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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Felix Alvarado

It is election season again and there is a lot hoopla about the presidential election let's not overlook all local elections that mean a lot more to all of us than the presidential election. Of major concern is the Supreme Court. Four justices are over 80 years old and the next president may well be appointing four replacements. The Supreme Court contrary to the belief of many is a lawmaking body. When it renders a decision on the constitution, such as Roe v. Wade, it is the law of the land. The Supreme Court is very conservative right now. If a very conservative person is elected president it is going to be felt in the Supreme Court decisions. The justices render decisions based on ideology.

We welcome Dr. Kent Paredes-Scribner as superintendent of FWISD. We wish him the best and hope that the community and the board get behind his ideas on how to improve the district. We recall Dr. Thomas Tocco, Dr. Melody Johnson and Mr. Walter Dansby. Perhaps they did not have the human relations skills for the job. But they were not alone responsible. The board must also share responsibility for their failure. Dr. Kent Paredes-Scribner must be given the latitude to lead the district in the direction that is going to benefit the community the best. It may mean letting go of some administrators that may be favorites with a few members of the community or a board member. We must look at the district as a whole and not what benefits just a handful of people. The education of our children is too important.

We congratulate Mrs. Marta Plata, Principal of Manuel Jara ES. Her Parent University program is a huge hit with the parents. We need that type of leadership throughout the district. So many parents involved is a sight to behold. This is a true cultural bridge.

We focus this edition on success and education. So many of our children are graduating from high school and going to for a higher education. We need a lot more. In this endeavor we need everyone involved. We need politicians to be leaders of their community. It is nice to show up for photo ops but it is better to be seen involved in the community. It is election season. This is not the only time that politicians come out of their office. The folks at Denton have a good working relationship with the city. We need the same in all communities. Don't wait for some catastrophe to express your opinion. Express it daily. Before it happens.

Fernando Florez is involved in the redistricting of

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the Fort Worth City Council. Redistricting means that perhaps some of those in power may be voted out of office. Again, this is an issue where the benefit to the community is greater than the benefit to just a few.

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## The Importance of the Latino Vote

By Juan R. Govea

Latinos are the fastest growing minority in the nation —making up 17 percent of the population — according to the national census of 2014. In 2012, Latinos made up 16 percent of the population with a voter turnout of 48 percent, which was slightly less than the 49.9 percent in 2008. Obviously, there should be more Latinos willing to vote for the candidate of their choice, who possesses the ability to change the nation for the better good of the people. A country should be run by the people and for the people, not a country run by the 1 percent for the entire nation.

With the Latino culture growing and growing every year and as young Latino men and women turning 18 years old every 30 seconds becoming eligible to vote in our country; the entire national concerns and perspectives of our country's wellbeing would be in the hands of Latinos. Many Latinos realize and are aware of the possibilities in which the country would shift views favoring Latino voters. Latino votes are the main player in whether a Democratic or Republican president will emerge in November's electoral turnout.

The amount of African-American and white voters seem to have stayed steady with an average turnout of 65 percent each. But with a Hispanic population, making up 17 percent of people living in our country, the Hispanic vote since the year 2000 has barely nudged the Asian voter turnout, of who only make up 5 percent of the population living in our nation. By the year 2060 the Hispanic population would be the majority-minority according to the Census Bureau. Granted 2060 is a long time to wait to be the 29 percent of people living in the United States.

As of now, Donald Trump is leading the polls; leaving many Republican candidates in the dust. This would and has caused lots of concern —unless you are a Trump booster. Honestly, it's too early to tell who will be the next POTUS and lead the country as a productive tool for the better good, for not the nation alone, but for the whole cosmopolitan. As the election moves forward into the open primaries Trump's popularity should slowly die down.

While many Latino voters reportedly voted in favor of a Democratic president, Barack Obama, in 2012 there is still a topic that many voters feel has caused a great divide between republican and democratic issues, abortion. Many young voters, especially young women, feel that a woman's freedom of choice to abort a pregnancy is solely her own. While many religious types feel that terminating a pregnancy should not be a choice and insist that abortion is murder.

Abortion is and has been a very sensitive issue, and while our country's governing body is to be separated from any religious affiliation, many people feel that a conservative approach to end Planned Parenthood is the way to go. While Planned Parenthood is seen as the democrat's evildoer, there are many more benefits of Planned Parenthood besides being eyed as an easy way for a woman to plan and carry out an abortion. Getting out and casting your vote is not as difficult as it may seem. With just a few minutes of research on the different ways each political party and their nominees plan to carry out the objectives of our nation, a voter can cast their decision on whom they see fit is the right candidate for them.

For more information on various areas to vote in the 2016 election or to register to vote visit: <http://access.tarrantcounty.com/en/elections.html>.

## Vote with your Hands or Vote with your Feet

By Franco

When life is unbearable and people have no civil hope of changing their situation, they vote with their feet, they leave that society. Millions of Koreans have abandoned Korea, a nation where people are treated like slaves. Millions of Central Americans have marched away from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, places where human life is no longer valued. Millions of Mexicans have walked away from a country dominated by foreigners and a corrupt government. Millions of Indians fed up with the trash and chaos of India, have flown away. Millions of Vietnamese have escaped the jungle prison of Vietnam. Millions of Pakistanis have run away from Pakistan, a place that detests women.

