La Vozde Brazoria GRATIS County

Volume 20 Number 3 March, 2009 A Bilingual Publication RAZORIA COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Jamie Murray: Information Services Coordinator of the Brazoria County Historical Museum



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LÍDERES COMUNITARIOS SE UNEN EN EL CAPITOLIO AL DÍA DE ACCIÓN POLÍTICA DEL NCLR PARA EXPONER LAS PRIORIDADES DE LAS FAMILIAS LATINAS EN TIEMPOS DE DIFICULTAD ECONÓMICA

Washington, DC—Al igual que todos los estadounidenses, los latinos han sido golpeados por la peor crisis económica desde la Gran Depresión, afectando el acceso a y la calidad de sus necesidades más básicas, incluyendo el seguro de salud y la educación, y ha ido deteriorando el progreso de la cimentación de un bienestar financiero: tener un empleo y ser dueño de hogar. Hoy, los líderes de la comunidad latina de todo el país expresaron estas prioridades y buscaron soluciones durante la conferencia de prensa que tuvo lugar en el Capitolio como parte del Día Nacional de Acción Política 2009 del Consejo Nacional de La Raza (NCLR por sus siglas en inglés).

"Los latinos, motivados por los retos de nuestra nación y totalmente comprometidos con el futuro de nuestro país, demostramos en las elecciones del 2008 que estamos ansiosos por trabajar con el nuevo presidente y Congreso en el desarrollo de soluciones significativas", dijo Janet Murguía, presidenta del NCLR, al presentar la agenda 2009 del NCLR: A Public Policy Briefing Book (Un informe de políticas públicas). Este documento, que se encuentra disponible en www.nclr.org, presenta las políticas prioritarias para la nueva administración y proporciona recomendaciones para enfrentar los retos más grandes de nuestra nación.



Murguía también señaló que además de la acción legislativa, el apoyo de las organizaciones comunitarias es esencial para asegurar el bienestar de las familias latinas y a su vez responder a las necesidades de todos los estadounidenses. Carol Ornelas, directora general de Visionary Home Builders de California, apoyó a **Murguía** diciendo, "Ahora las organizaciones comunitarias son más necesarias que nunca para mantener a las familias a flote durante este descenso económico. La respuesta de la comunidad a la crisis de las ejecuciones hipotecarias es el mejor ejemplo de cómo las organizaciones locales pueden ayudar a cerrar la brecha y proporcionar a las familias opciones y esperanza para un futuro mejor".

En el Día Nacional de Acción Política 2009 del Consejo Nacional de La Raza se reunieron más de 350 defensores latinos, representando a 150 organizaciones comunitarias de 34 estados y del Distrito de Columbia, en una convocatoria de dos días que incluyó conferencias informativas sobre asuntos clave de política pública y reuniones con congresistas. Conjuntamente con el Día de Acción Política, la iniciativa Líderes del NCLR presentó este año el segundo Líderes Congreso, patrocinado por Sodexo, convocando a cerca de 200 jóvenes de escuelas preparatorias y universidades de todo el país, con el objeto de promover el liderazgo y el compromiso cívico a través de talleres y presentaciones desarrolladas por el NCLR, el Instituto del Caucus Hispano del Congreso y la Asociación Hispana de Universidades. Esta participación política continua representa una gran oportunidad para un cambio positivo.

"Estoy contento de ver la energía y compromiso de los líderes comunitarios que han venido a participar en el Día de Acción Política 2009 del NCLR", dijo el congresista Xavier Becerra. "Es primordial que los legisladores en Washington vean la creciente participación de los latinos en el proceso legislativo al exponer y defender los asuntos que son importantes para nosotros. Somos una población joven y el asegurarnos de que nuestra comunidad tenga un futuro brillante con más oportunidades para lograr el éxito también garantizará que el futuro de Estados Unidos

sea más fuerte y próspero".



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> Por cualquier pregunta, **Ilamanos:**

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Why Publish a Community Newspaper?

Someone asked me the other day, "Why are you spending your time and money publishing a bilingual newspaper in San Marcos?" I looked at this person who was probably 20 years my junior and tried to discern if he was serious or just ignorant. Not being able to tell one way or the other, I decided to give him the benefit of the doubt and began to provide him with a sincere response to his question.

As I watched his reaction to my words, I could tell that he wasn't really interested in what my reasons were for publishing a community newspaper. He was more concerned with the fact that it was a paper that spoke of the Mexican American experience.

When he repeatedly challenged me as to why we tended to feature so many Mexican Americans in the paper, I realized where he was coming from. This guy didn't like the attention we were giving to Mexican Americans because he didn't even like himself. He was one of those types who had worked very hard to assimilate and acculturate into the larger society. I had seen this before.

When I asked him about how Mexican Americans were treated in the schools he attended, and how many had gone on to become doctors and lawyers, he fell silent. When I asked him about the economic experiences of his own family, once again he fell silent.

Sensing that his ego was getting bruised and that he had run out of challenges, I decided it would be better to end our discussion on an open note and extended him an invitation to write a story for the newspaper about any subject he wanted. He looked me in the eye and said he would think about it.

Our discussion ended and we each went our own way. In the coming months, I predict this young man will indeed follow through and produce a story that is worthy of being printed. Until then, we will have to wait and see.

The Vocies for Justice Project

On pages 10 and 11 of this issue of La Voz de Hays County you will find a two page spread on The Voices for Justice Project. This project is designed to acknowledge and honor the 200-year legacy of Latino journalism in the United States.

The story begins on September 7, 1808, with founding of El Misisipi in New Orleans. It was the first newspaper by and for Spanish-speaking people in the U.S. El Misisipi set the stage for the thousands of publications, broadcast, and Internet news outlets currently serving Latinos. Yet, the story of Latino journalism - and the countless innovative publishing pioneers and courageous journalists - is little known.

