

# La Prensa Texas

FREE • GRATIS

VOL. 7 • NUM 28

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

14 de Julio de 2024





This grass roots publication is the life source for a community that is not easily afforded viable access to diverse and accessible media. San Antonio and the surrounding counties have become accustomed to relevant news brought to them in both English and Spanish since 1913.

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## Let's Talk About It

### Would You Give Consent for Your 15-Year-Old Daughter to Go on the Pill?

**By Yvette Tello**

*When I was a teenager, I could not imagine talking to my mom about birth control. She would have more than likely said, "Ni sabes cómo limpiar la cola y quieres birth control!" If your 15-year-old daughter asks your permission to go on the pill, do you or did you give consent? Why or why not? Let's talk about it...*

**Spiffy:** "Starting when my kids were 12 and 14, we stocked condoms in the kids bathroom. Never asked where they went. Later, we found out that we supplied half the school kids. I suspected so, because we went through a lot of them. When my daughter was 14, my wife took her to the doctor for a frank talk about contraception (an hour of the busy doctor's schedule) and she elected to be prescribed the pill. My wife took over training her to use it regularly. When my granddaughter was 13, my daughter confided that she had not taken advantage of the protection of the pill till she was 18. But many of her friends used the bathroom condoms. Good contraception does not promote promiscuity. Education is the best protection."

**Charles Edward Rodriguez:** "Would have to have a sit down with her and 15 yr old boyfriend and when said boyfriend shows up kick him really really really hard in his boyhood and tell him while he's on the ground in severe pain don't get my baby girl pregnant. Or something like that."

**Noah Randall:** "Absolutely. I got on the pill at 14, and it helped a lot with cramps, mood swings, and acne. When the time came for me to become sexually active, I was already covered and was spared the awkward "hey I should start birth control for..reasons" conversation with my parents."

**Judith Manske:** "While I don't have a fifteen year old daughter, I'd do for her what my mom did for me: I'd say yes. Going on the pill isn't just about wanting to be safer during sex. That thought never even crossed my mind until I was nineteen—I just wanted to go on the pill because my periods sucked. My mom's second-youngest sister had periods so bad she would become anemic, and I was much the same way. I've always had an extremely heavy—and irregular—flow. I couldn't use tampons (even heavy duty ones) because they'd be used up within a few hours, and even the largest pads had a tendency to leak. I could go twelve days on my period, and then a week later it would start up again. Mom took me to see her OB, and we discussed the possible risks and complications that might happen from taking the pill. In the end, though, we decided it would be better overall if I could get my periods under control, and I went on the pill. My quality of life improved immediately. And if my hypothetical fifteen year old daughter wanted to go on the pill because she was having sex? I'd still get her the prescription (and a box of condoms to boot), and be pleased she was taking steps to ensure I'm not about to become a grandmother

before she's ready."

**Annabelle Perez Martinez:** "I would hope we have the kind of relationship that she feels comfortable with. I would discuss the concerns and reasons for wanting her to wait until she fully understands when one is truly ready for this big step in a relationship, along with our religious beliefs. I would accompany her to the appointment, should she decide to pursue it. I would rather she feel safe and free to come to me and medical professionals vs hearing unfounded theories from her teen friends."

**Lorin Grahm:** "Statistics show that sex education and access to contraceptives reduces teenage pregnancy. Common sense over abstinence. Just remember your teenage experiences, raging hormones."

**Pat Monroe:** "I would tell my teen patient's parents... "I know your child is a good [girl or boy] right up till the moment they are not". When the kissing and the touching starts and those hormones are raging, bad decisions are often not made, they just happen."

**Just Somebody:** "It amazes me how many people in the comments assume that because you opened the door for your kids to be safe, they automatically became sexually active at the first opportunity. When I was 13, I found a condom in my boyfriend's wallet. Spoiler: we didn't have sex. Just because he had it didn't mean he was using it. When I was 15, I started birth control pills. I also started dating my first serious boyfriend - the boy who eventually became my husband. We had a sex ed class that handed out free condoms and keychains to hide them in, so judgy parents would be none the wiser. Spoiler: we didn't have sex. Not that month. Not that year. Not the year after that. Just because I wasn't afraid of getting pregnant didn't mean I was ready for that step. Kudos to the parents who understand that making safe options available isn't the same as encouraging them to rush into things."

**Yvette Elizabeth:** "If I had a daughter, I would have the relationship I have with my mother. Open and trust communication no matter how much as a mother you may not agree with it, listen to your daughter have the discussion about sex, sleeping around, being careful with other STDs and not just pregnancy. Guide and teach her to respect herself. Yes I would make the appointment."

**Robert Vasquez:** "What used to be American values are literally a thing of the pass. Parenting is no longer parenting, it's the school system that is parenting with kids going to the school of TikTok and the university of YouTube. The morals of old American sacrament require two parts: word and matter. Wedding vows your consent, the words precede bodily union..... the matter ..because that's how God intended it to be. AI is the new 2024 parent."

**Aghast Gee:** "Absolutely yes. My daughter is 19, and I told her long before she was 15 that I would take her to get birth control whenever she decided she needed it, and reminded her every once in a while that the offer still stood. Denying birth control to a 15-year-old won't keep her from having sex, it'll just sharply increase the odds of her getting pregnant, which in turn will lead to much worse and harder-to-solve problems. You want her to trust you so she'll talk to you about all the other issues around sex as well—who she's having it with, why she's having it, whether she's being pressured or doing things she doesn't really want to do."

**Susana Esebé:** "I was too afraid to talk to my mum about birth control, so I went to the doctor on my own and got on the pill at 14. A year after that she found an empty blister in my school bag and started shouting at me like a crazy, so I came out with a super risky genius idea and I said they weren't mine, they were my cousins and she gave them to me because I had to write a report for school about birth control. I said "call my dad if you don't believe me!" (They are divorced) then she calmed down and never called him. Now that I'm 29 I look back and I think how ridiculous was that reaction from her, I was trying not to repeat her same mistake and get pregnant in my teens. She should have been proud of me and not yelled, knowing all that she had to give up because of me. Luckily I've always looked after myself and only got pregnant at 27, right when I wanted. Let your daughter trust you and she won't have to do stuff on your back. She will do it anyway!"

**Amanda Stonehocker:** "I bought condoms when my son asked and I'd put my daughter on the pill if she asked. I asked my mom at 15. She took me to the doctor and sat in the room and cried about 'her baby'. The doctor lectured me saying 'look what you're doing to your poor mother. Look how upset she is. Why would you do this to her? You're too young.' I left without a prescription. A year later, I went to the clinic ALONE and got a prescription. No one told me that antibiotics would affect the effectiveness of my birth control pill. I was pregnant 6 months later and had a baby shortly after turning 17. If my mom had known I was taking birth control, apparently, she would have told me about the effects of antibiotics. But apparently that was the one thing she and I just couldn't talk about."

**Jeff Hull:** "I don't have a daughter but I wasn't given a condom either at 15. Yet at 54 I don't have children."

**Mary Svetlik Watkins:** "We'd definitely talk about it. Her dreams and goals are too important to be hindered by pregnancy. I also want her to insist on condoms until she's in a monogamous relationship. My mom told me that if I felt the need to have sex, I needed to make sure I was protected from pregnancy and STDs."