We live in a country called the United States of America, here citizens can still take civil action to improve the state of affairs. The most basic and fundamental civic action you can take is to Vote. Once you decide not to vote, you are taking a passive attitude. You no longer believe in your power to make positive change. The reason is laziness, cowardice, or ignorance. If you are unwilling to vote, you are probably unwilling to participate in any type of civil action. You want to stay home and watch television while your society goes to hell. When millions stay at home to watch television and avoid the most basic of civic actions, the final result is the decay of society. The time will come when things will get so bad, that you will have to vote with your feet, you will have to go to another country where you can breathe more freely, where you are treated with some decency.

Freedom requires vigorous exercise or it becomes a weak muscle, it requires you to get off the sofa and take action. Voting is the warm-up for all further civil actions. Passivity, laziness, and ignorance can only lead to the decay of our society. Vote with your hands otherwise one day you or your children may be forced to vote with your feet, and where are you going to go, if there are no more free countries left.

Vote for freedom.

## New Year's Resolution #6: Get Rid of Household Clutter

By Linda Carrasco

My mother had a snide way of referring to people. We call old men that acted silly for their age "sesentones." I never asked her what she meant with that term, but for the moment I am taking the word as a moniker to mean someone who is over 60 and has some wisdom under their belt; years have progressed and left experiences, wisdom, and valuable insight to be shared with others. For instance, "sesentones" do simple things that can make running a household just a little bit easier. Presently, we are in a season when people make resolutions. Resolutions are intended to mark a new beginning. A chance to renew and make better. Well, "sesentones" can give some advice that you can resolve to use all year and be assured that it will be helpful because it is backed up with a guaranteed success rate from many years of testing.

Here are a few tips to help you be rid of clutter, harvested from some "sesentones."

Clean out your closet. If you haven't worn something in the last twelve months; give it away. Chances are you are not going to wear it. Give it to Goodwill, to a clothing drive at your church, an organization that collects clothes for the homeless. Give it forward. Someone, somewhere can make use of it. If you have some items that may be sold, it is recommended that you advertise but if the items do not sell within a reasonable time; give them away. It's not advisable to place unsold items back in the closet. Clean out your kitchen pantry. It's easy to accumulate food items here in the United States. We live in a country that has an abundance of food. Most of the time we buy more food items than we are going to use any time soon. Check expiration dates on cans, bottles, bags, and boxes. Throw away expired food items. Yes, that's right. Throw it out! If you come across non-expired items that you know you are not going to use any time soon, give them to your church's food pantry, to a city food bank, a needy neighbor; pass items forward so they can be used. Clean out your garage, your backyard storage, your rented storage unit. Some home organization experts have recommended when tackling these areas, to label boxes or large bags: Give Away, Recycle, and Sell. Use these categories and begin to sort through each area. Think: down size; no sense in keeping; not doing anything with this; meant to use this, never did. Again if you try to sell and item does not sell; pass it forward. Don't overlook items that can be sold to a metal recycling company. Maintaining your desk uncluttered can begin simply by sorting mail right away. Most mail can be thrown into recycle bin. Clearing your desk of piles of paper can be accomplished by sorting frequently. File folders and a file cabinet are must-haves. Most paper on your desk should be recycled unless it goes into a file folder for future reference. Follow the rule a wise "sesentona" contributed: "Para toda cosa, su lugar." Don't neglect shredding or tearing up anything containing identifying or personal information.

Four simple points of advice, which if done the whole year through will make a noticeable dent in clutter or keep your house from becoming cluttered. One wise "sesentona" shared how taking a charitable outlook helped her when she had difficulty discarding or parting with items because of a perceived need to save them. She kept thinking to herself, "someone else can use this instead of this sitting in my house unused." She made it part of her life principle: "It is better to give than to receive" or in this case; it is better to give it forward than to hoard it and not use it!

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### Success -Tener Exito

Each New Year most people make resolutions that involve achieving success in a certain part of their lives. Some of the standards are lose weight, make more money, break par or in my case get through a round without a snowman an (Ugly 8). Whatever it is most of us start strong in January, maybe even February but then (Stuff Happens). Below are some of the common pitfalls that stop us short of desired goals.

\*Failure to put God first in our plans. Ask God for guidance in all you do and listen closely.

\*Failure to plan properly. Take your time, it matters not if it takes an hour a day or a week. (If you fail to plan, you plan to fail).