Editorial

As a newspaper publisher for the past 20 years, I must admit that I did not know how far back Latino journalism went. I was aware of Latino newspapers that were being published by the Mágon brothers during the Mexican Revolution and I may have known about 19th century papers n Mexico City, but I certainly did know that there were publications coming out in 1808.

Well, The Voices for Justice project intends to make this history known through a one-year national bicentennial campaign, a documentary film, a companion book, and an interactive website. In the coming issues of La Voz de Hays County we will bring you more details.



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

"SIX FLAGS OVER TEXAS"

WRONG, THERE WERE SEVEN

The public is invited to attend the third annual reenactment of the "Tejano Declaration of Independence," to be celebrated at two locations this year. On Saturday April 4th 2009 at 2 P.M. at the Mexican American Cultural Center 600 River St. in Austin and in San Antonio on Sunday April 5th at 2 P.M. in front of the Spanish Governors Palace 105 Plaza de Armas

On April 6th 1813, after a year of bloody warfare and having driven all Spaniards out of Texas, Jose Bernardo Gutierrez de Lara Uribe, leader of the revolution declared that Texas was free from tyranny and oppression and independent of Spanish rule

Maclovio Perez, a well known TV personality from San Antonio will emcee the events. Scheduled to speak will be scholars of Texas History. Dr Gilberto Hinoiosa. author and historian from The University of Incarnate Word will speak in San Antonio along with LULAC National President Rosa Rosales and Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez, from "Defend the Honor," Associate Journalism Professor from the University of Texas at Austin . Dr J. Frank de la Teja, the official state historian appointed by the Governor will speak in Austin . And as always special guest, Robert Thonhoff past president of the Texas State Historical Association, and authors Joe Lopez and Dan Arellano

Join us as we celebrate the Emerald Green Flag of "The First Texas Republic."

The events are free and open to the public.

For more information: Dan Arellano

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NCLR FELICITA A LA REPRESENTANTE SOLÍS EN SU CONFIRMACIÓN COMO SECRETARIA DEL TRABAJO

Washington, DC—Calling her "the right person at the right time" for America's workers, Janet Murguía, President and CEO of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR)—the largest national Hispanic civil rights organization in the U.S.—praised today's confirmation of Representative Hilda Solis as Secretary of Labor. With historic unemployment numbers and with workers in crisis,

the appointment of a strong and c a p a b l e leader to oversee the U.S. Department of Labor is critical.

"American workers need a leader who will stand up for them at a time when they face un-

precedented challenges," said Murguía.
"Given Solis's compelling life story and her record of achievement as a public servant,
NCLR agrees with President Obama that she is the right person at the right time to lead the Labor Department."

"Nearly one in ten Latinos is unemployed, and last month alone almost 300,000 Hispanics lost their jobs. The economic stimulus package approved by Congress is a bold step toward putting the nation on the road to economic recovery-but the true test will come when this legislation is implemented at the community level," continued Murguía. "Hilda Solis has been at the forefront of finding innovative ways to expand job opportunities and knows what it takes to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to obtain safe jobs with decent wages and benefits. Having a Labor Secretary who is a strong and tireless advocate for workers will be an asset both to the Obama administration and to the nation," concluded Murguía.

Washington, DC—Describiéndola como "la persona correcta en el momento correcto" para los trabajadores norteamericanos, Janet Murgía, presidenta del Consejo Nacional de la Raza – la organización más grande de defensa y apoyo de los derechos civiles de los hispanos en el país – elogió hoy la confirmación de la representante Hilda Solís como Secretaria del Trabajo. Con

cifras históricas de desempleo y de trabajadores en crisis, es crítico el nombramiento de una líder capaz y determinada que pueda conllevar eficientemente las riendas del Departamento del Trabajo.

"Los trabajadores americanos necesitan una líder que vele por sus intereses en este momento histórico donde enfrentamos retos sin precedente", expresó Murguía. "Dado el récord implacable de Solís como servidora pública, y su admirable historial personal, el NCLR se une al Presidente Obama y reafirma que Solís es la persona correcta para dirigir al Departamento del Trabajo."

"Aproximadamente uno de cada diez latinos enfrenta el desempleo, y solamente el mes pasado, unos 300,000 hispanos perdieron sus trabajos. El paquete de estímulo económico aprobado por el Congreso, es un paso audaz de encaminar la nación hacia su recuperación económica, pero sus efectos y consecuencias solo se verán cuando esta legislación se implemente a nivel comunitario", añadió Murguía. "Hilda Solís ha estado a la vanguardia de esta crisis económica, buscando maneras innovadoras de expandir las oportunidades de trabajo y conoce lo que conlleva poder asegurarle a todos los americanos la oportunidad de obtener un empleo seguro con un salario decente y con beneficios. El tener a una Secretaria del Trabajo que es una defensora incansable de los derechos de los trabajadores será un recurso muy valioso tanto para la administración de Obama como para el país", concluyó Murguía.



Hilda Solís



BRAZOSPORT COLLEGE

VERONICA MENDOZA

Student success story

Despite a busy schedule that includes a 14-year marriage, two children and a part-time job, Veronica Mendoza finds the time to take classes at Brazosport College. And she excels at them.

Mendoza, a 1997 Brazoswood High School graduate. plans to transfer to University of Houston-Clear Lake to pursue an education degree after finishing her core classes at BC.

She's found juggling all of her responsibilities to be a challenge, but it's one she believes will be very beneficial in the long run. She's also seen first hand the positive influence her schedule is having on her children.

"My II-year old sees me doing this and it motivates her," she said with a proud grin. "She really believes in the importance of college because of what I'm doing."

Brazosport College has been the perfect fit for Veronica's needs. With the Learning Assistance Center (LAC), students have access to computers, audio/visual

aids, tutoring, study skills, instructional technology assistance, testing services and more

The Learning Frameworks course, which teaches study and goal-setting skills that students need to increase their chances for success in college, has also been beneficial, she said.

