

# La Voz

Informando a  
la Comunidad

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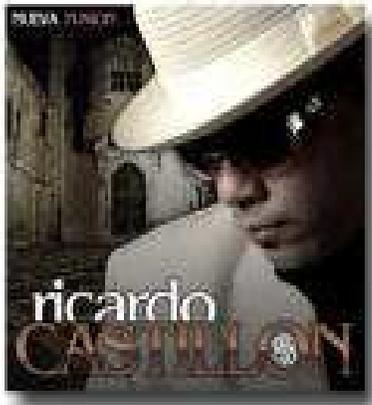
En Palabras  
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# People in the News



## Mr. Robles Passes Away in Angleton

May you know the peace and comfort this heartfelt thought imparts the ones we love are never gone, they live within our hearts.

**Willie Lazaro Roles** passed away peacefully September 26th, 2008 at his Angleton home surrounded by his loving family. **Mr. Robles** was born May 28, 1914 in **Roma, Starr County, Texas** to **Juan Robles** and wife **Delfina**. **Mr. Robles** married **Cruz Alcorta** on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 1940. From this union they were

blessed with 10 children. In 1965 he moved to **Angleton** with his family. He and his family attended **Santo Tomas de Aquina Catholic Church** and after it's closure they attended **St. Basil** which is now **Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church** which was his final celebration of life. He was indeed a very humble, loving, caring and charitable person.

**Mr. Robles** is survived by his devoted wife of 67 years and his family. **Andrew Robles** of **Angleton**, **Ramon Robles** and wife, **Martha** of **Texas City**, **Gloria Soliz** and husband **Raymond** of **Angleton**, **Alonzo Robles** of **Houston**, **Dora Robles** and husband **Antonio** of **Katy**, **Janie Valadez** and husband **Pete** of **Clute**, **Frank Robles** and wife **Hope** of **Angleton**, **Margaret Ferrel** and husband **Louis** of **Houston** and sister **Angelita Robles Davila** of **Lockhart Texas**.

Honorary pallbearers were his 24 grandchildren, 33 great grandchildren and four great great grandchildren. What a beautiful blessing **Mr. Robles** was loved by the community. He never met a stranger. Everyone was his brother. He set a great example to his family. Never give your back to the needy. Work hard to reach your goal is there waiting for you. He was a member of the **Holy Name Society**, **Knight Columbus** and **Cursillista**. May You Rest Peace.



## Dr. Alma Perez Joins La Voz as a New Columnist

**Dr. Alma Perez** has joined **La Voz Newspapers** as an education columnist. **Perez**, who is originally from San Angelo, Texas, graduated from the **University of Texas at Austin** with a Ph.D in Education in 2007. She has worked in higher education at several universities around the state and is currently employed at the **University of Texas at San Antonio**.

**Dr. Perez** has been a long time activist in the Chicano civil rights movement and her family has followed her example. One of her daughters is an attorney with the **Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund**. Look for **Dr. Perez's** column every month in **La Voz de Brazoria County**.



## Dr. Israel Cuéllar Passes Away

As a teenager in **Laredo**, **Israel Cuéllar** didn't seem too pre-occupied by academics or, necessarily, his heritage. As an adult, he discovered his passion at universities across the country and preached the importance of valuing culture — specifically his own — when addressing mental health issues.

**Cuéllar**, considered a pioneer in the field of Hispanics and mental health, died Sept. 7. He was 61 and had amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

Growing up near the Texas-Mexican border, **Linda Cuéllar** said her brother's cultural awareness was piqued when he left home. "He was from the deepest part of South Texas," she said.

"When he left his culture, he started learning about it."

Arriving at the **University of Texas at Austin** to earn his Ph.D., **Israel Cuéllar** was encouraged by a mentor to study the interface of Hispanics and mental health. While working on his dissertation, he discovered that state mental health services were being underutilized by those with Mexican heritage.

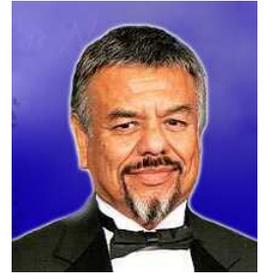
He pioneered a culturally sensitive treatment unit for Hispanics at the **San Antonio State Hospital** and went on to teach at the **University of Texas-Pan American** and **Michigan State University**. In addition, he had a private psychology practice and authored numerous academic papers and books.



## Rick Noriega Continues to Make Progress in His Race for the Senate

**Rick Noriega**, the Democratic nominee for the United States Senate position currently held by **John Cornyn**, continues to build support around the state of Texas. **Noriega** is scheduled to debate **Cornyn** on October 9th. Check your local listing for the exact channel.

Over the last several months **Noriega** has build a campaign organizations that virtual touches every one of the 254 counties in what will be his district.



## Little Joe Wins Grammy for Tejano Album of the Year

**Little Joe** of **Little Joe y La Familia** fame is the winner of the 2008 Latin Grammy for Best Tejano Album of the Year. The album title: *Before the Next Tear-drop Falls*, is in part a tribute to the late great **Freddy Fender**.

For more than 40 years **Little Joe** has led the Tejano music industry in reaching out to a varied and more diverse audience. He has played in Europe and Japan to thousands of people and is one of the best known Tejano musicians in the world.

The 9th Annual Latin GRAMMY Awards will take place on Nov. 13 at the **Toyota Center** in **Houston** and will be broadcast live on the Univision Network from 8-11 p.m. ET/PT.



## Hispanic Scholarship Fund

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**Hispanic Heritage Month Editorial**  
**September 15 to October 15**

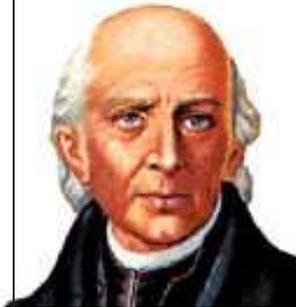
Muy buenas tardes por si acaso usted esta leyendo esto en la tarde. Y por supuesto, muy buenos dias if you are reading this in the morning. Lo importante is that you are reading. Tengo muchas cosas que decir este mes asi es que, voy a empezar con el contenido de este ejemplar de *La Voz de Brazoria County*.

This month **Hispanic Heritage Month**, is being celebrated around the county many cities and community organizations. This day commemorates the 16th of September with proclamations and festivals. But there are those who still wonder exactly what the 16th of September is all about. Now that I am older and hopefully wiser, I have come to learn that the 16th of September was not suppose to have happened on the 16th of September.

Many years ago while in an exchange program with the Rotary Foundation in **Querétaro, Mexico**, no platicaron la historia de **La Corregidora, Josefa Ortiz de Dominguez**. She was the wife of the **Miguel Dominguez**, the Corregidor of Querétaro. (Sort of like a magistrate)

**Doña Josefa** was a member of literary society where people came together to discuss literature and the works of the Enlightenment which at the time were banned by the **Roman Catholic Church**. These meetings were attended by many educated people include a priest named **Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla**.

