

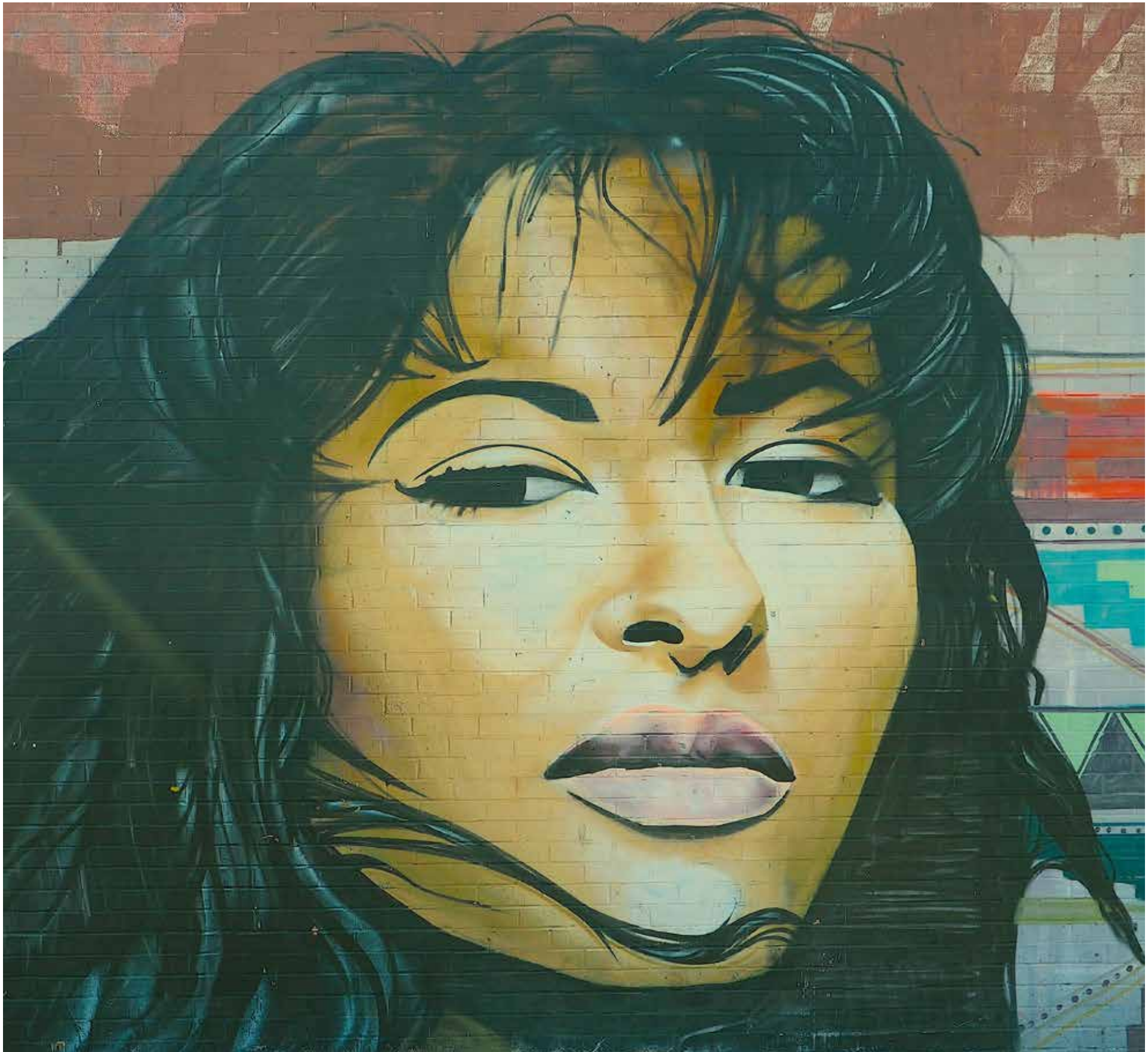
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This grass roots publication is the life source for a community that is not easily afforded viable access to diverse and accessible media. San Antonio and the surrounding counties have become accustomed to relevant news brought to them in both English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

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Let's Talk About It

How are the rising costs affecting you?

By Yvette Tello

The economy is a complicated topic that impacts each person in different ways. As we deal with these tough times, it's important to keep talking about it. For example, small things like the rising cost of eggs; like 50-cent eggs when you order a huevo ranchero plate can add up. Some places charge extra for a drink if you don't want ice as you are getting more soda in your drink and using a credit card often means paying a 3% fee. It might be better to pay in cash to avoid these extra costs. And when it comes to tipping waitstaff, giving cash can be a better option since they pay taxes on tips when they are making \$2 an hour.

What are your experiences and thoughts on the current economic climate? Are you still eating out so frequently? Let's talk about it...

Kathleen Laverdiere: "I don't believe they're taking advantage of us. They're simply not raising their prices on the menu itself because they're incurring additional prices. I don't have a problem with it."

Haley Odom Catlett: "Did they get the memo that egg costs are down 50%?"

Ashley Kenjura: "I've never understood why people think no/less ice: more drink. I'm referring to a drink that calls for a specific recipe with exact measurements."

Jamie Porteous: "I have no problems paying more if I'm getting what I asked for. I'm not one to ask for light ice in a cocktail, thinking I would get more alcohol. This is coffee tho. So if I ask for a venti cold brew with no ice, that cup should be full to the lid. It's damn near 6\$ and Starbucks can more than afford to fill my coffee to the brim."

Alexis Burns: "I usually order a refresher with light ice and definitely noticed that I've been getting charged extra for it. I get light ice because there's always way too much ice in it. I know baristas can't do anything about store policy, but it definitely makes me not want to go back because I don't want to pay a premium for a drink that's literally half ice."

Ram Dis: "I love the economy and eat out all the time."

Jeff Hull: "It's very difficult for me. Of course I'm on SSI and the SNAP program. I don't really get to do much because things are way too expensive. I'm even missing Geoff Tate's (Queensryche) show this Saturday. I've seen every show of his at the Aztec Theater. Especially since he owns some of my paintings. It bums me out. Food gets extremely tight right about this time of the month. Especially during long months like March. I'm barely gonna make it till the end of the month. So many like myself struggle and it's getting harder. Hopefully Trump does not screw with social security, Medicaid or food stamps. Otherwise millions of us will be in trouble. Then of course you have those like the person who commented before me who created fake accounts because they think it's funny but it's not. The country is just around the corner from a recession. Many are in trouble."