For Veronica, Brazosport College has provided her the opportunity to work toward her degree at an affordable price close to home. With college, a family and a job, Veronica leads a busy life. But working toward earning a college degree is a lifetime acheivement that she knows will be worth the hard work.

"This is my time and I want to finish school," she said. "I've really enjoyed it here at Brazosport College. The professors and counselors are very motivating and they've shown me a path to the end."





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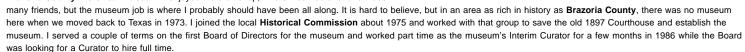
Jamie Murray Committed to Preserving History

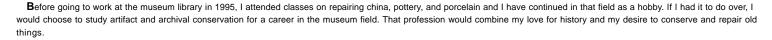
My parents were living in Angleton when I was born. By 1945, my father, Jack Giesecke, was an employee of Dow Chemical Company, so I was born in the Dow Hospital in Freeport. He was one of the first ones to be hired by Dow in 1941, and he worked for **Dow** for 34 years. I entered first grade in 1951 at the old Angleton Central Elementary School and graduated as Salutatorian from Angleton High School in 1963. In high school, I participated in cheerleading and basketball.

From high school, I went to the **University of Texas at Austin** and graduated there in 1967 with a degree in history and geography education. I will always be grateful to Johnny Fuchs for letting me work at City Drug in the summers when I was home from college.

My first job was as a teacher for Jefferson County Public Schools, in a suburb of Denver, Colorado. I taught junior high social studies there from the fall of 1967 to the spring of 1973, serving as Department Chairman the last 3 years. While in Denver, I met and married Stan Murray, a Denver native. We married in 1971 and we both quit our jobs in 1973 to travel in Europe for seven weeks and then relocate in Angleton after our trip. Stan was employed by U.S. Contractors in Clute and worked there for over 30 years before retiring in 2006. Stan had also graduated from college (Abilene Christian) with a history education degree. He has enjoyed his role as Stephen F. Austin at the museum's annual Austin Town historical re-enactment and other events for the past ten years.

In 1973, I went into partnership with my mother on a small retail arts and crafts business in **Angleton** called the *Hobby House*. We closed it in 1995 when I was hired to work in the library at **Brazoria County Historical Museum**. I enjoyed the craft shop, where I learned a lot and made



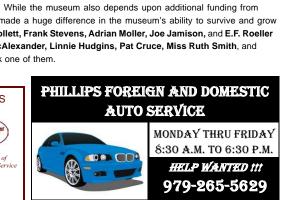


My father's ancestors came to this area as merchants from **Germany** in the 1830's. I have been interested in history for as long as I can remember. I'm sure that some of my love for history came from my father's interest in it. I always loved to hear his stories of growing up in Angleton. Others my age will also remember a 7th grade history teacher here named **Mrs. Sullivan**, and the Texas History Scrapbook which she required each of her students to complete. (It will not surprise those who know me well to hear that I I still have mine.) Mrs. Sullivan started me on a path of clipping history articles and I was never able to stop! One of the major aspects of my job at the museum is to maintain and build the information and genealogy files and to answer research queries which now come to us from all over this country and from other countries, as well.

Those of us who grew up here in **Brazoria County**, grew up surrounded by such a rich history. I look at this old courthouse building, which was once destined to be a parking lot, and am proud to have been a part of the effort to save it and create the county museum. When the County Commissioners saw the dedication of that little group of volunteers who determined in 1978 to save the courthouse and establish a museum, they realized how worthwhile this project is. While the museum also depends upon additional funding from grants, memberships, donations, and programs, the financial assistance given to the museum by the county has made a huge difference in the museum's ability to survive and grow over the past 30 years. County residents like **Faustino Kiber, Sonny Burridge, Victor Daugherty, Addie Hudgins Follett, Frank Stevens, Adrian Moller, Joe Jamison,** and **E.F. Roeller** are living still, here in this library. The spirits of early museum volunteers like **Catherine Munson Foster, Dr. W.G. McAlexander, Linnie Hudgins, Pat Cruce, Miss Ruth Smith**, and many others abound in this old building. Not a day goes by that I don't think of a history question I would like to ask one of them.







CLUTE, TX 77531

825 W. PLANTATION

tteers like Catherine Munson Foster, Dr. W.G. McAlexander, Linnie Hudgins, Pat Cruce, Miss Ruth Smith, and many others abound in by that I don't think of a history question I would like to ask one of them.



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15th Annual Migration Celebration FRIDAY APRIL 17 PROGRAM and FUNDRAISING EVENTS

RiverPlace, Freeport, Texas

5:30 p.m

Doors Open
Silent Auction Bidding Opens

Photo Contest Exhibit Opens

Ir. Duck Stamp Art Contest Winners Exhibit Opens Nature Store Opens Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges Booth Opens

Dinner Ticket Sales begin

Amazing Adventures Sign-Up

:30 p.m.

Dinner Serving Line Opens 7:30 p.m.

Dinner Serving Line Closes

Silent Action Bidding Closes

About Migration Celebration

Program Introduction

7:55 p.m.

Kevnote Address

nserving Biological Diversity in the Lone Star State

By Matt Wagner Wildlife Diversity Program Director

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

8-45 n m

Closing Remarks

After Closing

Silent Auction winning bidders pick up and pay

Nature Store reopens
Amazing Adventures Sign-Up

15th Annual Migration Celebration 2009 Draft Schedule SATURDAY APRIL 18 PROGRAM at

San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge

7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Bird Banding Demonstration

SATURDAY AMAZING ADVENTURE

Birding by Ear
Starting Location: Information Booth

Parking is available at the Information Booth Advanced registration is required

Information Booth

9:00 a.m. - 6:15 p.m.

