

## Faithful Angels summer dance for children's Christmas party

The Faithful Angels organization is already in gear getting ready for this Christmas season and continuing the tradition of hosting an annual Christmas Party for many of the areas children. A fundraising summer dance is being held Saturday July 15, 2017 at Catholic War Veterans St. John's Post 1269. The energetic and lively "Junior & The Hi-Lites" will be performing their wide variety of music. Tickets can be purchased for \$10 each and table reservations will be available with the purchase of tickets. Reservations and ticket sales are being handled by Janie Villarreal and can be contacted on cell 361.550.2993. Tickets can also be purchased from: Linda Galvan at 361.648.6706,

Roxie Garza at 361.894.4338, Jerry Villarreal at 361.550.4109, Cynthia Ortiz at 361.648.4433, Hector Ortiz at 361.649.9024, or Ralph Gonzales at 361.652.5245.

We invite the public to join us. Donations are welcomed.

Linda Galvan started the Faith-

ful Angels organization in 2010. She had a vision of helping children have a better Christmas. Linda along with her daughters Roxie Garza and Vanessa Suarez are the rock stars of this organization and are always going the extra mile to help a child in need. To jump start her vision, Linda asked the Industrial Worker's Christmas Party Committee if they would support a toy drive during its' annual Christmas Party. The response was a unanimous Yes!

This toy drive has now become annual tradition for the Industrial Workers' Christmas Party. As the word spread of this event, we started seeking and getting other donations of toys, cash, or gift cards and volunteers. The Faithful Angels appreciates all donations.

The Industrial Worker's Christmas Party began in 1983 by five best friends, Albert Galvan, Ralph Gonzales, Edward Ramirez, Norman Ramirez, and Arthur Vasquez. All worked at various industrial

See PARTY, pg. 16



Pictured left to right are: Norman Ramirez, Janie Ramirez, Albert Galvan, Vanessa Suarez, Roxie Garza, Linda Galvan, Ralph Gonzales, Linda Ramirez, Mona Gonzales, Arthur Vasquez. Not pictured are Janie & Jerry Villarreal, Jeremy Villarreal, and Angie Caballero. Contributed photo.



The Tejano Monument at the Texas Capitol. Contributed photo.

## Texas Hispanic genealogical and historical annual conference set

This year's conference will be hosted by the Tejano Genealogy Society of Austin starting September 28-30, 2017.

The conference's theme will be "Preserving our past for the future."

The conference will start with a tour "Researching Our Past" on Thursday, September 28, 2017, at 11 a.m. The tour includes the fol-

lowing: visiting the Nettie Lee Benson Library at The University of Texas at Austin – The Benson is known for its extensive Latin American Collection; the Bullcock Texas State History Museum where you will be able to visit a wonderful Tejano-related exhibit followed by lunch in a private room; and then a visit to the Texas

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# Interim committee gives legislature a new chance to improve open government laws

by Senator Kirk Watson and Representative Todd Hunter

Five of the most frightening words to hear from elected officials from all levels of government are these: “I’m all for transparency, but...”

The phrase following the “but” is usually an excuse to weaken government transparency, not protect it.

Our open government laws were once considered the nation’s best,

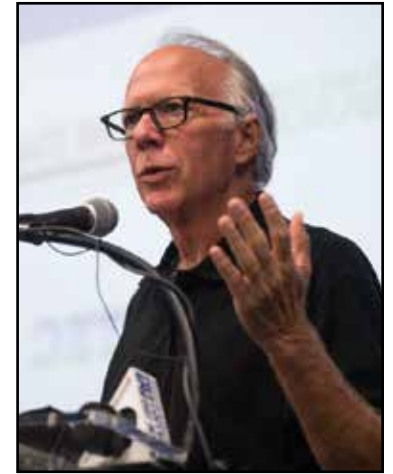
but in recent years they’ve been eroded by court rulings and loopholes that weakened Texans’ right to know what their state and local governments are up to. Information that was routinely available for decades is now off limits — particularly information about dealings between government and business interests. This has led to a dangerous erosion of accountability.

We worked with a bipartisan group of lawmakers from both chambers to reverse that trend in the 2017 session. Even though our proposals didn’t pass the full legislature, we’re already working to get them passed in the 2019 session.

Here’s a sampling of the bills we hope to revive:

- SB 407 and its companion, HB 792, would have repaired the loophole created by a 2015 Texas Supreme Court ruling called Boeing. In that case, the court ruled that businesses and governmental entities may withhold information about their contracts with each other by claiming the information might put them at even a slight competitive disadvantage. In an era of public-private partnerships, this makes it impossible to know how the public is faring in countless arrangements.

- SB 408 and its companion, HB 793, would have addressed a Texas Supreme Court ruling that redefined when private entities supported by public funds have to comply with transparency laws. Because of that ruling, citizens now have no way to know how



Sen. Kirk Watson, D-Austin, (left) and Rep. Todd Hunter, R-Corpus Christi, (right) spearheaded efforts to reform government transparency laws during the recent session of the Texas Legislature. *Contributed photos.*

the hard-earned money they paid in taxes is spent once it’s channeled through a private entity like a chamber of commerce, a local non-profit, or even a for-profit business.

- HB 2710 would have restored citizens’ access to dates of birth in governmental records after a 3rd Court of Appeals ruling put much of that information off limits. Businesses, journalists and even private citizens need access to dates of birth in otherwise public documents to ensure individuals with common names are not confused with each other.

- HB 2670 would have closed a loophole used by some officials to hide public documents on their private electronic devices. The bill would have established a process to compel every official to follow the law.

These were not pie-in-the-sky

measures that would endanger public-private partnerships or facilitate identity theft. Quite the contrary. They were vetted by a diverse set of stakeholders over many months; further, we amended them multiple times to address legitimate concerns. But despite our best efforts, all of these bills ultimately fell victim to special interests whose desire for secrecy won out over the rights and needs of the people of Texas. We can and should do better when it comes to an issue as fundamental as government transparency.

But there was one silver lining: The Texas House of Representatives and the Texas Senate passed a concurrent resolution requesting a select committee to study transparency laws and make recommendations before the 2019 legislative session. This provides a great opportunity for us to reaffirm and strengthen the public’s right to know what its government is up to.

We hope the creation of this select committee will mark the beginning of real change. But that will only happen if public officials and citizens take a strong stand for government transparency. Simply put, we need leaders who aren’t afraid to challenge the status quo.

