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Volume # 6 Number 8

*A Bilingual Newspaper*

November, 2005



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La Voz welcomes letters to the editor on any topic.

**Editorial**

**THANKSGIVING:  
Giving Thanks for All We Have**



**Alfredo Santos c/s**  
Editor

How does one begin to give thanks for all they have? To begin with, one must first recognize all that they have. Too many of us take for granted our health, our family, our job, our friends and a whole of other things. When we slow down and reflect for a moment on those things that others do not have, are we able to begin our own process of appreciating all of that which we do have.

Someone once said there are three kinds of prayers: Begging, Bragging and Bargining.

Begging prayers those in which we ask for help in order to accomplish or acquire something . . . something presumably of value. These kinds of prayers usually start out with some humble introduction of oneself. Following the introduction there is the statement of the problem and the admission of not knowing what to do or where to turn to next.

Bragging prayers are the kind where hold ourselves up as examples of what we believe to be the epitome of the good citizen and human being. This kind of prayer usually includes examples of acts which we have performed or sacrifices we have made that demonstrate our virtue and ability to walk in the light. Showing humbleness is tricky with bragging prayers and different people do a better job of it than others.

The third kind of prayers Bargining prayers. These are the most interesting because it is in these types of prayers that we offer to do something in exchange for the granting of some wish or favor. "Oh Lord if you will help me with this situation I will promise to be . . . ." It has always struck me as interesting how some folks turn to these kinds of prayers when they find themselves most in need.

How you pray and why you pray is of course your business. My only question is whether we should be giving thanks for giving or for receiving? I always thought Thanksgiving was suppose to be about the latter because many of do in fact have so much to be thankful for in the first place.

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# The Day of the Dead

In one of his last interviews, **Rufino Tamayo**, one of Mexico's greatest artists, described Mexico as a very tormented country, Tamayo stated that when the Spaniards came and invaded their country, their land, the character of the Mexican people changed to a very peculiar one. We have tragedy on one side and comedy on the other side yet we have a very strong sense of humor, We make fun of tragedy.

"The day of the dead" **Tamayo** says, "We make fun on that day." On the eve of the day the dead, the butterfly fisherman ply the water of **Lake Pazuaro** reviving the memories of their Indian ancestors and their traditions. It is indeed a Mystical celebration. In the early hours, in reverence throughout Mexico, towns and villages make ready for the return of the day of the souls of the dead. Markets come alive cleaning and preparing the places with beautiful flowers, and everywhere the symbol of the dead is seen in many different shapes and forms of candy made to give as gifts to the people in honor of the dead.

It is the day, according their beliefs, when the dead travel home to the world of the living. Death in Mexico also carries a mixed heritage, the past and its pre-Columbian beliefs that the spirit of the world is not only with the dead, it is present in the ancient Mexicans whose sounds can still be heard to proclaim that in death there no end.

On the eve of the day of the dead, (All Souls Day) the sorrow of the cemetery is transformed into a beautiful garden where the families gather with offerings for their loved ones. To the hundred of homeless around the villages and towns this is a joyous occasion. To the people of Pazuaro, it is a day of happiness and pleasure. It is their duty to their dead ones. **Tamayo** stated, "When you love them, you don't forget them. When we come to the cemetery it's like they still belong to us and someday our Lord will take us and we will join our loved ones once again".

During this mystical celebration bells toll throughout the night until dawn. Here death is not feared but embraced and guided by the return of generations where the faithful challenge the dead with the ancient knowledge that the past is alive.



LEFT:  
 Jose  
 Guadalupe  
 Posada

# Rosa Parks Remembered

by Alfredo Rodriguez Santos c/s

As the nation mourns the passing of Civil Rights Pioneer Rosa Parks, we are reminded that her simple refusal to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama in 1955 helped to jump start the modern Civil Rights Movement in this country. And although her courageous act took place 50 years ago, the fight for basic human rights and dignity still continues to this day. While it is not popular stand up and call into question those practices and customs that hurt and deny people their rights, someone has to set the example.

Today we live in a society that continues to tax its citizens for almost everything and to the point where some have to choose between eating and paying taxes. Some people have even lost property because they could not afford to pay the ever increasing amount of taxes the government demands. Who is going to be the Rosa Parks of taxation? Who is going to sit down or stand up and inspire others to take action against the ever increasing burden of taxation?

History shows us that the abuse of the people will continue until someone finds the courage to take action. History is filled with examples of those who decided that enough is enough! Who is going to turn off that television and make a stand? Who is going to follow the example of Rosa Parks?