Kenneth Mumma: "I live for the weekend. Conserve during the week for the most part and live large during the weekend."

Herb Rockman: "I am irritated by the idea of restaurants charging extra for no ice on tea or fountain drinks. They could certainly bear the "cost", it's just greed. Even in a to-go cup, their total cost is under a quarter or less, and they charge customers \$3-5 for the drink. It's the restaurant with the largest profit margin. Plus if you dine in, most places give you free refills anyway so what's the point? But I also think it's dumb for customers to ask for no ice, unless they have dental issues. Fountain drinks and tea are supposed to be diluted with ice, why would you want to drink syrupy warm liquid just to "get more"? I do understand credit card charges, I don't feel a business should eat some profit just because a customer wants to use a card. However, I think it's better for them to raise all the prices to cover credit card service charges, but then offer a discount for cash paying customers, I am seeing more businesses going this route lately. Lastly, some additional charges on your restaurant bills border on fraud, always check your itemized receipt first!"

Rick Carter: "Become your own bank with Secured Notes to receive a high interest and guaranteed principal. My partner and I are

receiving 88% APR on factoring & 8% on Secured Notes. On about \$30,000 we are generating about \$11,000 in interest."

Ron Travieso: "Working for the weekend."

Veronica Amaro: "I no longer think, "I can't afford that." My mentality is, "How am I going to afford that?" and look for ways to create another stream of income. My money spent helps someone else. It circulates in this economy. Whether it's local or not, I'm helping someone. If I buy from the local restaurant or store, I'm helping a small business and their employees. If I buy from large businesses and chain restaurants, I'm still helping those of us working there. If we stop buying and producing no one wins. Economics 101."

Elizabeth Escareno-Collazo: "Thank you for sharing!"

Sylvie Goldin: "It's actually illegal for them to do that if it's not written on the menu, you can literally cross that off on your bill takeoff that \$.50 pay the amount you wanted to pay with a tip but you can eliminate that surcharge

Eric T Lewis: "The price of eggs has gone down but waffle houses are still charging extra for eggs, crazy but true."

Elia Rubinstein: "Bird flu in this part of the country. Full flocks had to be put down. This affects the price of eggs."

Susan Klintworth Van Vleet: "Guessing they didn't want to increase the price of the meal so when egg prices drop, they can take off the extra charge."

Jeremy Dean-Watson: "It's just so crazy to me that people that work at these fast food restaurants and the like take their job so serious like it's costing them money to give you 2 sauces for your nuggets or like if you ask for 4 ketchup packages they act like they're taking that out of your paycheck. That's how they act. It's just crazy these large companies do not care about their employees one bit, but yet the employees bend over backwards for these large companies. I just don't get it! **Support small businesses.**"

About the Cover Artist: Christopher Montoya

Photos Courtesy of
artistamontoya.com

Cover Photo by Richardo Romo





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Selena y Los Dinos at SXSW

By Yvette Tello.

Selena Quintanilla was more than a musician; she was a cultural phenomenon whose influence transcends generations. The recent documentary about her life serves as an emotional journey that not only chronicles her rise to fame but also captures the beauty and depth of her spirit.

The film highlights the trials and triumphs Selena faced as a Latina artist in a predominantly male industry. It showcases her fight for recognition and the barriers she broke down in the Tejano music scene. As viewers watch her journey, the emotional weight of her struggles becomes palpable, reminding us of the resilience she embodied.

One of the most touching aspects of the documentary is the insight it provides into her family life. Through interviews with her loved ones, we witness the deep bond that Selena shared with them. Their stories are filled with love, laughter, and heartbreak, providing a glimpse into the woman behind the superstar. This connection adds depth to the narrative, allowing viewers to feel the emotional resonance of her legacy.

Selena Quintanilla's music



Photos by Richardo Romo

was a powerful force that resonated deeply with young Latinos, bringing them back to their roots and reconnecting them with their language and cultural heritage. In an era when many were struggling to find their identities in a rapidly changing world, Selena's songs celebrated the beauty of being Latino. Her ability to blend traditional Tejano music with contemporary sounds created a unique style that captivated audiences and instilled a sense of pride in their heritage.

For many young Latinos, listening to Selena was not just about enjoying her music; it was about rediscovering their roots and embracing their culture. Her lyrics spoke to the heart, addressing themes of love, family, and identity, making her relatable to a generation eager to celebrate their heritage. Selena's joy in sharing her culture through

her music was palpable, and she often expressed how important it was for her to connect with her fans on a personal level. Her happiness stemmed from knowing that her work inspired others to take pride in their roots.

Over the years, Selena's family, particularly her father, Abraham Quintanilla Jr., has faced criticism for keeping her memory alive through various tributes and projects. Some have argued that they should allow her to rest in peace. Yet, in her own words, Selena expressed a desire to be remembered: "I am here until the public doesn't want me anymore." This sentiment reflects her understanding of the profound impact she had on her fans and her wish to remain a source of inspiration for future generations.

It's clear that many, including myself, want to

keep Selena's beautiful spirit, story, and memory alive. The documentary serves as a testament to her legacy and the joy she brought to countless lives. As a Latina who has experienced loss, I found a special connection to Selena's story. Losing my mother in July 1995, just a few months after Selena's tragic passing in March, left a profound void in my heart. Those last months spent learning about Selena and celebrating her life with my mother were invaluable. We bonded over her music, sharing a love for the powerful melodies and heartfelt lyrics that defined Selena's career.

This documentary resonated with me on a personal level, evoking memories of those cherished moments. It hit a little harder than most, reminding me of the beauty in honoring the legacies of

those we love. The way the film captures the essence of Selena's spirit and her family's dedication to preserving her memory is truly moving.

