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Volume # 6 Number 9

A Bilingual Newspaper

December, 2005

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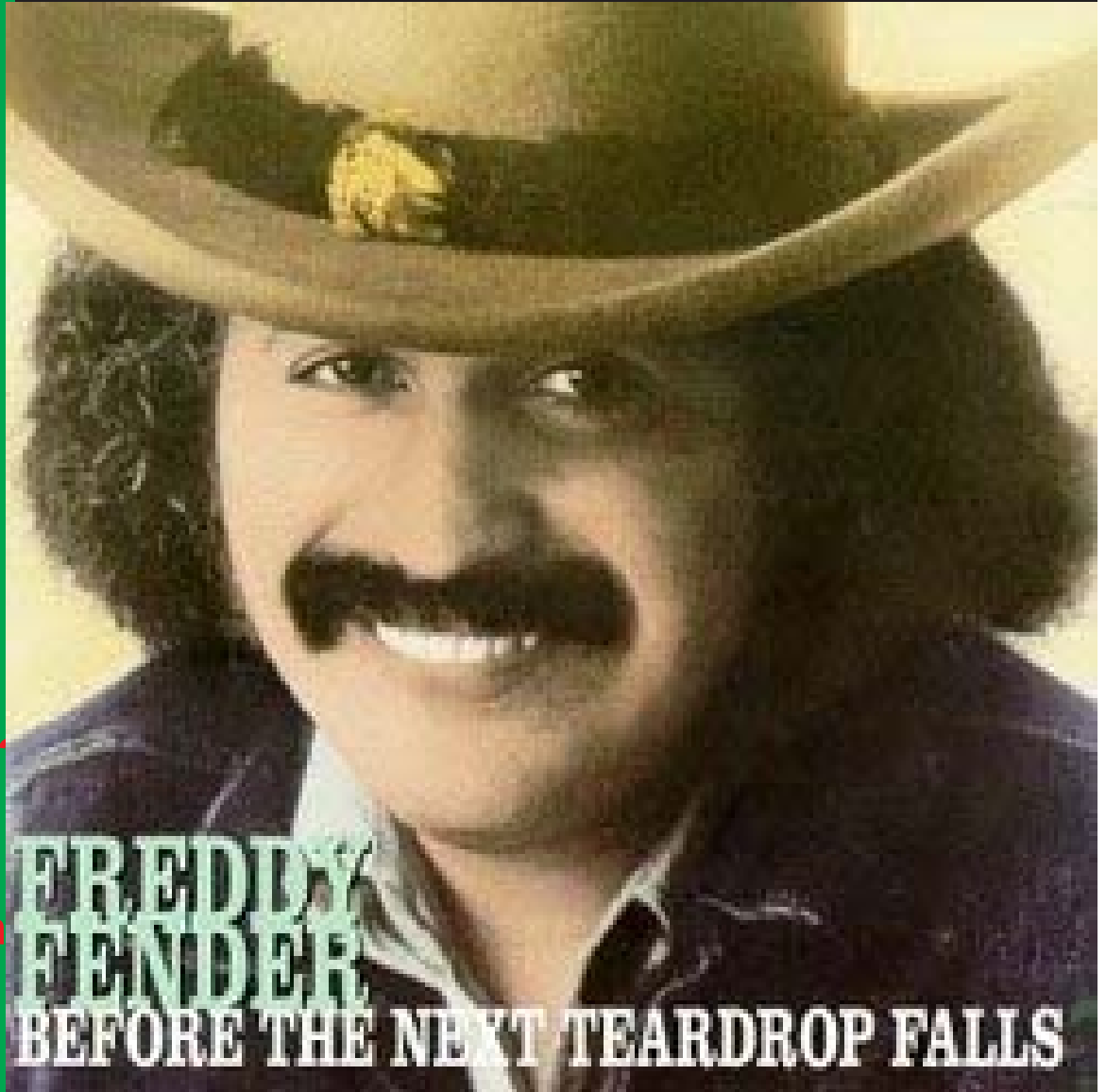
The Way Christmas Was

En Palabras Hay Poder

The History of Tamales

¿Sabia Usted?