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# An Interview with

**Mayor Andy Reyes** is the Mayor of **Alvin, Texas**. He was first elected mayor in 2000 and has served continuously since this time. As part of our interview series we thought it would be a good idea to go to the Northern part of **Brazoria County** to conduct this interview.

**La Voz:** **Mr. Reyes**, we want to thank you for taking the time from your busy schedule to sit with us for this interview. Let's start by asking are you originally from **Alvin**?

**Mayor Reyes:** No, I'm not originally from **Alvin**. I am from **Alice, Texas** which is about 40 miles west of **Corpus Christi**. That is the city in which I was raised. I was actually born in **Wichita Falls, Texas**. My dad was in the military and he happened to be stationed there when I was born.

**La Voz:** And then your family moved?

**Mayor Reyes:** Yes. After about three months my mother returned to **Alice, Texas** and that was basically where I was raised. I went to a Catholic school for the first six years then I went to public schools and finished high school in **Alice Texas**.

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

**Mayor Reyes:** I went to college at **Texas A&I in Kingsville, Texas** for four years and majored in chemistry with a minor in math. After college, I got married and moved to **Houston**.

**La Voz:** **Houston?** What brought you to **Houston**?

**Mayor Reyes:** I was offered a job at the **University of Houston** so I took it.

**La Voz:** How long did you work there?

**Mayor Reyes:** I worked at the **University of Houston** for five years. Then I got a job offer to work at a chemical plant called **Chocolate Bayou** in **Alvin, Texas**. I was a project analyst in this job.

**La Voz:** How long were you at this job?

**Mayor Reyes:** I was employed there for a total of 23 years starting in 1971. In 1993, I took early retirement. But I didn't stay retired for very long. I had already obtained a real estate license and in 1979 I earned my broker license.

**La Voz:** So how did you get into politics and end up as mayor?

*Since I was involved in real estate, I was appointed to the planning commission of Alvin back in 1994. Then in 1997, I ran for city council . .*

**Mayor Reyes:** Since I was involved in real estate, I was appointed to the planning commission of **Alvin** back in 1994. Then in 1997, I ran for city council and I won.

**La Voz:** Was this the first time you had run for public office?

**Mayor Reyes:** Yes. Then in 2000, I ran again and was re-elected

**La Voz:** Did this make you the first Hispanic to be elected Mayor?

**Mayor Reyes:** Yes. I was the first Hispanic to be elected Mayor of **Alvin**. And this is interesting because where I come from, (**Alice, Texas**) Hispanics holding public office is not seen as something out of the norm.

**La Voz:** So were you surprised at your victory?

**Mayor Reyes:** Well, in a way. Back in **Alice** the demographics are the opposite of what they are here in **Alvin**. Here we have 65% of the population composed of Anglos and 28% of the population composed of Latinos. I thought it was an accomplishment that with very low Latino population I was able to get elected.

**La Voz:** Has the mayor's job been a difficult one?

*Like the leader of any city big or small, we have our challenges. We have to address issues such as crime, economic growth and provided city services to growing community.*

**Mayor Reyes:** Yes and no. Like the leader of any city big or small, we have our challenges. We have to address issues such as crime, economic growth and provided city services to growing community. We are trying to make the transition from a small old town to a small new town. One of the reasons I ran for public office back in 1997 was because I wanted a recreation center built for the young people of the community.

**La Voz:** Did others share your concern for the young people?

**Mayor Reyes:** Yes, I would say so. But I wanted more than some people just sharing their concern. I wanted to see some action. I wanted a recreation center. As we all know, teenagers have lots of energy and if you do not provide creative outlets for that energy, they will find something to do that may not be very positive. We also know that there are gangs just waiting to find potential members. Teenagers with nothing to do are perfect candidates for gangs. At least that is the way I see it.

**La Voz:** So does **Alvin** have a recreation center?

**Mayor Reyes:** No, not yet! In the mean time, I have started to work for

the construction of one. I believe that we will have a recreation center up and running within the next few years.

**La Voz:** Will you be willing to run for mayor again if the recreation is still not a reality?

*That is a very real possibility. I have thought about it. I feel that I can still do a lot so that's why I want to go for one more turn.*

**Mayor Reyes:** That is a very real possibility. I have thought about it. I feel that I can still do a lot so that's why I want to go for one more turn.

