

LA VOZ DE BRAZORIA COUNTY

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People in the News



Rick Noriega
Exploring Run for
U.S. Senate

Texas State Representative **Rick Noriega** from Houston, Texas has announced plans from an exploration committee in a bid for the United States Senate.

Noriega, a Lt. Col. in the Texas National Guard was first elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1998. In 2005, he was called up with his unit to serve in Afghanistan and spent a year training the police forces over there.

Rick received his bachelors degree from the University of Houston of Houston in 1984 and a masters degree in public administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in 1990. Rick is married to Houston City Councilwoman Melissa Noriega and they have two children.



Alvin Community College Student Named Upward Bound Ambassador

Salina Garcia, of Alvin, was honored as the Alvin Community College Upward Bound Ambassador of the Year at the annual recognition dinner on July 24.

Upward Bound, created and endorsed by the Department of Education and funded by a federal grant, seeks to motivate low-income and/or potential first-generation college students and help them develop the skills they need to complete secondary education and succeed at the post-secondary educational institution of their choice. **Garcia** was presented the award by ACC Counselor **Sharmeal Archie**, Administrative Assistant **Tobie Mausek** and Director **Regan Metoyer**.



Ricky Martinez of Hometown Boys Fame Passes Away

Ricky Martinez, 48, the lead singer of the popular conjunto group, **The Hometown Boys** passed away last month from kidney failure.

Martinez and his brothers followed in their father's foot steps when they got into the music business in Lubbock, Texas. Their foot stomping style of music brought them a large following from throughout the United States.

The band which was played under the Hacienda Records Label was inducted into the West Texas Walk of Fame, formerly Buddy Holly Walk of Fame, in 1996. Visit the following link to see a good-bye for **Ricky Martinez** that was put together by some fans.



Jimmy Smits Getting Ready for New TV Series

Actor **Jimmy Smits** is getting ready to star and produce a new television series called "Cane." A drama about an affluent Cuban American family that is running sugar and rum out of South Florida.

Joining **Smits** in this production is **Rita Moreno**, an Oscar, Emmy, Tony and Grammy award winner, **Hector Elizondo** and **Nestor Carbonell**. "All of these actors bring years of experience to the set and are expected to surprise the audience each week," according to one of the directors working on the project.

As one of the producers **Jimmy Smits** says that music will be an important component of each show. "It is something that we plan to deliver on a weekly basis." Look for Cane this fall on your local TV stations.



Dr. Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez Continues Fight with PBS

Dr. Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez is an Associate Professor at the University of Texas at Austin. For the past eight years she has been spearheading the U.S. Latino and Latina World War II Oral History Project. So far her team has collected interviews with over 450 men and women throughout the country.

When PBS (Public Broadcasting Service) decided it was time to produce an epic film on World War II, it hired veteran filmmaker **Ken Burns**. **Burns** completed the 14 hour film but forgot to include the many contributions by Latinos and Latinas.

Dr. Rivas-Rodriguez found out and began a campaign called Defend the Honor to lobby PBS and **Burns** about who helped to defeat Adolf Hitler's. So far it is unclear whether **Burns** understands the importance of getting this story right.

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Who is a Mexican?

Editorial

Who is a Mexican? **Carlos Mencia** says, in the southwest if you are brown you're a Mexican. If you are back East in say **New York** and your brown, you're a Puerto Rican. If you are brown and in **Florida**, you are a Cuban.

If you are in brown and in **California**, there is no telling with all the diversity going on out there. Just in the **Los Angeles Independent School District** there are 92 languages spoken. In **San Francisco** there are 39 different languages spoken.

The fact of the matter is that people judge us by the color of our skin. But there is another aspect to this question, namely how do we judge or view ourselves?

This is an especially interesting question as college students get ready to go back to school. Did you know that there are college students out there who have at least one parent who is Mexican, Hispanic, Latino o lo que tu quieres? For all or most of their life these students have been able to pass as a non Latino. It is not surprising to hear students exclaim to

one another: "I didn't know you were Mexican!" You certainly don't look Mexican." Some students sheepishly smile to themselves as they take these remarks as compliments. Other react by asking; "What are Mexicans suppose to look like to you?"

What is particularly interesting about college students is that when it came time to go to apply for college, some of them, along with their parents finally figured out that applying as a Hispanic might improve their chances of getting into the school of their choice or getting scholarship money. So when it came time to check that little box that asked for ethnicity, all of a sudden little **Susan** becomes **Susana** and **Frank** becomes **Francisco**. Yeah, now it's cool to be Hispanic! Each year there are thousands of "new Hispanics" enrolling in college. ¡Que bonito!