Pick up a free Map and Schedule
Sign up for Marsh Buggy Tours on Wolfweed Reservoir
Sign up for Kayaking on Cedar Lake Creek

Sign up for Moccasin Pond Van Tours

Sign up for Amazing Adventures

Check out the Nature Store 4:30 p.m Exhibitors

Children's Discovery Program

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. <u>Van Shuttles</u> to and from Other Venues 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Exhibits in th

Exhibits in the Exhibits Building

Photo Contest Exhibit

Junior Duck Stamp Competition Winners Exhibit
30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Ear EarthQuest Birds of Prey Show

:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Events

Marsh Bugey Tours on Wolfweed Reservoir

Last shuttle to Wolfweed Reservoir leaves Information Booth at 4:00 p.m.

Moccasin Pond Van Tours



Last Van Tour leaves Information Booth at 4:00 p.m

Kayaking on Cedar Lake Creek

Last shuttle to the Kayak Dock leaves Information Booth at 3:30

9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

30 a.m. - 380 p.in.

Crabbing for Kids
San Bernard Oak Interpretative Walking Tour

Vendors

Food and Drinks Bake Sale

Bake Sale

1:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Nature-Related Presentations

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Nature-Related Presentations

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Nature-Related Presentations

4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. EarthQuest Birds of Prev Shor

8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. SATURDAY AMAZING ADVENTURE

Rail Banding at Night

Starting Location: <u>Information Booth</u>
Parking is available at the Information Booth.

Advanced registration is required.

15th Annual Migration Celebration SUNDAY APRIL 19 PROGRAM at

San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge

7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Bird Banding Demonstration
SUNDAY AMAZING ADVENTURES

Visitors participating in Amazing Adventures must arrive at the Starting Location at the starting time shown. Click on Starting Location for maps and directions.

Advanced Registration is required for all Amazing Adventures.

7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Neotropical Birding
Starting Location: Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary

Limited to 25 participants.

Naturalist Tour of the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge

Starting Location: <u>Discovery Center at Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge</u> Parking is available at this location.

Limited to 12 participants.

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Herpetology Tour

Location: Information Booth

Parking is available at the Information Booth Limited to 20 participants.

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m

aturalist Walk in the Dow Woods Unit

Starting Location: <u>Bucee's Convenience Store</u> 899 Oyster Creek Dr, Lake Jackson

Transportation to the entrance of the unit will be by vehicle caravan.

Limited to 20 participants.

The caravan will depart at 9:00 am sharp. 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Marsh Buger Tour
Starting Location: Information Booth
Parking is available at the Information Booth.
Transportation to the Marsh Buggy Stop is provided by van shuttle.
Latecomers should check at the Information Booth for transportation.

Limited to 20 participants.

10:00 a m = 12:00 p m

ayaking at Cedar Lake Creek Starting Location: Information Booth

Parking is available at the Information Booth. Limited to 10 participants.

0:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

aturalist Walk to San Bernard Oak
Starting Location: Information Booth
Parking is available at the Information Booth.

Limited to 10 participants.

12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Naturalist Tour of the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge
Starting Location: Discovery Center at Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge
Parking is available at this location.

Limited to 12 participants.

MAIN ACTIVITIES BEGIN

at San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge 8:30 A.M. - 5:15 P.M.

Pick up a free Map and Schedule

Sign up for Moccasin Pond Van Tours

Last Van Tour leaves Information Booth at 4:00 p.m.

Check out the Nature Store

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
EarthQuest Birds of Prey Show

12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Children's Discovery Program 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m

Food and drink sales Exhibits in the Exhibits Building

Information Booth

Presentation

Exhibitors

Presentation

Junior Duck Stamp Competition Winners Exhibit

m. – 4:00 p.m. <u>Moccasin Pond Van Tours</u>
Last Van Tour leaves Information Booth at 4:00 p.m. 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

FRIDAY IS A FUNDRAISER FOR THE PUBLIC Saturday and Sunday- ALL EVENTS ARE FREE!

Contact number - 866.403.5829 www.migrationcelebration.com





Transito Connectado

Gulf Coast Center maneja un programa de transportación que es conocido como Transito Connectado. Servicios de transportación que se le ofrece al publico en general al costo de \$1.00 por persona por viaje. Viajes al Hospital de Veteranos del Condado Harris son ofrecidos al costo de \$3.50 por persona por viaje. Transito Connectado tendra servicios de respuesta de demanda en Galveston y el condadodo de Brazoria. Servicios de Respuesta de Demanda son servicios de pasajeros conpartiendo con levantar y dejar pasajeros en el borde a borde de la banqueta. Reservaciones deben de ser programadas a lo menos un dia antes de su cita, o pueden ser de cinco (5) dias antes de su cita. Todo pasajero son sujectos a que tengamos lugar cuando usted haga su cita. El tiempo para levantarlos es de una hora y media hora antes de su cita para todos los servicios en el Condado de Brazoria y más de una hora adelante de la cita en el Condado de Galveston.

Servicios de Respuesta de Demanda son ofrecidos para el primero de dejar a las 7:00 a.m. y el ultimo de levantar es a las 5:00 p.m. lunes a viernes. No tenemos servicios aprovados . en dias de fiestas . Durante amenazas de huracánes o condiciones de mal tiempo, transporte de servicios son suspendidos. Depende sobre

la severidad y las condiciones del tiempo, equipo/ facilidad daños y la abilidad de manejar el vehiculo con cuidado. Transportación de servicios resumen tan pronto que sea possible.

Transito Connectado de servicio tiene para el publico en general entre Galveston y el condado de Brazoria. Transito Connectado respuestas de demanda incluye lugares.pero no limita a facilidades medicas en la Isla de Galveston también como el Hospital de Veteranos del Condado de Harris. Personas pueden tener aceso de Connecto Respuestas de Demanda de servicios para toda sus transportación locales que nececita. El origin o el lugar para cada viaje debe de ser en Galveston o en el Condado de Brazoria. Transito Connectado no tiene viajes que principian y terminan entre la Isla. Servicios de Transito son en la area de La Isla de Galveston. Transito Connectado no tiene viajes que principian y terminan en el Condado de Harris.