We have heard “I’m all for transparency, but...” far too often. Now it’s time to come together to restore and improve our open government laws. The people of Texas deserve no less.

Sen. Kirk Watson, D-Austin, and Rep. Todd Hunter, R-Corpus Christi, spearheaded efforts to reform government transparency laws during the recent session of the Texas Legislature.

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# UHV breaks ground on new student center, modern library



An artist rendering shows what the exterior of the UHV University Commons will look like when the building is constructed. The three-story, 75,000-square-foot building will house a modern library and UHV's first student center. Construction will begin in May and is expected to be completed in summer 2018. *Contributed photo.*

Community and University of Houston-Victoria leaders broke ground Tuesday with a dozen ceremonial shovels to signify the beginning of construction on University Commons, which combines UHV's first student center with a 21st-century library.

"University Commons will change the student experience at UHV by giving us a central location for dining, studying and creating lifelong friendships," said Megan Huerta, president of the UHV Student Government Association.

UHV students, alumni, faculty and staff were joined by community leaders for the groundbreaking celebration. Also attending were UH System Regent Roger Welder and

representatives from some of the companies working on the building.

The new building will be located on the east side of Ben Wilson Street, directly across

from the UHV University Center. Construction on the three-story, 75,000-square-foot building will begin in May and is slated for completion in summer 2018.

"We are a student-centered university that has been without a student-centered facility," UHV President Vic Morgan said. "That will soon change. University Commons will be a sleek and appealing place for our students – and the community – to study, eat, meet and socialize. It's a game changer for our institution."

A food court, coffee bar, Barnes & Noble bookstore, video game area and Multi-Purpose Room that will accommodate up to 250 people will be located on the first floor along with plenty of study spaces and spots for students to congregate. The food court will have two yet-to-be-determined food vendors along with a convenience store.

The second floor will be split

between a student center and a learning commons, a term for a modern library. The south side of the building will house offices for UHV Student Life & Services, the Student Government Association and student organizations.

The learning commons will feature public computers, circulation and reference desks, and a makerspace, an area that offers library patrons an opportunity to create materials. The makerspace will include a small recording studio, media conversion room and specialty electronics such as a 3-D printer and planetary scanner. The UHV Student Success Center will have space in the learning commons to offer tutoring and workshops for students.

"The learning commons was designed to have an open and bright feel," said Brenda Svetlik, UHV capital projects director. "This isn't a dark and stuffy library."

The third floor will contain more

heavily used books in the library's collection. The remainder will be stored off-site nearby and retrieved as needed. There also will be a deck on the third floor with outdoor seating. Meeting rooms will be available with technological connections.

Victoria College students will be able to use the learning commons. In fact, the entire building will be open to the public, including the food court, bookstore and library resources.

Dr. Joe Dahlstrom, UHV senior director of libraries, said most higher education learning commons are created from space carved out from existing libraries.

"There is not much new construction of learning commons, and it's rare to see this type of matching between learning and leisure space," he said. "We think that should be a big attraction for students. The proximity of the learning commons to the student center should make for a lot of synergy, so we expect to see a lot

more traffic than we have now."

The construction manager for the project is BE&K Building Group of Houston. The Houston office of Gensler, a global design firm, is the architect.

"The design of the student center and learning commons is intended to blend how students learn and play in a shared space," Gensler architect Brantley Highfill said. "This synergy between shared programs will inevitably make the space a central hub for students to engage in social as well as learning activities on campus."

The entire University Commons project will cost \$29.5 million. The bond will be paid in two separate ways.

In February 2015, UHV students living within a 50-mile radius of Victoria voted on whether to fund the student center. More than 80 percent voted in favor of the fee. A few months later, the Texas Legislature approved a bill allowing for the assessment of a student fee for

See LIBRARY, pg. 13

*Oficinas de* **Alex Luna**  
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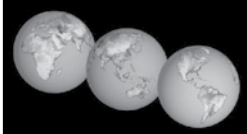
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# Noticias del Mundo

por Santos Raya

**VATICAN** – Pope Francis se dedica el mes de junio a orar por el fin del comercio de armas. Él está orando por las víctimas de los ataques terroristas en el central de Londres.