In a world that sometimes forgets the importance of cultural heritage, Selena's story and music serve as a reminder of the joy that comes from embracing one's roots. Her influence continues to inspire, uplift, and resonate with fans of all ages. For anyone who holds a special place in their heart for Selena, this documentary is a must-see. It beautifully encapsulates her legacy, leaving viewers with a renewed sense of appreciation for the incredible woman she was. Well done, Los Dinos, for honoring her memory and sharing her story with the world.

DEPARTAMENTO DE AGRICULTURA**Desarrollo Rural****Spur Materials, LLC: Aviso de Disponibilidad de una Evaluación Ambiental**

AGENCIA: Servicio de Cooperativas y Negocios Rurales, USDA

ACCIÓN: Aviso de Disponibilidad de una Evaluación Ambiental

RESUMEN: Se notifica por la presente que el Servicio de Cooperativas y Negocios Rurales (RBCS, por sus siglas en inglés), según lo requerido por la Ley Nacional de Política Ambiental, está emitiendo una evaluación ambiental (EA) en relación con posibles impactos relacionados con un proyecto propuesto por Spur Materials, LLC, ubicado en 9377 County Road 128, Floresville, Condado de Wilson, Texas 78114. La propuesta consiste en la construcción y operación de un molino de concreto con una capacidad de producción inicial de 200,000 toneladas métricas por año, ubicado en 9377 County Rd 128, Floresville, Condado de Wilson, Texas 78114. Spur Materials, LLC ha presentado una solicitud de financiamiento para la propuesta ante RBCS.

PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN: Para obtener copias de la EA o más información, comuníquese con: Michael Self, Director de Programas de Negocios y Cooperativas, 101 South Main Street, Temple, Texas 76501, al 254-742-9979 o michael.self@usda.gov. La EA también está disponible para revisión pública en la Oficina del Área de Seguin, ubicada en 999 Fleming Drive, Seguin, Texas 78155.

INFORMACIÓN COMPLEMENTARIA: Spur Materials propone la construcción y operación de un molino de concreto con una capacidad de producción inicial de 200,000 toneladas métricas por año en 9377 County Rd 128, Floresville, Condado de Wilson, Texas 78114.

SME Advisors, LC, un consultor ambiental, preparó una evaluación ambiental para RBCS que describe el proyecto, evalúa los impactos ambientales del proyecto propuesto y resume, según corresponda, las medidas de mitigación utilizadas para minimizar los efectos ambientales.

Las preguntas y comentarios deben enviarse a RBCS a la dirección proporcionada. RBCS aceptará preguntas y comentarios sobre la evaluación ambiental durante 14 días a partir de la fecha de publicación de este aviso.

Cualquier acción final por parte de RBCS relacionada con el proyecto propuesto estará sujeta a y condicionada por el cumplimiento de todas las leyes y regulaciones ambientales federales aplicables y la finalización de los procedimientos de revisión ambiental prescritos por 7 CFR Parte 1970, Políticas y Procedimientos Ambientales.

A continuación, se muestra un mapa de ubicación general de la propuesta.



Fecha:

Harrison Y Brittany Barnes Inauguraron Cancha De Baloncesto

Por Franco

El delantero Harrison Barnes titular del pentacampeón Spurs de San Antonio, en compañía de su esposa Brittany Barnes, mediante su fundación [The Harrison and Brittany Barnes Community Fund], inauguraron cancha de baloncesto en el sector del Guadalupe Community Center en San Antonio, Texas.

Cumpliendo así con su proyecto de continuar series de renovación que próximamente será de gran beneficio en la ciudad de Austin, Texas y en México.

La reciente cancha puesta en marcha, en su totalidad fue remodelada con sistema moderno, y accesible para la comunidad deportiva infantil, en la que participaron líderes de la comunidad y la mascota The Coyote de los Spurs.

“Estoy emocionado porque con éxito se realizaron los trabajos de remodelación en esta concurrida cancha. Brittany y yo estamos felices de poder lograr retribuirle a la comunidad, con proyectos de beneficio. Está cancha no solo servirá para la práctica y juego de baloncesto, sino que también ayudará a la unión familiar de gran beneficio para la comunidad” Harrison, indicó que lo misma serán los proyectos en Austin y otras sedes.

J. Antonio Fernández, President/CEO of Catholic

Charities, Arquidiócesis of San Antonio, Inc., dijo lo siguiente. “Es emotivo recibir este generoso regalo por parte de Harrison y Brittany Barnes Community Fund. Destinado a la remodelación de canchas de baloncesto. Ello nos ayudará para continuar con los programas comunitarios para actividades después del horario escolar y también para los campos del verano. Lo cual será como siempre, con amor, respeto y dignidad”.

Por otro lado en boletín oficial de Spurs y la NBA, se notificó que Harrison Barnes,

fue nombrado recipiente del trofeo denominado “NBA Cares Bob Lanier Community Assist Award February Winner”.

Por su contribución al programa Alamo PROMISE, que es parte del proyecto para apoyar altos estudios y renovación de áreas de diversión comunitaria, como parte de la iniciativa Play ATX. NBA premia la aportación de Barnes, con donativo de \$10,000 que será turnado a San Antonio African American Community Archive and Museum. (Fotos de cortesía SS&E).



Empowering the Next Generation: A Conversation with the Founder of Soy Latina

By Yvette Tello

In a heartfelt conversation, the founder of Soy Latina, Lisa Coleman, shared her inspiring journey of creating a platform that uplifts and empowers young Latinas. Her commitment to fostering community, mentorship, and cultural pride is evident in every initiative she undertakes.

The idea for Soy Latina emerged from a recognition of the disparities faced by young women in underserved communities. The founder noted the imbalance in access to resources and opportunities, particularly in educational settings. After discussing the need for change with her husband, they decided to take action by organizing camps and mentoring programs that provide enriching experiences to people from different backgrounds.

Through events like the NFL Tackles Reading program and the annual camp hosted at Leal Middle School, they aim to give underprivileged youth experiences that are typically reserved for those who can afford them. By bringing in retired NFL players and offering the same swag and experiences as paid camps, the initiative ensures that every child feels valued and included.

Lisa's passion for mentoring is rooted in her own experiences. Having faced instability and challenges in her upbringing, she understands the importance of support and guidance. She shared her story of growing up in a home with financial insecurities, moving frequently, and the impact it had on her education. This background fuels her desire to create opportunities for young Latinas, ensuring they have access to mentorship and resources that can help them succeed.