Transito Connectado ahora tiene una ruta fija de servicios que se conoce como Texas City Connect que sirve a Texas City y partes de La Marque. Los dias y horas de servicio son de Lunes a viernes de 6:15 a.m. hasta 6:10 p:m una corrida es \$1.00 y .50 para mayores de 65 años, estudiantes y personas desabilitadas.

Para pedir información servicio y reservaciones para Respuestas de Demanda llame al 1-800-266-2320 0 409-945-0820. Reservaciones estan abiertas cada semana de 8:00a.m. hast alas 5:00 p.m. Las reservaciones nesecitan la siguiente informacion:

- Nombre
- Dirección completa donde levantarla
- Numero de telefono
- Lugar completa de dirección
- Cita de horario
- Nesecita la persons sills de ruedas
- numero de telefono emergencia

La persona que la levante nesecita la informaciondel del que viaje para saber a que hora lo espera

Un servicio de Gulf Coast Center Supported by the Mainland communities United Way

LATINOS HAVE A LONG AND RICH HISTORY OF JOURNALISM IN THE UNITED STATES

It is well known that Hernán Cortez de Monroy y Pizarro arrived in what is now known as Mexico in the year 1519. It is also well known that the Aztecs believed that he was an emissary of the feathered serpent god Quetzalcoatl or Quetzalcoatl himself. What is not well known is that the Spaniards brought also brought with them the first printing presses to the Americas in the year 1535.

Over 100 years before Harvard University was founded in 1636, the printing presses in what is now Mexico were already at work. Before the end of the 16th century, Fray Juan de Zumárraga and those who followed him, are credited with the publication of more than 174 books.

This is important for several reasons but chief among them is the fact that printing in the Americas did not begin with the arrival of the English colonists as most children are taught in the public schools. The other reason why the arrival of the printing press is important is because it made possible the long history of Latino journalism and who was telling the story of how the Americas were being developed.

To shed more light on the Latino contributions to journalism in the Americas and the United States, a group called the Voices for Justice Committee, which is based in San Francisco, California and is

project of



Acción Laitina has undertaken the huge effort of producing a film, companion book and interactive website to help teachers tell this almost forgotten story of Latino journalism and printing. La Voz Newspapers now joins with Acción Latina and Juan Gonzáles and others in bringing the project to the attention of its readers in Texas.

In the United States, the first Spanish newspaper was printed in New Orleans, Louisiana in the year 1808. Called El Misisipi, this publication was discovered by Dr. Felix Gutierrez in the 1970s during a research trip. According to Dr. Gutierrez, who teaches at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication, the sole surviving copy of El Misisipi was actually located in Wisconsin.

Latino newspapers have been the voices of their communities across the United States for 200 years. Drawing from the experiences of the early Mexican and Spanish press, the presence of Spanish-language journalism in the U.S. began in 1808 with the publication of *El Misisipí* in New Orleans. By the late 19th century, Spanish-language newspapers had spread across the nation.

These newspapers gave voice to early Cuban and Puerto Rican exiles on the East Coast, to Mexicans who lost their land and country in the annexation of the northern half of Mexico, and to the growing Latino populations, both immigrant and U.S. born. Today's Latino media, spanning the Internet, broadcast and print, are building on this legacy, their strength and influence can be seen in the massive national turn out for the spring 2006 Immigrant Rights marches.

The following sections will provide a partial glimpse of historical-thematic eras that the **Voices for Justice** project will cover.

19th Century Beginnings: A Liberation Press in Exile. In 1808, El Misisipí, the first Latino newspaper in the U.S., was founded in New Orleans. The newspaper served people from Spain and the Americas seeking refuge from Napoleon's takeover of Spain. Similar newspapers soon appeared in Louisiana, Texas, Florida, New York and Pennsylvania. In 1824 Philadelphia's El Habanero was one of the first exile newspapers calling for Cuban independence. Through the 19th century political exiles such as Félix Varela and José Martí used U.S. press freedoms to advocate independence for their countries.

19th Century: Unconquered Voices in Conquered Territories. In 1855, 17-year-old Francisco Ramírez launched Los Angeles' *El Clamor Público*. Though admiring the ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence, the politically active editor also spoke out against the violence against Californios by "Yanqui" adventurers coming to California during the Gold Rush and warned of the U.S. imperialism toward Latin America.

Early 20th Century: An Immigrant Press Defends New Arrivals. Throughout their history Latino newspapers have served a continuing influx of new arrivals to the U.S. mainland, especially at entry points such as New York City, Tampa, Key West and along the Mexican border.

During the 1910-1920 Mexican Revolution, **Ignacio Lozano** Sr. founded *La Prensa* in San Antono in 1913. In 1926 Lozano founded *La Opinión* in Los Angeles, which over the years has covered issues such as the massive repatriations of Mexicans during the 1930s Depression, the 1940s Zoot Suit riots in Los Angeles, and the 1960s Chicano movement. Today the third generation of the Lozano family publishes the daily as a part of the ImpreMedia chain of Latino publications in the U.S., which also owns New York's *El Diario-La Prensa*, the oldest Spanish-language daily in the U.S., founded in 1908.

1930s-40s: Voices of a New Generation. In the late 1930s and '40s new Latino voices emerged through bilingual activist newspapers connected to youth organizations and driven by youth seeking to find or make their place in American society while maintaining their Mexican culture.

One of these, the *Mexican Voice*, was founded in 1938 by Félix J. Gutiérrez in Monrovia, California, as an educational and inspirational publication. Written largely by students, the *Mexican Voice* reported both the accomplishments of Mexican youths and the obstacles they faced through the late 1930s and into World War II.

In the same era, businessman **Pedro W. Guerrero** established a youth-oriented publication called *Juventud*, in Mesa, Arizona as part of the Division Juvenil, a recreational and cultural youth organization he founded.