**YEMEN** – Yemen está pasando por una epidemia de cólera. El país ya ha pasado los 100,000 casos de muerte.

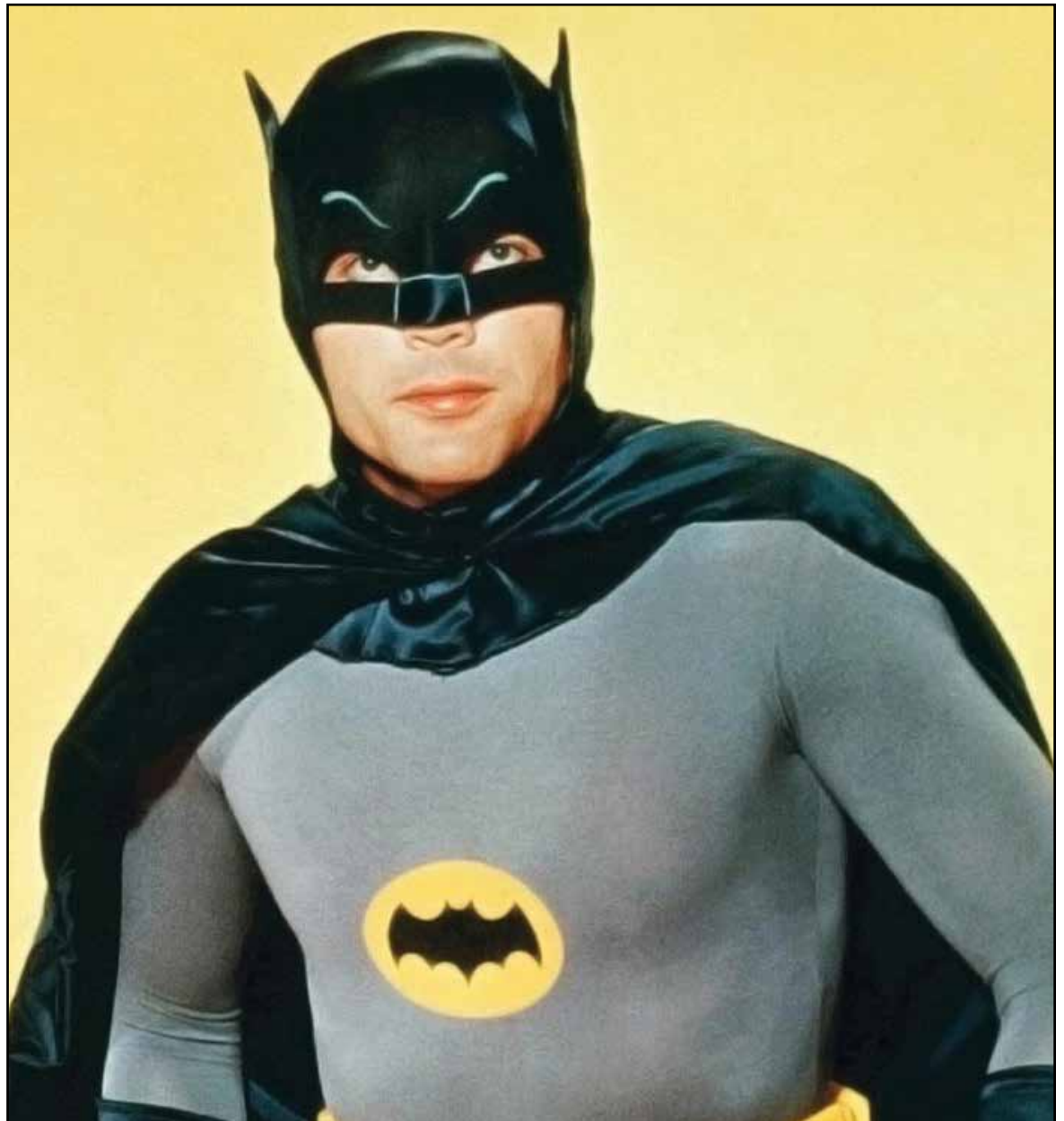
**IRAN** – ISIS ha afirmado que

eran responsables de los ataques en Irán.

**LONDON** – Los liberes Islámicos Británicos han “excomulgado” a los responsables de los recientes ataques yihadistas.

Se han negado a hacer oraciones fúnebres por los terroristas de Londres.

**USA** – Adam West, actor que eso el papel de “Batman” muere a los 88 años de edad. La serie “Batman” fue muy popular en su



Adam West (Batman). Contributed art.

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**WASHINGTON D.C.** – El Presidente Donald Trump dijo, “Estaré nominando a Christopher A. Wray, un hombre de credenciales impecables, para el nuevo director del FBI.”

**USA** – Un avión ha desaparecido sobre el Triángulo de las Bermu-

das el 5-17. Dos adultos, dos niños y el piloto estaban en el avión.

**USA** – Marchas contra la ley Islámica se establece para las ciudades de los Estados Unidos.

**BRAZIL** – Michael Temer ha sido presidente de Brasil por un año y ahora está luchando por mantenerse en el poder.

El fiscal principal está pensando en acusarlo de revisar los sobornos y la organización criminal.

**SOUTH SUDEN** – Veinte millones de personas mueren de hambre en el sur de Suden. Esta es la peor hambruna desde la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

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# Students obtain Paramedic Certificates at Victoria College



Pictured are, front row from left, J. Orlando Zepeda, Haley Allen, Rachel Rings, Brittany Tesch, Jessica Castillo, Jessica Rangel, Dina Salazar and Darrin Driskill; and, back row, Clinical Coordinator Emilio Reyes, Jacob Hanks, Denver Eichler, Weston Martin, Jonathan Novella, James White, Lane Larson, Jesse Bishop and EMS Program Coordinator Susie Jechow. *Contributed photo.*

Victoria College's Emergency Medical Services Program recognized 15 students who completed the three-semester paramedic training at a ceremony on May 13 at the Victoria Fire Station No. 3 on Miori Street.

Following two semesters of clinicals in hospital departments and EMS, students participated in 240 hours of EMS as a lead medic, successfully completed National Registry psychomotor testing and are eligible for the National Registry examination.

The 17 graduates were Hayley

Allen, Jesse Bishop, Jessica Castillo, Darrin Driskill, Denver Eichler, Jacob Hanks, Lane Larson, Kurtiss Lindsey, Weston Martin, Johnathan Novella, Jessica Rangel, Rachel Rings, Dina Salazar, Andrew Sherman, Brittany Tesch, James White and J. Orlando Zepeda.

Larson was named class valedictorian and Driskill was named class salutatorian. Novella earned the "Best In Skills Award" and Rangel received the "Best In Clinic Award."

Martin was the recipient of the J. Alan Baker Award, which is se-

lected by the students and awarded to the best all-around student who not only mastered the content of the course, but also displayed integrity, teamwork and service.

Pictured are, front row from left, J. Orlando Zepeda, Haley Allen, Rachel Rings, Brittany Tesch, Jessica Castillo, Jessica Rangel, Dina Salazar and Darrin Driskill; and, back row, Clinical Coordinator Emilio Reyes, Jacob Hanks, Denver Eichler, Weston Martin, Jonathan Novella, James White, Lane Larson, Jesse Bishop and EMS Program Coordinator Susie

Jechow.

For information on Victoria College's EMS Program, call (361)

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November..	???
December..	???

# Chismes de Chemo

## Siguiendo el camino

Siguiendo el camino Gente, como yo, that try to do a bit for the community sometimes cannot help but wonder why things aren't forgotten or just ignored. Then there are those whose spouses, like mine, who can't wait to bring up a sore subject matter, años después, muchos años después.

No hay mas mal mazorca than the one you try to hide in the closet because eventually you will have to answer for it. Such is the case of my motorcycle escapade and probably why I don't run for office of any kind.

Many years ago, after being married a few short months, I was faced with a dilemma that was suitable for review by the board of super heroes. I had been sitting at home, when my mother came to our home next door with the mes-

sage, from my wife, that all my work clothes had been stolen from the washateria. I guess the modern word is laundromat.

¿Pero cómo, I thought to myself y ahora que voy hacer? I had always told my wife that in the "big city" you don't leave anything out of sight or it will grow legs. I say big because she was born and raised in Bloomington, where they used to steal sweet corn and sandias from the fields.

Pues, I waited for a bit and pondered (translated for Sylvester: tried to figure out how to get there as we had only one car) and Mrs. Chemo and my sister were taking it to the laundromat trying to dry clothes that had been stolen. Pues no venían y no venían and I decided I must go see what is going on and guess what I rode on? my little brother's 20-inch bicycle. You guess it, I made quite a sight. Thank God, we didn't have a cam-



Magilla Gorilla. Contributed art.