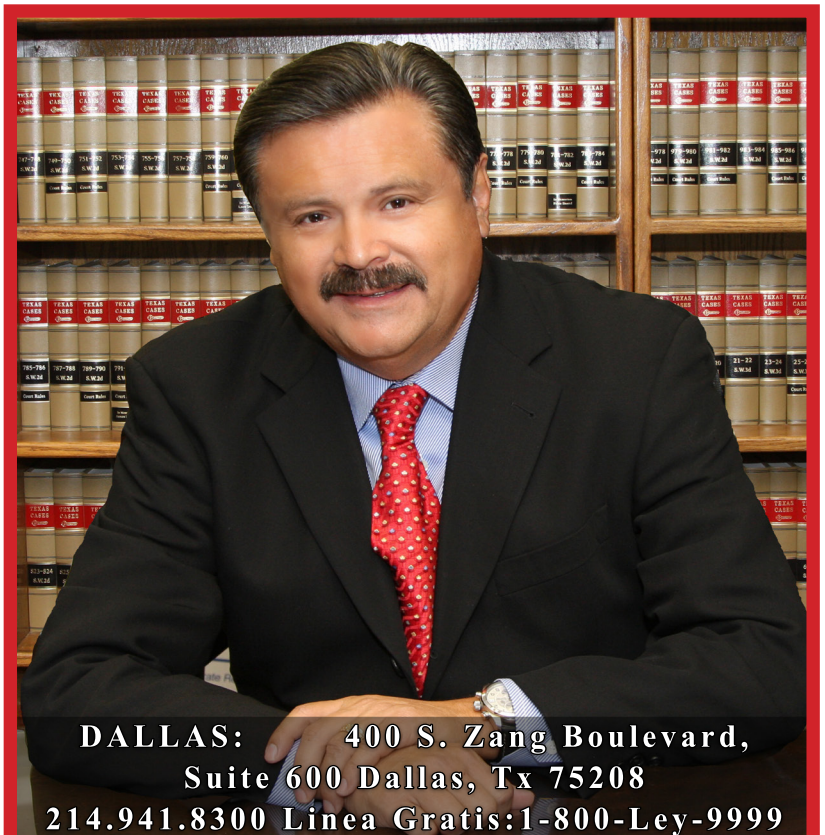
\*Know that you will have setbacks and that's okay, they are only meant to make you stronger and wiser.

\*Sharing your goals with your friends, relatives etc. and expecting their support. (Very often the people you expect support from are the ones that will attempt to hold you back).

\*Failure to feed your mind and spirit as often as you feed your belly. Read stories about success principals and or successful people, attend church regularly. Remember God gave us all the ability to succeed and that includes you.

Last, let us know about your progress or challenges, you are not alone in your quest to be the best you can be. I will be joining you as well as many others. Join our conversation at [nuestravozdetc.com](http://nuestravozdetc.com) and let's help each other achieve our goals in 2016.

If you really want to succeed "You must overcome the notion that you must be regular. It robs you of the chance to be extraordinary".



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## Free Will and Wealth Accumulation

During our life there are three things that we have which are very valuable. Those are: health, time, and Free Will. Two of those counter each other. If you don't have health then you don't have much time. The one thing that you do have for whatever time you have is Free Will.

Free Will is what forms you. It is what creates the character of whom and what you are. It is what God has given you so that you will decide on your own to show your love for him. Because of it we can make ourselves worthy of the next life with God in Heaven forever. Free Will allows us to determine our own futures.

Let us say your life is one big computer program and the choices that you make are the variables used to write that computer program. All God has to do is run your computer program of life and you pop out, good or bad, it will always equal you. Of all the choices that you have the one most important choice is the "Love" variable. That one creates the best equations for your life's computer program.

Many give up their Free Will when they let themselves have uncontrollable desires of things not good for the soul or the body. Those desires take over and your Free Will goes into the "got to have it mode". You are now a slave to those desires.

We most often use a lot of our Free Will to do things that enable us to accumulate wealth and be able to get stuff. We believe that we have to have more and more stuff so that we can look successful or to win

the game of having more toys than everyone else. Well guess what when we die all that stuff which represents your wealth is left behind. The only real wealth that is good for you is the wealth you have accumulated in Heaven.

So how do you accumulate wealth in Heaven, well I'm glad you asked. First you need to have the right tools which include: the knowledge of God's word found in the Bible, you have to be in communication with God thru prayer, and you have to be able to humble yourself to do good for God. That will include showing love for your neighbors which also includes the bad ones too.

Free Will and time go together. God only gives you a certain amount of time. Once time has passed that's it you can't get it back. How you use the time you have here on earth is totally up to you. You have been given the brains in your head and a Free Will to make those decisions.

Remember God works thru you. When you see a person in need and you help that person it is God working to help someone thru you. When we lovingly give up some of our time to do good for God, when we pray, attend and participate in Mass, it is like giving God a gift. Those gifts accumulate as wealth in Heaven and that my friends, is the kind of wealth we should all want to accumulate.

Peace be with you all,  
Joe Govea, a lifelong Catholic whose duty is to Evangelize.

## What Libraries Have To Offer

By Alfredo Sanchez

The libraries in Denton are no longer a place where you only check out books. The libraries in Denton bustle with all types of activities. One very interesting program which I just learned about recently is the "Book a Librarian Service". This service allows you to schedule a half hour block with a librarian once a month on subjects they teach at the libraries. A customer fills out an application and based on what subject the customer needs help in, the best qualified librarian on that subject will be assigned to that customer. Some subjects that a librarian can assist with include: setting up and email account, how to complete on line job applications, learn how to find jobs advertized through the internet, how to build a resume, how to find information on data bases, how to download information to your personal devices, social networking, downloading audio e-books to your personal devices, Microsoft office applications, assisting with online applications for SNAP, Medicaid, CHIP and TANF plus many other area. See the application for other subjects they teach. If a subject is not found on the application ask a librarian and see if they have someone available to teach that subject. The service is available at all three Denton locations. Customers must complete the form for this program and submit to a librarian or submit the application online at [www.dentonlibrary.com](http://www.dentonlibrary.com).