Aside from the college experience, being Hispanic or Latino is now advantageous when telemarketers are calling at dinner time. Ring. Ring. "Who, quien, no . . . he no live here. No. No I no speeky Engleesh." This routine is especially popular when the bill collectors call. "Ah, Mr. Hijo de su Madre, do you speak English? Is there anyone there who can speak English?" And so goes the telephone conversation until the caller realizes that he is not going get a productive conversation going.

Yes, more and more people are starting to realize that there are times when it is good to try and pass as a Hispanic and there are times when admitting to being of Mexican origin is the last thing one would want to do. I am reminded of one last example that I must share with you. I grew up near the Mexican border and we would often cross into **Mexico at Piedras Negras**. We would go shopping and to visit relatives. On the return trip, it was very important as we were going through the immigration line in our car to not get pulled over for a search. It was not that we were carrying anything illegal. It was just the hassle and time it took up. So as our car



Alfredo R. Santos c/s
Editor

would approach the guy in the booth on the **Texas** side, we knew he was going to ask: "American citizen?" Sometimes the man would ask, "Where are you going or are you bringing back any prohibited items?"

So as many other families did, the person who spoke the best English and looked the least Mexican in the car would be assigned the job of responding in their best **Texas** accent, "Yes sir, American citizen. We're head'in back to **Uvalde, Texas**." Everyone else in the car would hold their breath for 5 seconds until they heard the immigration guy, "Ok move on."

As the United States of America continues to see the border moving North, the dynamics that dictate identity and the opportunities to use it or abuse will continue to grow.. It is said that the **United States** and **South Africa** are the only two countries in the world that use the racial classification system we use. (White, Black, Asian, Native American) And more recently I have heard that in France it is actually illegal to use and collect data based on race or ethnicity. What would happen if some day here in the United States we were to stop asking being to identify themselves as to race or ethnicity?

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NCLR PRAISES JUDGE'S RULING IN HAZLETON CASE

Anti-Immigrant Ordinance is Unconstitutional

Washington, DC – The National Council of La Raza (NCLR) commended a federal judge in Scranton, Pennsylvania, after he ruled against the City of Hazleton in a landmark challenge to a local anti-immigrant ordinance (Lozano v. City of Hazleton). The ordinance was an extreme measure that would have resulted in racial profiling, discrimination, and denial of benefits to legal immigrants. Today's ruling sends a clear message that the Hazleton ordinance and similar measures around the country will not be allowed to stand.

"The proponents of this ordinance exploited the issue of immigration for political gain. They knew the proposal was not an effective way to resolve the immigration issue, and they knew it would be challenged in court. Today's ruling makes it clear that attempting to regulate immigration at the local level creates enormous problems for the entire community, and runs afoul of the law," stated Janet Murguía, NCLR President and CEO.



The failure of the U.S. Congress to enact responsible and practical immigration reform has resulted in an environment in which states and localities across the country attempt to regulate immigration through local laws. *"While we are all legitimately frustrated by Congress's inaction, we must not abandon reason and sensibility,"* stated Murguía. *"Unfortunately, immigration cannot be regulated state by state, and local attempts have tremendous negative impacts on immigrant communities and U.S. citizens alike. We are hopeful that today's ruling will convince cities contemplating similar legislation to abandon their efforts and put pressure on Congress to do its job."*

"Congress failed to act earlier this year, but the Latino community remains hopeful that fair and reasonable immigration reform can and will pass," Murguía continued. *"The American people have been clear that we want a solution to our broken immigration system. The Latino community will continue to oppose ineffectual and harmful anti-immigrant measures at the state and local level, and pressure our representatives in Washington, DC to reject destructive 'enforcement-only' proposals and pass effective immigration reform."*

A TODAS LAS PERSONAS Y PARTES INTERESADAS:

K-Bin, Inc. ha solicitado a la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental de Texas (TCEQ) la **RENOVACIÓN** del Permiso Num. 36277 para Calidad Atmosférica, que autoriza la continua operación de la Resina Del Cloruro De Polivinilo (PVC) Que compone La Planta B ubicada a la Carretera 332 del Estado del Este de 5618, Freeport, Brazoria Condado, Texas. En la sección de avisos PÚBLICOS de este periódico se encuentra información adicional de esta solicitud.