Under the umbrella of Soy Latina, the organization has grown from mentoring a few girls to supporting a cohort of 25 young women in its inaugural year. Through mentorship, education, and exposure to various career paths, the program empowers these girls to envision a future where they can thrive.

Collaboration is a cornerstone of Soy Latina's approach. The Lisa emphasized the importance of building partnerships with local organizations, schools, and community leaders. By collaborating with the Houston Texans and the city of San Antonio, Soy Latina expands its reach and impact, providing young girls with unique opportunities to engage with influential figures and gain hands-on experiences.

The organization's emphasis on mentorship is not just about providing guidance; it's about creating a supportive community. Lisa shared how the program involves not only the mentors (hermanas) but also madrinas, who step in to support the mentees when needed. This network of support fosters a sense of belonging and encourages the young women to pursue their passions confidently.

Throughout the conversation, the founder highlighted the importance of addressing cultural dynamics and challenges faced by young Latinas. She acknowledged the stigma associated with discussing personal struggles and the need to create safe spaces for open dialogue. By normalizing conversations about challenges, Soy Latina aims to empower these young women to embrace their identities and advocate for themselves.

She also discussed the significance of representation in leadership roles. Despite San Antonio's predominantly Hispanic population, women in leadership positions remain underrepresented. Through Soy Latina, the founder aims to inspire the next generation of Latina leaders, ensuring they are equipped with the skills and confidence to navigate professional spaces.

Lisa's passion for mentorship and community empowerment is evident, and she invites others to join the movement. She believes that everyone has a role to play in uplifting and supporting young women in their journeys. By sharing their stories, offering mentorship, and creating opportunities for growth, individuals can contribute to a more inclusive and equitable society.

In reflecting on her journey and the impact of Soy Latina, the founder encapsulates the spirit of resilience, empowerment, and community. Her dedication to fostering the next generation of Latina leaders is not just about creating a program; it's about changing lives and shaping a brighter future. As she continues to expand the reach of Soy Latina, her vision remains clear: to empower young women to embrace their identities, pursue their dreams, and uplift their communities.

The work being done through Soy Latina is a testament to the power of mentorship, community, and the belief that every young woman deserves the opportunity to shine. With the support of allies and advocates, the organization will continue to make a lasting impact, ensuring that the voices of young Latinas are heard and celebrated.

Celebrating Cesar Chavez: Voices from the March for Justice and Equality

By Hot Henrietta

San Antonio's annual Cesar Chavez March is more than just an event—it's a powerful reminder of the ongoing fight for justice, equality, and cultural preservation. This year, I had the privilege of speaking with inspiring individuals who embody the spirit of activism and community.

A Student's Journey: Finding Identity Through Education

One of the remarkable voices I encountered was Marcella Hernandez, a student at the University of Texas, majoring in Mexican American Studies. Her passion for learning about her heritage began in high school, where she first discovered the subject.

"I had always struggled with my identity—being the lightest one in my family and not speaking Spanish," Marcella shared. "My mother didn't teach me Spanish because she feared how I would be treated. Taking Mexican American Studies helped me understand my identity, our history, and the struggles our community continues to overcome."

Her activism led her to participate in the Cesar Chavez March for three years, first with her high school's Mexican American Studies Student Association. Now, as a college student, she continues advocating for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)—values she believes are under attack and must be protected.

"We need to embrace and acknowledge DEI, especially as our education system faces cuts that threaten our cultural studies," Marcella emphasized.

Honoring Cesar Chavez: A Legacy That Lives On

I also met Manolo and Lucy Racueri, a devoted couple who, despite attending the march for the first time in person, have supported its mission for years.

"For me, Cesar Chavez is like a saint," Manolo said, reflecting on the leader's impact on labor rights and civil rights. Lucy echoed his sentiments, adding, "This march is a reminder of the fight we must continue for justice and equality, especially for

our immigrant communities."

As we discussed the challenges faced by marginalized groups, Manolo pointed out a sign that resonated deeply with him: "Nobody's illegal on stolen land." The phrase struck a chord, emphasizing the broader historical context of the fight for immigrant rights.

Lucy, who has lived in San Antonio for 57 years, has witnessed firsthand the injustices that persist in society. "We have to keep fighting, or things won't improve for our future generations," she said passionately.

The Power of Unity and Action

The Cesar Chavez March is more than a tribute—it's a movement. It's a reminder that we must stand up, rise, and continue advocating for justice.

"I never knew we had two Latino astronauts who went to space," I admitted during my conversation with Marcella. "All I ever learned about was Neil Armstrong. Our history has been whitewashed, and we must fight to preserve it."

Marcella agreed, mentioning her research on the connection between Cesar Chavez and Martin Luther King Jr. "MLK sent Chavez a telegram, calling him a brother in the fight for equality," she revealed. Yet, this crucial history is rarely taught in schools.

Moving Forward: A Call to Action

The Cesar Chavez March is a powerful symbol of resilience, reminding us that the fight for fairness is far from over. From students like Marcella to lifelong activists like Lucy and Manolo, each voice adds to the collective call for justice.

"Equality, unity, and peace for our people and culture—that is what we march for," I concluded. And with every step, we honor the legacy of Cesar Chavez, ensuring that future generations continue the fight for a better tomorrow.

Viva la causa!



Latina/o Artists Draw Inspiration from Central American and Mexican Mayan Communities



Lorena Molina. Artpace International Artist-in-Residence. Courtesy of Artpace. Photo by Ricardo Romo.



Andy Villarreal, Yucatan Mayan series. Photo by Ricardo Romo.



Artpace International Artist-in-Residence Laura Veles Drey, "Migration, Agriculture, Labor." Courtesy of Artpace. Photo by Ricardo Romo.



Lionel Sosa portrait of Andy Villarreal. Photo by Ricardo Romo.

By Dr. Ricardo Romo

A Spring 2025 Artpace Opening Reception & Artist Talk for the International Artists-in-Residence exhibition introduced San Antonio art lovers to Laura Veles Drey, Anita Fields, and Lorena Molina. Having followed the news last week of the US government's role in deporting 200 Venezuelans to El Salvador where they were imprisoned in one of Central America's most deplorable jails, I took special notice of the comments of Salvadoran artist Lorena Molina.