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era with a flash.

Pero lo que me encabrono was that La Vieja Chemo came home and told my mom that the only one they had seen on the road, El Gordito next door riding his bike. Forward my life a few years, playing baseball for an Air Force team while stationed in Panama, I was again waiting for La Chema, who this time had gone shopping with one of our friends. It was getting closer and closer to game time and they were nowhere in sight.

In those days, there were no cell phones. Really, no me importaba en donde andaban, mas me importaba que we might have to forfeit the game.

Being the innovators that we were, Mike (the friend's husband) and I decided that we would ride his scooter to the game. To make it in time, we would cut across yards and by the Officers' Club as that would save us plenty of time. The base was in a hilly area and so you can imagine what we looked like

cutting across lawns y pa arriba y pa abajo in the little scooter.

Y otra vez la Chema had to have her say, explaining that we looked like two Magilla Gorillas on a motorcycle. Y la mera verdad, who had even asked her? And why is this important almost 30 years later? Because my car broke down, I needed a part and she tried to get me to ride my daughter's bicycle to the parts store. Call me Magilla – no estoy tonto – mejor me fui a pie.



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12/2016

# Crime prevention Senior driver safety



Driver safety geared toward Senior citizens. *Contributed photo.*

by Officer John Turner

How well does your car fit? Or how well do you fit inside your car?

The Victoria Police Department has introduced a new driver safety program geared toward senior citizens called Carfit.

This program helps improve the safety of drivers by ensuring they fit their vehicles properly.

Although, less likely to speed and more likely to wear seat belts, senior drivers often deal with age related issues that could pose a challenge when driving. Changes in vision (reduced depth perception and night vision), reduced physical strength and range of motion all contribute to a less than comfortable driving experience

and may increase the chance of being involved in an accident.

The Carfit program can assist senior drivers in adjusting the vehicle to meet their specific needs and restrictions increasing both comfort and safety.

Some of the issues addressed through Carfit are visibility, seat adjustment, steering wheel placement headrest adjustment and seatbelt adjustment among others.

Checking to see if you fit your vehicle well is just as important as making sure your vehicle is in good working order. A properly adjusted vehicle will insure that you have a clear, unobstructed line of sight through the windshield and mirrors adjusted to eliminate blind spots. You should have the seat adjusted so you can comfortably

reach the pedals while keeping enough distance from the steering wheel to avoid any potential injury should the airbag deploy. The headrest should be adjusted for maximum safety, not so far forward that it is uncomfortable, nor so far back that it provides no neck protection during a rear end collision. The seatbelt should also be adjusted for maximum comfort, safety and accessibility. If seatbelts is uncomfortable to wear or difficult to reach and buckle, drivers are less likely to use them and we all know that seatbelts save lives.

In addition to good, safe driving habits, a simple adjustment here and there can insure the vehicle is properly fitted for the driver and can dramatically increase the safe-

ty of everyone on the road.

John Turner is a Crime Prevention Officer for the Victoria Police

Department. He may be contacted a 485-3808 for any crime prevention questions.

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# Charlando de TV y Cine

por Gloria Rivera

¡Hola para todos! Buen ya celebramos el Día de las Madres. Ojalá que todos ustedes la pasen muy pero muy bien en el Día de los Padres. Bueno, la verdad es que hay



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Ludwika Paleta. Contributed photo.



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varios artistas que se encuentran enfermos.

José José tiene cáncer. La actriz



Gabriel Soto. Contributed photo.

Edith González también sufrió de esta enfermedad.

Del cine no hay mucho de qué hablar por ahora porque no hay muchas películas aquí. Las películas están en la TV.

Eugenio Derbez está filmando una película en Hollywood. Se llama, "latín Lover."

Es una comedia. Ya lo conocen. El cantante Juanes tiene un álbum, "Mis Planes Son Amarte." Es todo un éxito.

El actor Marco De La O hace el

papel de "El Chapo." Esta novela sale en Univisión.

Aracely Arámbula dice que no es ser madre soltera. "Para me ser madre es so más maravilloso que existe."

Aracely salió en la novela "La Doña."

Luwika Paleta y su esposo Emiliano Salinas tienen gemelos! Ludwika ha estado trabajando en la telenovela "La Querida del Centauro." La telenovela esta en los

See CHARLANDO, pg. 11



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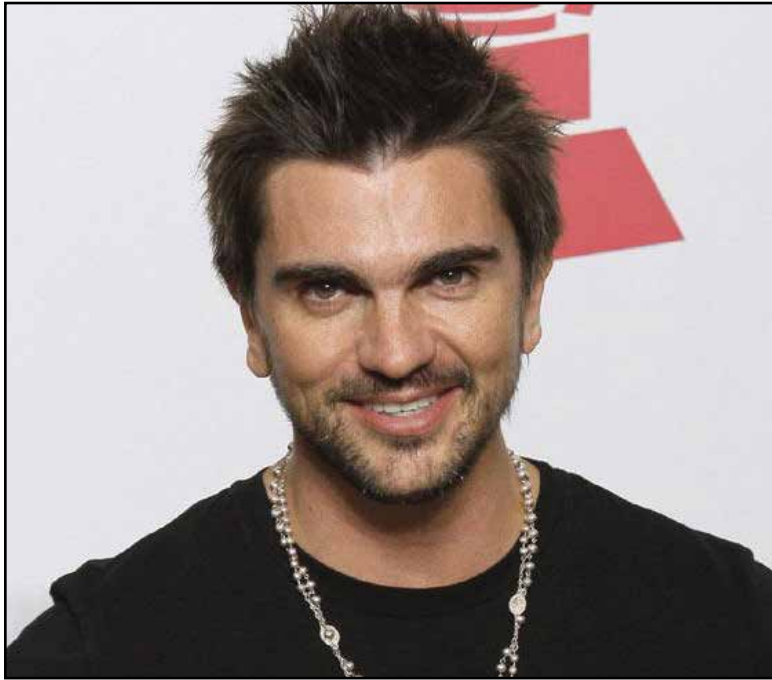
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Juanes. Contributed photo.

**CHARLANDO**, from pg. 10  
últimos capítulos.  
Julio Iglesias va escribir un libro

de su vida personal. Él ha tenido una vida muy interesante. Sera un libro que tendrás que tener.  
Gabriel Soto dice que quiere ser

verse bien por su talento, no por su bien. Soto es un buen actor. Lo he visto en varias telenovelas y para me lo hace muy bien.