1960s-70s: An Alternative Activist Press. The anti-Vietnam War, Equal Rights, and Third World Liberation movements of the 1960s and early 1970s gave birth to a new breed of alternative, activist Latino newspapers across the nation that confronted established powers and advocated radical change.

Among the best known of these media are the United Farm Workers union's *El Malcriado*, the Young Lord's *Palante* in New York, Los Angeles' *La Raza*, New Mexico's *El Grito del Norte* and San Francisco's *El Tecolote*. These newspapers also served as important outlets for Latino art, poetry, and other forms of cultural expression.

1970s to Present: Latino Media Enter the Media Revolution. As Latino communities and their media grew, they also became prominent participants in the media revolution of the last two decades. To gain a piece of increased advertising dollars focused on Latino communities, major media companies began producing targeted Spanish-language publications. The first of these was the Miami Herald's Spanish-language insert El Miami Herald, launched in 1976 and renamed El Nuevo Herald in 1987.

Today, Latino entrepreneurs and community-based organizations across the country are major players in the media revolution, producing community newspapers, radio programs, websites, etc. that can offer platforms for the voices, culture and passions of local communities.

TIME LINE

The Latino Press in the United States

Pre-Hispanic. Incas, Mayas, Aztecs, Anasazi, I Pueblo and Navajo develop their own languages and systems of reporting information using the media of braided knots, petroglyphs, paintings on bark, pictographs and poetry.

1492. Spaniards arrive and learn to use the languages of the indigenous people to conquer, convert and enslave.

1530s. First printing press in the Americas arrives in Mexico City from Spain, more that 100 years before the first press arrives in the English colonies.

1541. The first printed news story in America, the hoja volante (flying page) reports on an earthquake that destroyed Guatemala City. Written by Notary Public Juan Rodríguez and edited in Mexico.

1808 Fl Misisipi in New Orleans is the first U.S.-based newspaper serving Spanishspeaking readers in the United States.

1806. La Gaceta de Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico's first newspaper. established

1813. El Mexicano and La Gaceta de Teias. devoted to Mexico's independence from Spain, are established in Texas.

1824. Cuban exile Félix Varela founds ΕI Habanero Philadelphia as a political, scientific and literary newspaper advocating Cuban independence from Spain.

1828. El Mensajero

Semanal and El Mercurio de Nueva York are founded as exile newspapers in New York.

1834. Under Mexican rule, El Crepúsculo de la Libertad is published on New Mexico's first printing press.

1834. Augustín Zamorano establishes a Mexican government printing press on the West Coast in Monterey, capital of Alta California.

1846-1848. The United States wages war on Mexico that ends in the annexation of the northern half of Mexico.

1855. Francisco Ramírez founds El Clamor Público in Los Angeles.

1870-1890. Spanish-Language newspapers

blossom across southwestern territories taken by the U.S. and defend Spanishspeaking people against racist attacks.

1892. Cuban exile José Martí founds La Patria in New York City. The newspaper promotes Cuban and Puerto Rican independence and becomes the leading journal in the propaganda war against Spain.

1904. Sara Estela Ramírez of Laredo, Texas becomes the first Latina publisher. Her newspaper is called Aurora

1904. Ricardo Flores Magón founds the U.S. edition of Regeneración in San Antonio, Texas, to advocate the overthrow of Mexico's president Porfirio Díaz.

> 1908-1920. Many newspapers established that serve Mexican exiles, among

these are the Idar family's La Crónica in Laredo in 1909 and Ignacio Lozano's La Prensa in San Antonio in 1913.

1913. La Prensa founded in New York City. It continues publication today as El Dario/La Presna making it the longest, continuously running Latino newspaper.

1 9 1 6 - 1 9 1 8 Administration of

Wilson Woodrow imposes controls on Spanish-language and other ethnic newspapers during World War I. Ricardo Flores Magon's Regeneración is closed down.

1920s. Spanish-language radio begins on brokered time purchased from radio station owners. Pedro J. González begins broadcasting in Los Angeles.

1926. La Opinión founded in Los Angeles by Ignacio Lozano Sr.

1940s. Spanish-language and other foreignlanguage broadcasting come under government censorship during World War II.

1946. Raúl Cortez of San Antonio founds the first full-time U.S.-based Spanishlanguage radio station, KCOR.

1950s. Rise of full-time Spanish-language radio stations and beginning of Spanishlanguage television.

1959. Refugees from the Cuban Revolution arrive in the United States and promptly establish an exile press in Miami and the New York-New Jersey area, such El Diario de las Américas.

1961. Mexican Emilio Azcárraga Vidaurreta begins Spanish International Network (SIN) on a UHF station in San Antonio, Texas, airing television programs produced in Mexico



1967. La Raza in Los Angeles. Palante in New York and other alternative publications established across the Southwest and the East Coast giving voice to the Chicano and Puerto Rican movements. The Chicano Press Association forms in Albuquerque.

1939. International Broadcasting Company (IBC) founded in El Paso, Texas, to supply Spanish-language programming to U.S. stations.

1968. The Kerner Commission report draws attention to racism in newsroom hiring and coverage.

The Mexican American Youth Organization (MAYO) launches a a number of Chicano community based newspapers in Texas

1960s-70s. Chicano journals, magazines and newsletters are founded, including Francisca Flores' Carta Editorial.

1970. El Tecolote founded in a San Francisco State La Raza Studies classroom and soon moves to the Mission District where it continues as a bilingual journalism training ground.

1970. Ruben Salazar, a news director of Spanishlanguage station KMEX and an L.A. Times columnist, is killed by a deputy sheriff while covering the East LA Moratorium Chicano

demonstration. He becomes a modern-day martyr for Hispanic journalism.