Born in El Salvador, Molina is a multidisciplinary artist, educator, and curator. Her work incorporates photography, video, and performance art to explore themes of displacement and issues related to her experiences as an immigrant. Artpace Manager of Residencies Ada

Smith Genitempo commented that viewing the work of artist Lorena Molina requires sensitivities to migration and spatial dislocation. She notes, "For many individuals who have experienced forced migration, the concept of 'return' extends far beyond a geographical location. It is tied to identity, memory, and a yearning for wholeness." One of Molina's installations at Artpace recreates a small garden of banana plants, herbs, and flowers planted in bright colored plastic containers and found objects that reminded her of family gardens in her homeland.

During the Civil War period in El Salvador between 1979-1992, thousands of Salvadorans were killed and thousands fled the country. Most of Lorena Molina's family immigrated to the United States during the 1980s. At age 14, Lorena

arrived with her mother in Long Beach, California. Her life took on new meaning when she enrolled in a photography class at a Southern California community college. Molina went on to earn degrees in fine arts – a bachelor's at Cal State Fullerton in 2012, then a master's at the University of Minnesota in 2015.

Following an exhibition in North Carolina, Molina told a student journalist for The Daily Tar Heel that she "cannot separate her creativity from the histories she is a part of" — a union that exists in much of her current work, including her Artpace exhibit, "This Must Be The Place," which captures Molina's ever-evolving ideas around home and personal identity. She described some of her earlier work as an effort to focus on spatial inequalities and the ways marginalized

communities struggle to create a sense of belonging.

Another example of art that focuses on community and belonging, an exhibit of Chicano art curated by San Antonio artists Lionel and Kathy Sosa Al Otro Lado del Espejo [The Other Side of the Mirror], at the Museo de Arte de Querétaro, Mexico returned to San Antonio recently following an exuberant response by over 20,000 Mexican visitors. The Sosas and Museo de Arte de Querétaro Director Antonio Arelle Barquet organized this breathtaking Chicano art exhibit that opened in September 2024 and closed last month.

The Querétaro exhibition featured twenty-three artists from San Antonio, and the organizers are planning a reciprocal exhibit of artists from Querétaro. By all accounts, Al Otro Lado del Espejo [The Other Side of the Mirror] may well be the most successful Chicano art exhibit ever in Mexico. In Queretaro Harriett and I met up with San Antonio artist Andy Villarreal, and last weekend we visited with Andy Villarreal at the studio of Lionel and Kathy Sosa in San Antonio's east side.

Nearly all Villarreal's works over the past three decades have been influenced by Mexican and Indigenous culture and traditions. In his artist's statement Villarreal explained: "Mexican culture is a major source of inspiration to me and has become more prominent in my work of the past fifteen years. The intensity of my work derives from my pride and feelings towards my culture."



*Andy Villarreal, Yucatan Mayan series.
Photo by Ricardo Romo.*

Villarreal grew up in San Antonio's Westside near Sacred Heart Church. As a child he loved to draw and paint, and he built on his dream in middle school to become an artist following a visit to San Antonio College [SAC]. On a late Friday afternoon when the college students had finished their classes, Villarreal visited the art studio of professor Mel Casas. He was fifteen years old, but that day after meeting Casas, he decided he would one day study art at SAC with this prominent art professor. Villarreal realized this dream to study art in college with Casas in 1972, and after two years at SAC under the mentorship of Casas, he transferred to Corpus Christi State where he earned an Art Degree.

Villarreal continued his art studies by moving to Phoenix to study at Arizona State University [ASU]. After earning his Master's degree from ASU, he returned to San Antonio and found his first job teaching drawing at SAC— thanks to Mel Casas. Villarreal's fascination with ancient Mayan culture

began in 1995 following a trip to Yucatan, and he has returned there nearly a dozen times over the past 30 years. Over the last two decades, Villarreal has focused on painting works that reflect his visits to the Mayan regions of Mexico.

On Sunday afternoon last week, Villarreal had lined up a dozen of his Mayan paintings for us to see at Lionel and Kathy Sosas' studio. The paintings are headed to The University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio based on a generous gift arrangement by local philanthropist Ron Heller. Villarreal acknowledged his passion for Mesoamerican cultures, primarily the Mayan culture. He explained that these paintings are his way of honoring the Indigenous people of Mexico. When Villarreal visited the Mayan regions of the Yucatan, he learned about the many historical issues the pre-Columbian Mayan people had to grapple with, including building community, negotiating wars and peace, and constructing elaborate religious structures and temples. Villarreal's

paintings include warriors, Mayan kings, pyramids, jaguars and other important icons of Mesoamerica.

Villarreal explained that "Mexican culture is a major source of inspiration to me and has become more prominent in my work of the past fifteen years...My work crosses cultures and portrays the human condition, the struggles, the harmony, the social injustice, and the celebration of life. Ongoing themes in my work combine history, mythology, and religion, past and present, real and contrived."

As we closed our visit and interview with Villarreal, I could not help but notice a stunning portrait of him by Lionel Sosa. The Villarreal portrait stood out as did another Sosa portrait of a Mexican waiter from Queretaro. Lionel and Kathy have a home in Queretaro, and while Harriett and I were there, we visited several restaurants with the Sosas. Lionel enjoyed one particular restaurant, Tigua, and liked visiting with the waiters. Lionel strives to paint regular folks— the "salt of the earth." The results are remarkable depictions that I hope will end up in a San Antonio museum.



Lionel Sosa portrait of Andy Villarreal. Photo by Ricardo Romo.



Andy Villarreal, Yucatan Mayan series. Photo by Ricardo Romo.