**La Voz:** How have Hispanics fared in **Alvin, Texas** over the years?

**Mayor Reyes:** I would say that the Hispanic people are waking up now. But there have been times when I have wondered to myself, what will it take to get our people involved? I feel like we Hispanics have been trying to get more involved in the affairs of the community.

**La Voz:** Do you feel that the growth of the Hispanic population in **Alvin** will contribute to this involvement?



*"I know that as the Hispanic community continues to grow, there will be those . . ."*



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Reparación de Calzado

# Andy Reyes

**Mayor Reyes:** I know that as the Hispanic population in **Alvin** continues to grow, there will be those in the Hispanic community who will step forward and make their voices heard. We know that Hispanic people can do the things necessary to contribute to the community just like other people and sometimes even better because they can do it in two languages. But knowledge and proficiency in English continues to be a major barrier for progress.

**La Voz:** Where do you see Alvin in 10 or years from now?

**I hope that our estimates and projections with respect to populations increases were not too low.**

**Mayor Reyes:** Well, I hope that the work and effort we are putting into long range planning is on target. I hope that our estimates and projections with respect to populations increases were not too low. I believe that **Alvin** will always remain a vibrant community and a community where people believe that hard work and dedication pays off. I know that in my case that has certainly proven true.



*“Well, I hope that the work and effort we are putting into long range planning is on target.”*

**La Voz:** Was your wife very supportive through all your activities?

**Mayor Reyes:** Yes. She has always been my number one supporter! We have been married now for almost 40 years and she in addition to my daughter have always been a great source of advice and counsel.

**La Voz:** Your daughter has also been involved in your campaigns in **Alvin**?

**Mayor Reyes:** Yes. She graduated from **Texas A&M University** in College Station and currently works in our family business with **Prudential Real Estate**. In fact, she is one of our top agents.

**La Voz:** Looking back, did you ever think this is how your life would turn out?

**Mayor Reyes:** Quite honestly, I would have never imagined it. Growing up in that small South Texas town of **Alice, Texas** was a challenging experience to say the least. College opened many doors for me and the Houston area opened even more. I am very grateful for everything.

**La Voz:** Well Mayor, with that we want to say thank you for taking the time to visit with us.



*“Growing up Alice, Texas was a challenging experience to say the least.”*

## 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**.

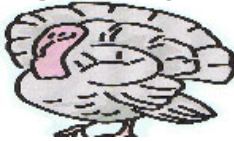
Nadie puede averiguar en el nombre de la educación que es mejor saber menos que saber más. Siendo bilingüe or trilingüe es parte de ser educador en el siglo 21. Esperamos traer cada mes a nuestros lectores una lista de palabras en español con sus equivalentes en inglés en **La Voz del Condado de Brazoria**.

Trabajo	Work
Trabajador	Worker
Empleo	Employment
Cheque	Check
Queja	Complaint
Mayordomo	Foreman
Despedida	Fired
Apelar	Appeal
Derecho	Right
Abogado	Attorney
Juez	Judge
Tribunal (Corte)	Court
Demanda	Suit
Tiempo	Time
Cuándo	When
Dónde	Where
Persona	Person
Gente	People
Ciento	Hundred
Mil	Thousand
Vida	Life
Médico	Medic
Jubilése	To retire

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How much do you know about *La Raza*? ¿Qué tanto sabes de La Raza? Take the Latino Cultural Quiz and find out! There are three sections to this quiz. The first section is worth 30 points and is “True or False.” The second section is a matching exercise and is worth 40 points. The final section is “Multiple Choice” and it is worth 30 points. Total points = 100. The answers to this quiz are on page 11. ¡No se vale peek!