It was in this "literary society" meetings that the idea of ending the rule of the Spanish began to get traction. Recall that in the early part of the 19th century, (the



1800's) the ideas of democracy and freedom together with the new experiment called the **United States of America**, inspired many people around the world to wonder why they had to live under the rule of a king or queen. People began to question their place and treatment in society and they were ready for change. (Barack Obama was of course not the first to propose the idea of change)

As the mood in **Querétaro** and other places in **Mexico** began to change, there were a number of priests who sensed that the time was right to become a part of history. **Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla** was one of them. Plans had been made to gather weapons and supplies and transport them for an uprising on December 8th, 1810 right before the celebrations for

**El Dia de La Virgen de Guadalupe.**

But **Doña Josefa** and her group were betrayed and her husband, **El Corregidor de Querétaro** was furious that his wife would be involved in such activities. After having her locked in her room, he prepared to round up the would be revolutionaries, including **Father Miguel Hidalgo**.

**Doña Josefa** managed to smuggle a note out of her room with the help of a maid. The note was **Father Hidalgo** warning him that they had been discovered and that the soldiers were coming for him. An ally of **Doña Josefa** rode into the night and it was he who delivered the somber news to **Father Hidalgo** in **Dolores, Guanajuato** telling him what had happened.

Knowing that time was short, **Father Hidalgo** made the snap decision to go to the church at 2:00am and ring the bell to call the people to the church where he would give his famous **Grito de Dolores** and ignite the **Mexican War of Independence**.

The struggle to free **Mexico** from the rule of **Spain** would take 11 years and cost many lives. **Father Hidalgo** would not live to see **Mexico** free, but his words, actions and spirit live on today. And it is this that many Mexican American celebrate each 16th of September.

Looking back, all of what I have just shared with you was unknown to me until I went to college. As a high school student in the 1960s in **Uvalde, Texas**, I never once learned about this history in my



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

history classes. A nostros nunca nos enseñaron la historia de **Mexico**. When I did learn about it as a college student at the **University of California at Berkeley** during the years of the Chicano Movement, I was amazed, surprised and actually very proud.

I was proud to learn that we, my ancestors, had in fact pulled off an amazing feat by beating the Spaniards who for 300 years had ruled **Mexico**. (1521 to 1821).

Pues, mi intención era nada más dar un breve reporte del contenido de **La Voz**, pero se me fue la onda and I told you a longer story. *Asi es que*, I invite you to check out the various stories and articles in the following pages. I believe that you will find the stories on education particularly informative.

The story on telling time in cultural phases should also prove to be very interesting. We of course welcome letters to the editor.

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# An Interview with Art Zarate

Several weeks ago, Mr Art Zarate of Angleton, Texas was given a surprise birthday party by family and friends. *La Voz de Brazoria County* attended the party and it became clear there was indeed a story that deserved to be shared with our readers.

Thus, we bring you the following interview and invite our readers to not be shy about letting us know about events going on in their families that they might like to have covered by *La Voz de Brazoria County*.

**La Voz:** We recently had the pleasure of attending a birthday party at your home in Angleton. I believe it was a surprise birthday. So let me ask you, were you surprised?

**Art Zarate:** Yes, very surprised. My wife did one at 30 and 40, but not at 50 years, so I was not expecting a birthday party this year!

**La Voz:** So how many years Mr. Zarate? ¿Cuántos años tenemos ahora?

**Art Zarate:** 60 years. Time flies!

**La Voz:** From your vantage point, has time gone by quickly?

**Art Zarate:** It seems that when I was younger time almost stood still sometimes (summer vacations during high school). Now, it seems that five years was just last year or two years ago.

**La Voz:** Let's share with our readers a little bit about your life. When did you first come to Angleton? Did you choose Angleton or did a company close to Angleton choose you?

**Art Zarate:** I worked in Corpus Christi at the PPG Chemical Division plant from 1970 to 1975. An opportunity came up, so I moved back to Brownsville to work at the Union Carbide plant as an Instrumentation Technician. The Carbide plant shut down in April of 1983; they did help us to find jobs at other plants along the gulf coast. I interviewed at Port Arthur, and the Goodyear plant in Houston, but Dow Chemical offered the best pay and benefits. I started work at the Dow



ABOVE: From left to right., Rey Zarate, Mary Bertha Farias, Anna Maria Ruiz, Art, Maria Elena Garza. Todos son hermanos de Art Zarate.

**Chemical plant in Freeport** in September of 1983. I just had my 25<sup>th</sup> year of service award.

**La Voz:** At your birthday party, someone told me about *El Rancho San Pedro*. What can you tell us about *El Rancho San Pedro*?

**Art Zarate:** This is a little community about 5 miles west of Brownsville on highway 281. When we were growing up, we could name off all the families that lived there and most of the kids. It has grown a lot since. My parents met, married, and lived there all their lives. They raised eleven children. My parents are buried at the local cemetery along highway 281 not far from where they lived.

**La Voz:** Where did you go to school?

**Art Zarate:** We were lucky to have grown up where there was a school nearby. We used to go home for lunch all through elementary grades. During high school, we were bused to Los Fresnos where I was one of forty two seniors to graduate in 1967.

**La Voz:** Did you like school?

**Art Zarate:** Yes.

**La Voz:** How did the teachers treat you?

**Art Zarate:** Ninety percent of the teachers were Hispanic with some from surrounding

communities and they could better understand the needs of the students. I for one did not know many English words on my first day of school.

**La Voz:** Was there one particular teacher that still stands out in your mind?

**Art Zarate:** My sophomore English teacher, Mrs. Moses. I remember that she took the time to help us understand that in literature you need to look for the meaning of statements made by the author. In addition she was very disciplined in teaching the grammar.

**La Voz:** How many brothers and sisters do you have and where are they?

**Art Zarate:** Six brothers and four sisters. My oldest brother and sister are deceased. Four of my brothers live in the Brownsville area, one sister in San Benito, another in San Antonio, and one in Cypress near Houston. One other brother lives in Marquez northwest of Huntsville. Five of us brothers served in the military.

**La Voz:** Did you work when you were going to school?

**Art Zarate:** Our father was a farmer; we worked all the time.

**La Voz:** During your birthday party, we were in your backyard and different people shared memories and thoughts about you

and your wife. Can we share with our readers how you met your wife?

**Art Zarate:** I met my wife at my younger sister's wedding. I was her escort for the evening. She was tall, slim, good looking, with long black hair, and she had the softest hands.

**La Voz:** When you look back over your life, what have been some of the major challenges you have overcome?

**Art Zarate:** Growing up with limited resources; we were many in the family. The major source of income was farm work.

**La Voz:** Let's talk about successes. What are some of the major successes in your life?

**Art Zarate:** Being able to recognize the need to excel in school in order to get ahead. I got out of high school with decent grades, and that allowed me to qualify for electronics training in the U. S. Army. That in turn paved the way to qualify for an apprenticeship as an Instrument Technician at the PPG Industries plant in Corpus Christi.

