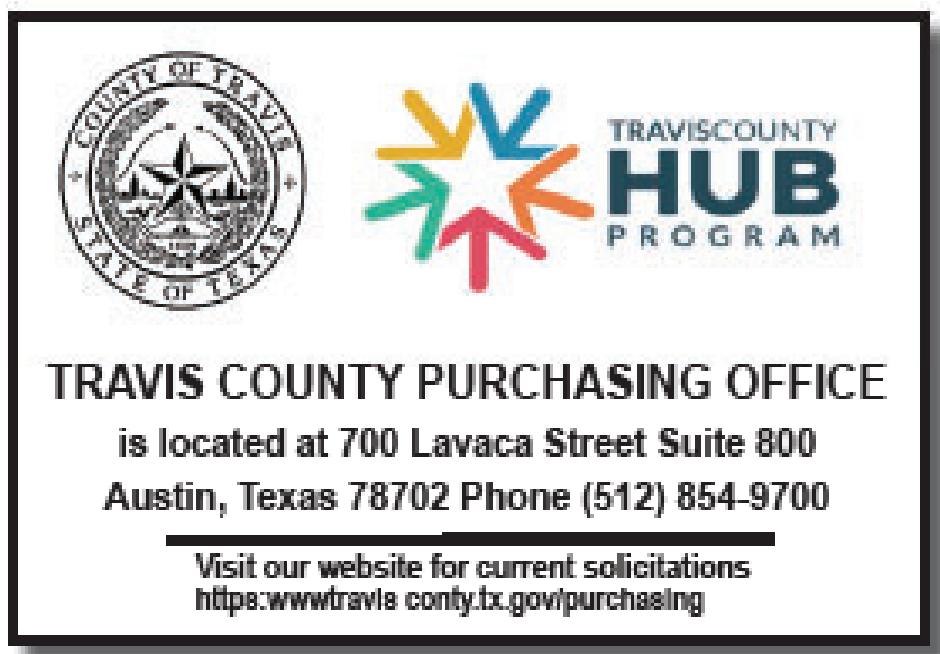
www.austin-tx.gov/page/investor-services  
www.austinx111.com  
(512) 974-2858

For information on the City of Austin's Minority/Women-Owned Prequalification Program, contact Small & Minority Business Resources at 512-974-7680 or via [smallbusiness@austin-tx.gov](mailto:smallbusiness@austin-tx.gov).



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Carlos R.



# March 3, 2026 Joint Primary Elections

## Vote Early, Vote Easy

### Early Voting Calendar

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			<b>17</b> FEB 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.	<b>18</b> FEB 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.	<b>19</b> FEB 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.	<b>20</b> FEB 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
<b>22</b> FEB 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.	<b>23</b> FEB 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.	<b>24</b> FEB 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.	<b>25</b> FEB 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.	<b>26</b> FEB 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.	<b>27</b> FEB 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.	

**Extended Hours**  
\*7 locations open until 10 p.m.

**\*7 locations open until 10 p.m. Thur, February 26 & Fri, February 27**

- Ben Hur Shrine Center
- Carver Branch Library
- Lakeway Activity Center
- PflSD Rock Gym

- Randalls Brodie
- Travis County Clerk, 5501 Airport Blvd
- UT Texas Union

Find sample ballots, locations + ID requirements at [VoteTravis.gov](http://VoteTravis.gov).

**Election Day: Tuesday, March 3, 2026**