# About the Cover Artist: Millicent Alvarado

## Debut Solo Exhibition Opens Saturday July 13 at Presa House

Courtesy of Presa House Gallery

**Millicent Alvarado** (b. 2000) is a sculptor based in Corpus Christi, TX, known for her vibrant work in paper and felt. A self-taught artist, her creative journey began with a childhood fascination with origami, which evolved into her distinctive style of paper sculpting. Now a full-time artist, Alvarado dedicates herself to crafting 3-D sculptural experiences and immersive installations, drawing inspiration from the mundane, and transforming everyday objects into living narratives. Her work seamlessly blends a vivid imagination with me-

ticulous precision to reflect on personal experiences and worldviews. Influenced by the psychedelic poster art and vintage fashion of the 60s and 70s, her creations feature a kaleidoscope of colors and bold shapes, offering enigmatic windows into her inner thoughts. Despite the often melancholic themes, her introspective yet colorful works create a striking contrast that invites viewers to form their own interpretations.

In 2021, Alvarado exhibited at the Art Center of Corpus Christi alongside her sister, artist Franceska Alvarado (Franceska exhibited at Presa House last year in May

of 2023). In 2024, Alvarado was announced as one of over 40 Texas-based collaborating artists for Meow Wolf's newest location in Houston, TX.

Presa House is pleased to welcome Corpus Christi sculptor Millicent Alvarado's debut solo exhibition, Behind Four Eyes, Behind Four Walls. Alvarado will be making her San Antonio debut with all-new work featuring her intricate paper and felt 3D works and an immersive installation. The opening reception will be held on Saturday, July 13, 2024, from 7 to 11 pm, and the artist will be in attendance. The exhibition will remain on view by appoint-

ment through August 17, 2024.

Behind Four Eyes, Behind Four Walls features new artworks, including intricate paper and felt 3D pieces and an immersive installation. Alvarado draws inspiration from everyday life and the individuals she meets. Her art often reflects themes of sadness. Although her representations are cryptic and indistinguishable, they are loosely based on her encounters and personal experiences.

Rich with symbolism and deep emotions, Alvarado's work serves as a therapeutic process, allowing her to navigate her thoughts and feelings through meticulous paper and felt sculpting.

Some pieces carry deep personal meanings, while others remain playful. Yet, all are windows into her thinking, which Alvarado describes as "thinking in color," infusing her work with a vibrant, fairytale-like quality. This collection offers viewers a glimpse into her deeply personal yet colorful world.

July 13 — August 17, 2024  
| Opening Reception: July 13, 2024

Event Link: <https://presa-house.com/portfolio/july-2024/>

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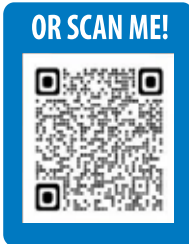
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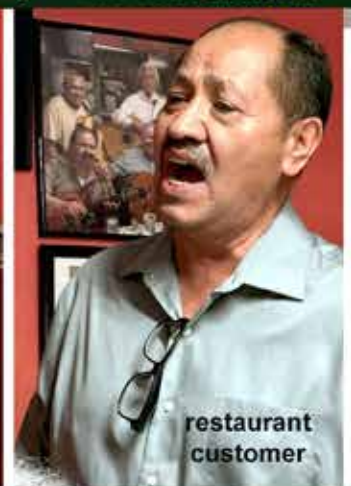
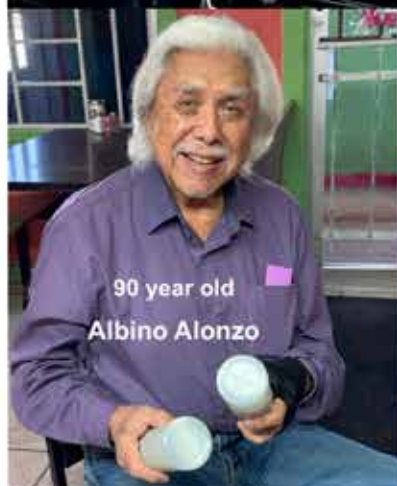
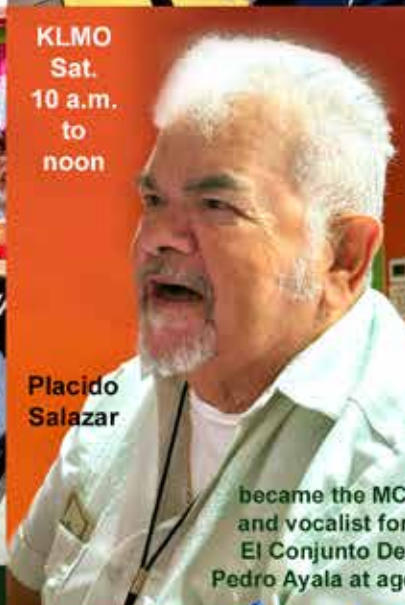




Note the *alegría*, gusto and joy of life in these young at heart early 70's to over 90 year old musicians, whose music brings happiness to their hearts and their listeners



Want to relive the good ole days? Or to get a taste of what music was like a few decades ago? Then the place to experience that era's music is to attend one of the Wednesday jam sessions of troubadours from Mi Tierra, La Margarita troubadours plus some of yesterdays trios. You can also sit in or ask them to musically back you up on a song. And you never know who's going to show up, as Sheriff Javier Salazar, whose father, radio/TV personality Placido Salazar whose musical career dates back 75+ years. Then, there Henry Gómez, who arranged some of Selena's mariachi tunes. Or Chepe Solís' son Ricardo, who carries his father's legacy forward.





# Willie Velasquez: A Champion for Voting Rights and Political Empowerment

Willie Velasquez, a prominent figure in American civil rights history, dedicated his life to fighting for voting rights and political empowerment for the Latino community. Born on May 9, 1944, in Orlando, Florida, Velasquez became a pivotal figure in the struggle for equal representation and social justice.

Velasquez's journey towards activism began in the late 1960s when he witnessed the disparities and injustices faced by the Latino community. He saw how Mexican Americans were denied basic infrastructure like paved roads, drainage systems, and curbs in their neighborhoods. This blatant neglect was a reflection of the systemic discrimination and bigotry that plagued society at the time.

The disparities continued during World War II, where Mexican Americans were often relegated to lower-ranking military positions and faced discrimination within the armed forces. The unequal treatment of Mexican Americans in the military and society at large highlighted the deep-rooted prejudice and barriers they faced.

In education, Mexican American students often received hand-me-down resources and facilities from predominantly white schools. Schools like Edgewood were given outdated materials and facilities that were no longer deemed suitable for white students. This disparity in resources and opportunities perpetuated a cycle of inequality and limited the educational prospects for Mexican American students.

Furthermore, the issue of racial segregation was prevalent in many schools, including Lincoln Elementary, where African American students were concentrated. This segregation further marginalized minority communities and limited their access to quality education.

The discriminatory practices extended to the political realm as well. White individuals often had more access to political power and resources, while minority communities faced obstacles such as restricted poll taxes. These poll taxes were designed to disenfranchise minority voters, making it difficult for them to exercise their right to vote. Discrimination and bigotry played a significant role in preserving the power dynamics of the time.

Velasquez recognized the need for change and took action to address these injustices. He understood that education and awareness were crucial in empowering marginalized communities. Through organizations like the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project (SVREP), Velasquez worked to educate and mobilize Latino voters, encouraging them to register and participate in the democratic process.

One of Velasquez's key accomplishments was his advocacy for single-member district elections. He believed that the at-large election systems in many cities diluted the voting power of minority communities. By advocating for district-based elections, Velasquez sought to ensure fair representation and give a voice to marginalized communities.

Velasquez faced numerous challenges in his activism. The media in the 1960s was often biased and labeled individuals fighting for civil rights as communists, further marginalizing their efforts. However, Velasquez persevered, and in 1974, he successfully challenged the at-large election systems with the support of SVREP and its allies.