**La Voz:** Here are some short and easy questions:

**Last book read?** The Informant

**Favorite type of music?** I like a lot of different music; jazz, piano, Juan Gabriel, Marco Antonio Solis

**Favorite food?** Grilled rib eye steak with seasoned salt, garlic powder, cumin, and lemon pepper. I love my wife's Thanksgiving dinner, she also makes the best potato salad, and home made caldo on a cold day.

**Things still left to do in life.** See my children married and see their children grow. I would like to go to Alaska, Wyoming, Key West, and the U. S. Virgin Islands. My wife and I are going on a trip to Washington DC and up the east coast to see the changing of the leaves in October. I was stationed at a missile site in Bristol, Rhode Island, and I want to show her the area. I want to go eat some good seafood. My wife wants to go to Mystic, Connecticut and eat the mystic pizza that was featured in the Julia Roberts movie "Mystic Pizza".

# The Touch of a Teacher

## How a little time in the life of a child can make all the difference in the world

In a few weeks Texas schools will open their doors for the 2008-2009 academic year. Most students will begin the term with new clothes and all the nervousness that comes from advancing to the next grade. But not all the children will begin the new school year at the same time. Those that have spent the summer up North with their parents who work in the agricultural fields will not be arriving until mid September or even October.

The story you are about to read concerns one of these students. It was written by his fifth grade teacher. If you are a teacher, you may have had a student like **Juan Garza** in your class. Or maybe you knew a student like him when you were going to school.

**Juan's** letter came today and now that I have read it, I will place it in my cedar chest with the other things that are important in my life. The letter started out with: *"I wanted you to be the first to know. . . ."*

I smiled as I read the words he had written and my heart swelled with a pride that I have no right to feel. I have not seen **Juan Garza** since he was a student in my class some 17 years ago. It was early in my teaching career. I had only been teaching two years but from the first day that he stepped into my classroom, I disliked **Juan**.



Teachers are not supposed to have favorites in a class, but most especially they are not to show a dislike for a particular child. I thought I was quite capable of handling my personal feelings along that line until **Juan** walked into my class.

I'm sorry to say it, but **Juan Garza** was one student I disliked. First of all he was dirty. Not just occasionally, but all of the time. Second, he smelled. He smelled like the crops he and his family were picking. And of course the smell varied with whatever was being harvested. His hair hung low over his ears and he actually had to hold it out of his eyes as he worked on assignments in class.

By the end of the first week of school, I knew he was hopelessly behind all the others. And not only was he behind, but he was also just plain slow. As each day passed, I began to withdraw from him. While I didn't actually ridicule the boy, my

attitude was obviously apparent to the rest of the class for he quickly became the class goat, the outcast, the unlovable, the unloved.

He knew I didn't like him but he didn't know why. He also knew that other teachers in the school didn't like him either. As the days rolled on we made it through the fall festival, Halloween and Thanksgiving. By the time the Christmas season arrived I knew **Juan** was going to have to repeat the entire school year.

**To justify holding him back, I went to his cumulative folder from time to time.**

To justify holding him back, I went to his cumulative folder from time to time. He had very low grades for the first four years but no grade failures. How he made it . . . I do not know. I closed my mind to the per-

sonal remarks that had been written by other teachers over the years. Remarks like:

**1st grade** - Juan shows promise but has a poor situation at home.

**2nd grade** - Juan could do better, but his mother is terminally ill. He receives little help at home.

**3rd grade** - Juan is a pleasant boy, but misses too many days of school. Mother passed away at the end of the school year.

**4th grade** - Very slow but well behaved. Show some talent for art. Father absent often. Believed to be working in California.

Well they passed him four times, but he will certainly repeat the fifth grade. "Do him good," I said to myself.

The day before the holidays arrived we had a school Christmas party. Teachers always get gifts, but for some reason this party seemed bigger and more elaborate than ever. There wasn't a student who hadn't brought me a gift. And each unwrapping brought squeals of delight as the students tried to guess who it was from.

### Juan's gift wasn't the last one I picked up . . .

Juan's gift wasn't the last one I picked up. In fact, it was somewhere in the middle of the pile. It's wrapping was accomplished with a brown paper bag. For decorations he had colored Christmas trees and bells all around it and used masking tape to hold it together. The tag said: For **Miss Johnson** from **Juan**.

The class was completely silent as I began to unwrap **Juan's** gift. As I removed the last bit of masking tape, two items fell out and onto my lap. One was a gaudy rhinestone bracelet with several stones missing. The second item was a bottle of dime store cologne that was half empty. I could hear the snickering and whispers of the other children. At first I was embarrassed. Then I thought no. . . there is no reason for me to be embarrassed.

### I looked at Juan and said "Isn't this lovely?"

I looked at **Juan** and said "Isn't this lovely?" I placed the bracelet on my wrist and asked him to help me fasten the clasp. There were a few oohs and aahs as I dabbed the cologne behind my ears. I continued to open gifts until I reached the bottom of the pile. We drank our refreshments and played games until the bell rang signaling the end of school for the holidays. Everyone gathered their belongings and filed out of the room with shouts of Merry Christmas. Everyone except **Juan**. He stayed behind.

With just us in the room, **Juan** walked toward my desk clutching his books. "You smell just like my mom," he said softly. "Her bracelet looks real pretty on you too. I'm glad you like it." Then he quickly left the room.

I locked the door to my classroom, sat down at my desk and wept quietly. When the tears stopped I resolved to make up for the way in which I had been treating **Juan**. For months I had deliberately deprived him of a teacher who truly cared.

Beginning in January, I stayed after school every afternoon with **Juan**. We did extra problems in math. We did extra work in reading and spelling. Slowly but surely, he started to improve. By April, he was really moving along. Even the other students noticed that something was very different about **Juan**. Only once did I panic when

What a surprise. I sent him a card of congratulations and a small pen and pencil gift. **Juan Garza**, I wondered what he would do after graduation?

Four years later, **Juan's** second letter came. It had a postmark from **Ann Arbor, Michigan**:



he missed several days of school. It turned out that had to go work in the fields.

### When the school year ended Juan had one of the highest averages in the class.

When the school year ended **Juan** had one of the highest averages in the class. And even though I knew he would be leaving for **California** to work in the strawberry fields, I believed that he had found a new confidence and outlook on who and what he could be.

I continued to teach and never again heard from **Juan** . . . until seven years later. He wrote me a letter from **Watsonville, California** that started out:

Dear Miss Johnson,

*I wanted you to be the first to know, I will be graduating from high school next month, second in my class.*

Very truly yours,

Juan Garza.