The 28th Annual Texas Conference

on Hispanic Genealogy and History

September 13 to September 16, 2007 Austin, Texas

Conference at a Glance

Thursday, Sept. 13 "Welcome Reception"

4 – 9 PM Registration & Exhibits
7 – 10 PM Welcome Reception, Embassy Suites Hotel

Friday, Sept. 14 "Plenary Session at the State Capitol"

8 – 8:30 AM Bus departs Embassy Suites for Capitol (Bus Transport is available for ALL registrants)
9 – 10 AM Plenary Session , State Capitol Auditorium
10:30 AM Galen Greaser on [General Land Office](#) in the Capitol Auditorium

Friday Evening: "U.T. Library Reception"

Hosted by the Benson Latin American Collection

6 PM Bus departs Embassy Suites for The University (Bus Transport is available for ALL registrants)
7 – 9 PM Buffet in the University of Texas Perry-Castañeda Library
Book Signings by Distinguished Authors

Saturday, Sept. 15 "Awards Banquet"

7 – 9 PM Grande Lobby, Bullock Texas History Museum

Keynote: Dr. Jesus F. de la Teja, Official State Historian

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Sunday, Sept. 16 "Presidents Meeting"

9:30 AM Embassy Suites Hotel, Executive Board Room A

Watch for more information in the next issue of *La Voz de Austin*

LULAC Youth Recieve Scholarships

On July 31, 2007 LULAC Council 4655 held a small scholarship banquet at Chili's Restaurant in Lake Jackson, Texas to award checks to desrving students on their way to college. Nelda Thrash, President of LULAC Council 4655 opened the meeting and introduced Ernest Hernandez, the Treasurer of the council who did the actual presentations.

Receiving checks from the LULAC National Scholarship Fund were:

Victoria Barrietez Brazoswood High School
Daniel Muñiz Brazoswood High School

Mariel Heridia Brazosport High School
Roel Rivera Brazosport High School
Nadia Soto Brazosport High School

Receiving scholarship checks from the Virginia Falcon Hernandez Scholarship Fund were:

Brandon Allen Lopez
Angleton High School

Manuel Emerica Garcia
Brazoswood High School

After the scholarship awards, Nelda Thrash made presentations to the donors who were present. They included the Honorable Dennis Bonnen, State Representative, The Brazosport Facts, First State Bank and Dynn McDermott. All together there were 45 people in attendance.



A TODAS LAS PERSONAS Y PARTES INTERESADAS:

Shintech Incorporated ha solicitado a la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental de Texas (TCEQ) Permiso Num. 82045 del Estado para autorizar Calidad Atmosférica y Permiso Num. PSDTX1094 de Calidad Atmosférica para la Prevención de Deterioro Significativo (PSD), Calidad Atmosférica y Permiso Num. N68 de "Nonattainment", que autoriza la construcción y la operación de una facilidad integrada para producir el cloruro de vinilo (VCM) y el clor-a' lcali. La planta será situada en FM 2917 aproximadamente 8 millas de sur de la intersección de FM 2917 y de la carretera 35 de Tejas, Alvin, Brazoria Condado, Texas. En la sección de avisos públicos de este periódico se encuentra información adicional de esta solicitud.



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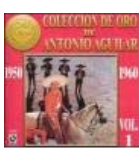
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Cada hijo viene con el pan debajo del brazo
Como se vive, se muere
Cuando una puerta se cierra, cien se abren
Del dicho al hecho hay mucho trecho
El amor entra por los ojos



A TRIBUTE TO

Antonio Aguilar

Pascual Antonio Aguilar Barraza, actor and singer: born Villanueva, Mexico 17 May 1919; married 1960 Flor Silvestre (two sons); died Mexico City 19 June 2007.

Antonio Aguilar was, for several decades, Mexico's most popular singer and film star, appearing in 167 movies and putting out more than 150 albums of popular ranchera music, many of them bought by Hispanics in the United States. A fine horseman since his childhood, he was known as "el charro de México", invariably appearing or performing in the traditional giant sombrero and tight, sequined outfit of the charro, a horse rancher and rodeo rider, now most often seen on street-singing mariachi bands.

In most of his films, initially during the "golden era" of Mexican cinema in the 1950s, **Aguilar** rode a prancing stallion into town, punched out stubby, tequila-swilling banditos, serenaded the girl with a tear-jerking ballad from below her balcony and won her heart. Mexican macho men wanted to be like him and women wanted to ride off with him into the sunset.

He also won the heart of the beautiful **Flor Silvestre**, who became one of Mexico's most-loved screen stars and singers, appearing with **Aguilar** in many films and selling around 150 albums of her own. Their long, happy marriage, and **Aguilar's** image as a singing cowboy, led to their being billed at joint concerts, particularly in the United States, as "Mexico's **Roy Rogers** and **Dale Evans**". From the 1960s, Aguilar's popularity soared after he combined his concerts with charreadas, or rodeos, with roping, bull-riding, equestrian clowns and a chance for Aguilar himself to demonstrate his formidable riding skills.