Christmas Word Search Contest



1977

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Freddy Fender, Knocked Down, But Never Knocked Out

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PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

La Voz de Brazoria County is a monthly publication. The editorial and business address is 804 Perry Street Angleton, Texas 77515. The telephone number is (979) 848-2883. The use, reproduction or distribution of any or part of this publication is strongly encouraged. But do call and let us know what you are using. Letters to the editor are most welcome.

Por cualquier pregunta, llamanos:

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La Voz
welcomes
letters to the
editor on
any topic.

Editorial

A Merry Christmas from
La Voz de
Brazoria County



Alfredo Santos c/s
 Editor

As the Holiday Season continues, we would like to reflect on those things most important to us. In our business nothing could be more important or valuable than the trust and confidence our advertisers and our readership has placed in our newspaper.

The staff of *La Voz de Brazoria County* extends our warm wishes throughout the Holiday Season. We wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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Police Tapes...

This Christmas Season exercise caution when driving and if you go to a party, make sure someone is the designated driver. The police tapes below are actual recordings.

The following "sound bites" were taken off actual police car videos around the country.

15). "Relax; the handcuffs are tight because they're new. They'll stretch out after you wear them awhile."

14). "Take your hands off the car, and I'll make your birth certificate a worthless document."

13). "If you run, you'll only go to jail tired."

12). "Can you run faster than 1,200 feet per second? In case you didn't know, that is the average speed of a 9mm bullet fired from my gun."

11). "So you don't know how fast you were going. I guess that means I can write anything I want on the ticket, huh?"

10). "Yes, Sir, you can talk to the shift supervisor, but I don't think it will help. Oh... did I mention that I am the shift supervisor?"

9). "Warning! You want a warning? O.K., I'm warning you not to do that again or I'll give you another ticket."

8). "The answer to this last question will determine whether you are drunk or not. Was Mickey Mouse a cat or a dog?"

7). "Fair? You want me to be fair? Listen, fair is a place where you go to ride on rides, eat cotton candy, and step in monkey crap."

6). "Yeah, we have a quota. Two more tickets and my wife gets a toaster oven."

5). "In God we trust, all others we run through NCIC."

4). "Just how big were those two beers?"

3). "No sir we don't have quotas anymore. We used to have quotas, but now we're allowed to write as many tickets as we want."

2). "I'm glad to hear the Chief of Police is a good personal friend of yours. At least you know someone who can post your bail."

And the best one

1). "You didn't think we give pretty women tickets? You're right, we don't. Sign here."

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Freddy Fender, Knocked Down, But Never Knocked Out

Freddy Fender has had three successful careers already—as a Hispanic/pop star in the late 50’s, a country pop star in the 70’s, and a member of the Grammy award-winning Texas Tornados in the 90’s. With his signing to Warner/Reprise, he begins a new chapter in an amazing career that spans nearly four decades.

Freddy Fender was born **Baldemar Huerta** in the **Rio Grande Valley** town of **San Benito, Texas**. He grew up in a barrio that, he is quick to point out, was not a crowded ghetto but just a poor Hispanic neighborhood.

The first music he played was Tejano, conjunto

The first music he played was Tejano, conjunto, Tex-Mex—the rambunctious combination of polka (from the German settlers of Texas) and traditional Mexican music—he learned by watching and listening at weddings and other events in the neighborhood.

In 1947, at the age of 10, he made his first appearance on radio, singing a current hit “Paloma Querida”, on **KGBT** in **Harlingen, Texas**. Another performance of “Paloma Querida” (literally translated “dove” and “loved one”) won him a tub of food worth about \$10—first prize in an amateur talent contest at the Grand Theater in **Harlingen**.

At the same time, **Fender** was getting a first-hand education in the music business. His parents were migrant workers and he traveled with them during the picking season. Many

of his fellow workers were black, and some of them, **Fender** remembers, were good enough singers and musicians to have been professionals. The blues music he heard in the fields would become an integral part of his own unique style.

At 16, he joined the Marines for a three year hitch. After his discharge, he started playing **Texas** honky tonks and dance halls. Two of his first records, Spanish versions of **Elvis’** “Don’t Be Cruel” and **Harry Belafonte’s** “Jamaica Farewell” on **Falcon Records** went to Number One in **Mexico** and **South America** in 1957.

In 1959, Hollywood called him — not to act but to sign to **Imperial Records**, the label of such greats as **Fats Domino**. In hopes of reaching the gringo audience, he changed his name, taking **Fender** from the headstock of his Electric guitar, and picking **Freddy** simply because it was alliterative.