Dear Miss Johnson,

*I wanted you to be the first to know that I was informed I'll be graduating first in my class. The University has not been easy. Although I received a small scholarship from the farmworkers union, I had to work part-time all four years to help cover the costs. But I loved every minute of it.*

Very truly yours,

Juan P. Garza

**Juan** is graduating from college? I thought back for a moment at how quickly the years had passed and the fact that he still remembered me. I also recalled that Christmas party. I decided to send him a nice pair of sterling silver monogram cuff links and a card. I was so very proud of him. The **University of Michigan at Ann Arbor** is one of the best schools in the world. He was doing good, very good!

Today, I received **Juan's** third letter with a postmark from the **Boston** area. Like his other letters he started it with:

Dear Miss Johnson,

*I wanted you to be the first to know, that as of this writing I am now Juan P. Garza, M.D.. How about that! Harvard was hard but I have no regrets. I will be returning to California to do a residency at UCLA and work on pesticide issues as they effect farmworkers.*

*And I am going to be married in July . . . the 27th, to be exact. I wanted to ask you if you could come and sit where Mom would sit if she were here. I'll have no family present as Dad died last year. It would mean a lot to me. I can send you the plane tickets.*

Very truly yours,

Juan

I'm not sure what kind of gift one sends to a doctor upon completion of medical school. I'll have to think about it for a moment. But my note cannot wait.

Dear Juan,

*Congratulations. You did it by yourself in spite of those like me, and not because of me. This day has come for you. God Bless you.*

*I'll be at that wedding with great joy.*

Very truly yours,

Miss Johnson

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This story was adapted from an anonymous letter that passed out many years ago at a teacher conference. The original author is to be commended for an excellent story structure.



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for **CONSTABLE Pct. 1**

# Little Joe Wins Another Grammy

**Little Joe & La Familia** has been one of the most popular Tex-Mex bands in the music industry. **Little Joe** has been entertaining more than 40 years and has been described as the "KING OF THE BROWN SOUND". He has also helped pioneer "Tejano" music, a mix of traditional "norteno" music and country, blues and rock styles.

Recently, **Joe** won his 4th Grammy for Best Tejano Album of the Year. The **9th Annual Latin Grammy Awards** will take place on November 13th, 2008 at the **Toyota Center** in **Houston, Texas** and will be broadcast live on the **Unvision Network** from 8-11pm.

## ABOUT LITTLE JOE ABOUT LITTLE JOE

**Joe** was born to **Jesse** and **Amelia DeLeon Hernandez** in a three wall dirt floor car garage in **Temple, Texas** on a cold stormy night on October 17, 1940.

He was the 7th child of 13. In 1953, **Joe's** cousin, **David Coronado**, who fronted the band "**David Coronado & The Latinaires**" recruited **Joe** for guitar, **Cino Moreno** on drums and **Tony Matamoros** on saxophone to join his band.

**In 1955, Joe would play his first musical performance in Cameron, Texas for \$5.00 at a high school Sock Hop.**

In 1955, **Joe** would play his first musical performance in **Cameron, Texas** for \$5.00 at a high school Sock Hop. He was so excited, he realized that picking guitars beat cotton picking and he could actually get paid for it.

In 1958, **Joe** would make his recording debut as a guitarist for **Terro Records** in **Corpus Christi, Texas**, an instrumental single "Safari part 1 and 2" which was composed by all members of the Latinaires.

In 1959, **Jesse**, **Joe's** young brother who was the bassist, singer and songwriter would join in the band as **David Coronado** was leaving. **Joe** took over the band renaming it "**Little Joe & The Latinaires**".



In 1964, **Jesse** was killed in an automobile accident. **Joe** then made a vow at **Jesse's** gravesite to carry his music to the top; not realizing how high his music would take him, how it would open many doors for other artists or how he would set many trends.

In the 60's, **Joe** would sign with the **Texas** based independent record companies, starting with his 1st record deal, **Corona Records** in **San Antonio**, next **Valmon records** in **Austin** and later **Zarape Records** in **Dallas**. **Joe** ventured into his own independent label "**Buena Suerte Records**" for spanish recordings and "**Good luck Records**" for his english records. Also to follow would be **Leona Records**, a label also owned by **Joe** and a distribution deal with **Freddy Records** in **Corpus Christi, Texas** which would keep **Joe** independent through the 70's and 80's.

In 1970, after playing and spending much time in **San Francisco** and the bay area, **Joe** discovered "Latinismo", a strong latin musical world which was not found in **Texas** at that time. It had profound change in his music and his cultural values which prompted him to change the name of his band from **The Latinaires** to "**La Familia**".

**Joe** wanted more knowledge on his heritage and his roots.

While with **Sony Discos**, he would be a 2 time Grammy nominee, and in 1992 would receive the GRAMMY AWARD for "Dies y Seis De Septiembre" for the BEST MEXICAN-AMERICAN PERFORMANCE CATEGORY in 1991. Part of his vow to **Jesse** would be fulfilled.

In 1983, **Joe** signed his first major record deal with **WEA International**. After leaving **WEA**, **Joe** would once again go independent and form "**Redneck Records**" where he recorded the live Double Album "25 Silver Anniversary" in 1985. This album was placed with **CBS** which later became **Sony Discos International**.

After leaving **Sony** the following year, going independent again, **Joe** would receive his 3rd Grammy nomination for his 1st recording "Que Paso" under his record label, **Tejano Discos International**.

In 1996, **Joe** would appear on the 1997 Grammy nominated album, "**Frank Yanovich and Friends, Songs of the Polka King, Vol. 1**" in which he performed a duet with **Frank Yanovich** on the song "Just Because/Si Porque".

Currently, **Joe** has signed a co-venture deal with his company. "**DeLeon Publishing**" and "**Peer Music Limited Publishing**" in an effort to bring a major publishing outlet for **Texas** songwriters extending publishing work to 33 countries.

Recently, **Joe** signed with **Capitol EMI**. His 1st recording became a Grammy Nominated album entitled **Little Joe 2000**. Aside from his music career, **Joe** has worked in the film industry starring in two feature films, **Proposition 187**, **A deadly Law**, and "**Down for the Barrio**". Forty Years.....and over 50 albums later, **Joe** is touring the world, trailblazing, looking forward to new challenges, breaking down cultural and musical barriers and innovating his musical style. As always, **Joe** strives to bring many people together to make a more peaceful and harmonious world.



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-Yesenia Silva

## “Una Buena Educación”

by Dr. Alma Perez

Escribo esta columna para dar a conocer lo que he descubierto y aprendido en estudios que realicé recientemente para mi disertación doctoral en educación en la **Universidad de Texas en Austin**. Hice mi investigación doctoral porque es para mí muy importante el análisis de la póliza educativa que tiene el estado de Texas sobre el uso de los idiomas diferentes al inglés, particularmente el español, que impacta grandemente a los estudiantes Latinos en la calidad de su educación y de sus logros académicos que por el momento son de bajo nivel. A mi parecer, se necesita ejecutar una estrategia muy bien planeada para seguir en la lucha para alcanzar una educación equitativa, efectiva y justa.