William Levy no ha vuelto a las telenovelas. Ojalá vuelva a las novelas muy pronto. Lo esperamos.

Hay pocas novelas en la TV ahora. Ojalá que en el futuro podamos ver más novelas.

Para todos los padres del parte del mundo que celebran el Dia de Los Padres, les deseo un día hermoso para ustedes.

Que la pasen muy bien con todas sus familias. ¡Estos juntos con el día de los Padres y de Madres que sean de los más mejores!

Eric del Castillo habla del Dia Del Padre. Dice, "Le agradezco a Dios que me hay dado la gracia de ser padre. Me siento orgulloso de mi familia."

¡Espero que nos vemos aquí en el mes Julio cuando vamos a celebrar el 4 de Julio a este maravilloso país de nosotros!



Edith González. Contributed photo.



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# The amazing Celestial Awards of Excellence a lesson in history

The Celestial Awards of Excellence was an amazing event that was a history lesson for most in attendance at the Alex Theater in Los Angeles recently. Oscar Hernandez Perkins, President, OSCIA Productions, produced and directed the fabulous awards show, acknowledging the professional accomplishments of the roster of distinguished honorees and their contributions to society through their individual efforts or missions of their non-profit foundations.

The Celestial Awards of Excellence Team: Executive Producers Rick Perkins, Henry Woods, Frank Wheaton and Tina Weisinger, worked tirelessly to provide Oscar with everything she needed to put a magnificent show on stage!

The Celestial Awards of Excellence honorees: Louis Gossett, Jr. Academy Award Winner and Founder of Eracism Foundation - Lifetime Achievement Award, Former U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young - Civil Rights Icon Award, Myrlie Evers-Williams, Founder/Chairman The Medgar & Myrlie Evers Institute - Civil Rights Icon Award, Olympic Gold Medalists Dr. Edwin Moses - Sportsman Trailblazer Award, Actress Marla Gibbs - Visionary Award, Solange Warner, founder/CEO World Chamber of Commerce - International Business Award, Olympic Gold Medalist Bob Beamon - Pride Award, Annie Nelson, American Soldier Network - Helping Hands Award, Dr. Tywaun Tillman, MD.



Celestial Awards of Excellence Caduceus award recipient Dr. Tywaun Tillman, MD. FACC (right) and Celestial Awards executive producer Rick Perkins (left). *Contributed photo.*

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FACC - Caduceus Award, Anita DeFrantz, President, Tubman Truth Corporation - Angel Award, Actor Art Evans - Mentor for Success Award, Dr. William Charles Akins, Akins High School - Education Award, Conrad O. Johnson, Music & Fine Arts Foundation - Fine Arts Award and Bahati Foundation - Youth Services Award.

In addition to Former United Nations Ambassador Andrew J. Young - Civil Rights Icon Award and Louis Gossett, Jr. - Lifetime Achievement Award, also honored was Anita DeFrantz, International Olympic Committee member & Executive Board member (credited with getting women's softball and soccer included in the Olympic games) - Angel Award, Physicist Dr. Edwin Moses - Olympic

gold Medalist over a period of nine years, nine months and nine days collected 122 consecutive victories (August 1977 - May 1987) - Sportsman Trailblazer Award, Annie Nelson Founder American Soldier Network - Helping Hands Award, Olympic Gold Medalist & World Record Holder (approaching 50 year Golden Anniversary) - Pride Award, and more!

Emmy winning star of the stage, screen and television Obba Babatundé was a brilliant host! Entertainment featured the incomparable Howard Hewett, legendary jazz vocalist Eloise Laws, multi-talented vocalist Shanica Knowles, American Idol winner Norwood Young and the Rick Perkins Show Band.

Executive Producer Rick Per-

kings echoed the sentiments of the audience "We came to an awards show and a history lesson broke out." To have this collection of Heroes attend the Celestial Awards of Excellence to receive their awards and have their accomplishments presented in such grand fashion, was a reflection in history for some and an introduction to history for others!

#### About OSCIA Productions

Oscia Productions is a full-service production company, whose expertise includes: Producers, Directors, Technical Directors, Lighting Directors, Production Managers, Stage Managers, Video Clip Producers, Script Writers, Set Design, Theme Creation, Lighting, Sound, Teleprompter, Choreographed Production Numbers and Procurement of Talent. Their client list includes; NAACP Theatre Awards, Educating Young Minds Annual Scholarship Awards, The Los Angeles Dodger Annual Man of The Year Awards Luncheon, The Los Angeles Inner-City Games Annual Awards Gala, and Celestial Awards of Excellence to name a few of their productions.

The Celestial Awards of Excellence was created to acknowledge the accomplishments of persons of notability who are masters of their profession and outstanding contributors to society. <http://celestialawardssofexcellence.org>.

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# VC graduates 18 from Basic Peace Officer Certification Class



Pictured on the front row from left are instructors Captain Herb Tucker (Ret.), Lieutenant Chris Garcia, VC Law Enforcement Academy Director James Martinez, Investigator Rick Alvarado and Lieutenant Ralph Buentello; middle row, students Celina Rodriguez, Juan Brito, Luke Arreguin, Chris Kalina, Alex Alvarez, Ian Stasny, Herman Hernandez, Corey Puente and Halie Watkins; and, back row, Pedro DeHoyos, David Parma, Jose Tamayo, Oscar Garcia, Robert Vandygriff, David Thompson, James Cockroft, Omar Garcia and Byron Powe. *Contributed photo.*

Eighteen students graduated from Victoria College's 90th Law Enforcement Academy Basic Peace Officer Certification Class on May 18 at the Leo J. Welder Center for the Performing Arts.

Victoria College's Law Enforcement Academy honored 18 students at a graduation ceremony on May 18 at the Leo J. Welder Center for the Performing Arts for completing the 90th Basic Peace Officer Certification Class.

Victoria College President Dr. David Hinds welcomed guests to the ceremony. The Victoria Police Department Color Guard presented the colors, and Victoria County Sheriff's Office Captain Rex Mayes was the commencement speaker for the event. Byron Powe, who was selected class leader, was the student speaker.

Pedro DeHoyos was named

class valedictorian. Omar Garcia received the John F. Baylor Award, which is named in honor of the former VPD officer and given to the "most outstanding student" as selected by class instructors.