Even at the age of 78, in 1997 **Aguilar** became the first Hispanic artist to sell out **Madison Square Garden** in **New York** for six nights in a row, bringing tears to the eyes of nostalgic Mexican-Americans with his songs of unrequited love and mucho "ay, ay, ay, ay". Three years later, aged 81, he received a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame for selling over 25 million records.

Pascual Antonio Aguilar Barraza was born in his family's 18th-century hacienda in the village of **Tayahua**, in the Mexican state of **Zacatecas**, in 1919, learning to ride almost as soon as he could walk and singing while he rode. As a youth, he was said to have hiked north and swum across the Rio Grande as a mojado, a "wetback" or illegal immigrant, sleeping rough in **Los Angeles** and working as a waiter to earn enough to study acting and singing, with the initial intention of going into opera.

When he returned to Mexico in 1945, he started off with small parts in opera until a friend told him: "Use that powerful voice to sing the songs of the people. Be a mariachi." He did, got a breakthrough on a 1950 radio show, cut his first album and was offered his first film role, in 1950, alongside the Mexican legends of the "golden era", **Pedro Infante** and **Marga Lopez**, in *Un Rincón cerca del Cielo* ("A Corner near Heaven"). His first starring role came in *Tierra de Hombres* ("Land of Men") in 1956.

Hugely popular by the Sixties, usually producing and often writing his own scripts to fit around his songs, **Aguilar** also played the roles of many historic Mexican characters, notably the revolutionaries **Emiliano Zapata**, in a 1970 film of that title, and **Pancho Villa**. In 1969, he was recruited for his first major Hollywood movie, *The Undeclared*, starring **John Wayne** and **Rock Hudson**, as a Union colonel and a Confederate colonel respectively, in the ragged wake of the Civil War. **Aguilar** played the **Mexican General Rojas** in the film, as usual in Hollywood a bad guy, who held **Hudson's** Confederate troops hostage. After he had seen the final cut, **Aguilar** expressed disillusionment with the stereotyping of Mexicans in Hollywood and declined to work there again.

Last year, knowing he was ill, **Aguilar** made a "farewell tour" of major US cities, performing with his wife, sons and horses in a concert and charreada, although he himself could no longer ride. One of his two sons, **Pepe**, is now one of Mexico's most popular singers, and the other, **Antonio Jr.** ("Toño"), is also a successful singer and actor.



Pew Hispanic Center

Chronicleing Latinos' diverse experiences in a changing America

How Many Latinos?

The Latest Numbers on the Growing Latino Presence in the USA

How many Mexicans are in the United States? Are there other Spanish Speakers here from other countries? Are more coming? The answer to the first question is about 26 million. The answer to the second question is about 8 million. And the answer to the last question is yes, there are more coming.

The information on this page provides a quick snapshot of a few of the dynamics taking place among Latinos in the United States. We switch to the term "Latino" so as to include everyone from Mexico on down to South America. While there is indeed a lot that can be said about the growing presence of Latinos in the United States, space limitations prevent us from digger deeper at this time. The **Pew Hispanic Research Center**, from where some of this material was obtained is an excellent place for those seeking more detailed information.

With that said, look at Table # 1. This simple table shows the number of Latinos/Hispanics in the United States in 2005.

Native Born	25,085,528
Foreign Born	16,840,774
TOTAL	41,926,302

As can be seen, the number of Latinos in the United States now stands at 41,926,302. Five before, in 2000, the Hispanic population in the **United States** was estimated to be 34,494,801. In five years it has grown by 21%. Table # 1 also shows that the majority of the Hispanic population in the **United States** is native born.

In terms of context, the current population of **Mexico**, is pegged at 108 million people. The size of the Latino population in the United States is about 40%. Some demographers believe that in twenty years the Latino population in the United States with stand at 65 million people.

Table # 2 contains the top ten sending countries of foreign born Hispanics. **Mexico** is the leader in this category in part because of its proximity to the **United States** and because of its sheer size.

Who is coming to the United States?

When one looks around the country, it is no secret who is doing a lot of the work in construction, landscaping, the cleaning of hotels, in the agricultural fields and in the restaurants. It is Latinos.