TRUE OR FALSE SECTION	MATCHING SECTION	MULTIPLE CHOICE SECTION
<p>1. Tortillas were first invented in Mexico.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">True                  False</p> <p>2. Women in Mexico could not vote until 1954.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">True                  False</p> <p>3. Henry Cisneros was the first Mexican American Mayor of San Antonio, Texas</p> <p style="text-align: center;">True                  False</p> <p>4. Sammy Davis Jr. was part Hispanic.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">True                  False</p> <p>5. The Mambo is a dance that originated in Cuba.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">True                  False</p> <p>6. The current population of Latinos in the United States is over 40 million.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">True                  False</p> <p>7. The term “Hispanic” was used by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for the first time in 1980.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">True                  False</p> <p>8. Lynda Carter, who starred in the Wonder Woman television series in the 1970s is a Latina.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">True                  False</p> <p>9. Dolly Parton, the country western singer is half Hispanic.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">True                  False</p> <p>10. It’s bad luck to kill a cricket indoors</p> <p style="text-align: center;">True                  False</p>	<p>11. Pelado                  a A medicinal plant that disintegrates kidney stones and allows them to pass with no virtually no pain.</p> <p>12. Mica                    b Slang for a Green Card</p> <p>13. Chilango                b Slang for a Green Card</p> <p>14. Frajo                    c First Mexican American school teacher in Austin</p> <p>15. “<i>La Ley del Monte</i>”                  d Signature song of Little Joe y La Familia</p> <p>16. Luis Valdez            e Director of the Center for Mexican American Studies at the University of Texas</p> <p>17. Consuelo Mendez      e Director of the Center for Mexican American Studies at the University of Texas</p> <p>18. Merienda                f Garlic</p> <p>19. Buey                    g A feeling of sickness</p> <p>20. “<i>Las Nubes</i>”                  h A meal considered a snack</p> <p>21. Ajo                      i The founder of El Teatro Campesino</p> <p>22. José Alfredo Jimenez                  j Song made into a hit by Vicente Fernandez</p> <p>23. Dr. José Limon                  k Slang for country boy</p> <p>24. Gripa                    k Slang for country boy</p> <p>25. La Govenadora                  l Slang for San Antonio</p> <p>26. Simon                    m A state capitol</p> <p>27. Morelia, Michocan                  n Ox</p> <p>28. San Quilmas                  o Slang for a person from México City</p> <p>29. Carne Guisada                  p Slang for cigarette</p> <p>30. David Alfaro Siqueiros (1896-1974)                  q Ingredients in a taco</p> <p style="text-align: right;">r Slang for “Yes”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">s Famous Mexican composer</p> <p style="text-align: right;">t Famous Mexican painter</p>	<p>31. Pozole and Menudo both contain</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. celery b. homminy c. figs d. cabbage</p> <p>32. In Mexico, it is customary for a girl to have on her 15th birthday:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. a new car b. a new doll c. get married d. a party called a quinceañera</p> <p>33. Which of the following is the most popular sport in México?</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. Basketball b. Soccer c. Bull Figthing d. Golf</p> <p>34. Hernan Cortes the Spanish Conquistadores first set foot in what is now México in the year:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. 1776 b. 1218 c. 1519 d. 1810</p> <p>35. Cinco de Mayo should be important to the African American community because:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. We all need to get along b. The Mexicans kept the French busy while the North fought the South during the Civil War and thus the prevented the French from aiding the South c. African Americans fought the hardest in the Battle of Puebla in 1862 d. Runaway slaves entered México in great numbers and composed 80% of the forces that fought the French in 1862 at the Battle of Puebla</p>

3 points for each correct answer
2 points for each correct answer
6 points for each correct answer

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

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

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

1. Who is **Andy Reyes**?
2. Which story in this issue of *La Voz de Brazoria County* was the most interesting to you?
3. What city is **Andy Reyes** the mayor of?
4. How many words are there in *En Palabras Hay Poder*?
5. How much does a subscription to *La Voz* cost?
6. How many questions are there in the Latino Cultural Quiz?
7. Which page is the Alamo Title Advertisement on?
8. In what year did Rosa Parks refuse to give up her seat?
9. Where did you pick up this newspaper?
10. What is the current size of the Hispanic population in the United States?






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# Answers to the Latino Cultural Quiz

**Answers:**

**Answers:**

1. **True.** **TORTILLA** - Name given by Spaniards to the corn-based flatbread they found in use in Mexico. This literally means "smallish and flattened," (for instance, it is what a Spaniard would call an egg omelette). Native names differed, but in three major languages it was: TLAXCALLI (Nahuatl, the Aztec tongue), YET (Zapotec), WEJ (Maya).

2. **False.** In Mexico, geographically part of North America but culturally closely allied with countries to its south with which it shared a Spanish colonial heritage, a movement for woman suffrage developed after the Revolution of 1910. Despite some early successes in the state of Yucatán, women were not permitted to vote and hold office at the municipal level until 1947, by which time they were actively being recruited by the ruling political party. Mexican women finally gained the right to run for office in 1953.

3. **False** - in the 1840s, Juan Seguin served as Mayor of San Antonio, Texas for a short period of time

4. **True** - Sammy Davis Jr.mother, Harlem vaudeville dancer Elvera "Baby" Sanchez, was Puerto Rican.

5. **True** - The "Mambo" dance is attributed to Perez Prado who introduced it at La Tropicana night-club in Havana in 1943.