The transition to single-member district elections was not without its obstacles. Money and resources were often concentrated in the hands of established political interests, making it difficult for grassroots organizations like SVREP to compete. However, Velasquez's determination and the support of his allies allowed them to overcome these barriers and bring about positive change.

Velasquez's efforts were not limited to his local community. He recognized that the struggles faced by the Latino community were shared by many impoverished communities across the country. He believed that the Constitution was for everyone and that poverty knows no color. Velasquez's work empowered poor communities nationwide, leaving a lasting impact on social justice and equal representation.

His legacy as a champion for voting rights and political empowerment earned him the title of "Latino of the Century" alongside other influential figures such as Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, Mario Obledo, and Joaquin Avila. This recognition, based on a national survey, highlights the incred-

ible impact Velasquez had on the Latino community and the broader civil rights movement.

Velasquez understood that immigration was not a threat but an opportunity for all ethnicities to thrive. He believed that removing restraints and allowing communities to govern themselves would lead to a more inclusive and transformative society. Assimilation was not the goal; instead, it was about embracing and celebrating the unique contributions of diverse communities.

Willie Velasquez's commitment to voting rights and political empowerment serves as an inspiration to us all. His unwavering dedication to equality and justice continues to resonate, reminding us of the importance of active civic participation and the power of one individual to effect meaningful change. The impact of his work will continue to shape the political landscape for generations to come, ensuring that the voices of marginalized communities are heard and represented.- "Su Voto Es Su Voz"



# Águilas De Veracruz Campeón En Liga Hispana San Antonio

## Por Franco

La visión deportiva del señor Enrique Torres, lo llevó a qué exitosamente se organizara el popular circuito beisbolero Liga Hispana de Béisbol San Antonio.

Dicho circuito realizó espectacular temporada en la que se utilizaron bates de Aluminio en los diamantes del legendario Colt .45 Baseball Field y el Pittman Sullivan Park en el sector éste.

Donde se disputaron inolvidables partidos de postempo-

rada. La gran final (Pittman Sullivan Park) sé la disputaron los trabuco de Águilas de Veracruz dirigido por Ismael Moreno y sus colaboradores Leonel Montes e Iván Jacome que le ayudaron en el plan de juego para vencer al duro rival Tomateros.

La pizarra final fue a favor de Águilas 14 a 12.

Con triunfo para el lanzador relevista Andrés Arturo Martínez "El Pollo", quién al final fue elegido como El Jugador Más Valioso [MVP].

De acuerdo al timonel Luis Cerros, consultante del campeón y manager del club Águilas afiliado a Potranco Baseball League categoría Abierta dominical.

Dijo sentirse contento porque pudo ayudar al ahora campeón trayendo de refuerzo a su paisano zacatecano Nico Flores, quién jugó partidos reglamentarios y así desde su actual residencia en Seattle, retorno a San Antonio para contribuir en el playoff. Nico Flores, pegó de

5-3, con doblete de dos carreras producidas e irse arriba en la pizarra. Iván Jacome, con Jonrón impulso a dos compañeros.

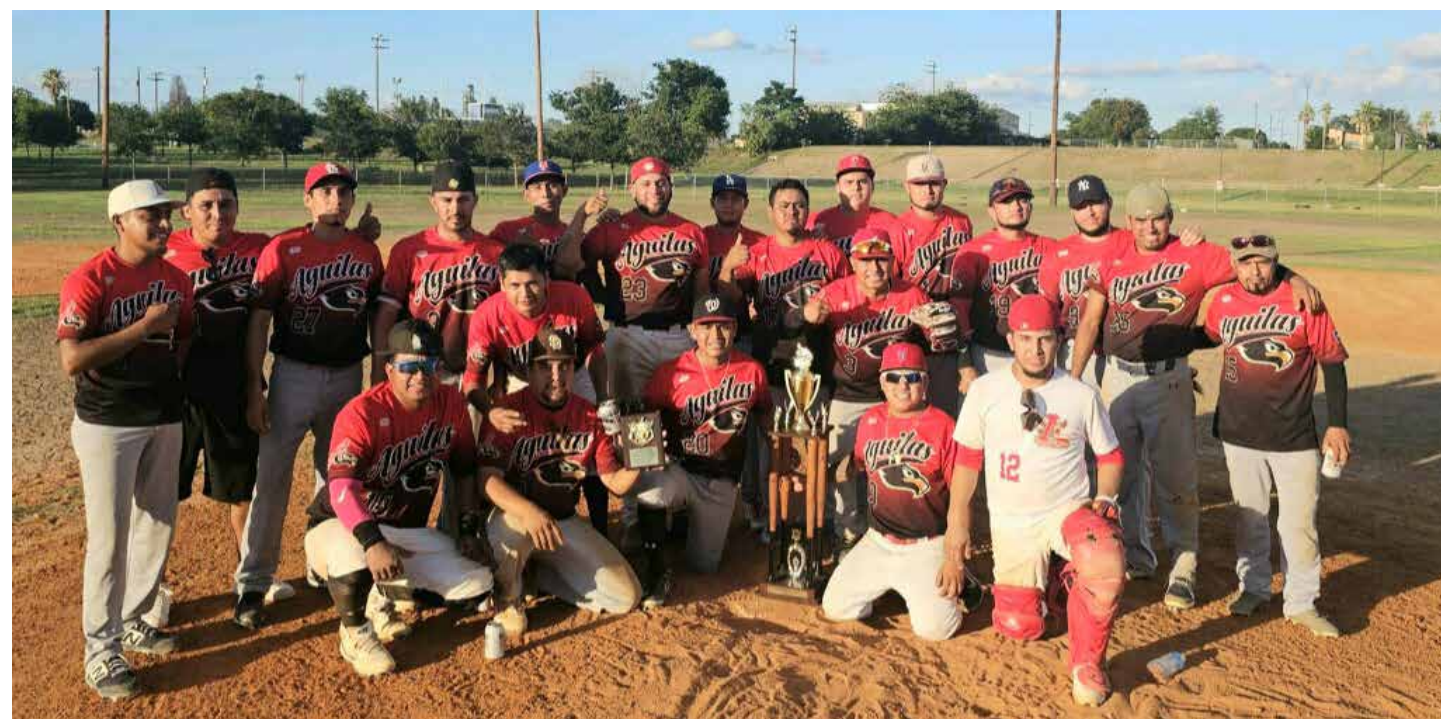
Paco Hernández aportó 2 RBI's tras conectar de 5-3. Nico e Iván pegaron dos jonrones en el segundo partido.

Enrique Torres, luego de culminar la postemporada dijo sentirse contento por logros que desde el principio sentaron las bases de Liga Hispana de Béisbol San Antonio.

"La idea por reducir costos a lo largo de la temporada. Sé hizo realidad. A la vez todos los equipos participantes vieron las diferencias jugando calidad beisbolera. Así ya sé comenzó la nueva temporada", afirmó vía telefónica Enrique Torres.

En las fotos aparecen: Águilas. Nicolas Flores y su paisano Luis Cerros. Andrés Arturo. Nico e Iván Jacome.

[Fotos de Cortesía: Luis Cerros \*].