## Get Your Taxes Prepared

By Alfredo Sanchez

It is that time again when we are busy gathering our receipts to deliver them to our tax accountant. If we don't have a tax accountant we are busy with trying to find a good tax accountant that will not be very expensive. United Way of Denton provides assistance in Tax preparation and has a large staff of highly trained IRS- certified volunteers, of whom many are bi-lingual, to assist you with your tax preparation if your income does not exceed \$53,000. The following items are required: valid ID (driver license, matricula consular, military ID, student visa, etc.), original Social Security card or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) for every person on the return (copies are not accepted), W-2 forms for all jobs held in 2015 and proof of all other income, all 1095, 1098 and 1099 forms, official bank documents (including checks) with routing and account numbers, and other common documents listed at [UnitedWayDenton.org/VITA](http://UnitedWayDenton.org/VITA) or call 940-566-5851 ext. 111. Tax preparation starts on January 26 and goes until April 18, 2016. IT IS A FREE SERVICE.

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United Way of Denton  
County (UWDC)  
1314 Teasley Ln.  
Denton, TX 76205  
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Mobile Mondays  
Location, time and dates  
vary (info at [United-WayDenton.org/VITA](http://United-WayDenton.org/VITA))

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County  
1314 Teasley Ln.  
Denton, TX  
Noon – 7:30  
Apr. 18 only

### Tuesday

Christian Community  
Action Resale Store  
200 S. Mill St.  
Lewisville, Texas  
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Pilot Point Library  
324 S. Washington ST.  
Pilot Point, TX 76258  
4:00-6:30 p.m.  
Closed Mar. 15 onwards.

Denton North Branch  
Library (DNBL)  
3020 N. Locust St.  
Denton, TX. 76209  
5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

### Wenesday

Christian Community Action  
Resale Store  
200 S. Mill St.  
Lewisville, TX 75057  
11:00 a.m. -2:30 p.m.

Hackberry Elementary  
School  
7200 Snug Harbor Cir  
Frisco, TX. 75034  
5:00-7:30 p.m.  
Closed Mar. 9

### Thursday

UWDC  
1314 Teasley Ln.  
Denton, TX  
11:00am-2:30pm

Little Elm Library  
100 W. Eldorado Pkwy. Little  
Elm,  
TX. 75068  
4:00-6:30 p.m.

North Central Texas  
College Lifelong  
Learning Center  
Corinth  
1404 N. Corinth St.  
#307 Corinth, TX. 76208  
5:00-7:30 p.m.  
Closed Mar. 17

### Saturday

DNBL  
3020 N. Locust St.  
Denton, TX.  
9:00 a.m-12:30 p.m.

Sanger Library  
501 Bolivar St.  
Sanger, TX.  
9:00-11:30 a.m.  
By appointment only  
940-458-4859  
Closed Mar. 26  
Onwards

Justin Library  
408 Pafford Av.  
Justin, TX.  
10:00-12:30 p.m.  
Closed Jan.  
Closed Mar. 26  
onwards

# North Texas Achievers

## Estudiantes Sobresalientes

### Magazine

#### An Aspiring Actor/Entertainer

By Raquel Guajardo

I've known Alberto for three years now and realized early on that there was something unique about this young man.



In fact, the first time I met him was at a play hosted at the historic Rose Marine Theater in Fort Worth. He was comfortable and at ease up there, among his likeminded artistic peers. Fearless and confident. All acting like someone or something else, and I thought it was encouraging and inspiring to see young kids active in community theater. This was the first of many plays that I would see Alberto in and I can tell you, without hesitation, the entertainment world will know of him one day.

I sat down with Alberto to get an idea of how his interest in theater began, and like all things with this young man, was entertained by his story. Alberto had a speech impediment from the time he could talk until 10 years of age. His "r's" sound like "w's", and in my head, made him sound like Barbara Walters, or as his father not so fondly remembered, like Cindy Brady. Therapy helped his speech, but the experience greatly diminished his ability to interact and establish friendships. He also struggled academically in school and although his confidence was low, his imagination ran rampant. Movies and music gave him a way out of the



Alberto second from left as Johnny in local production of *The Outsiders*

awkward isolation and his active imagination coupled with exposure to all eclectic genres, would help set the

groundwork for his acting career. He broke out of his shell, determined to be seen and heard and for the first time, wanted to be the center of welcomed attention. At an age when most kids hope to blend in and follow the crowd, he wanted to do anything but that.

His favorite movie? *Evil Dead*. A story about an underachiever who unleashes terrible destruction upon the earth, but reluctantly and cleverly saves the day. The main actor, Bruce Campbell, isn't as commercially famous as Johnny Depp, but has a cult following and is still working to this day. And to Alberto, as long as you're working as an actor and are able to pay the bills, you are a success in that town. Of course, he doesn't just act. He sings, plays the guitar, ukulele, harmonica and piano. And with inspirations such as Johnny Cash, Elvis, Buddy Holly, and Dean Martin, who can blame him?