In 1960, “Wasted Days and Wasted Nights” became a national hit, it also proved to be prophetic for **Fender**. Early stardom was stolen that year when he and his bass player were arrested and sent to prison for possession of two marijuana cigarettes.

Three years later, Fender surfaced in New Orleans, . . .

Three years later, **Fender** surfaced in **New Orleans**, where he spent the next five years further developing his interest in rhythm & blues and Cajun funk. By 1969, **Fender** had returned home to “The Valley”. He worked full time as a

mechanic, enrolled at **Del Mar College** and played music only on weekends.

In 1974, he cut “Before The Next Teardrop Falls” in **Houston**. The master was bought by **ABC-Dot**, and on April 8, 1975, it reached the Number One spot on **Billboard’s** pop and country charts, the first time in history an artist’s first single reached Number One on both charts.

His remake of “Wasted Days And Wasted Nights,” essentially the same arrangement that had been considered rock and roll the first time around, followed “Teardrop. . .” to Number One on the country charts, and his third release, “Secret Love,” and fourth release “You’ll Lose A Good Thing” also hit the top spot. The album went multi-platinum. **Billboard** named him Best Male Artist of 1975, and he won both single and album-of-the-year honors from **The Gavin Report**.

Fender’s broad appeal has been reinforced by his success with cinema and television projects, including the Hispanic classics “Short eyes” and “She Came To The Valley”, as well as his breakthrough performance in **Robert Redford’s** 1987 epic “Milagro Beanfield War”. His voice has also been tapped for successful national radio and television campaigns for **McDonald’s**, **Miller Lite** and others.

In the 90’s, **Freddy Fender’s** role as vocalist/guitarist in the Tex-Mex supergroup, **Texas Tornados**, has delivered the venerable performer to major marketplaces and audiences traditionally oriented toward roots rock and progressive blues music.



BIOGRAPHY

- NAME:** Freddy Fender
- REAL NAME:** Baldemar Huerta
- NICKNAME:** El Bebop Kid
- HOMETOWN:** San Benito, Texas
- BIRTHDAY:** June 4th, 1937
- EDUCATION:** High School Dropout
College Drop In - Del Mar College
- MILITARY:** Marines, 3 years
- OCCUPATION:** Singer, Composer
- CAREER:**
- MILESTONES:** Before the Next Teardrops Falls, 1974
Wasted Days and Wasted Nights, 1975 (First recorded in 1959)
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The Patron Saint of Mexico

The Virgin of Guadalupe

Throughout the Americas and the Republic of Mexico, the 12th of the December is celebrated by many of the **Roman Catholic** faith as Our Lady of Guadalupe Day. It is a particularly revered day for Mexicans and Mexican Americans because the **Virgin of Guadalupe** is the mother of God. But what is of particular interest is how the Virgin Mary came to acquire her status in Mexico and among Mexicans.

Recall that the Spaniards, led by **Hernan Cortez**, arrived in **Mexico** in 1519 looking for treasures and other things of value. When the **Spaniards** saw the **Aztecs** they, like the **Aztecs** were surprised. The **Aztecs** initially thought that **Cortez**, with his white beard, horses, and fire (gunpower) was a god, who according to legend, would someday return. After welcoming and watching the **Spaniards**, it soon became clear he were not the long awaited god. But it was too late. The **Spaniards** had seen and learned too much. They saw how much gold the **Aztecs** had and marveled at the cities they had built.

For nearly three years the **Spaniards** looted the **Aztec** Empire. The death toll among the Indians was significant and disease imported from Europe was unstoppable. Finally in 1521, the **Aztecs** fell and for the next 300 years the Indians that remained were forced to disown their gods, forget their history and toil in extreme poverty.

The Spanish Government and the Catholic church worked hand in hand in the colonization of **Mexico**. The priests who arrived, baptized millions of Indians and substituted their pagan gods with the statutes of saints who names the Indians were force to learn. But the rain, sun, wind and the water remained important elements in the life of the Indians and the religious worked hard to compete with gods that were just invisible as their own.