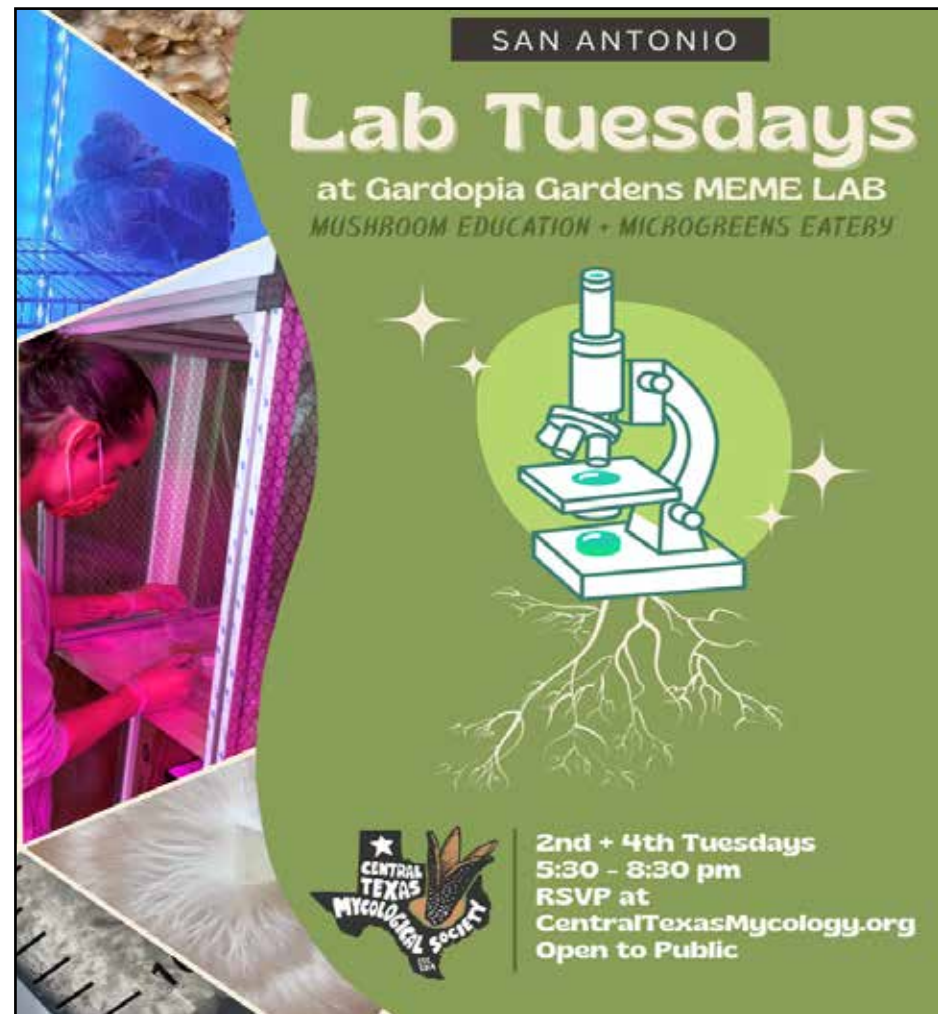




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# El Nuevo Programa de Pregrado Orientado A Los Jugadores de Videojuegos Debuta en UTSA Este Otoño

## Cortesía de Michelle Gaita

Los estudiantes amantes de los videojuegos tendrán la oportunidad de convertir su pasatiempo en una carrera emocionante con la ayuda de un nuevo programa a finales de este año. Un nuevo programa de Diseño de Juegos, que se impartirá en UTSA University College, ofrecerá sus primeras clases en el otoño de 2024.

El diseño de juegos es una nueva concentración dentro de los programas de licenciatura de estudios multidisciplinarios (MDST). Se unirá a una docena de otras carreras prescritas que ya están disponibles bajo el paraguas de MDST.

El programa adoptará un enfoque interdisciplinario para el diseño de juegos e incluirá tres áreas de enfoque distintas: programación de juegos, arte digital y estudios de medios y juegos.

Los estudiantes de UTSA completarán una amplia variedad de cursos ofrecidos por la Facultad de Ciencias (COS) y la Facultad de Bellas Artes y Liberales (COLFA) de la universidad, obteniendo una base sólida en los fundamentos de la informática y en los principios del arte, el diseño y las comunicaciones. Aprenderán varios lenguajes de programación como C# y Python y al mismo tiempo dominarán el software creativo utilizado por la industria del juego para el modelado y la animación 3D. Este plan de estudios integral preparará a los estudiantes para ingresar al creciente sector del juego del estado.

En 2022, la industria de los videojuegos de Texas tuvo un impacto económico de 5.500 millones de dólares y estaba compuesta por más de 190 empresas, incluidas oficinas regionales de nombres notables como Activision, Blizzard Games y Electronic Arts.

Además de los cursos COS y COLFA existentes que se incorporan al plan de estudios del programa, los profesores de UTSA desarrollaron varios cursos nuevos para el lanzamiento de la nueva pista de Diseño de juegos. Este otoño se ofrecerán Fundamentos de programación de juegos y estudios de juegos, y tres cursos adicionales (Gamificación e industrias globales de juegos, Diseño de experiencia de usuario y Juegos globales e interculturales) debutarán en el otoño de 2025. Los cursos explorarán temas como historia de la industria de los videojuegos en el país y en el extranjero, los efectos del juego en los usuarios y cómo los diferentes contextos culturales pueden dar forma al proceso de diseño del juego.

Samuel Ang, profesor asistente de instrucción en el Departamento de Ciencias de la Computación de UTSA, es uno de los principales miembros del cuerpo docente del programa e impartirá el curso Fundamentos de programación de juegos, que él mismo diseñó. Ang tiene una amplia experiencia en programación para juegos y realiza investigaciones en campos relacionados, incluida la interacción persona-computadora, la realidad virtual y la inteligencia artificial.

El nuevo curso de Ang guiará a los estudiantes, incluidos aquellos sin experiencia previa en programación, a través del proceso de creación de juegos desde cero. Incorpora conceptos de programación esenciales, incluido el uso de simulaciones físicas para imitar movimientos realistas, el uso de generación de procedimientos para crear objetos y paisajes y la representación de gráficos 2D y 3D.

“Creo firmemente en el aprendizaje práctico y estructuro mis clases para que los estudiantes tengan la oportunidad de armar un portafolio de proyectos durante su estadía aquí”, dijo Ang. “Creo que este enfoque preparará mejor a los estudiantes para una industria altamente competitiva y de rápido crecimiento”.

Al final del curso de Ang, los estudiantes verán que los conceptos que aprendieron en clase cobran vida mientras recrean juegos arcade clásicos, como Pong y Space Invaders, y diseñan su propio juego interactivo original.

Al graduarse del programa de Diseño de Juegos, los estudiantes tendrán una cartera de proyectos tangibles a mano, una comprensión completa de la industria del juego y estarán equipados para ingresar a una amplia gama de carreras como diseño, animación, escritura, producción o Experiencia de usuario y diseño de interfaz. Sus habilidades también pueden extenderse a industrias fuera de los juegos tradicionales, como los juegos móviles, el software educativo y los medios interactivos.



Los estudiantes del club de juegos y deportes electrónicos de UTSA, Roadrunner Gaming, esperan tomar cursos en la nueva disciplina y ver detrás de escena el proceso de creación de algunos de sus juegos favoritos.

“No habría deportes electrónicos sin la dedicación y creatividad de los diseñadores de juegos”, dijo Jacques Ballou, estudiante junior de seguridad cibernética y presidente de Roadrunner Gaming. “Muchos miembros de Roadrunner Gaming, incluidos aquellos que actualmente estudian ciencias de la computación con interés en el diseño de juegos, están entusiasmados con este nuevo programa”.

El título MDST en UTSA actúa como una incubadora de programas académicos nuevos e innovadores basados en el interés de los estudiantes, las tendencias de la industria y las necesidades de la fuerza laboral. MDST actualmente incluye varios programas especializados que siguen rutas prescritas, o los estudiantes pu-

eden diseñar su propio plan de estudios único combinando tres áreas académicas que se alinean con sus intereses y objetivos.