Alberto has big plans for future and through auditions and networking, is currently working with TEKSYN, an artist outreach organization developing all mediums and creative arts in the DFW area. He was cast for multiple projects including a mini-series shooting January through March and a feature film next Fall. And now, at 17, through hard work, determination, and a genuine appreciation for the arts, he is breaking through the glass ceiling. Has Alberto "made it", no, not yet. But, look out for him, because there is no doubt that he will.

(Alberto is a Senior at Haltom High School, he can be reached at Big Al Facebook Page



#### Le damos la bienvenida al Dr. Kent Paredes Scribner, Superintendente del Fort Worth ISD.

El superintendente Kent Paredes-Scribner está comprometido al éxito de todos los niños en el Fort Worth ISD. El nuevo líder del Distrito es, primeramente, un defensor para 87,000 estudiantes.

El Dr. Scribner opina que los distritos de escuelas públicas no deben enfocarse en la graduación de escuela preparatoria como la meta final para sus estudiantes. Más bien, él adopta una filosofía la cual es el cumplimiento de la misión del Fort Worth ISD:

"Preparando a los estudiantes para el éxito en la universidad, una carrera y el liderazgo comunitario."

Esto significa asegurar que todos los estudiantes salgan del Distrito con un plan para ir a la universidad o listos para adquirir empleo – o ambos.

¿Cómo sucederá eso?

El Dr. Scribner, quien tomó el timón en octubre, ha estado trabajando en un plan para reorganizar el liderazgo del Distrito y redistribuir los recursos de la administración central de regreso a las escuelas. Esto es posible, en su opinión, con un equipo eficaz en su debido puesto – y ofrece como ejemplo el éxito estudiantil en su distrito anterior en Phoenix.

El Dr. Scribner es también parte de la discusión nacional sobre cómo preparar mejor a nuestros jóvenes hispanos como futuros líderes. Él sirve como comisionado para la Iniciativa de la Casa Blanca para la Excelencia Educativa de los Hispanos (Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics), e interactúa con otros líderes de la educación por todo el país.

El Dr. Scribner cambia fácilmente de inglés a español en la misma oración. En un distrito donde la mayoría de los estudiantes son latinos, esto es una ventaja. Él es de herencia mexicanoamericana; su madre de México y su padre de Maine.

Y, hablando de la familia, él tiene además un interés personal, al igual que profesional, en el Fort Worth ISD: actualmente, su hija asiste a Trimble Tech High School.

Le damos la bienvenida, Dr. Scribner. Le deseamos lo mejor. Lo único que queda decir es "Adelante".

The Staff of Nuestra Voz





## We Give a Warm Welcome To Dr. Kent Paredes Scribner, Superintendent of the Fort Worth ISD.

Superintendent Kent Paredes Scribner is committed to the success of all children in the Fort Worth ISD. The new leader of the

District is, first and foremost, an advocate for 87,000 students.

Dr. Scribner believes that public school districts should not focus on high school graduation as the end goal for their students. Rather he embraces a philosophy which is the fulfillment of the Fort Worth ISD's mission statement: "preparing students for success in college, career, and community leadership."

That means ensuring all students leave the District with a plan to go to college or ready for employment – or both.

How will that happen?

Dr. Scribner, who took the helm in October, has been working on plans to reorganize district leadership and reallocate central administration resources back to the schools. This is doable, he believes, with an effective team in place – and points to student success in his previous district in Phoenix.

Dr. Scribner is also part of the national discussion on how to better prepare our young Hispanics as future leaders. He serves as commissioner for the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, and interacts with other educational leaders from across the country.

Dr. Scribner easily switches from English to Spanish in the same sentence. In a district where the majority of students are Latino, this is a plus. He is of Mexican-American heritage, his mother from Mexico and his father from Maine.

And, speaking of family, he also has a personal as



well as a professional stake in the Fort Worth ISD: his daughter now attends Trimble Tech High School.

We welcome you Dr. Scribner. We wish you the best. We can only say "Adelante".



## My Choices

By Daniela Padilla

I would have never guessed that a high school could modify my life so intensely. Leaving my middle school which is located in an extremely rough neighborhood, I had two choices I could take. I could have followed the same path as everyone else and continue to live the same life, or transfer to Trimble Tech to have a fresh start and better opportunities. This decision wasn't a hustle for me, I knew that if I wanted to be the first to graduate high school from my family, things had to change. The programs that Trimble Tech offers grabbed my attention immediately. I had no intention in pursuing a higher education. College was never a thought that had occurred to me. I looked at it as another 4 years of time wasted. My freshman year was tough for me. Adjusting to a new environment was a difficult task. As time passed, bad habits that I had inherited from my past were starting to disappear. I began to make friends. That began to push me into a more positive and beneficial path. As well as teachers, they constantly helped me with troubled situations I had and let me know that I always had someone to rely on.