En el reporte *Texas Challenge* del 2004, el **Dr. Steve Murdock** demógrafo del estado de Texas, indica que para el año 2040, los Latinos en Texas van a ser casi el 60% de la población, además dice que el 25% de los Latinos mayores de 25 años solamente tendrán su secundaria y que menos del 10% estará terminando una carrera universitaria. Las últimas encuestas del *Pew Hispanic Center* (2008) reportan que nuestro nivel de educación se encuentra en un estado de crisis. Por otra parte, el Buró de Censo de los Estados Unidos pronostica que la población Hispana crecerá fuertemente y que para el 2050 habrá más estudiantes Latinos que Anglos.

Mi propósito al escribir esta columna es darles a conocer información que nos ayude a que juntos podamos apoyar la educación de todos los Latinos y de todos los que aprenden inglés como segundo idioma (a estas personas se les llama ELL que significa *English Language Learners*) en las escuelas o fuera de ellas. Así, vamos a poder cambiar las predicciones negativas sobre los Hispanos.

Con mucho gusto y respeto, les ofrezco esta columna periodística en la que participaré dos veces por mes. Mi experiencia y amplia visión sobre el tema educativo me animan a participar positivamente en el desarrollo de nuestro futuro Latino en Estados Unidos. Creo sinceramente que la educación es el vehículo más apropiado para salir adelante como personas, como raza, y como país. Con una “buena” educación podremos tener éxito en todos sentidos, seremos más capaces, tendremos más satisfacciones, y alcanzaremos el éxito económico. Además, el nivel de liderazgo en la política crecerá por esa “buena” educación; podremos tomar puestos de alta responsabilidad que tengan influencia en las leyes y las políticas con beneficio a la comunidad Latina.

En lo personal, yo soy producto de un sistema educativo donde se practicó la segregación racial durante los años del periodo de americanización entre los años 1940 a 1960. Gracias a la Ley de los Derechos Civiles de 1974, ya no tenemos que asistir a escuelas segregadas donde se encontraban los mexicanos y los afro-americanos en escuelas separadas de los anglosajones. A pesar de esta triste época en la historia de Texas, muchos pudimos salir adelante porque tuvimos fe y nos educamos. Nuestros antepasados no la tuvieron fácil; habían perdido no sólo sus derechos civiles a causa del Tratado de Guadalupe en 1845, sino también perdieron sus tierras y el derecho al uso del idioma español con la ley de 1918 llamada “*No Spanish Rule*”. Todos esos factores históricos tuvieron el resultado esperado en su educación: un nivel educativo muy bajo.

En este siglo XXI, esperamos superarnos y salir adelante. La educación va a ser el cambio en nuestra comunidad, tanto para los que han estado en este país por generaciones como para los recién llegados. Pronto, en enero de 2009 dará comienzo la sesión ordinaria de la Legislatura de **Texas**. Ahí se discuten propuestas que tienen impacto en la educación que reciben los estudiantes Hispanos. En esta columna, yo les voy a dar estadísticas, noticias, resultados de encuestas y demás logros importantísimos para que estemos preparados cuando sea hora de dar una opinión o un voto. Esto ayudará a estar bien informados, a tener una “buena” educación en estos temas. Tengo la esperanza de que esta información sirva como la mejor herramienta para combatir el analfabetismo, eliminar el bajo nivel de pobreza y los problemas que invaden a nuestros barrios

Gracias a Conexión Hispana por la oportunidad de compartir con ustedes esta nota.

# ¿De Que Se Trata El Puesto? What Does the Job Entail?

## County Judge

The Texas Constitution vests broad judicial and administrative powers in the position of county judge, who presides over a five-member commissioners court, which has budgetary and administrative authority over county government operations.

The county judge handles such widely varying matters as hearings for beer and wine license applications, hearing on admittance to state hospitals for the mentally ill and mentally retarded, juvenile work permits and temporary guardianships for special purposes. The judge is also responsible for calling elections, posting election notices and for receiving and canvassing the election returns. The county judge may perform marriages.

A county judge in Texas may have judicial responsibility for certain criminal, civil and probate matters - responsibility for these functions vary from county to county. In those counties in which the judge has judicial responsibilities, the judge has appellate jurisdiction over matters arising from the justice courts. The county judge is also head of civil defense and disaster relief, county welfare and in counties under 225,000 population, the judge prepares the county budget along with the county auditor or county clerk.

## Sheriff

Long respected as the county's top lawman, the sheriff has a range of duties that include criminal investigations, traffic enforcement, operation of the jail and other responsibilities.

Duties of the sheriff include:

- Providing security for the operation of county and district courts;
- Enforcing traffic laws, other county ordinances and other state laws;
- Service of process;
- Accepting bail for prisoners in his custody;
- Conducting sales of seized and unclaimed properties; and
- Taking charge of and responsibility for the county jail and prisoners.

## County Commissioner

The job of the county commissioner calls for hands-on service delivery as well as policy-making budget decisions.

Four commissioners, each elected from a quarter of the county's population, serve along with the county judge on the commissioners court. In addition to assuring that county roads are maintained, commissioners vote with the county judge to set the budget for all county departments and adopt a tax rate.

Among other responsibilities, the commissioners court:

Sets the yearly property tax rate and approves the budget and employment level for the county;

Sets commissioners and justice of the peace precinct boundaries;

Calls, conducts and certifies elections, including bond elections;

Sets employment and benefit policy;

Establishes long-range thoroughfare, open space, land use, financial and law enforcement/jail needs plans;

Acquires property for rights-of-way or other uses determined to be in the public's best interest;

Reviews and approve subdivision platting and wastewater treatment for rural areas;

Oversees the construction, maintenance and improvement of county roads and bridges;

Appoints non-elected department heads and standing committees;

Supervises and controls the county courthouse, county buildings and facilities;

Adopts a county budget;

Determines county tax rates; Fills vacancies in elective and appointive positions; and Has exclusive authority to authorize contracts in the name of the county.

## Tax Assessor-Collector

Because of the wide range of responsibilities performed by the assessor-collector, most citizens deal with this county official more frequently than any other office.

The major tax duty of the assessor-collector, who collects property taxes, is the assessment (calculation) of taxes on each property in the county and collection of that tax as established by the Constitution and the State Property Tax Code. In addition, as an agent of the Texas Department of Transportation, the assessor-collector is responsible for the registration and licensing of motor vehicles owned by residents of the county.

Another duty of the county tax assessor-collector is that of voter registrar. In most Texas counties, a person would register to vote through the office of county tax assessor-collector. In a few counties, the commissioners court has designated the county clerk or an elections administrator to provide this function. The county tax office voter registration responsibilities include accepting applications for voter registration, issuing voter certificates, maintaining voter registration lists, verifying petitions for local option elections and submitting required reports to the Secretary of State's Office.

The county tax assessor-collector is also responsible for the collections of special fees imposed by the county and state on coin-operated vending machines, alcoholic beverage permits and registration and titling boats.