Other graduates were Celina Rodriguez, Juan Brito, Luke Arreguin, Chris Kalina, Alex Alvarez, Ian Stasny, Herman Hernandez, Corey Puente, Halie Watkins, David Parma, Jose Tamayo, Oscar Garcia, Robert Vandygriff, David Thompson and James Cockroft.

Successful completion of the Basic Peace Officer Certification Class allows students to take the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) examination to become a certified peace officer in Texas. All 18 students of the Spring 2017 passed their TCOLE exams.

VC offers two academies a year

— one during the fall semester and another during the spring semester. Both academies are held Monday through Friday with classes meeting 8 to 10 hours a day.

For more information on VC's Law Enforcement Academy, call (361) 572-6449 or email James.Martinez@VictoriaCollege.edu.

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# UHV master's programs earn top spots on national lists

National website Affordable-Colleges.com has ranked four University of Houston-Victoria graduate degrees in computer science, counseling, marketing and special education in its lists of the most affordable degrees in the nation.

The rankings are:

- No. 5 – Affordable Online Master's in Marketing Degrees
- No. 6 – Affordable Online Master's Degrees in Counseling
- No. 11 – Affordable Online Master's Degrees in Computer Science

• No. 17 – Affordable Online Master's Degrees in Special Education

Farhang Niroomand

The website evaluated colleges by creating a score based on several factors, including graduation rate, tuition cost, availability of financial aid, loan default rate, enrollment, full-time student retention, admission and student-to-faculty ratio.

The UHV School of Business Administration's Master of Business Administration in marketing

was singled out for its affordability, small class sizes and reputation for excellence. Those qualities are just a few of the elements that make the program high quality, said Farhang Niroomand, dean of the school.

"The business school places a high value on training students to be effective managers," Niroomand said. "We want to empower our students to become competent leaders, and the affordability of our program allows students from all walks of life to pursue that goal."

The UHV School of Arts & Sciences' Master of Arts in counseling psychology received praise for its high-quality program, which includes a clinical component that allows students to gain firsthand experience dealing with clinical interviewing, behavioral classification, client evaluation, crisis intervention and crisis consultation.

The program requires 60 hours of study, so affordability is a key part of helping students reach their goal of becoming Licensed Professional Counselors, said Rick Harrington, UHV professor of psychology and chair of the school's Social & Behavioral Sciences Division.

"It takes a lot of dedication and effort to complete this program,"



UHV Center west campus. *Contributed photo.*

Harrington said. "Students spend years learning the skills they will need to practice, and UHV wants to serve its students. We want them to have access to the education they need without worrying about accumulating debt."

The Master of Science in computer information systems was cited for its diverse international faculty, online accessibility and the UHV School of Arts & Sciences' membership in the Microsoft Academic Alliance and the Oracle Academic Initiative programs.

The Master of Education in special education program was applauded for its emphasis on assessment tools with broad applications inside and outside of the classroom, as well as intervention, pedagogy and transition techniques. The program also received praise for allowing students to pursue concentrations in applied behavior analysis or autism spectrum disorders as well as the ability to receive a certification as an educational diagnostician.

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# Mayonnaise sandwiches



Mayonnaise sandwich. Contributed photo.

by Santos Raya

It was the second month of vacation from school as my two sisters and I sat on the front porch at our house one morning. The first month of vacation had gone too fast! We had not gone anywhere but it felt good not have homework from school.

It was a cool morning even though it was almost July. We were enjoying the cool knowing that by tomorrow it would be hot again.

Before we knew it one of the neighborhood girls about our age

joined us and we started talking about school, boys, and homework.

Our friend had two sisters but she said they were at home helping their mother with the housework. We were surprised because we rarely helped our mother with housework. Well, we did help her once in awhile but she wanted us to put all our work and attention on our school work.

That made me wonder why their mother was not like our mother. Was their mother not feeling well that day? I did not want to be nosy so I didn't ask.

Anyway, we had a good chat for awhile. Rita, our friend, left after an hour and said she would be back tomorrow so that we could talk again. She said she enjoyed our getting together to just talk.

The next morning she whizzed to join us again. It was almost noon time and we were eating sandwiches. Rita had hers also. I looked at her sandwich and asked her why her sandwich was so thin.

She said she was eating a mayonnaise sandwich, nothing else. "They are good!" she let us know.

I am a mustard person, do not like mayonnaise and made a face at her. She was looking at me and said, "I love mayonnaise sandwiches." She went on to say she and her sisters and brother had them for lunch almost every day. She did not accept any sandwiches we wanted to give her.

That morning before she left, she did say, "There is no Santa Claus!"

As for her mother, she was ill. Rita never told us but we later found out that their father rarely got money on pay day because he went to bars and spent most of his money there. He would then come home late at night, drunk, and angry at his wife. He would hit her then.

A few years later when Rita turned 15, she left school and informed us that she was getting a job at a hamburger place. She was very happy because she would be

bringing hamburgers after work for her family. She added, "With mustard, too!"

Many years later I was talking to a friend of mine and I shared this

story with him. After the story, he said, "Tell me about those mayonnaise sandwiches!"

He didn't have to tell me his story.

## LIBRARY, from pg. 3

financing, constructing, operating, maintaining and improving a UHV student center. The fee was first assessed in fall 2015.

Also in 2015, the Legislature allocated \$60 million for UHV to use in campus construction bonds for academic expansion and land

acquisition. UHV is using part of this money for construction of the library inside University Commons.

UHV students have been involved throughout the planning process for the new building.

"I think what students are looking forward to the most is a place to simply hang out and relax,"

Huerta said. "Most of our student-gear programming is currently held at the residence halls. Non-traditional and commuter students normally do not attend these events because of the location. University Commons will be a great place to unify the wide variety of students our university serves."

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The Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (GCRPC) has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program to ensure equal opportunity for disadvantaged businesses to receive and participate in DOT-assisted contracts. In accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26, GCRPC is seeking qualified disadvantage businesses. Any qualified DBE business or firm interested in being placed on a Master Bidders List for contracting opportunities as listed below should send the following information Name, Address, Contact Person, Phone Number, Description of Products or Services to TJ Johnson, DBE Liaison Officer, Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission, 1908 N. Laurent, Suite 600, Victoria, Texas 77901.