In the beginning of my senior year I saw a drastic change in my conduct. This year specifically I have joined many clubs and organizations, because I felt the need to help my community and to interact with different cultures. I am currently an active member of the Key Club, United Voiced for Change, Latinas in Progress, and Friends of Rachel. Although many of these clubs and organizations have become very time consuming, I have learned to cope with them very responsibly. Time management has been the key to my successful deep involvement in the clubs. These clubs have allowed me to gain very useful information when it comes to preparing for college as well as taking the first basic steps. I'm glad I took the precise decision of taking advantage of these resources that are offered in my school as well as the ones that are not. Being in the organizations outside of school such as the Latinas in Progress, has been a very valuable experience. I have had the opportunity of one Saturday out of every month to come together with other Latinas that are seeking the same dream as I am. This has permitted me to create new friends, listening to very motivational speakers, and practicing long life skills. Today, I have 8 college acceptance letters and a half full ride to the school of my dreams, Texas Wesleyan University. From hundreds of professions that are accessible at universities, I have chosen to pursue a career in secondary

education. No matter the career plan that one might take, everyone has had a teacher who has influenced them to take that further step. I want to be the teacher that students esteem and look up to.

## My Journey as a Freshman

By Fernando Torres



High school is strange time in my life. The whole idea of applying and hoping to get chosen from among many other equally and/or better qualified students is a bit nerve-racking to say the least. Applying is one thing, but actually being in high school is a different thing. Personally going into high school is like being Luke Skywalker and crossing the

threshold, waiting for what lies ahead.

When the high school application first started, I was overwhelmed at the number of high schools to choose from. When I had finally lowered my number of options to just a few it became even harder to choose from as they all had many great qualities. One of the things that made Trimble Tech pop out the most was the vast amount of majors they had compared to other high schools including Health Science Technology (HST) which captivated me. Since I was little I remember being fascinated by science and wanting to become a doctor, this program would be a step in the right direction to making my dreams come true. Now that I had chosen Tech, I had to wait and see if Tech would choose me. I remember the day I got the letter, anxious to open it but frightened by what it might contain; excited to be accepted but scared that I would be declined. When I opened it and I saw that I'd been accepted, I became overjoyed with happiness, filled with mirth, and joyful now I just had to wait and see what Tech had in stock for me.

My first day at Tech I was a bit worried that I wouldn't know anyone or where the classes were but at the same time I was excited. I knew I had crossed the threshold but I didn't know what was on the other side. I could easily distinguish the other freshman in the hallways by seeing them lost in a frenzy as I was, so I knew I wasn't the only one that felt butterflies in their stomach. Entering high school was a completely different thing from what I knew, all the friends I had made over the last eight years were all gone, but everything else changed as well. For instance, teachers wouldn't sugar coat things anymore and everything became our responsibility. All my teachers gave me a syllabus for their class which included what was expected from me, so there wouldn't be any more excuses to why something didn't get done; I became accountable for turning my work in on time and knowing when it was due. It became hard to get adjusted, but not impossible and it helped me grow into the person I am today. As a freshman, high school has been an unpredictable yet astonishing journey... so far. In the end it is one of those things you have go through for yourself, everybody has a different experience whether it be good or bad, it's unforgettable.



## Bridging the Cultural Gap

By Felix Alvarado

Challenges are opportunities for leaders to excel. Faced with these insurmountable challenges, Marta Plata, Principal at Manuel Jara Elementary School adopted the Raising Highly Capable Kids Program, a 13 week parent program designed by Resilient Kidz, a 501c3 organization. A native of South Texas, Mrs. Plata is culturally aware of what the term bilingual means. In South Texas everyone is bilingual. You grow up hearing English and Spanish freely spoken virtually everywhere. It is all around you. This is not the case in North Texas where English and Spanish are spoken separately. There is very little bilingualism in North Texas.

The Raising Highly Capable Kids Program uniquely adapted to Manuel Jara ES. Mrs. Plata's objective is to empower parents and make them responsible for the education of their children. The 13 week program is designed to help parents raise healthy, caring and responsible children. With intimate knowledge of her community and parents Mrs. Plata created a Parent University. Parents come to the school weekly to learn the education system their children attend. Knowing the education system is a form of empowerment that allows the parent to confidently navigate the system. Being unfamiliar with the American education model makes a parent blindsided when it comes to knowing what their child is experiencing in school or even in the neighborhood. This is a frustrating situation for any child and just as frustrating to parents. Parents interact with teachers and other community volunteers. It is a wholesome, healthy atmosphere that benefits all.

It is awe inspiring to see so many parents attend Parent University. Some become so motivated learning what their children are going through that when they graduate from Manuel Jara they continue their education at Tarrant County College.

Manuel Jara Elementary School shows how important the position of principal is to any school. A school may have several great teachers. It only has one principal.



To Mrs. Plata we say "Well done" or "Bien hecho".