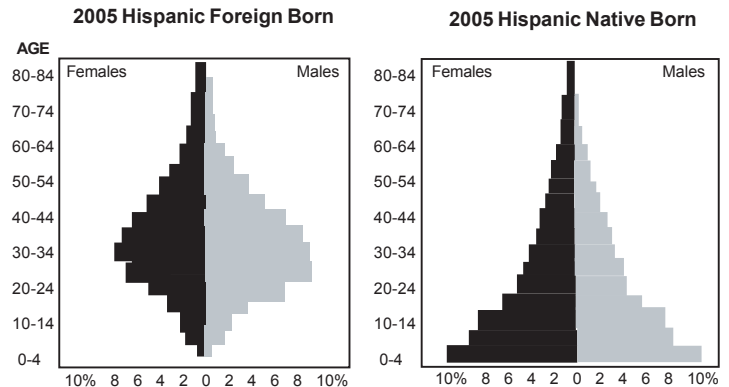
1. Mexican	26,784,268
2. Cuban	1,462,593
3. Salvadoran	1,240,031
4. Dominican	1,135,756
5. Guatemalan	780,191
6. Colombian	723,596
7. Honduran	466,843
8. Ecuadorian	432,068
9. Peruvian	415,352
10. Nicaraguan	275,126

Source: United States Census Bureau

Now look at Table # 3. Upon a close examination it can be seen Latino foreign born males between the ages of 25 and 40 make up the largest percentage of the foreign born population. The bulge in this group as evidenced in the graphs immediately to the right. The data and the graph of the native born Latino shows a very different picture. In this group, there is a very young component as shown by the large base in the graph on the far right. It is native born Latinos who are responsible for "growing" the population. It is the foreign born population which is carrying most of the burden of working. Again, because of space limitations, we are only able to take the analysis this far.

Age	Foreign Born		Native Born	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-4	85,229	76,548	2,262,783	2,137,575
5-9	229,021	195,401	1,809,934	1,735,739
10-14	308,850	281,495	1,643,184	1,591,214
15-19	506,974	412,889	1,235,089	1,207,513
20-24	944,823	664,293	950,896	975,257
25-29	1,275,588	910,745	861,780	862,500
30-34	1,233,606	997,683	715,462	722,694
35-39	1,146,025	965,702	621,776	626,173
40-44	980,527	850,938	548,579	607,049
45-49	721,094	669,172	491,359	510,030
50-54	525,024	509,182	375,060	414,757
55-59	350,786	372,512	300,657	340,587
60-64	248,116	276,253	209,935	243,853
65-69	172,005	209,601	158,074	185,577
70-74	126,325	158,454	120,484	154,629
75-79	84,740	128,266	94,660	136,325
80-84	50,294	77,513	56,807	88,359
85-89	20,221	29,634	15,155	31,549
90 plus	12,170	33,075	13,939	28,535
	9,021,418	7,819,356	12,485,613	12,599,915

Source: United States Census Bureau



NOTE: The X axis represents the percent of each group's total.

Source: United States Census Bureau

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Defend the Honor

The Story Must Be Told and The History Preserved



A 15-hour "documentary" about Americans and World War II, to be broadcast by PBS in September 2007, initially excluded any mention of Latino heroes who fought to defend the United States from its enemies. After much public pressure, producer Ken Burns agreed to include interviews with Latinos and hired a Latino documentary producer. Subsequently, the new material added up to interviews with two Latino WWII Marines, and one Native American WWII veteran — a total of 28 minutes.

But will it be meaningful? **Defend the Honor** is concerned that the new material was added simply to silence critics, and does not address the unique WWII Latino experience. For instance, in a major national meeting with the **Television Critics Association** on July 18, the critics were provided, in advance, boxed DVDs of the series — minus the new material on Latinos and a Native American. Without access to the new material, television critics could not evaluate it and ask questions in open forum at their meeting with Ken Burns, associate producer Lynn Novick and PBS CEO and President Paula Kerger. Burns comments, as reported throughout the country, indicated he saw the issue of Latinos being omitted from the documentary as a "political" issue which he was able to "rise above."

PBS and the corporate and foundation sponsors of this "documentary" need to know you object to the arrogant attitude toward Latinos! You need to tell them. Look for contact information at the **Defend the Honor** website.

This website is dedicated to supporting efforts of individuals and organizations to ensure that WWII-era Latinos and Latinas are included in today's general historical narratives. Currently, the focus of this effort is the scheduled September 2007 airing of *The War*. The stories of the Latino WWII generation are significant and should be included. The story of our country's wartime experiences are incomplete without including the telling of what happened to Latinos.

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<p>TAQUERIA EL JIMADOR MEXICAN GRILL & CANTINA</p>	
<p>Breakfast Special \$2.99</p> <p>Open 7 Days A Week 6 am - Midnight</p>	<p>Lunch Special \$4.50 Monday through Friday</p>
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