In 1531, as the legend goes, in the month of December, an Indian man by the name of **Juan Diego** went looking for medical help for a family member who was ill. As he hurried over the hills of **Tepeyac** a light began to shine and the **Virgin Mary** appeared. Surprised **Juan** did not know what to do. The **Virgin Mary** identified herself and instructed **Juan Diego** to tell the bishop (Bishop Zumarraga) that she would like a shrine built in this very spot.



Juan Diego hurried to tell the bishop. The Bishop found it difficult to believe **Juan Diego**. "*Juanito, you want me to build a shrine in a hill just out of faith?*" the Bishop may have asked. "*You will have to bring me some proof,*" he told **Juan Diego** as the religious attendants escorted him to the door.


Juanito went back to the spot where he had seen the **Virgin** and related what the Bishop had said. The Virgin told **Juan Diego** to go the top of the hill and gather the roses that were in full bloom. He was to take the roses to the bishop. **Juan** thought for a moment because this was not the season for roses to be growing. He went to the top of the hill and found red roses in full bloom. He gathered them as instructed and returned to see the Bishop.

When the attendants let **Juan Diego** come forward again to see the Bishop, he offered the Bishop the roses he carried in his cloak were the proof. When he opened his cloak the red roses fell to the floor and on the cloak was an image of the **Virgin Mary** in color. Astonished, the Bishop acknowledged that a miracle had indeed occurred.

This single event is said to have driven millions of reluctant Indians into the Catholic faith and helped the church to become a very powerful and religious throughout the Americas. Today in the heart of **Mexico City** the cloth upon which the **Virgin Mary** appeared lies in the **Basilica** in **Mexico City**. And over the years, millions have come to give thanks for the many things the **Virgin Mary** granted them.

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Christmas the

Many, many Christmases ago, my husband's grandfather, Juan Castillo created a tradition. On Christmas day children peered through windows and listened anxiously for Juan Castillo's, old tractor pulling a rustic trailer and putt putting down the streets of the tiny community of Tivoli, south of Victoria.



Juan's children and grandchildren were in the trailer, bearing small bags of treats-ribbon candy, pecans and fruit. If the year had been especially good there might be a toy or two for the children of the town. For Richard, the memories of his boyhood and those Christmas journeys in his hometown didn't go away.

In 1992 he revived the tradition. He then had the time, the money and the energy to continue where his grandfather left off. Richard has a suit complete with a beard, a 100 gallon Santa bag, black Patton leather boots, and glasses. Mrs. Claus and helpers wore red shirts and Santa hats. Our one real elf, Joshua, wore a green suit with a striped apron, a hat, elf shoes and a mustache.

Usually we made visits to families that didn't expect us at all. The close knit community pointed us in the right direction where the children lived. A couple from Mexico thought we were the real Santa! Imagine that...

Santa made special visits to extremely needy families. Those visits were the most rewarding. We visited a family who didn't have furniture in their home or a crib for their newborn baby, much less a Christmas tree and toys for their two children. When walking in to deliver the toys and food, the delightful look on the little girl's face as we gave her a bear made it hard to fight back the tears.

Another family had four children. The 3 year old didn't care if Santa didn't visit them that year. All they wanted was a Christmas tree. I remember the parents and grandparents crying in appreciation. The children's faces were enough to forget our own personal struggles and obstacles we had experienced to get there.

Santa would ask the children if they had gotten what they wanted for Christmas. The answers were sometimes sad.



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way it was...



Christina now 22 years old, started as a Santa's helper at age 10. She remembers our family closeness as we did the "Santa Run" to Tivoli. The frosty nights on our sleigh in back of Santa's 1993 Silverado pickup. She remembers the look on the children's faces and the parents as the magic of Christmas giving was practiced. She says that to sum it up in one sentence would be too hard to express everything she got from being part of this experience. She said it was so much fun!

Monica now 27 years old, and 15 when she started helping. She remembers children and their parents screaming out in the streets, that Santa was on his way. A special memory was the excitement in their faces that Santa made a special visit to them in person and made Christmas all better. She says that she remembers helping her dad prepare the Santa bag and actually contributing some of her own toys.

This experience made her feel good helping less fortunate children.

Angela now 30 years old and 18 then remembers the rewarding feeling she felt to make these children's Christmas a memorable one. She remembers very needy children and witnessing their unselfishness as they were handed small gifts from Santa that meant so much to them. She remembers people waiting for us knowing we would be coming and having up to 30 people at one place waiting for the Santa in the blue truck. She also remembers her dad being very tired and crashing on the sofa after the Santa Run. She says this is something she truly will never forget and wishes it had never ended.