## Justice of the Peace

The justice of the peace is the legal jurisdiction closest to the average citizen.

Section 19 of Article 5 of the Texas Constitution provides that: justice of the peace courts have original jurisdiction in criminal matters of misdemeanor cases punishable by fine only and such other jurisdiction as may be provided by law. Original jurisdiction is the authority to accept a case at its inception, try it and pass judgment based upon the laws and facts. This is distinguished from appellate jurisdiction which is jurisdiction to review a court's action.

The justice of the peace performs the functions of a magistrate and conducts inquests.

A justice of the peace may issue warrants for search and arrest, conduct preliminary hearings, administer oaths, perform marriages and serve as a coroner in counties where there is no provision for a medical examiner. The justice court also functions as a small claims court in civil matters in which exclusive jurisdiction is not in district or county court and the amount in controversy does not exceed \$5,000. They can also deal with matters concerning foreclosure of mortgages and enforcement of liens on personal property.

## Constable

These peace officers are the first link in the county's chain of law enforcement.

Along with their deputies, constables have all the enforcement powers of Texas peace officers. They are sometimes referred to as the executive officer of the justice of the peace courts. Their duties are to:

- Subpoena witnesses;
- Act as bailiff;
- Execute judgments; and
- Service of process.

In large metropolitan counties the constable may also assist the county and district courts. In addition, they may perform patrol functions and make criminal investigations. They are involved in the overall effort to reduce the effects of crime in their communities, including in some cases the operation of truancy programs.

Source: Texas Association of Counties

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El Dr. Dadá recibió su bachiller médica de la Universidad de St. George, escuela de medicina con honores en 2001. Completó su residencia en la Universidad de Centro Médico de Connecticut en Farmington, Connecticut. Continuó como Jefe residencia médica y luego como asistente profesor de medicina. Completó su dos años de Nefrología en junio 2008.

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# TIME-TELLING AND CULTURAL PHRASES IN THE WINTER GARDEN AREA

By Richard G. Santos

My friends are still convinced I am deprived on account I was deprived for not being born or raised in the **Winter Garden Area**. Moreover, I was never a farm worker and the only cotton I ever picked was off my belly button and that does not count. Consequently, my coffee-drinking buddies have taken it upon themselves to teach me the proper bilingual/bicultural time telling phrases. Fortunately, my graduate degree in linguistics makes me a dialectologist and that allows me to interpret the historical, cultural and linguistic importance of phrases and words.

For instance, something which occurred in the very distant past can be described as "*más viejo que la luna*" (older than the moon). Next oldest time reference in something which occurred "*el año del diluvio*" (year of the great [Biblical] flood). The great-great-great parents' time is referred to as "*cuando andaban las vívoras paradas*" (when snakes used to walk erect). "*El año de la hebra*" (year of the loose thread, or run [as in stockings, shirt, etc.]) seems to refer to the great-great parents' time. However, does it refer to when "things started to fall apart"? Or, when "things" got started? Hmmmmmm

In **Laredo**, which is outside the **Winter Garden Area**, I picked up "*el año de la canica*" (the year of the marble) which is an obvious reference to the speaker's childhood. **Zavala County Commissioner David Lopez** and several others say "*el otro día*" (the other day). However, that could be referring to last week or five to ten years ago! Ayyyyy.

One phrase of Sephardic Jewish origin was told to me by an unsuspecting friend who had no idea of the importance of the phrase he used to tell time. In fact, I almost fell off my chair and went silent when I heard him say "*el año de la inquisición*" (the year of the Inquisition). Unknown to him, he belongs to a well known Spanish Jewish family of **Nuevo León** which since 1608 has spread to **Coahuila**, **Tamaulipas**, **Texas** and the United States.

In 1652, the parish priest of **Saltillo**, **Coahuila** filed a complaint against **Captain Diego Villarreal** with the Office of the Inquisition. The priest was appalled that **Captain Villarreal**, whose parents had been converted to Catholicism as adults, owned land, rode a horse, wore silk clothing and jewelry! To make a long story short, the priest was transferred! **Captain Villarreal** was

married with **Beatriz de la Casas**, daughter of suspected Spanish Jewish parents **Bernabé de la Casas** and **Beatriz Navarro**. **Don Bernabé**, his wife and daughter had gone to New Mexico in 1598 with colonizing conquistador **Juan Pérez de Oñate** but by 1603 had moved to **Saltillo**.

As for **Captain Villarreal**, he claimed to have been born at **San Miguel el Grande** (now San Miguel Allende) but never revealed the name of his parents or their birthplace. Moreover, no historian or genealogist has been able to find a record of **Diego Villarreal's** birth, baptism or parents' names. Consequently, the history of the **Villarreal** family begins in 1608 when **Don Diego** entered **Nuevo León**.

In light of the family's history, I asked my friend where he learned the phrase. He replied he had learned it from his parents and grandparents in **Coahuila**. So, was my friend **Chema Villarreal** referring to when the Inquisition existed in **Mexico** from 1528 to 1821? Or was he referring to 1652 when the **Saltillo** priest complained about his ancestor **Captain Diego Villarreal**?

**Joe Cuevas still greets me with "cuantos perros en la horca" (how many dog are there at the gallows)**

**Joe Cuevas** still greets me with "*cuantos perros en la horca*" (how many dog are there at the gallows). The phrase 500 years ago was "*cuantos Moros en Lorca*" (how many Moors are there at the city of Lorca?). The proper reply is "*veinte en el quemadero*" (twenty being burned at the stake). The first speaker is supposed to counter-reply "*ojalá los quemem por habladores*" (hope they burn them for talking). Even though phrase refers to the **Mozarabic of Spain**, in reality it is in reference to Spanish Jews. The Crypto (secret) Spanish/Portuguese Jews hid their frustration with people who reported them to the Inquisition by calling them Arabs.

Another phrase with Sephardic Jewish overtones frequently heard in the **Winter Garden Area** does not refer to time. It/he/she/you can be described as being "*tan malo como la carne de puerco*" (as bad as pork meat). Many Jewish people do not eat pork products. However, Crypto (secret) Jews who

pretended to be Catholic in public but practiced Judaism in secret did not keep kosher. They ate pork products in order not to be reported to the Inquisition. It is interesting to note that in **Spain** today, (black, green, pinto, etc.) beans whether boiled or baked with pork are called "*frijoles judíos*" (Jewish beans).

In **Texas** and the abutting Mexican states of **Coahuila**, **Tamaulipas** and **Nuevo León**, many families who today do not practice the Jewish Faith have compromised and will not knowingly eat pork after sunset! Among the reasons given to this historian throughout the area is that pork meat "is too heavy, you'll get a heart attack and die". I have also been told that "there is something in our family blood and if we eat pork after sunset, we die". In other words, it/you/he/she is "*tan malo como la carne de puerco*".