1972. California Chicano News Media Association founded in Los Angeles.

1975 Miami Herald Jaunches El Miami Herald, a Spanish-language supplement of the newspaper. It is renamed El Nuevo Herald

1978. The American Society of Newspaper Editors adopts a goal of racial parity in newsroom employment by the year 2000 and begins its annual newsroom survey to monitor hiring

1979. Galavision network launched as the first Spanish-language cable network in the

1982. National Hispanic Media Professionals Conference held in San Diego, California. National Association of Hispanic Publications established.

1984. The National Association of Hispanic Journalists is established and calls for more employment opportunities, for fair treatment and less discrimination on the job, and for a more accurate portrayal of Hispanics by the media.

1987. Univision, a Spanish-language television network, launches a late-night national newscast in Los Angeles with anchor María Elena Salinas. Reliance Capital launches Telemundo.

1990s. Major growth in Latino-focused magazines, Spanish-language radio stations and Spanish-language attached to Englishlanguage media.

1994. UNITY '94 Convention brings together members of the four national journalists of color associations in Atlanta for the largest known gathering of journalists in U.S. history.

2003. Lozano family takes leads in forming ImpreMedia, a network of Spanishlanguage newspapers across the

> 2007. 1,348 Spanish-language newspapers and magazines combined exist in the U.S.

2008-09. Bicentennial year of El Misisipí.

For more information about the Voices for Justice Project, please contact Juan Gonzáles (415) 648-1045





Hispanic Scholarship Fund



Visit their website for information about scholarships.

www.hsf.net

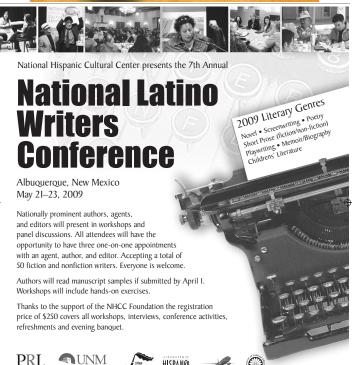






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Recordando a Cesar Chavez

When we remember Cesar Chavez we must acknowledge the many men and women upon whose shoulders he stands. For Cesar wasn't the first to try and organize farm workers. There were many efforts before he decided to try in 1962. What helped Cesar bring the plight of the farm workers to the nation's attention was due in part to the mood of the country and the events that were taking place at the time.

The modern Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s set a new tone in the country for how people thought they should be treated. The idea of African Americans having to sit in the back of the bus was challenged and the year long boycott of the bus company in **Montgomery**, **Alabama** showed once again the power of non-violence. When news cameras showed people being hosed down by firefighters for daring to demonstrate for their rights, many Americans were shocked and embarrassed.

Cesar saw these events like other Americans who watched the news. And he knew that soon the time would come for Mexican Americans to stand up and fight for their rights. He knew that nobody was going to give Mexican Americans or farm workers anything. If they wanted to take their rightful place in society they too would have to challenge the system.

One event, and some say the pivotal event that helped to Cesar Chavez to prepare for the long struggle for social justice was the story he heard by two lawyers from Texas who were in California doing research. Cesar heard them relate the story of a little girl in the South who was waiting for a school bus. For some reason that particular morning the bus driver refused to let her get on the bus. It started to rain and the little girl had to walk a quite a distance to her house. She ended up catching pneumonia and died. Cesar heard this story and like the other men in the room, the fire of indignation began to burn. (One of those lawyers was the legendary Gus Garcia who is discussed on page 13 of this issue.)

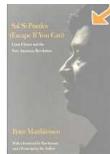
Cesar Chavez worked for the Community Services Organization from 1952 until 1962 and eventually became the state director. He earned a good living and provided well for his family in Los Angeles, California. But there was a thought in his mind that would not let him rest. The thought of what had happened to this little girl and the thought of how other poor people were treated on a daily basis. Toward the end of his tenure with the CSO, these thoughts would not leave his head.

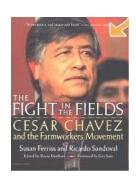
Cesar, who had himself been a farm worker, tried to convince the board of directors of the CSO that it should support an effort to help poor farm workers. But each time Cesar brought up the idea, it was shot down and criticized. Finally in 1962, at a board meeting, Cesar brought up the idea of helping poor farm workers and once again the board shot down the idea. And it was here that Cesar Chavez made the decision to resign and lead the effort of organizing farm workers himself.

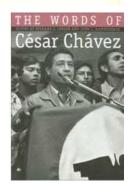
In the 31 years that Cesar Chavez led first the National Farm Workers Association, the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee and then the United Farm Workers of America AFL-CIO, he showed the country and the world what the power of non-violence could do to bring justice to poor people and farm workers. He showed people through his personal example what it means to sacrifice for other people. And while Cesar Chavez is no longer among us, the light of his spirit still shines bright in all those who were believers in the cause and continue to work for social justice.

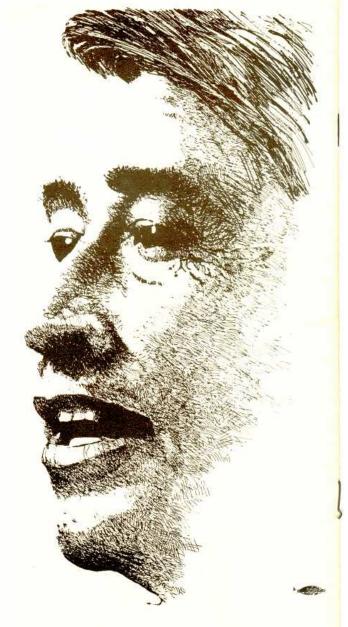
















Word Power

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 inglés.