Helper **Justin** remembers being excited, feeling happy as he contributed to the caring and sharing of others. Helper **Joshua** our only Elf learned that there are less fortunate people and how good it feels to be able to give back to the community. It was fun!

Arnulfo, Ike and Valerie, all helpers for years, can't erase the expressions on the children's happy faces from their minds and how happy it made them to be able to help. Arnulfo says he wishes he could help Santa again.

Through the years we got bigger and better. It started getting harder to find the money to carry on the tradition.

I encouraged my husband and told him God would provide so we could keep making someone's Christmas brighter. And God always came through.

My daughters and I shopped for gifts all year round to fill the Santa bag with toys. Small donations came from families, relatives and even from people who read a local newspaper and read about our story. They showed up in Sweeny with donations for the Santa Run.

Richard was working shift work at the time, and there were lots of juggling schedules between our two jobs. For many years our family got up at seven in the morning and didn't come home until midnight, due to the drive from Sweeny to Tivoli and back home again.

As our children grew older they left for college and we ran out of helpers. For years family members helped. It became harder for just Santa and I to continue.

In 2003 we did our last Santa Run. It was nice how we all together, with friends and family, made someone else's Christmas just a little brighter for 10 years. The memories that we experienced will remain in our hearts forever.

These days Santa limits his visits to three children. These chosen little ones are his - grandchildren.

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.

by Mary Castillo

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Contests/Prizes/Quizes

En cada ejemplar de **La Voz de Brazoria County** habra un a seria de concursos y juegos, El propósito de esto concursos es medir el impacto de la publicación y establecer un perfil de los lectores. Los premios de cada concurso son diferentes así es que lea las instrucciones. Algunas de las preguntas estan en ingles y otras en español. Buena suerte!

In each issue of **La Voz de Brazoria County** there will be a series of contests and games. These contests are designed to measure the impact of the publication and develop a readership profile. The prize for each contest is different and readers are encouraged to follow the directions. Some of the questions are in English and some are in Spanish. Good luck!

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Contesta las siguientes preguntas y manda las respuestas a **Concurso de La Voz** 804 Perry St. Angleton, Texas 77515.

Answer the following questions and send your answers to **La Voz Contest** 804 Perry St. Angleton, Texas 77515

1. Who is **Mary Castillo**?
2. Which story in this issue of **La Voz de Brazoria County** was the most interesting to you?
3. What city did **Mary Castillo's** story begin in?
4. How many words are there in *En Palabras Hay Poder*?
5. How much does a subscription to **La Voz** cost?
6. How difficult to think it is to make tamales?
7. Which page is the **Alamo Title** Advertisement on?
8. In what was **Freddy Fender** born?
9. Where did you pick up this newspaper?
10. Who was **Hernan Cortez**?

Contest Submission Form

To enter the **La Voz de Brazoria County Reader's Contest** fill out this form and sent it to Readership Contest - La Voz 804 Perry St, Angleton, Texas 77515. Send your answers to the questions above along with this original page. The winner will be announced in the November issue of **La Voz de Brazoria County**. Muchas gracias!

Name: _____

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Last month's Readership Contest Winners were: **Rebecca Mendoza** from Freeport and **Catalina Diaz**, also from Freeport, Texas. Each winner will receive a check for \$25.00

\$25.00 Readership Game

Christmas Word Search

X R G I P E K A L F W O N S Z L N Z
 L G X R P X H C R R Y U S L B X X A
 X B B E E Y A U A A E A Q P G N S L
 A D K H A H D D D N M I O M U C L E
 U Z K V O O W I U T D H N N T Y P E
 R K S L L Q L K S D S Y H D J C O A
 S C L P V O C I R K F P U G E A E S
 T Y H I H T R X R B F E K Y I E K T
 T N P K K H I O L I W G E Y A E R N
 R Y A Y C J W F Z O I W K L F M L E
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 B T L S W S L Y L F T U X O M I J E
 M G D W O O L Q F N A P D J I L R R
 E M I S B R N L A E K B N D L Z L P
 C I V F W G F S E V I M J P Y I T F
 E L E C T M A Z T B B I N H M T D B
 D U W N L S E E O T E L T S I M L W
 N X K D M U E G D G W G O N G G E I