6. **True** - The latest U.S. Bureau of the Census estimates put the Hispanic population in the United States at 40,459,196. And everyday, approximately 150 to 300 new Hispanics step off a bus somewhere in Austin, Texas.

7. **True** - "Hispanic" was not used by the Census Bureau until 1980. Before that the term was Mexican American, Spanish Speaking American, Chicano, and a few others.

8. **True** - Born to a Mexican-American mother and an Anglo father in Phoenix, Arizona, Linda Jean Córdova Carter grew up to become one of America's most iconic figures: Wonder Woman. She now lives in suburban Washington, D.C., with her lawyer husband, Robert Altman, and their two teenage children, Jessica and James. Carter, 54, makes her most high-profile comeback this summer in the Disney movie Sky High, in which she plays Principal Powers, the head mistress at a high school for the children of superheroes.

9. **False** - Dolly Parton is not a Hispanic.

10. **True** - Why? Porque eso es lo que crea la gente. (Because that is what many Mexicanos believe.)

11. Pelado ..... k

12. Mica ..... b

13. Chilango ..... o

14. Frajo ..... p

15. "La Ley del Monte" ..... j

16. Luis Valdez ..... i

17. Consuelo Mendez..... c

18. Merienda ..... h

19. Buey ..... n

20. "Las Nubes" ..... d

21. Ajo ..... f

22. José Alfredo Jimenez ..... s

23. Dr. José Limon ..... e

24. Gripa ..... g

25. La Govenadora ..... a

26. Simon ..... r

27. Morelia, Michocan ..... m

28. San Quilmas ..... l

29. Carne Guisada ..... q

30. David Alfaro Siqueiros ..... t  
 (1896-1974)

31. b. Homminy

32. d. A quinceañera

33. b. Soccer

34. c. 1519

35. b. Had the Mexicans not kept the French off balance, the Civil War may have not ended in 1865



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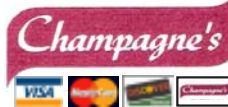
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# El Día de Los Muertos

**Rufino Tamayo**, uno de los mas grandisimos pintores de Mexico, en una de sus ultimas platicas, describo a Mexico como país muy atormentado. Tamayo dice que cuando los Españoles llegaron y invadieron nuestro país, nuestras tierras, el caracter de la gente Mexicana cambio a un modo raro. Tenemos a un lado tragedia y al otro comedia, y a la vez un sentido de humor muy fuerte. Nos divertimos y nos burlamos de la tragedia.

“El día de los Muertos” “Nos divertimos” dice **Tamayo**. En la vispera del día de los muertos, los pescadores en sus lanchas en forma de mariposas voltejean las aguas del Lago Patzcuaro reviviendo las memorias de sus antepasados Indios y sus tradiciones. Es verdaderamente una celebración Mística. En las horas tempranas y con mucha reverencia por todo Mexico, pueblos y villas se preparan para el regreso del día de las animas. Los mercados despiertan y arreglan sus lugares con hermosas flores y por todas partes el simbolo de muerte es visto en diferentes formas de golosinas que se les regala a la gente en honor del día de los muertos.

Es el día segun la creencia , cuando los fallecidos viajan a sus hogares al mundo de los vivientes. La muerte en Mexico tambien lleva una herencia mexclada, en el pasado y las creencias pre-colombiana que el espiritu del mundo no es nada mas con el que ha fallecido, esta presente en los Mexicanos antepasados quienes los sonidos se oyen proclamando que la muerte no es el fin.

En la vispera del día de los muertos, el panteón entristecido se transforma en un hermoso jardín de flores y por donde quiera las familias se juntan con ofrecimientos para sus seres queridos. Para aquellos alrededor de villas y pueblos destituidos, sin hogar, es una ocasión de gusto y placer .

Para la gente de Patzcuaro, es un día de felicidad y alegría, Es un deber para sus muertos. **Tamayo** dice, “Cuando queremos a nuestros seres queridos no los olvidamos. Cuado queremos nuestros seres queridos no los olvidamos. Cuando venemos al panteón es como si todavia nos pertenecen y algun día cuando Nuestro Señor nos lleve, nos recogeremos con nuestros seres otra vez”.

Durante esta celebración Mística las campanas tocan todo la noche hasta el amanecer. La muerte no es temerosa pero abrazada y guiada para el regreso de generaciones donde el fiel desafía la muerte con la antigua sabiduría que el pasado vive.



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