*A Cumbia band performs in the middle of Lorena Molina's Jardin [Garden].
Courtesy of Artpace. Photo by Ricardo Romo.*



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AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBCS), as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, is issuing an environmental assessment (EA) in connection with possible impacts related to a project proposed by Spur Materials, LLC 9377 County Road 128, Floresville, Wilson County, Texas 78114. The proposal is for the construction and operation of an initial production capacity of 200,000 Metric Tons per year concrete mill, located at 9377 County Rd 128, Floresville, Wilson County, Texas 78114. Spur Materials, LLC has submitted an application to RBCS for funding of the proposal.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: To obtain copies of the EA, or for further information, contact: Michael Self, Business & Cooperative Programs Director, 101 South Main Street, Temple, Texas 76501, at 254-742-9979 or michael.self@usda.gov. The EA is also available for public review at Seguin Area Office, 999 Fleming Drive, Seguin, Texas 78155.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Spur Materials proposes for the construction and operation of an initial production capacity of 200,000 Metric Tons per year concrete mill located at 9377 County Rd 128, Floresville, Wilson County, Texas 78114.

SME Advisors, LC, an environmental consultant, prepared an environmental assessment for RBCS that describes the project, assesses the proposed project's environmental impacts, and summarizes as applicable any mitigation measures used to minimize environmental effects.

Questions and comments should be sent to RBCS at the address provided. RBCS will accept questions and comments on the environmental assessment for 14 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Any final action by RBCS related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant Federal environmental laws and regulations and completion of environmental review procedures as prescribed by 7 CFR Part 1970, Environmental Policies and Procedures.

A general location map of the proposal is shown below.



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Future of Texas Business Disparagement Law Rests in MRG Medical Case against Texas Tribune/ProPublica at Texas Supreme Court

\$1.5 Million Sponsorship, Connected Law Firm of Tribune/ProPublica Cloud Texas Supreme Court Case

The backbone of the US economy is small business and we want to keep it that way.

But more small businesses are being eaten up by big businesses, who manipulate the media and their political connections to destroy their competition at a time when market conditions are ferocious.

The reason this lawsuit matters to every Texan is because it's about a growing economic tactic, nationally and locally, in which big fish in business will disparage and damage the reputation of small fish in business through media companies hungry for sponsorship dollars and politicians hungry for campaign contributions.

Lawyers are warning that Texas business owners' rights may be taken away if the Texas Supreme Court rules that the media and their sponsors are more powerful than the laws to protect you against business disparagement.

MRG Medical won the right to continue a business disparagement case against the Texas Tribune and ProPublica in a Texas District Court. Judge Jill Albracht of the 353rd District Court in Travis County ruled that MRG provided sufficient evidence for each element of its business disparagement case. According to court documents, The Texas Tribune and ProPublica admitted to "willful and intentional interference" against MRG Medical in a Travis County District Court to shield their wealthy donors from testifying in the case—co-

conspirators Bruce Bugg, Graham Weston, and Tullos Wells. Court documents claim the gist of the article is "false and misleading" and \$1.5 million has been donated to the Texas Tribune by the Tobin Foundation, of which Bruce Bugg is the chairman and trustee.

"In our case we have the facts and the law on our side, and, whenever we are allowed the opportunity to have oral arguments and full legal briefings, we are confident the Texas Supreme Court will rule in the company's favor. We are asking the Texas Supreme Court to give Texas businesses like MRG the right to be heard. We ask them to uphold the rule of law and affirm the district court's ruling to allow this case to proceed, or at minimum grant the petition of review and allow all the legal arguments and evidence to be presented to the Court for consideration," said an MRG spokesperson.

MRG alleges that the co-conspirators hatched a plot to enter the COVID testing market and overtake competitors through politics rather than innovation. The plan came to fruition with the founding of Community Labs on September 16, 2020. 9 days later, the Texas Tribune and ProPublica published an article that MRG says "create(d) a substantially false and defamatory impression by omitting material facts or juxtaposing facts in a misleading way."

On September 25, 2020, the article was published by the Texas Tribune and ProPublica. Two weeks later, on October 6, 2020, Bexar County Commissioners Court gave two million dollars of its testing funds to three major donors of the Tribune

and ProPublica Community Labs founders—Bruce Bugg, Graham Weston, and Tullos Wells.

Community Labs would go on to receive additional public funds through Bexar County: approximately \$305,000.00 on October 20, 2020, and \$1,000,000.00 on December 15, 2020. On April 6, 2021, Bexar County approved a new \$4,000,000.00 budget, amending the agreement between Community Lab for Covid-19 testing services.

Bexar County Commissioner Tommy Calvert originally allocated, with the Court's approval, \$2 million for COVID testing at all urgent care centers offering rapid tests for those who could not afford a \$50-125 rapid antigen test.

According to MRG's lawyers, the article falsely implies "financial impropriety" between MRG and its former unpaid advisory board member Commissioner Calvert.

Commissioner Calvert served on an unpaid advisory board of MRG Medical but the Tribune and ProPublica implied that Calvert was obliged to disclose this unpaid role from two years prior.

Their article juxtaposed a sentence about conflicts of interest right after writing that Calvert had dinners and spent time at the Kentucky Derby, even though Commissioner Calvert provided bank records to the media to prove he paid for his own expenses.

Calvert provided his bank records to the Tribune/ProPublica for them to publish showing he paid for his

airfare to the Kentucky Derby with MRG's CEO, that Calvert paid his own hotel, and even his food even telling them to show that he went twice to Popeyes.

MRG's lawyers stated that the article never defined for readers what the state conflict of interest law said but used disparagement by implication to give the gist that there was financial impropriety.

Judge Jill Albracht of the 353rd District Court, who heard the case, pointed out that, "People are free to go on trips with contractors" and questioned why the reporters even "brought up the Kentucky trip" arguing that "it wasn't illegal for him to go to the Kentucky Derby if...he paid his entire trip himself." MRG's lawyers got the Texas Tribune and ProPublica to admit that they never found any evidence of illicit/illegal relationships that would violate any conflict-of-interest laws."

MRG's core contention remains: the article created a "substantially false and defamatory impression by omitting material facts" and "juxtaposing facts in a misleading way."

MRG provided multiple cancelled contracts and affidavits proving that prospective clients would not do business with MRG because of the article.

The Third Court of Appeals reversed the trial court's denial of the Tribune/ProPublica's Texas Citizen's Participation Act's Motion to Dismiss "because MRG Medical never sold COVID tests".

In substance, the third court's opinion faulted MRG for not

actually manufacturing and directly selling covid tests to consumers. MRG's lawyers say the fact that the company asserting a business disparagement claim does not manufacture the specific products that are incorporated into the services it provides to the public should not be dispositive of any additional analysis of the disparagement elements.