Word List

- Christmas
- Bells
- Candy
- December
- Eggnog
- Elf
- Family
- Frosty
- Gifts
- Holiday
- Holly
- Jolly
- Mistletoe
- Presents
- Reindeer
- Rudolph
- Santa
- Sleigh
- Snowflake
- Snowman
- Workshop

Contest Submission Form

To enter the *La Voz de Brazoria County Word Search Game*, fill out this form and send it to Readership Contest - *La Voz* 804 Perry Street, Angleton, Texas 77515. Send your answers to the questions above along with this original page. The winner will be announced in the January, 2006 issue of *La Voz de Brazoria County*.

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A Short History of the Tamale

The tamale is recorded as early as 5000 BC, possibly 7000 BC in Pre-Columbian history. Initially, women were taken along in battle as army cooks to make the masa for the tortillas and the meats, stews, drinks, etc. As the warring tribes of the Aztec, Mayan, and Incan cultures grew, the demand of readying the nixtamal (corn) itself became so overwhelming a process, a need arose to have a more portable sustaining foodstuff. This requirement demanded the creativity of the women.....hence the tamale was born.

The tamales could be made ahead and packed, to be warmed as needed. They were steamed, grilled on the comal (grill) over the fire, or put directly on top of the coals to warm, or they were eaten cold. We have no record of which culture actually created the tamale but believe that one started and the others soon followed.



The tamale caught on very fast and eventually grew in variety and diversity unknown in today's culture. There were plain tamales, tamales with red, green, yellow and black chile, tamales with chocolate, fish tamales, frog, tadpole, mushroom, rabbit, gopher, turkey, bee, egg,

leaves, fabric, avocado leaves, soft tree bark, and other edible, non-toxic leaves. The most commonly used were corn husks, banana and avocado leaves.

Over the millennia, the varieties were minimized to the most common now being red and green chile, chicken, pork, beef, sweet, chile, cheese, and of late, vegetables. Also changed was the every day occurrence of making the tamales. With the preparation being so labor and time intensive, tamales became holiday fare,

made for special occasions. This tradition remained for thousands of years, with the women of the family working together to make the sauces and meats, preparing the masa, and finally assembling and wrapping the tamales before steaming them in large pots on the stove. The process takes all day, the preparation often starting one of two days in advance. It is virtually unheard of to make a few tamales. In most cases, when they are made, hundreds are made at a time. Everyone, young, old, family and friends, is invited to tamale feasts where they are enjoyed, savored and loved by all.

Over the years making tamales has come to be known as a tamalada. Here friends new and old together and turn the labor intensive event into a party. Dicen que en las tamaladas sale la pura verdad en las platicas.

The different regional names for tamales are:

Nicaragua	Nacatamal
Guatemala	Paches and Chuchitos
Bolivia and Ecuador	Humita
Columbia	Bollo
Cuba, Mexico, South and Central America	Tamal
Michoacan, Mexico	Corunda
Veracruz, Mexico	Zacahull
Venezuela	Hallaca

squash blossom, honey, ox, seed and nut tamales. There were white and red fruit tamales, white tamales, yellow tamales, dried meat tamales, roasted meat, stewed meat, bean and rice tamales. There were sweet sugar, pineapple, raisin, cinnamon, berry, banana and pumpkin tamales. There were hard and soft cheese tamales, roasted quail tamales, ant, potato, goat, wild boar, lamb and tomato tamales.

The sizes, colors and shapes varied almost as much as the fillings. They were steamed, oven-roasted, fire-roasted, toasted, grilled, barbecued, fried and boiled. The wrappings were cornhusks, banana l

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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 Brazoria County*.

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

Jesus Christ	Jesucristo
Christmas	Navidad
Presents	Regalos
Church	Iglesia
Faith	Fe
Virgen Mary	Virgen María
Tree	Arbol
Coffee	Café
Three Kings	Tres Reyes
Star	Estrella
Raindeer	Reno
Ornament	Esfero
Wreath	Corona de Navidad
Stocking	Bota de Navidad
Chocolate	Chocolate
Santa Claus	Santa Claus
Tamales	Tamales
Three King	Pan de Rosca
Bread	
Christmas Eve	Noche Buena

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