Además de los títulos universitarios de MDST, el University College ofrece una maestría en Inteligencia Artificial, un M.A./M.S. en Estudios Multidisciplinarios, un Ph.D. en Ciencias Transaccionales y varios programas de certificación a nivel de pregrado y posgrado. La universidad también ofrece el primer M.D./M.S. conocido del país en Inteligencia Artificial y otorgó títulos a los primeros graduados del programa en la primavera de 2024.

El University College promueve un enfoque interdisciplinario de la educación y ofrece a los estudiantes herramientas de por vida para la investigación, el avance y el liderazgo académico. Sus programas también incluyen el programa de Introducción y Estrategias Académicas, el Programa de Escritura, los programas ROTC de la Fuerza Aérea y el Ejército y el programa de Crédito Dual.



# The Origins of Mexican and Latino Art in Texas

By Ricardo Romo, Ph.d

When the newly appointed first governor of the Province of Tejas, Domingo Teran de los Rios, visited Tejas [Texas] in 1691-1692, he witnessed a remarkable event, a well-organized parade of several thousand Indians marching behind the banner of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Three groups of Tejas Indians marched in columns, two by two. The banner had been given to Captain Nicolas of the Catqueza Indian Nation the previous year by Alonso De Leon, Governor of the Province of Coahuila, an explorer extraordinaire.

Following the parade, the Spanish exchanged horses, saddles, boots, and tobacco with the Indian chiefs. Tobacco, which the Indians had introduced to the Spaniards two centuries earlier in Central Mexico, did not grow in Texas and was considered a prized product by Tejas Indians.

The parade and other early gestures of peace and friendship between the Spanish-Mexicans and Indian tribes occurred near the San Marcos River in Central Tejas, forty-five miles from San Antonio. Teran was led to the large Indian trade gatherings by indigenous guides. Fray Damian Massenet, a Franciscan friar traveling with Teran, dutifully recorded the event in his diary. Fortunately for historical purposes, all the entradas or explorations required a diarist, someone well-qualified to record the events of the journey, document the tribes and their surroundings, and provide information on the flora and fauna along the route. The Our Lady of Guadalupe banner carried by the Catqueza chief represented an early introduction of Mexican Catholicism and art to Tejas. Western religion and art remained fragmentary in the new territories until missions could be constructed. When the early efforts from 1690-1720 to build missions in East Texas and on the

Gulf Coast failed, the Spanish military and ecclesiastical authorities turned to San Antonio as the most promising site for a stable



*San Jose Mission "Angelito." Photo by Ricardo Romo.*

mission.

Mestizo and Mulato craftsmen and artisans, brought to San Antonio from Mexico by the Franciscan friars in the early 1700s, established themselves among the first Hispanic artists in Texas. The Franciscans arrived in Mexico in 1524, and over the next two hundred years excelled in the building of churches and schools.

Although the construction of the missions in Mexico and San Antonio became a joint undertaking by the friars and local natives, the art and architecture were initially left to trained masons and sculptors, most of whom were Mestizos. It was apparent that elaborate

mission construction to house hundreds of Indian neophytes would require trained and skilled craftsmen.

Following the founding of San Antonio de Valero [the Alamo] in 1718, the soldiers who accompanied the Franciscan friars established the presidio San Antonio de Bexar at a site about one mile to the north, "the first civilian settlement of Villa de Bexar." The early artisans and artists of the mission era in Texas came from the Mestizo classes of Queretaro, Zacatecas, and Aguascalientes, the central and northern provinces of New Spain [Mexico]. Church records, journals written by the explorers, and the diaries of accompanying friars allow us to trace the arrival



*San Jose Mission. Entrance. Photo by Ricardo Romo.*

of Mestizo artisans to Texas.

The first architectural mission designs and sculptures along the San Antonio River, especially at San Jose, are attributed to Antonio Salazar and Pedro Huizar. Salazar, born in 1730 in the Mexican province of Zacatecas, was listed as a "Sculptor, master mason (architect), and farmer" by John and Deborah Powers in the book *Texas Painters, Sculptors, and Graphic Artists*.

Much controversy and numerous myths surround the birthplace and personal life of Pedro Huizar (1740-1804). Art historian Rebecca Green elaborated, "Over two centuries, Huizar gained notoriety within the oral tradition as the sculptor of the facade and Rose Window of San Jose." Respected architectural scholar Trent Ellwood Sanford claimed that Huizar was born and trained in Spain and created the Rose Window in memory of a woman he had left behind in Spain who lost her life while crossing the Atlantic to meet up with him. Huizar is said to have died of a broken heart.

Over the last two decades, historians have learned much about Huizar. According to the Texas State Historical Association, Huizar (1740-1804) was a Mestizo born in Aguascalientes, Mexico

who arrived in San Antonio sometime before 1775. He married Maria de la Trinidad in 1775 and they had seven children. Historian Jesus de la Teja documented that Huizar not only worked as a mason at San Jose Mission but also bought land in the surrounding area and eventually was appointed as a local judge. He died a natural death at age 64 in San Antonio.

Huizar was commissioned to work on the facade of the San Jose mission. He also sculpted the church's Rose Window. Architectural scholar Sanford noted in his research that these artisans created artistic works in "the florid Spanish baroque style developed into an unrestrained elaboration of ornament which is referred to as Churrigueresque." Historian James Day, one of the authors of the "Six Missions of Texas" publication, commented that "the Rose Window was probably one of the best-known and one of the most beautiful windows of its type in the world."

On an inspection tour of the Provincias Internas, Franciscan Fray Juan Agustin Morfi visited the San Jose Mission in 1777 when Huizar worked on the Rose Window. Morfi described with intricate detail every significant aspect of mission life, including the construction and addition of





*San Jose Mission. Modern rendering.  
Photo by Ricardo Romo.*



*San Jose Mission. Carved door. Photo by Ricardo Romo.*

mission art. He may have been referring to the construction of the Rose Window when he wrote: "The facade [of the mission] is very costly because of the statues and ornaments with which it was heavily decorated, distracting somewhat from its natural beauty."

For several decades [1770-1790], the missions of San Antonio were left in relative decline. As a result, Spanish officials took

steps in the late 1700s toward their secularization by removing church authorities from controlling the mission lands. Historian Donald Chipman noted, "Traditionally, the missions had been peopled with hunting and gathering tribes, but by the last quarter of the 1700s only a small number of these natives had not been Christianized." With secularization came the end of the new construction of missions in Texas. The friars were no

longer in charge of the missions or the Indians; consequently, they no longer brought skilled artisans to the Texas frontier.

The decline of the missions contributed to a century-long slump in art and sculpture by Latino artists. During the post-mission period, relatively little art or sculpture was added to the missions. Texas Mexicans [or Tejanos] lived through an extended period of conflict and violence.

Tejanos fought in five major wars over the period 1813 to 1865. These battles included the fight for Mexican Independence, 1810-1820; the Texas Revolution of 1836; the Mexican War of 1846; and The Civil War of 1860-1865.

Over these fifty years, the Tejanos also remained in constant war with the Apache and Comanche Indians.

Not surprisingly, there were no art schools in the frontier Texas years. The few Latino artists in Texas over the entire 19th century came from Spain or Mexico where they were trained or talented emerging Latino artists from the frontier left Texas to hone their craft elsewhere. The arrival of Jose Arpa from Spain in 1899 opened a new era of Latino art in Texas. Arpa opened the first Latino art school in Texas and made three decades of significant contributions to the San Antonio art community.