Ironically, in my family and therefore upbringing, we ate pork every Friday. I was in my 30's when I suddenly realized how my Crypto Judaic ancestors and therefore family tradition got started. Catholics did not eat meat on Friday and Jews did not eat pork. So, we (the family) got back at both by eating pork every Friday! I still do. It is tradition!

Another phrase commonly heard in northeast **Mexico**, **Texas** and wherever the families of the ancient 1580 **Nuevo Reyno de León** have gone seems to refer to the reality of Jewish history. Does "*de mejores lugares me han corrido*" (I have been thrown out of better places) refer to the expulsions from Eden (Genesis), Canaan (circa 5000BC), Egypt (circa 4000BC), Babylon (circa 3000BC), Spain (1492), Portugal (1580) and most European countries until 1946?

We have taken the phrase for granted without considering its origin. In fact, the same can be said about the song *La Golondrina* (the swallow) which is a direct reference to the expulsion of the people of the Jewish Faith from **Spain** in 1492! Until rather recently, the song was the favored farewell song sung at a person's departure or funeral service. Although the poem was set to music in the late 1800's if you listen to the lyrics you would realize the singer laments the fact he is leaving his beloved homeland to which he can never return and will never see again! The singer does not

know where he/she is going and says he/she is as lost as a swallow without a nest.

Yes, *de mejores lugares me han corrido* and the poem-song *La Golondrina* refers to one such event. That is, to the 1492 expulsion from **Sepharad** (Spain) by Queen Isabel la Católica.

The song *El Quelite* (ragweed) also has Spanish Sephardic overtones. The song about the bitter herb/weed, says "*Que bonito es el quelite*" (ragweed is very beautiful), "*bién haya quién lo formó*" (blessed is He who made it), "*que por sus orillas tiéne*" (because on its edges/leaves it has) "*de quién acordarme yo*" (Someone I recall/think about). It continues with "*mañana me voy, mañana*" (tomorrow I will leave, tomorrow), "*mañana me voy de aquí*" (tomorrow I leave this place), "*el consuelo que me queda*" (my only consolation), "*que se han de acordar de mí*" (is that they will remember me).

So, dear readers, next time you hear either song or any one of the phrases listed above, consider our rich, centuries-old historical and cultural heritage. This we should protect *con orgullo y terquedad* (with pride and tenacity). Meanwhile, I will add that the song *La Golondrina* will be the theme song performed several times in my up-coming movie on the trial of the **Carvajal y de la Cueva-Rodríguez de Matos** by the **Mexico City** based Inquisition.

In one scene (the way I wrote it and hopefully the director-producer will keep it), **Doña Francisca Rodríguez de Matos** is being tortured with the door to the chamber wide opened so that her daughters, son and brother (Don Luis, the conquistador) can hear every scream. Alone in her cell, her daughter **Ysabel** (my aunt 450 years removed) starts singing the song until she breaks down. At that point a rich male baritone voice picks up the lyrics as a collage of scenes of the family members is shown on screen. The actual torture is never seen but hopefully the viewers will feel the psychological torment to which all family members were exposed before being burned at the stake. Just remember, this occurred during *el año de la inquisición*.

**Richard Santos** is the author of some 30 books and numerous articles and short stories. He currently resides in Pearsall, Texas.

**HELPLINE** is a **free**, confidential information & **referral** service of **United Way of Brazoria County**.  
The program links **people** in **need** with the **appropriate** human service agency.



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**Se Habla Español**

## 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 o 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 inglés.

Yo no tengo	I don't have
Dinero en el banco	Any money in the bank
Todo el guato del crises	All the comotion about the crises
Financiera no me afecta	financial does not affect me
a mi porque no tengo	because I do not have
inversiones en ninguna parte.	investments anywhere

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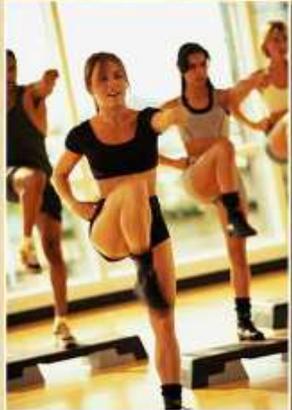
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# Hacienda Records



## Los Monarcas de Pete y Mario Díaz

Los Monarcas are truly monarchs in the world of Conjunto/Tejano music. The Houstonians span three generations of family tradition; Los Monarcas originally came together in 1966, when Pedro Díaz and his young son Mario first recorded for the Teardrop label. The group toured around the Houston area, playing at weekend functions as a result of local airplay popularity. In 1974, Pedro Díaz, Sr. retired from the group and was replaced by his son Pete. While recording for the legendary Nacho Garza, the group released several LP's on the "Cierra" label, Cara Records and later went international with CBS.



Los Monarcas continue their much-earned success by touring nationally and internationally with TV appearances on the Johnny Canales show and others.



It was truly a matter of time before two great legends came together (Hacienda Records and Los Monarcas). The result is the brilliant CD "Monarca Special", filled with all the emotion and energy that classics are truly made of.



Hacienda Records and Recording Studios

1236 South Staples

Corpus Christi, Texas 78404

PHONE (361) 882-7066 \* FAX (361) 882-3943

### History

Hacienda Records was founded in 1976, in Corpus Christi, TX by Roland & Annie Garcia and Roland's brother, Rick Garcia, engineer/producer, who remain at the helm, steering a dynamic staff to success. Today, Hacienda has established itself as one of the premier Spanish record labels and recording studios in the world and boasts a catalog with over 800 titles that specializes in Tejano, Traditional Tex-Mex, Conjunto and Norteño music. The catalog also contains some of the best Spanish Rock, Salsa, Merengue, Rap, Pop, Gospel and Christmas music in the business.

Over the past 30 years, Tex-Mex, Conjunto and Norteño groups have enjoyed an astounding level of performances and recordings throughout the southwest. Hacienda Records, has remained closely connected to the people of the southwest and the music they hear in the dance halls, clubs and festivals. These people places and event are the heart of where accordion driven music lives. During this time, Hacienda has produced some of the best music that will forever help preserve the Latin culture.

Through the hacienda website ([www.haciendarecords.com](http://www.haciendarecords.com)), visitors can connect to Hacienda's latest digital age innovation, the Hacienda Radio Network, broadcasting live music, 24/7 for everyone to listen to these timeless treasures. In that regard, Hacienda has digitally re-mastered enduring treasures by classic performers such as Lisa Lopez, Pio Treviño, Romance, Los Chachos, Ruben Vela, Showband USA, Steve Jordan, Mingo Saldivar, Tony De La Rosa, Ruben Naranjo, Freddy Fender, Valerio Longoria, Michelle and many others. Hacienda also offers music from contemporary conjunto stylists such as Albert Zamora y Talento, Los Dos Gilbertos, Ricky Naranjo, La Traizion, Cali Carranza, Peligro, Victoria y Sus Chikos and many more.