MRG's lawyers further state that the court of appeals opinion did not even contain a discussion regarding the implication and gist claims that were relied on by the trial court in its ruling.

The Third Court's opinion introduction contained factual inaccuracies that are contrary to the evidence in the record. Specifically, the Appeals Court's opinion claimed that "No Local Governments ultimately purchased tests from Reliant" and that "negotiations for Reliant to purchase MRG medical also ended without a deal."

But the record contains evidence of actual agreements MRG entered with Reliant, and that Reliant did provide services to local government entities, to which the Third Court opinion states the contrary.

If the Texas Supreme Court does not grant MRG's petition of review, the Court of Appeal's opinion which relied on false facts that were contrary to record on appeals will be allowed to stand, set a bad precedent and will send a message to Texas businesses that the law will protect the media and their well-connected sponsors, but not Texas business owners.

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C/S CARABINSHAW INJURY LAWYERS

COWBOY HARLEY-DAVIDSON

Lucy DAME-CLARK COUNTY CLERK

Gloria Martinez

THE LEVI RODGERS REAL ESTATE GROUP

Saturday, April 5th 2025
11 AM - 3 PM
Avenida Plaza
1327 Guadalupe St

CONGRATULATIONS CHASITY!

Join us in Celebrating our Amazing Teacher of the Year Recipient Chasity Camero, 9-10th Grade CTE Teacher at Long Creek High School in New Braunfels ISD!

Ms. Camero loves teaching and seeing students work to make their dreams come true. She enjoys running into students in grocery stores or after graduation and hearing how her class helped them get to their next step after graduation, whether it be a firefighter, welder, college student, or other occupation.

She enjoys traveling in her spare time, and watching her two daughters Alivia and Demi participate in their extracurricular activities which consist of soccer, dance, and gymnastics.

CONGRATULATIONS
Ms. Chasity Chapa Camero!



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Potros Ganó El Clásico A Los Acereros De San Antonio

Por Sendero Deportivo

El clásico dominical categoría Abierta Liga Potranco que preside Simón Sánchez y propiedad del artista Eloy Rocha mismo que se jugó sobre el campo 3 del complejo deportivo y social Potranco Baseball Field, lo ganó el campeón Potros de Zacatecas de Rocha, y patrocinado por sus compadres Linda

y Roberto Garza, ante el subcampeón Acereros de San Antonio del campo corto Memo de la Cerda y el coach Luis Mendoza “El Tronco”. La pizarra final fue de 5 por 3 carreras, lo cual fue aplaudido por seguidores y familiares de ambas novenas. Por Acereros el abridor Esteban Iván, perdió con relevo de Diego Dugarte. Felipe Rodríguez, se

agenció la victoria con salvamento para Darrell Harrell, el mánager y jugador Víctor Mercedes “El Caminante”, al final felicitó a sus jugadores y rivales con emotivo saludo deportivo.

En otros resultados Cardenales con Orlando Barroso en la lomita de los disparos holgadamente festejaron la victoria ante White Sox con pizarra de 16-4 carreras, la derrota fue para Héctor González.

Cachorros con su as del pitcheo Josh Gill (campeón pitcher invicto 2024), derrotó al debutante equipo Venezuela con marcador de 15-5 carreras.

En la serie del playoff final categoría Masters 50+, el tricampeón Yankees de Luis Velázquez con su estelar abridor izquierdo Moisés Cervantes y salvamento de Gilbert

Salazar, se embolsó su primera victoria ante los Astros de Pedro Espinoza con pizarra de 10-1. La derrota fue para Lee Mann quien tuvo relevos de Alfredo Obregón, Joey Farías y Greg Carrera.

El segundo partido de serie a ganar dos de tres partidos se juega en el horario de las 11am, este domingo 30 de marzo en el campo 2 de Potranco.

“Vamos ha abrir el partido con nuestro pitcher campeón Willie Martínez, damos las gracias a nuestros jugadores y sus familias porque nos dieron excelente apoyo en la temporada

y los playoffs”, dijo el timonel y jugador Luis Velázquez.

“Con mente positiva jugaremos el segundo partido. Alfredo Obregón, se encargará de abrir en la lomita de los disparos. De antemano agradezco el apoyo de nuestros compañeros y nuestras familias, todavía queda mucho béisbol por jugarse”, apuntó el timonel y jugador Pedro Espinoza. En las fotos aparecen: Felipe Rodríguez de Potros. Moisés Cervantes de Yankees.

(Fotos de Franco).





4-6 DE ABRIL
TOWER PARK AT HEMISFAIR

BEXAR COUNTY ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Community Impact - Utility Assistance

GRASP
Greater Randolph Area Services Program

BEXAR COUNTY UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

assists low-income households with their electricity and gas usage cost.

UP TO \$1200 OF ASSISTANCE

HOUSEHOLDS MUST REGISTER FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO BE SEEN.
Use the link below to see if eligible for an appointment
<https://maps.bexar.org/utilityassistance>

Requirements

- Live in Bexar County
- Meet 150% FPL Income Criteria

Application Requirements

- Proof of U.S. Citizenship (Birth Certificate, U.S. Passport, Permanent Resident Card)
- Proof of Identification (ID, SS Card, Matricula Consular, etc.)
- Proof of Income (Last 30 days of income: Check stubs, 2025 social security award letter, Unemployment, Child Support, SNAP, TANF, HAP, etc)
- Utility Bill

2025 ENROLLMENT
EVENT INFORMATION
GRASP, 250 Donalan Dr, Converse, TX 78109
March, Tuesday 11 and Tuesday 18, 2025

Program Year 2025 Income Limits (Effective January 27, 2025)	
Persons in Household	150% of Federal Poverty Guidelines
1	\$ 23,475
2	\$ 31,725
3	\$ 39,975
4	\$ 48,225
5	\$ 56,475
6	\$ 64,725
7	\$ 72,975
8	\$ 81,225
Households with more than 8 persons	Add \$8,250 for each additional person

For more information contact us: (210) 335-3666 or visit us at: <https://www.bexar.org/utility>

BEXAR COUNTY ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Community Impact - Utility Assistance

GRASP
Greater Randolph Area Services Program

BEXAR COUNTY PROGRAMA DE ASISTENCIA DE UTILIDADES

asiste hogares de bajos recursos con los costos de electricidad y gas.