There was little separation between religion and art in Spanish Tejas of the 17th and 18th centuries. The missionaries recruited talented Mestizo and Indian artisans to fill the churches with religious objects. With the decline of mission construction, less attention was paid to art. Life on the frontier required a greater focus on preparing young men and women to build community and contribute to essential endeavors such as the military, ranching, and farming.

On July 5, 2015, San Antonio's five Spanish colonial missions – Missions San Jose, San Juan, Concepcion, Espada, and the world-renowned Alamo – were declared by UNESCO a World Heritage Site. The Missions now represent the only World Heritage site in Texas and one of just 25 in the United States.



*Pedro Huizar, San Jose Mission "Rose Window."  
Photo by Ricardo Romo.*



*San Jose Mission Dome. Photo by Ricardo Romo.*



*San Jose Mission arches. Photo by Ricardo Romo.*



NORTHWEST VISTA COLLEGE

# ¡HECHO PARA TI!

## SEGUIMOS RECIBIENDO RECONOCIMIENTOS DE EXCELENCIA

### ¡FELICITACIONES A NORTHWEST VISTA COLLEGE!

El 11 de junio, Aspen Institute nombró finalista para el premio Aspen 2025 a la Excelencia en Colegios Comunitarios a Northwest Vista College (NVC). El premio dispone de un millón de dólares en fondos compartidos para honrar colegios universitarios que se destacan por el éxito de su alumnado y su compromiso por mejorar el desempeño de los estudiantes, especialmente de aquellos de comunidades marginales.

De acuerdo con Joshua Wyner, director ejecutivo de Aspen Institute, los finalistas "demuestran cómo los colegios comunitarios que atienden comunidades urbanas y rurales a lo largo del país pueden preparar a muchos más graduados para una vida plena y carreras más satisfactorias en sus comunidades. Muestran que la excelencia se puede alcanzar en todos los contextos."



Alamo Colleges District tiene el honor de seguir recibiendo reconocimientos por parte de Aspen Institute. Cuatro de sus cinco colegios fueron invitados a postularse para el premio. Por cuarta ocasión consecutiva, NVC obtuvo este honor siendo uno de 150 seleccionados de entre más de mil colegios a nivel nacional. Recientemente, San Antonio College obtuvo el premio Aspen en 2021 y, en 2019, Palo Alto College el premio Rising Star.

En la primavera de 2025 se anunciará al ganador de entre los finalistas, de los cuales NVC es uno de solo dos colegios comunitarios de Texas seleccionados. Felicitemos al profesorado y personal de NVC por este reconocimiento a su dedicación y servicio.

El distrito sigue firme en su misión de brindar a la comunidad oportunidades educativas que cambian vidas. ¿Te interesa matricularte? Visita [alamo.edu/apply](https://alamo.edu/apply) hoy mismo.

 ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT  
Northwest Vista College

**EMPIEZA HOY**

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# Hays Commons Public Meeting

## Tues. July 16

**Courtesy of Annalisa Peace**

GEAA has partnered with Hays City and local residents to oppose Milestone’s plans for a wastewater treatment plant to serve a high density housing development on 290 acres of the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone. Milestone’s plans to disperse sewage effluent in this sensitive area threatens to pollute Barton Springs and the wells of nearby residents. We invite you to join us in Buda next Tuesday when TCEQ will host a public meeting to discuss Milestones wastewater permit

When: Tuesday, July 16th at 7:pm

Where: Comfort Suites (main meeting room) in Buda 15295 S IH-35, Bldg. 800

It is important to have a crowd of concerned citizens attend this public meeting to let both TCEQ and Milestone know that this is not a good idea. You will have the opportunity to ask questions during the first half of the meeting. Comments from the public will be recorded during the second half of the meeting.

Written comments may be submitted to TCEQ any time before 5:pm on July 25th. You can submit comments here by entering the permit number WQ0016373001.

The summary of the GEAA Comments Hays Commons TLAP read, “ In summary, the high-density type of development proposed by Milestone with high impervious cover, coupled with their plan to irrigate treated sewage over the recharge zone, is ill-suited for the environmentally sensitive nature of the area. Existing development in this area respects the location over the EARZ and consists predominantly of single-family homes on one acre plus lots, with On-Site Septic Facilities (OSSFs) for wastewater. Dropping in a highdensity development with 14 acres of 70% impervious cover commercial space, plus a 32-acre treated sewage irrigation field over numerous Karst features is not only incongruous to the existing area aesthetic but will likely lead to significant groundwater contamination. We urge TCEQ to reject the Hays Commons wastewater permit application in its entirety.”

The site of Milestone’s Hays Commons development was subject to impervious cover regulations enforced by both the City of Hays and Austin. Sadly, when SB 2038 became law on September 1st of last year, Milestone immediately and successfully filed to have the area de-annexed, which meant that the aquifer protection measures enforced by both cities are now moot.

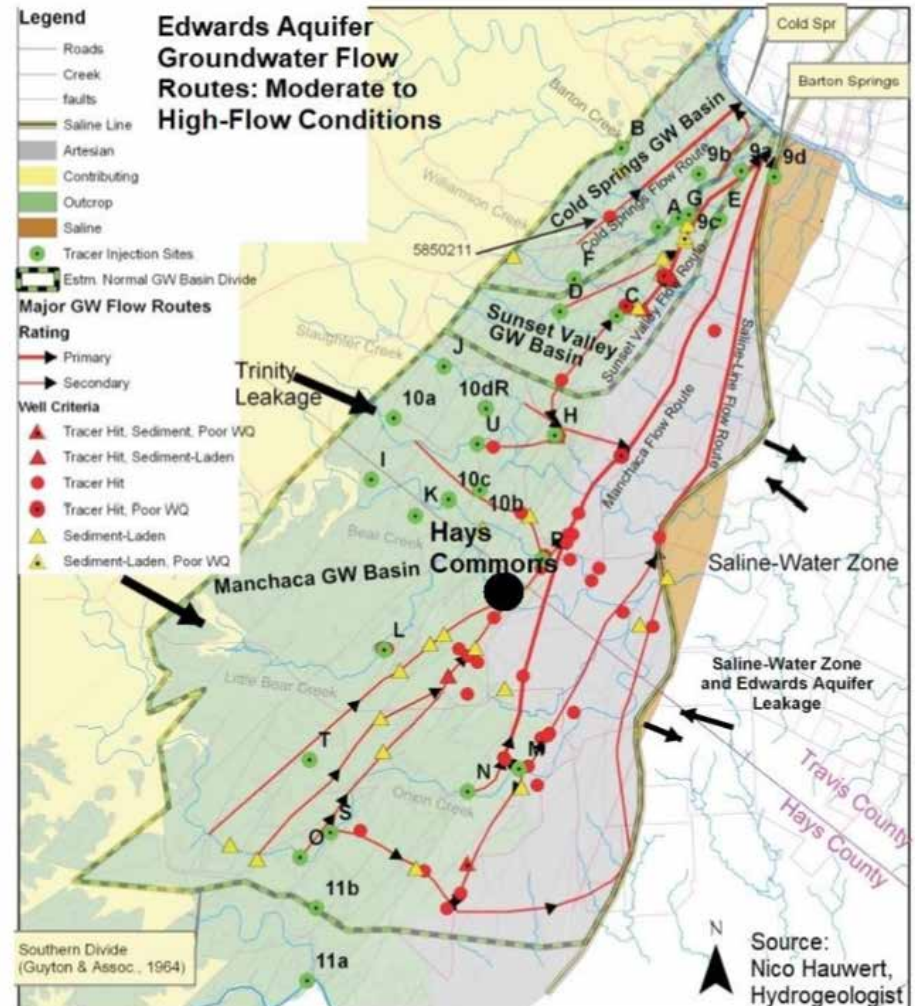


Fig. 4: The Manchaca Flow Route runs near the proposed area for Hays Commons; any surface pollutants from Hays Commons would likely end up in the Edwards Aquifer and Barton Springs