[www.haciendarecords.com](http://www.haciendarecords.com)

### Historia

Discos Hacienda fue fundada en 1976, en Corpus Christi, Texas por Roland y Annie Garcia, junto con el hermano de Roland, Rick Garcia, quién es ingeniero y productor y quienes continúan al mando, guiando a su dinámico personal hacia el éxito. Hoy en día, Discos Hacienda se a establecido como una de las primeras compañías de discos y estudios de grabación en el mundo y puede hacer alarde de un catalogo de más de 800 títulos que se especializan en música Tejana, Tradicional Tex-Mex, Conjunto y Norteña. El catalogo también contiene de lo mejor de la musica de Rock en Español, Salsa, Merengue, Rap, Pop, Christiana y Musica Navideña.

Por los ultimos 30 años, grupos de Tex-Mex, Conjuntos y Norteños han gozado de un increíble nivel de presentaciones y grabaciones por todo el Suroeste. Discos Hacienda, ha seguido conectada muy de cerca con la gente del Suroeste y con la musica que ellos escuchan en los salones de baile, clubs y festivales. Estas gentes, lugares y eventos son el corazón, donde vive la música de acordeón. Durante este tiempo, Discos Hacienda a producidola mejor música, que por siempre ayudara a perdurar la cultura Latina.

A travez de el sitio de Internet de Hacienda [www.haciendarecords.com](http://www.haciendarecords.com), nuestros visitantes se pueden conectar con la ultima inovación en la era digital, la red de radio de Hacienda Radio Network, difundiendo música en vivo 24 horas al día, 7 días a la semana para que todos puedan escuchar estas joyas eternas. En ese punto, Discos Hacienda a re-masterizado tesoros permanentes de artistas clasicos como Lisa Lopez, Pio Treviño, Romance, Los Chachos, Ruben Vela, Showband USA, Steve Jordan, Mingo Saldivar, Tony De La Rosa, Ruben Naranjo, Freddy Fender, Valerio Longoria, Michelle y muchos otros más. Discos Hacienda tambien ofrece música con artistas contemporaneos y estilistas como Albert Zamora Y Talento, Los Dos Gilbertos, Ricky Naranjo, La Traición, Cali Carranza, Peligro, Victoria Y Sus Chikos y muchos más.





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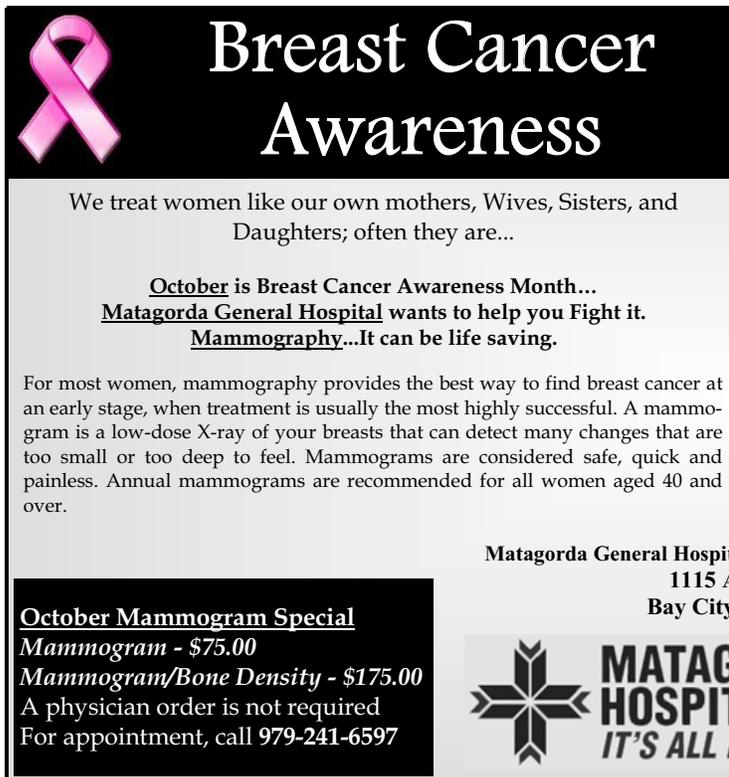
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Mammography...It can be life saving.

For most women, mammography provides the best way to find breast cancer at an early stage, when treatment is usually the most highly successful. A mammogram is a low-dose X-ray of your breasts that can detect many changes that are too small or too deep to feel. Mammograms are considered safe, quick and painless. Annual mammograms are recommended for all women aged 40 and over.

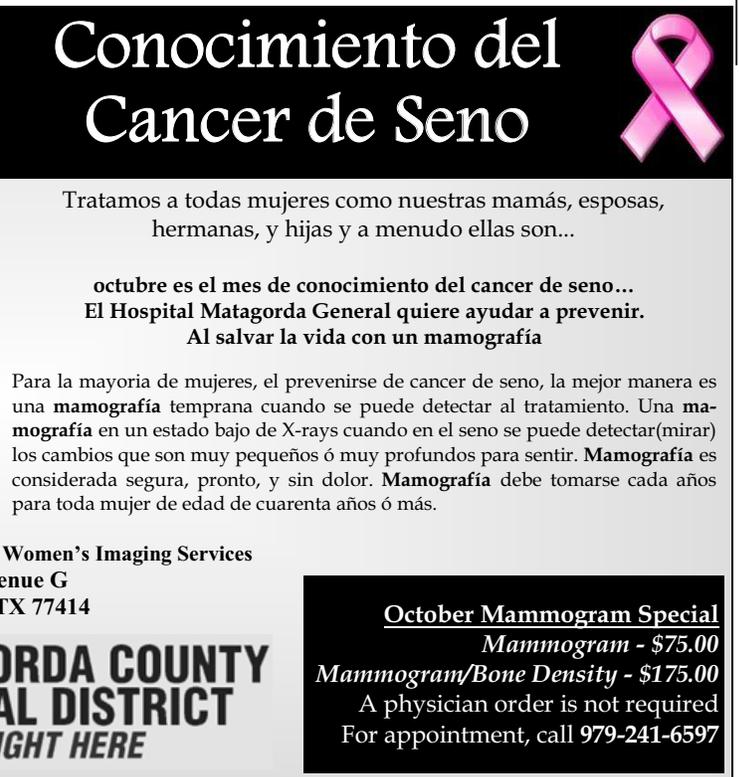
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El Hospital Matagorda General quiere ayudar a prevenir.  
Al salvar la vida con un mamografía

Para la mayoría de mujeres, el prevenirse de cancer de seno, la mejor manera es una **mamografía** temprana cuando se puede detectar al tratamiento. Una **mamografía** en un estado bajo de X-rays cuando en el seno se puede detectar(mirar) los cambios que son muy pequeños ó muy profundos para sentir. **Mamografía** es considerada segura, pronto, y sin dolor. **Mamografía** debe tomarse cada años para toda mujer de edad de cuarenta años ó más.