**El Golden Crescent regional de urbanismo comisión (GCRPC) ha establecido un programa de empresa de negocio desventaja (DBE) para asegurar la igualdad de oportunidades para las empresas desfavorecidas recibir y participar en contratos de ayuda de DOT. Conformidad con las regulaciones de los Estados Unidos Departamento de transporte (DOT), 49 CFR parte 26, GCRPC está buscando empresas calificadas desventaja. Cualquier calificado DBE negocio o empresa interesada en ser colocado en una lista maestra para oportunidades de contratación que se enumeran a continuación deberá enviar la siguiente información nombre, dirección, persona de contacto, número de teléfono, descripción de los productos o servicios a TJ Johnson, DBE Liaison Oficial, Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission, 1908 N. Laurent, Suite 600, Victoria, Texas 77901.**

Overall DBE Goal (2018) 0.58% (2019) 0.57% (2020)0.56%	2018 Projected Expenditures Gastos proyectados	2019 Projected Expenditures Gastos proyectados	2020 Projected Expenditures Gastos proyectados
Objetivo general DBE			
Race Conscious Goal 0%			
Meta consciente racial			
Race Neutral Goal 0.58%			
Objetivo Neutral racial			
Advertising/Promotions/ Publicidad y promociones	\$2,000.00	\$2,100.00	\$2,200.00
Vehicle Supplies/ Suministros de vehículo	\$7,100.00	\$7,300.00	\$7,600.00
Contract Services/ Contrato de servicios	\$600.00	\$700.00	\$800.00
Drug & Alcohol Testing/ Drogas & pruebas de Alcohol	\$4,800.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,200.00
Equipment/Computer Repair/ Reparación de equipos/computadoras	\$5,000.00	\$5,100.00	\$5,200.00
Internet Services/ Servicios de Internet	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
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Totals	\$354,000.00	\$367,200.00	\$381,100.00

# La Cocina de Tia Yole



Mojito sparkler. Contributed photo.

## MEXICAN BEEF AND TORTILLAS

8 (6-inch) corn tortillas  
1 (17-oz.) pkg. refrigerated beef pot roast with juices  
1 (14½ -oz.) can diced tomatoes with green chilies  
1 green sweet pepper, cut into strips  
1 lime, cut into wedges  
Dairy sour cream (optional)  
Fresh cilantro sprigs (optional)

1. Wrap tortillas in microwave-safe paper towels. Microwave on 100% power (high) 45 to 60 seconds or until warm. Cover; set aside
2. Microwave beef according to package directions. Meanwhile, place un-drained tomatoes in small saucepan; heat through.
3. Remove meat, reserving juices. Cut in slices. Serve on warmed tortillas with tomatoes and green pepper strips. Pass lime wedges, sour cream, and cilantro. Drizzle reserved juices.

## CHUNKY GUACAMOLE

2 medium plum tomatoes, seeded and finely chopped  
¼ of a small onion, finely chopped  
1 or 2 cloves garlic, minced  
2 tablespoons lime juice  
1-tablespoon olive oil  
¼ teaspoon salt  
1/8-teaspoon black pepper  
2 ripe avocados, seeded, peeled, and coarsely mashed  
Tortilla Chips

1. In a bowl combine tomatoes, red onion, garlic, limejuice, olive oil and pepper. Gently stir in avocados. Cover the surface with plastic

wrap. Chill up to 1 hour. Serve with tortilla chips. Make 2 cups (sixteen 2 tablespoon servings).

2. *Note:* For a kicked up version of this guacamole, stir in one or more of the following: 1 seeded, finely chopped jalapeno Chile pepper; ¼ cup sour cream; ¼ cup snipped fresh cilantro; ¼ teaspoon ground cumin; and/or 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper.

## CREAMY CHICKEN ENCHILADAS

½ pound skinless, boneless chicken breasts  
4 cups torn fresh spinach or ½ of one 10-ounce package frozen chopped spinach, thawed and well-drained  
1 (8-ounce) carton light dairy sour cream  
¼ cup plain fat-free yogurt  
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour  
¼ teaspoon ground cumin  
¼ teaspoon salt  
½ cup fat-free milk  
1 (4-ounce) can diced green chili peppers, drained

6 (7-inch) flour tortillas  
1/3 cup shredded reduced-fat cheddar or Monterey Jack Cheese (1½ ounces)  
Chopped tomato or salsa (optional)  
Thinly sliced green onions (optional)  
¼ cup thinly sliced green onions

1. In a 3-quart saucepan place chicken in enough water to cover. Bring to boiling; reduce heat. Cover and simmer about 15 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink. Remove chicken from saucepan. When cool enough, use a fork to shred chicken into bite-size pieces. (You should have about 1½ cups) Set aside.

2. If using fresh spinach, place spinach in a steamer basket over boiling water. Reduce heat. Steam, covered, for 3 to 5 minutes or until tender. (Or, cook in a small amount of boiling water, covered, for 3 to 5 minutes) Drain well.

3. In a large bowl combine chicken, spinach, and green onions; set aside. In a bowl combine sour cream, yogurt, flour, cumin, and salt. Stir in milk and chili peppers. Divide sauce in half. Set one portion aside.

4. For filling, combine one portion of the sauce and the chicken-spinach mixture. Divide the filling among the tortillas. Roll up tortillas. Place, seam side down, in an un-greased 2-quart rectangular baking dish.

5. Spoon reserved portion of sauce over tortillas. Bake, uncovered, in a 350°F oven about 25 minutes

or until heated through. Sprinkle with cheese; let stand for 5 minutes. Transfer to a serving platter. To serve, if desired, garnish with chopped tomato or salsa and additional green onion. Makes 6 enchiladas.

6. *Make-Ahead Tip:* After filling the tortillas and placing in the baking dish, cover baking dish and chill for up to 24 hours. Store the reserved sauce separately in a covered container and chill. To serve, bake uncovered as above except add 10 to 15 minutes to cooking

time or until heated through.

## MOJITO SPARKLER

6 fresh mint leaves  
1½ to 2 jiggers (2 to 3 ounces) gold rum  
1-teaspoon limejuice  
2 teaspoons superfine sugar  
Ice  
Club soda

1. Crush leaves in the bottom of a tall glass. Pour in rum, limejuice, and sugar. Add ice, stir and top with club soda. Makes 1 serving.

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"Special thanks to CWV St John's Post 1269 & Volunteers/Donors for their continued support."

**PARTY**, from pg. 1

plants; DuPont, Formosa, and Dow Chemical (Union Carbide). All were shift workers and it was often their work schedules would not let them attend their company's Christmas party. So, they organized and hosted their own party

at their homes. The party quickly outgrew the homes, so 34 years ago they started renting the Club Westerner and hiring bands playing our favorite Tejano music.