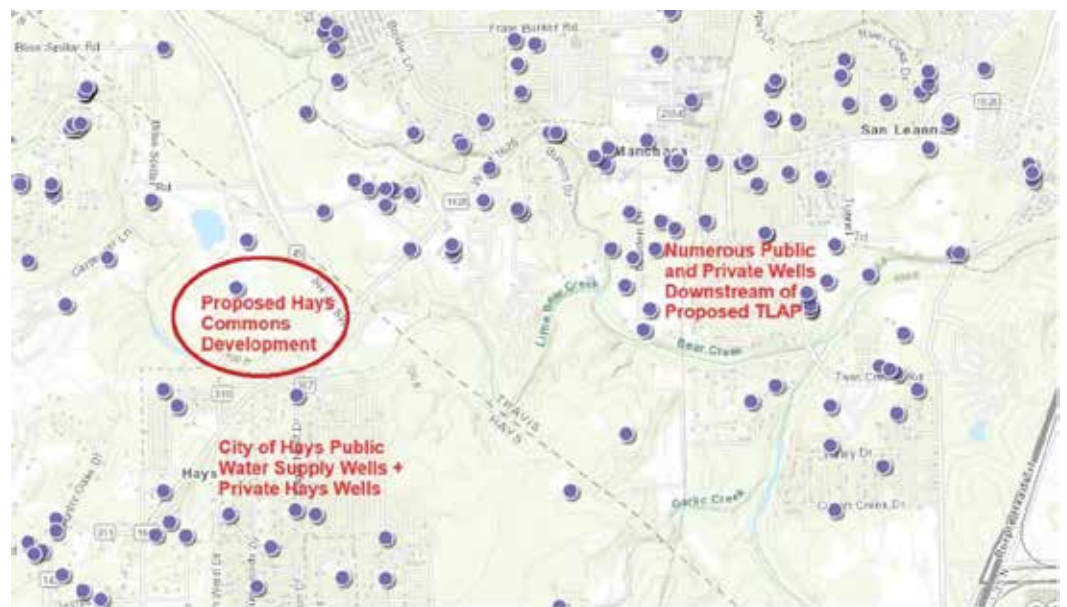


Fig. 1: Numerous existing public and private wells (shown in purple) are located near the proposed Hays Commons development



# Racism and Mental Health: The Unseen Toll on BIPOC Communities

By Yvette Tello

As we observe BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) Awareness Month this July, it is crucial to shed light on an often overlooked aspect of racism: its profound impact on mental health. The relationship between systemic racism and mental health is complex, deeply rooted, and has far-reaching consequences for individuals and communities.

Racism is not just a social and moral issue; it is a public health crisis. The constant exposure to discrimination, microaggressions, and systemic inequities creates a pervasive and chronic stressor for BIPOC individuals. This stress can manifest in various ways, including anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The American Psychological Association (APA) highlights that experiences of racism can lead to both immediate and long-term psychological distress.

BIPOC communities face significant disparities in mental health outcomes. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health, Black adults are 20% more likely to report serious psychological distress than white adults. Similarly, Indigenous populations experience higher rates of PTSD and suicide compared to other racial groups. These disparities are not solely due to individual experiences but are compounded by broader societal and structural factors.



Access to mental health care is another critical issue. BIPOC individuals are less likely to receive mental health services compared to their white counterparts. This disparity is driven by various factors, including economic barriers, lack of culturally competent care, and stigma within communities. For instance, a study published in the journal *\*Psychiatric Services\** found that only one in three African Americans who need mental health care receives it. Additionally, BIPOC individuals are more likely to end up in the criminal justice system than to receive much-needed mental health services. This systemic failure further exacerbates mental health issues and creates a vicious cycle of disadvantage and marginalization.

Cultural competence in mental health care is essential for addressing these disparities. Mental health professionals must understand and respect the cultural backgrounds and experiences of BIPOC individuals.

Culturally competent care involves recognizing the impact of systemic racism and providing support that acknowledges and validates these experiences. Efforts to diversify the mental health workforce and train providers in cultural competence are steps in the right direction.

Community-based approaches to mental health care can also play a vital role in supporting BIPOC communities. These approaches leverage the strengths and resources within communities to provide culturally relevant care. Programs that incorporate traditional healing practices, peer support, and community advocacy have shown promise in improving mental health outcomes.

Addressing the mental health impacts of racism requires a multifaceted approach. It involves policy changes to address systemic inequities, increasing access to culturally competent care, and fostering community-based solutions. It also requires a commitment

from society to confront and dismantle racism in all its forms.

As we honor BIPOC Awareness Month, let us recognize the resilience of BIPOC communities in the face of adversity. Let us also commit to creating a more equitable and just society where mental health and well-being are accessible to all. The fight against racism is not just about changing minds but also about healing hearts and minds.

For those living with symptoms of a mental health condition, 18 and older who are in the Black, Indigenous, People of Color Community are invited to join Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Support Group by NAMI Greater San Antonio. This group is for a time of support and empowerment. They meet every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. This will be an online support group.

- Free of cost to participants
- Confidential. NAMI Great-

er San Antonio does not allow observers into these groups.

- Designed for adults (18+) with mental health conditions
- No specific medical therapy or treatment is endorsed

For more information, please call (210) 734-3349

Photo Caption: Pathways to Hope is a FREE immersive and empowering two-day conference that takes place at the prestigious Tobin Center for the Performing Arts. This city-wide event serves as a vital platform for connection and collaboration, uniting a diverse range of participants including mental health professionals, social workers, educators, members of the judicial system, law enforcement personnel, faith community leaders, caregivers, and individuals personally impacted by mental health diagnoses. Together, these stakeholders come together to address and enhance the mental health care system, fostering a supportive and transformative environment for all involved.





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Dr. Natalia Molina



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Token prizes will be awarded to each game winner.

Seating is limited, so arrive early!

**Potranco Library**  
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**Wednesday, July 17, 11:30 AM**



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# Pericos Y Águilas Ganan El Primero

## Por Sendero Deportivo

Los dos partidos del playoff en Liga Abierta dominical Potranco, presentados por El Jaral Mexican Restaurant ubicado en el 5140 Roosevelt, y que preside Simón Sánchez, se jugaron en extra innings culminando con victorias a favor de Pericos [5-2 carreras], del magnate Memo Frausto y dirigidos por el manager Martin Rodriguez y el coach Francisco Navarro, que con su alineación estelar derrotaron al súper líder Indios de Nava de Pachin Martínez y el coach Rudy Barrientez. El estadio Potranco, propiedad del

artista Eloy Rocha y dueño de El Jaral Mexican Restaurant es la sede en series a ganar 2 de 3 partidos. Pericos así tomó delantera.

Águilas de Luis Cerros y Nicho Jacome, derrotaron ha Rieleros de JP Reza, con pizarra de 7-2. Por lo que éste domingo 14 de julio las acciones estarán al rojo vivo con el primer partido entre Rieleros y Águilas. Luego siguen Pericos vs. Indios.

Cabe anotar, lo sucedido en el triunfo de los pajaritos verdes. Con datos proporcionados por el vocero general y jugador Cristian Arzola. Indios pegó 8

jits. Pericos dio 10 imparables.