## Cerrar la brecha Cultural

Desafíos son oportunidades para líderes a excel. Frente a estos desafíos insuperables, Marta Plata, Directora de la escuela primaria Manuel Jara adoptó el aumento Raising Highly Capable Kids, un programa de 13 semanas para padres diseñado por Resilient Kidz, una organización caritativa. Nativa del sur de Texas, la Sra. Plata es culturalmente consciente de lo que significa el término bilingüe. En el sur de Texas todo el mundo es bilingüe. Crece uno escuchando inglés y español hablado libremente casi en todas partes. Está a tu alrededor. No es el caso en el norte de Texas donde el inglés y español se hablan por separado. Hay muy poco el bilingüismo en el norte de Texas. El programa Raising Highly Capable Kids es adaptada a Manuel Jara ES. La Sra. Plata pretende habilitar a los padres y hacerlos responsables de la educación de sus hijos. El programa de 13 semanas está diseñado para ayudar a los padres a criar a hijos sanos, dedicados y responsables. Con profundo conocimiento de su comunidad y los padres la Sra. Plata creó una Universidad de Padres. Los padres vienen a la escuela cada semana para aprender el sistema de educación que sus hijos asisten a. Conocer el sistema educativo es una forma de empoderamiento que permite a los padres a navegar con confianza por el sistema educativo americano. Estar familiarizado con el modelo de educación en América hace que un padre ofuscado cuando se trata de saber lo que está experimentando su hijo en la escuela o incluso en el barrio. Esta es una situación frustrante para cualquier niño y tan frustrante para los padres. Los padres interactúan con profesores y otros voluntarios de la comunidad. Es un ambiente sano y saludable que beneficie a todos. Es inspirador ver a tantos padres asistir a la Universidad de Padres. Algunos se vuelven tan motivados para aprender lo que sus hijos están pasando por que cuando se gradúen de Manuel Jara continúan su educación en el Tarrant County College. La escuela primaria de Manuel Jara muestra lo importante que es la posición de Director en la escuela. Una escuela puede tener varios grandes maestros. Solo tiene un director/directora.

A la Sra. Plata le decimos "Bien hecho".



## Kids First Program

By Alfredo Sanchez

It has been about a year now since the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) brought Denton leadership together to discuss how to avoid what happened in Ferguson from occurring in Denton. As a result of the first meeting, both organizations partnered with the Denton Police Chief resulting in the Kids First Program. The intent of the program is to teach youth how to interact with policemen when they have an encounter with a police officer. The premise is that many of the police encounters throughout the country that have resulted in the death of a young person might have been prevented if police orders had been followed. Not following police orders can escalate the situation resulting in injury or death. The purpose of the program is to: 1) present police officers as fathers, husbands and not super heroes, 2) provide students with information on what an office can and cannot do, 3) provide scenarios, with only half the story and allow student to voice their opinion, then follow up with the whole story and see if student opinion has changed as a result of learning the whole story, 4) inform students that if a police officer is not following protocol, the street is not the place to confront the officer. Alternative is to contact the police officer's supervisor or organizations like NAACP and LULAC to assist with their case. Many youths' opinions about police officers are developed from television, social media, friends, parents, or a bad encounter with one police office. The purpose of the program is to dispel the myths that students have about police officers. In the fall semester of 2015, approximately 1400 freshmen have gone through the program with another 600 going through in the spring semester of 2016. The information that the Kids First Program provides to freshmen students will be something they can use not only today but in the future. Students can also use this information to dispel myths among their friends and family. If you have a freshman son or daughter attending one of the three high schools in Denton, asked them if they have completed this program. If they have completed the program engage your son or daughter in a healthy discussion on how they can keep themselves safe.

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## WE GOT THE BEAT!

It was Christmas and 7 year old Kelly receives a guitar as a present.

Unsure what to make of it she put in her closet where it remained for a full year. But her curiosity got the best of her, well since I have it I may as well try it, she thought. So she sought out and took some lessons. Sure enough it was kind of cool to play music. So she decided to share her discovery with her younger brother 2 years her junior. And as fate would it have it her brother Houston also got into it and was soon playing along with her.

At the same time of their musical awakening their family grew to include baby brother Justin and he took to music much like a baby bird learns to fly. By the tender age of 4 baby brother was taught to play both the bass guitar and drums. By now collectively this musical family ensemble had mastered the guitar, bass, piano, drums, accordion and keyboards. So it could be said that starting a band was not an option, it was a calling. And why not? The only thing that stood in the way was to do it and so they did early in 2013.

Their first official band name was A Bunch of Kids, which of course they were. The name soon changed to Grupo Abel when PJ joined the group as the Drummer. But they weren't through with the name game, they went to Soul Beats and finally after realizing there were several groups working under that name made what is hoped to be last name change to Texas Soul Beats. All this led to the current line-up of Houston Martinez (Vocals, Guitar) 14, Kelly Martinez (Vocal, Keyboards) 16, Justin Martinez (Bass) 7 and Patrick Webber (Drums) 16. Now they regularly perform in a variety of venues which have included performing at community events, Music Arts Fest on the River, Cinco de Mayo in Dallas to Trader's Village in Grand Prairie and many other Tejano Music Venues. I for one was impressed with their ability to play the old Santa standards Black Magic Women and Oye Como Va. They have good range and versatility in their music and can easily win over the old and the young with their music set. When not on stage during the week you will find these would be collection of talented musicians in school. Houston and Kelly at North West High School, little brother Justin at Diamond Hill Elementary and Drummer Patrick attends Arlington Heights High School. In closing I asked Mr. Martinez the siblings Father if he or Mom were also musically talented as most would expect with their 3 offspring having what

appears to be natural talent. "Neither I nor their mother have anything that can be interpreted as musical talent" I was surprised; Dad went to say that they have supported their children's musical endeavors since they showed an interest. And in fact they both must assume the role of managers, equipment set up and of course security for their children. They recognize that their children have talent and their role is to help develop and give direction when needed.