HASTA \$1200 DE ASISTENCIA

HOGARES DEBEN REGISTRARSE PARA UNA CITA, PARA SER VISTOS.
Utilize el link para ver si usted es elegible para una cita
<https://maps.bexar.org/utilityassistance>

Requerimientos

- Vivir en Bexar County
- Cumplir el límite de ingreso 150% FPL

Requerimientos para aplicar

- Comprobante de Status (Acta de Nacimiento de U.S., Pasaporte U.S., Tarjeta de Residencia Permanente)
- Comprobante de identificación (ID, SS Card, Matricula Consular, etc.)
- Comprobante de Ingreso (Ultimos 30 dias of income): Talon de Cheques, 2025 carta de seguro social, desempleo, Child Support, SNAP, TANF, HAP, etc
- Bill de Utilidades

2025 INSCRIPCIÓN
INFORMATION DEL EVENTO
GRASP, 250 Donalan Dr, Converse, TX 78109
Martes 11 y Martes 18, de Marzo 2025

Límites de Ingreso Anual para el Programa 2025 (Efectivo Enero 27, 2025)	
Personas en el hogar	150% of Federal Poverty Guidelines
1	\$ 23,475
2	\$ 31,725
3	\$ 39,975
4	\$ 48,225
5	\$ 56,475
6	\$ 64,725
7	\$ 72,975
8	\$ 81,225
Hogares con max de 8 personas	agreguen \$8,250 por cada persona adicional

Para más Información, llamen al: (210) 335-3666 o visítenos en: <https://www.bexar.org/utility>



4-7 DE ABRIL
CIVIC PARK

Honoring the Legacy of Louis Escalante

The Royal Jesters

Courtesy of Texas Music Project

Music has the power to transcend time, leaving echoes of its melodies in the hearts of those who listen. Few embodied this truth more than Louis Escalante, a founding member of the legendary Royal Jesters, a pioneering Doo-Wop band from San Antonio. The Royal Jesters weren't just a group; they were trailblazers, one of the first Hispanic bands to bring Doo-Wop into the mainstream, creating a sound that fused soulful harmonies with the vibrant spirit of their community. They carved out a space for Latino artists in a genre that had yet to fully embrace their voices, and in doing so, they left an indelible mark on Texas music history.

Louis Escalante's voice and musicianship became part of the soundtrack of an era—one of love, resilience, and cultural pride. His passion for music was more than a career; it was a calling that brought people together, inspired generations, and proved that music knows no boundaries. He understood the profound impact that melodies and harmonies could have, not just as entertainment but as a source of healing and connection.

Now, his son, Luis Escalante Jr., carries on that legacy in a new and meaningful way. Alongside his wife, Laura Linda, a dedicated Texas Music Project (TMP) Ambassador committed to raising funds for music therapy, Luis Escalante Jr. is championing the mission of bringing the healing power

of music to those who need it most.

In honor of his father's memory, Luis Escalante Jr. has chosen to partner with Texas Music Project to make Music Therapy and Music Education more accessible to pediatric patients across Texas. The Escalante family understands firsthand the way music can heal, inspire, and uplift, and they believe there is no greater tribute to Louis' life than ensuring that future generations have the same opportunity to experience its magic.

To continue his father's legacy, the family is asking for donations to Texas Music Project in lieu of flowers. Each contribution will support TMP's Music Heals initiative, bringing instruments, performances, and therapeutic programs to children undergoing treatment

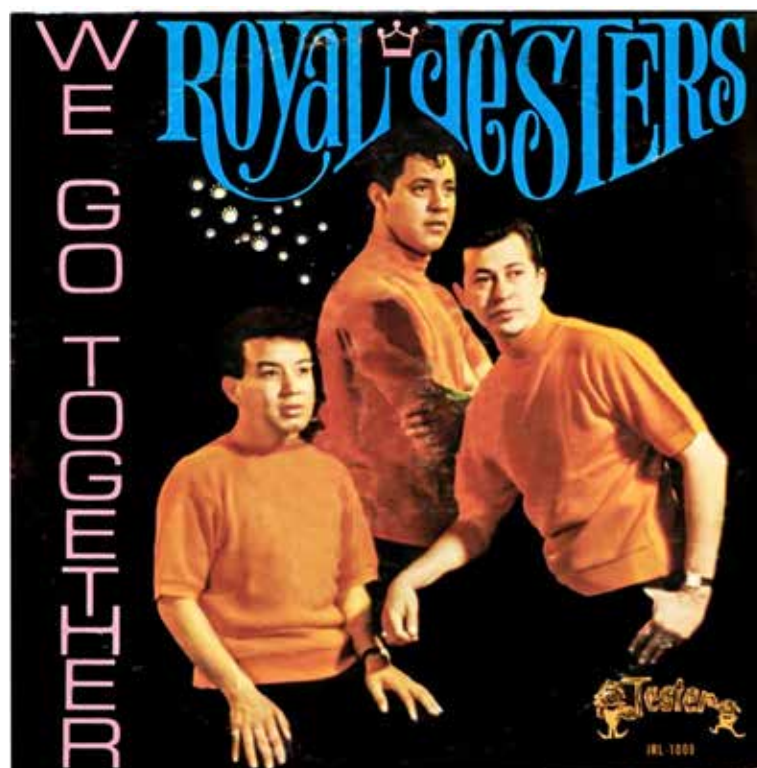
in hospitals across Texas. Through this effort, Louis Escalante's love for music will live on—not just in the songs he sang, but in the lives he continues to touch through the gift of music.

If you'd like to honor Louis Escalante's legacy and support the mission he so deeply believed in, please consider making a donation in his name. Together, we can ensure that his passion for music continues to bring hope and healing to those who need it most.

Every donation will go towards our music heals program.

Donate Here:

<https://texasmusicproject.org/honoring-the-legacy-of-louis-escalante-the-royal-jesters/>





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 visit www.SanAntonio.gov/Arts



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 TOUR 2025



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