La victoria se la agencia Josh Gill, con ayuda de sus compañeros Juan Fernández quien en la apertura del decimo inning pegó cuadrangular trayéndose por delante a su compañero Ulises Núñez, quien hizo un perfecto toque de pelota logrando llegar safe a la inicial.

Indios en el cierre tuvo la casa llena. Su bateador en turno Ulises Arriaga, pegó roleta por la antesala y Pericos con importante tercer out de inmediato celebró su bien ganado primer partido. Juan Fernández, se mereció ser el MVP

del importante cotejo.

Águilas y Rieleros empatados 2-2, hicieron racimo de 5 carreras. Déficit que Rieleros no logró superar. La victoria fue para Jhayson Manzueta, quien en toda la ruta superó al abridor Leo Montalvo y al relevista hidrocalido José López [El Latigo], quien ganó el trofeo de campeón pitcher temporada regular con marca de 8-2.

Las fotos de Josh Gill y equipo Pericos son cortesía del manager Martin Rodriguez. Las fotos del Caminante con compañeros y seguidores. Así como la del "Chiquilin" Noé Rivera

pitcher de gran calibre de Águilas, el coach Nicho Jacome y el fanático Ramiro Lagunes, son de Franco.

Resultados categoría Masters 50+ Hilario Álvarez 2024, datos proporcionados por Linda Garza: Broncos 6 Tuzos 4. Hugo Méndez se agencia la victoria. Astros 10-0 ante Rangers. Yankees 23 Reds 0.

Rol de juegos Campo 2 domingo 14 de Julio. 10am Tuzos vs Astros. 12:30pm Broncos vs Reds. 3pm el clásico Rangers del Venado Benito Martínez y el coach jugador Ruperto Ortega.







# INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANT CAREER FAIR

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**JULY 13 · 13 DE JULIO**

## NALCAB's 2024 Summer in the States

*Join Us this August for our Annual At-Home Advocacy Campaign*

Our annual federal funding advocacy campaign *Summer in the States* is back. Each August we launch this effort to boost support for programs vital to the NALCAB network and Latino communities while members of Congress are in their home states for the District Work Period. This is an opportunity for policy advocacy right from your home state.

With Congress steadily working through each of the 12 appropriations bills in advance of the end of the fiscal year on September 30, August is a crucial time to advocate for programs like the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's HOME Investment Partnerships Program ([HOME](#)), the Community Development Block Grant ([CDBG](#)), the US Department of Treasury's [CDFI Fund](#), among others. Please see NALCAB's specific Appropriations Ask [here](#).

Join us in keeping Congress accountable and urging for robust federal dollars to support programs that boost the economic trajectory of Latinos.



### SUMMER IN THE STATES: AT-HOME ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

THURSDAY, JULY 25 | 2:00PM CT

Don't miss our webinar on **Thursday, July 25 at 2:00PM CT** for an update on FY 25 budget negotiations, key federal funding streams to advocate for, resources and tools to help in your advocacy.

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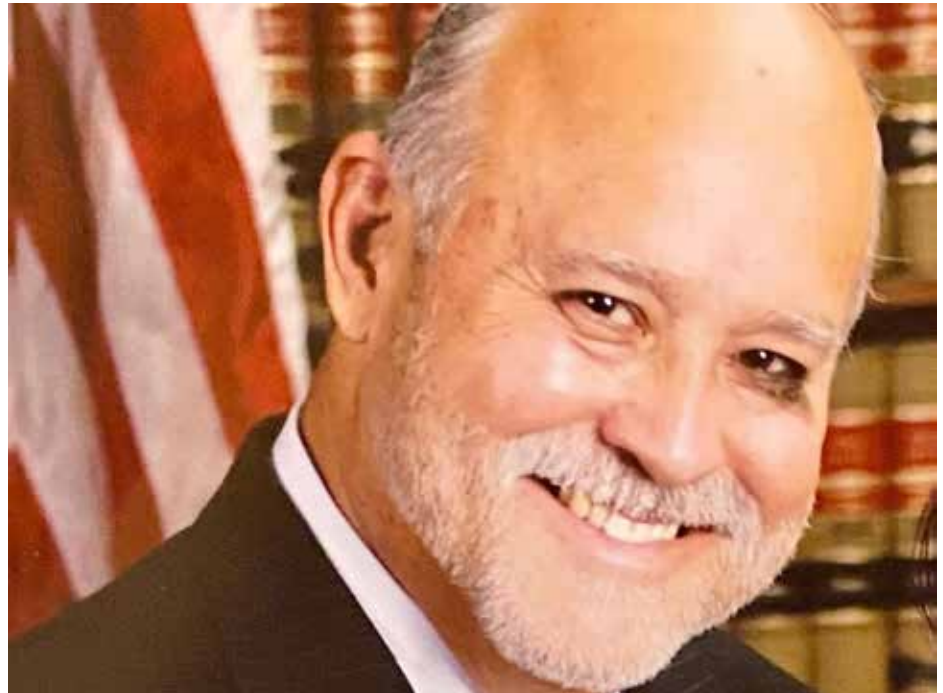
[www.hnstopday.org](http://www.hnstopday.org)  
[linda.brady@hns-tx.org](mailto:linda.brady@hns-tx.org)



407 N. CALAVERAS ST., SAN ANTONIO, TX 78207



## SVREP and WCVI Mourn the Loss of Chairman of the Board of Directors Juan Maldonado



Southwest Voter Registration Education Project (SVREP) and William C. Velásquez Institute (WCVI) mourn the incredible loss to the Latino community from the passing of Juan Maldonado. He served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of SVREP and WCVI. Juan Maldonado died on July 5, 2024 after battling an illness.

As the Chairman of the Board of Directors of both organizations for more than 36 years, he worked tirelessly to mobilize Latino voters, promote civic

participation and improve the lives of immigrants living in the United States. He was a Chicano leader and activist. Juan dedicated his life to the transformation of the Latino community, from one who was invisible to one that had the power to transform communities.

Juan Maldonado was a longtime friend, compadre to the late William C. Velásquez. He was a friend to Andrew Hernandez, Antonio González and Lydia Camarillo. Juan Maldonado as Chairman worked closely with the

four SVREP and WCVI presidents.

As the SVREP Chairman of the Board of Directors, Juan Maldonado saw Latino political power expand from 1974 to 2024, from 2.4 million to 20.6 million registered voters. Under his leadership, Latino voters were the decisive vote in the 2016 and 2020 elections, as well as the 2021 US Senate runoff elections in Georgia.

As Chairman of the Board of Directors of WCVI, Juan was part of the delegations that trav-

eled with Velásquez, Hernandez and González to observe the Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, South African, Mexican, and Venezuelan electoral processes in from 1990 to 2014.

Juan Maldonado dedicated his life to fighting against anti-immigrant, anti-Latino policies. As Chairman of SVREP and WCVI, Juan was a key member of the efforts both organizations have undertaken over the last five decades.

Juan Maldonado first met William Velásquez

when he served as Mayor of San Juan in 1977. He was elected to the San Juan City Commission in 1971. Juan tore down barriers and opened the doors in the Rio Grande Valley.

Juan Maldonado transformed the political power of Latinos in San Juan and across the Rio Grande Valley. Juan Maldonado is survived by his wife Debra Maldonado, his son, Juan, and family and friends.

Rest in Power, Juan! Juan Maldonado Presente!



**PERDERLO TODO ES SOLO EL COMIENZO**

**LA FAMILIA**

**DESAFÍO EXTREMO**

**GRAN ESTRENO  
MARTES 30 JULIO  
7PM/6C**



**TELEMUNDO**