Hunger Hambre

Food Comida, Alimineto

Knife Cuchillo

Spoon Cuchara

Fork Tenador

Plate Plato

Napkin Servilleta

Salad Ensalada

Steak Bistek, Filete

Bread Pan

Glass of Water Vaso de Agua

Butter Mantequilla

Soup Caldo, Sopa

Waiter Mesero

Cook Cocinero

Rest Descansar

Sleep Dormir

Dream Sueño

The Movie

A Class Apart

In 1951 in the town of Edna, Texas, a field hand named Pedro Hernández murdered his employer after exchanging words at a gritty cantina. From this seemingly unremarkable small-town murder emerged a landmark civil rights case that would forever change the lives and legal standing of tens of millions of Americans. A team of unknown Mexican American lawyers took the case, Hernandez v. Texas, all the way to the Supreme Court, where they successfully challenged ${\bf Jim}$ Crow-style discrimination against Mexican **Americans**

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE presents A Class Apart from the award-winning producers Carlos Sandoval (Farmingville). and Peter Miller (Sacco and Vanzetti, The Internationale). The one-hour film dramatically interweaves the story of its central characters- activists and lawyers, returning veterans and ordinary citizens, murderer, and victim - within the broader story of a civil rights movement that is still very much alive today.

The film begins with the little known history of Mexican Americans in the United States. In 1848, the Mexican-American War came to an end. For the United States, the victory meant ownership of large swaths of Mexican territory. The tens of thousands of residents living on the newly annexed land were offered American citizenship as part of the treaty to end the war. But as time evolved it soon became apparent that legal citizenship for Mexican Americans was one thing, equal treatment would be guite another.

"Life in the 1950s was very difficult for Hispanics, Wanda García, a native of Corpus Christi, explains in the film. "We were considered second-rate, we were not considered intelligent. We were considered

In the first 100 years after gaining U.S. citizenship, many Mexican Americans in Texas lost their land to unfamiliar American laws, or to swindlers. With the loss of their land came a loss of status, and within just two generations, many wealthy ranch owners had become farm workers. After the Civil War, increasing numbers of Southern whites moved to south Texas, bringing with them the rigid, racial social code of the Deep South, which they began to apply not just to blacks, but to Mexican Americans as well.

Widespread discrimination followed Latinos from schoolhouses and restaurants to courthouses and even to funeral parlors. many of which refused to prepare Mexican American bodies for burial, During World War II, more than 300,000 Mexican Americans served their country expecting to return home with the full citizenship rights they deserved. Instead, the returning veterans, many of them decorated war heroes, came back to face the same injustices they had experienced all their lives.

Latino lawyers and activists were making progress at state levels, but they knew that real change could only be achieved if Mexican Americans were recognized by the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution something that could only be accomplished by bringing a case to the Supreme Court.

In his law office in San Antonio, a wellknown attorney named Gus García listened to the desperate pleas of Pedro Hernández's mother, who traveled more than one hundred and fifty miles to ask him to defend her son. García quickly realized that there was more to this case than murder. The real concern was not Hernández's guilt, but whether he could receive a fair trial with an all-Anglo jury

García assembled a team of courageous attorneys who argued on behalf of Hernández from his first trial at the Jackson County Courthouse in Texas all the way to Washington, DC. It would be the first time a Mexican American appeared before the Supreme Court.

The Hernandez lawyers decided on a daring but risky legal strategy, arguing that Mexican Americans were "a class apart" and did not neatly fit into a legal structure that recognized only black and white Americans. As legal skirmishes unfolded, the lawyers emerged as brilliant, dedicated, humorous, and at times, terribly flawed men.

"They took a gamble," says University of California-Berkeley professor of law lan Haney-López in the film. "They knew, on the up side, that they could win national recognition for the equality of Mexican Americans, but they knew, on the down side, that if they lost, they would establish at a national level the proposition that Mexican Americans could be treated as second class citizens."

Mexican Americans speak English?" one

justice asked. "Are they citizens?" asked another. The lack of knowledge stunned Gus García, who stood up and delivered the argument of his life. Chief Justice Earl Warren allowed him to continue a full sixteen minutes past the allotted time, a concession a witness noted had not been afforded to any other civil rights lawyer before García, including the renowned NAACP attorney

Thuraood Marshall.

On May 3, 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court announced its ruling in the case of

Question

Is it a denial of the Fourteenth Amendment equal protection clause to try a defendant of a particular race or ethnicity before a jury where all persons of his race or ancestry have, because of that race or ethnicity, been excluded by the state?

The Hernandez case struck a chord with | Hernandez v. Texas. Pedro Hernández Latinos across the country. When funds to try the case ran out, the Mexican American community donated to the cause in any way they could, despite limited resources. "They would come up to me and they would give you crumpled-up dollar bills and they'd give you coins. These were people who couldn't afford it, but couldn't afford not to," recalled attorney Carlos Cadena, Gus García's partner in the case.

On January 11, 1954, García and Cadena faced the nine justices of the U.S. Supreme Court. Cadena opened the argument. "Can

would receive a new trial - and would be judged by a true jury of his peers. The court's legal reasoning: Mexican Americans, as a group, were protected under the 14th Amendment, in keeping with the theory that they were indeed "a class apart."

"The Hernandez v. Texas story is a powerful reminder of one of many unknown yet hardfought moments in the civil rights movement," says AMERICAN EXPERIENCE executive producer Mark Samels. "It's easy to forget how far the country has come in just fifty vears, reshaping our democracy to include all Americans."

Conclusion

Yes. In a unanimous opinion delivered by Chief Justice Earl Warren, the Court held that the Fourteenth Amendment protects those beyond the two classes of white or Negro, and extends to other racial groups in communities depending upon whether it can be factually established that such a group exists within a community. In reversing, the Court concluded that the Fourteenth Amendment "is not directed solely against discrimination due to a 'two-class theory'" but in this case covers those of Mexican ancestry. Mexican Americans were a "special class" entitled to equal protection under the Fourteenth Amendment.

Supreme Court Justice Opinions and Votes (by Seniority)

Decision: 9 votes for Hernandez, 0 vote(s) against Legal Provision: Equal Protection





















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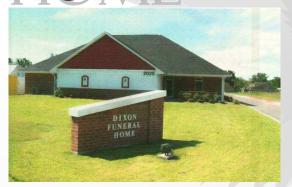






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