The Faithful Angels Committee core members are Linda and Albert Galvan, Roxie Garza and Vanessa Suarez, Janie and Jerry Villarreal,

Jeremy Villarreal, Janie Ramirez and Norman, Mona and Ralph Gonzales Linda Ramirez, Angie Caballero, and Arthur Vasquez. We appreciate and are thankful for all the support we get from CWV St John's Post 1269 and the many volunteers. The biggest "thank you" to all our volunteers.

The Faithful Angels seeks children nominations from local and area elementary schools. We also receive nominations from organizations that work with children in need such as Boys and Girls Club, Foster care, churches, etc. Most are nominations come from low-income areas.

It has been a very gratifying seven successful years of helping the community and Faith Angels are looking forward too many more. With God's will and the help of donations and volunteers, we aim to keep this event thriving. Any of our members are available to provide more information.

**CONFERENCE**, from pg. 1

General Land Office (GLO) where there will be a tour of the archives room and learn about the various genealogical research documents they maintain with a focus on Spanish/Mexican land grants.

Finally, a tour of the Texas State Library & Archives Commission (TSLAC) to learn about the resources available at TSLAC where it preserves and documents the shared heritage and culture of Texas by maintaining the official archival records of Texas government, and a stop at the Tejano Monument to view this magnificent and historic memorial of our proud heritage on the front lawn of the State Capitol grounds. Other sites drive-bys include the Catholic Archives of Texas, the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, the Blanton Museum, and the Texas State Cemetery.

The speakers list at the conference include: Dr. Marian J. Barbe, the director of Catholic Archives of Texas who will share what the types of genealogical information that are available for researchers including tips and tricks for locating sacramental records. Mr. James Brewster, a DNA expert with Family Tree DNA will break down the difference between autosomal, Y DNA, and mtDNA tests, and what we can learn from the results of these tests, as well as

migration patterns as they relate to different haplogroups. Mr. Charles Bumpass, an adoptee, Charles reveals his use of GEDMatch to unravel the mystery of his personal genealogy. This session will be of interest to adoptees and those seeking to find relatives.

Mr. Alfredo Cárdenas is a historian and author of "Balo's War," in which he tells the story of a people who went from being Spaniard to Mexican to American in a span of 30 years. Mr. Amancio J. Chapa, Jr. is a descendant of Juan Bautista Chapa/Giovanni Battista Schiapria who will share his knowledge of the well-known ancestors many of us share with him. Dr. Carolina Castillo Crimm will give us a look at the courage of early Tejanas and their contributions to our history. She will also provide an insight into Bernardo de Gálvez and how his efforts changed the role Texas would play in the American Revolution.

Mr. Anthony Delgado a historian and blogger. Delgado will provide the history of the first 175 years of the Canary Islanders that settled in modern-day San Antonio. Who are they, why were they sent, and who are their descendants today? Mr. Moises Garza is a Mexican genealogy blogger and researcher will share his knowledge on various resources available as they relate to Mexican and Colonial period ancestors, DNA, and how to network

with other researchers to improve your results.

Dr. Steven Gonzales is the executive director of El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association will provide insight into the importance of the past and present of El Camino and what it means to our history. Mr. Ted Herrera will discuss native American ancestry from a descendant of Tlaxcala, Chichimeca, Huichol, and Coahuiltecan Indians and explore why this ethnic mix is so prevalent and yet often overlooked and misunderstood.

Mr. Johnny Limón is a member of the Austin Tejano Music Coalition, and his presentation will discuss the history of Tejano music. Mr. José Antonio "Joe" López is a historian, author and blogger. López will discuss the importance of preserving Spanish Mexican (Tejano/Tejana) origins for future generations. Mr. Mark Myers, an electronic records archivist, at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, will present various records located at the library and archives and explain how to preserve your own personal records. Mr. Rumbo al' Anacua will give a social-historical and entertaining commentary on "música ranchera" by Joe and Rosa Canales Pérez.

Dr. Dell Sánchez presents evidence of Sephardic Jewish ancestry shared by many, if not most Hispanics/Latinos. Dr. Brian

Stauffer a Spanish translator at the Texas General Land Office, will share with us information about the trove of Tejano historical data available at his agency with a special focus on maps and Spanish-Mexican land grants. Dr. Andrés Tijerina is a renowned author, historian, and professor will present a look at Tejanos, our original Texas families, and the need for a Tejano Legacy Association like other exclusive legacy groups. Mr. Jesse O. Villarreal will share his story about his ancestor's contribution to the American Revolution which allowed him to become a member of the Sons of the American Revolution.

A musical presentation will be provided by a two-person group of Rumbo al' Anacua that consists of a husband and wife, José O. Pérez and Rosa Canales Pérez. The music of Rumbo al' Anacua keeps the tradition of music performed under Anucha trees, around backyard tables, in dining rooms, and on porches throughout South Texas.

A reception to honor the founding members of the Sociedad Genealógica (now Tejano Genealogy Society of Austin) which was formed in 1977 and hosted the first annual Texas Hispanic Genealogical and Historical Conference. Special recognition will be extended to Dr. Andrés Tijerina for initiating our organization and the annual conferences and assist-

ing our sister societies. Marimba Tropical, always a crowd favorite, will provide music for this event.

The banquet meal choices include: Pollo Flameado a pan seared chicken breast topped with pepper jack cheese and chorizo, served with fresh seasonal greens salad, herb roasted garlic potatoes, green beans Amandine and dessert or a pepper crusted New York 10-oz. strip steak served with fresh seasonal greens salad, garlic roasted mashed potatoes, green beans (southern style) and dessert.

Conference registration for early discounted rates, if registration is made by August 5, 2017. Regular rates, if registration is made by September 5, 2017. After September 5, increased registration fees are available, depending on space availability. Fees are non-refundable. You must wear a badge always. For questions contact: tgsa@tgsaustin.org. The conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 6121 North IH-35, Austin, Texas 78752. Group Code is TEJ. Group rate is available 3 days prior and 3 days after conference dates. For reservations call hotel, directly at 512-323-5466 or toll-free at 1-800-227-6963. Deadline is August 28 at 11:59pm. Check in time 3:00 PM; check out time 12 noon. Free parking. To follow Tejano Genealogy Society of Austin on Facebook or www.tgsaustin.org for updates.

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