What is the future for Texas Soul Beats, to keep growing, to get better and to provide good quality entertainment for all (Collective Response). Last, they (Group) wanted to make sure that the public

knows, they have worked hard and really appreciate the support the public has shown them. We at Nuestra Voz congratulate these young musicians and ask that you catch their act soon, As Their Beat Goes On.

(You may contact them by calling 817-658-4252 for your next event)

Go ahead and get started.

## Mexican North Texas

By Felix Alvarado

If you had been in the areas of Thurber, Coalville, Mingus, Gordon, Strawn or Bridgeport in the late 1890's you would have seen the area teeming with Mexicans. They came to North Texas during a period called the Porfiriato in Mexico. Porfirio Diaz, President of Mexico may have been a strong ruler but the only ones that had to fear him most were the rich and powerful willing to take a chance and displace him. For most Mexicans life consisted of work, church and an occasional trip to the cantina. Life in Mexico was simple and peaceful. Except for the occasional bar fight or drunken disturbance life was tranquil.

Porfirio Diaz wanted Mexico to be an economic powerhouse. He opened up the country to foreign investment. Money from Britain, France and the United States poured in. Transportation was the key to economic development so a railroad system to connect all of Mexico had to be built first. Once the railroad was built there was a need for coal. The coal was found in Zaragoza, Coahuila. Mexico had experienced railroad workers or *traqueros* as they were called and *coal miners*. They were the best of Mexico.

Texas businessmen also saw the need for a railroad in Texas and encouraged the legislature to invest money in building a railroad in Texas. Railroads were needed to connect Texas to the gulf coast and to the Rio Grande. There was also saw a need to connect Texas going east to New Orleans, west to California and north to Chicago. There was only one detriment to building the railroad. Comanche's. North Texas was Comanche country. "This changed with the end of the civil war Army resources could now be used to remove this menace.

Astute Texas businessmen knew where to get experienced *traqueros*. Astute Texas businessmen knew where to get experienced *miners*. Right across the Rio Grande in Mexico. It was not too hard to get the *traqueros* to sign on to install the railroad track in Texas. There was no more railroad to install in Mexico. Pay may not have been

great but it beat being unemployed. There was only one stipulation. You could not be afraid of Indians.

Most of the rail was being installed in uninhabited rural areas of Texas. Food and sleeping accommodations were provided by the railroad. *Traqueros* lived out of boxcars in it was everything the workers needed. On a good week 12 miles of track could be laid. Occasionally, entertainment available was provided by the railroad.

Not everyone was pleased with the Porfiriato. Working class Mexicans were known to voice their displeasure against the government in various ways like strikes or work slowdowns. When the government was unresponsive to the needs of its workers *Mineros* voiced their displeasure the only way they could, with their feet. That was the only voice they had and they used it. Trekking north *mineros* found work in gold, silver and coal mines in America. They came with their family and made America their home. *Traqueros* and *mineros* are the birth of Mexican North Texas and beyond.

## Mis Opciones

Por Daniela Padilla

Nunca hubiera imaginado que una escuela podría modificar mi vida tan intensamente. Saliendo de mi escuela que se encuentra en un barrio extremadamente áspero, tenía dos opciones que pude tomar. Yo podría haber seguido el mismo camino que todos los demás y vivir la vida misma, o transferir a la escuela secundaria Trimble Tech para tener un nuevo comienzo y mejores oportunidades. Esta decisión no era un bullicio para mí. Sabía que sería el primer graduado de la escuela secundaria de mi familia. Las cosas debían cambiar.

Los programas de tecnología que ofrece Trimble Tech agarraron mi atención inmediatamente. No tenía ninguna intención de perseguir una educación más alta. La Universidad nunca fue un pensamiento que se me había ocurrido. Miraba otros 4 años de tiempo perdido. Mi primer año fue duro. Ajuste a un nuevo entorno es una tarea difícil. Según pasaba el tiempo, malos hábitos que yo había heredado de mi pasado estaban empezando a desaparecer. Comencé a hacer amigos. Comenzó a empujarme en un camino más positivo y beneficioso. Así como maestros, constantemente me ayudaron y me avisaban cuando era necesario. Siempre tenía alguien en quien confiar. En el comienzo de mi último año he visto un cambio drástico en mi conducta. Este año concretamente me he unido a muchos clubes y organizaciones, porque sentía la necesidad de ayudar a mi comunidad y a interactuar con diferentes culturas. Actualmente soy miembro activo de varios clubes y organizaciones. He aprendido a lidiar con ellos muy responsablemente para no desperdiciar el tiempo, Gestión del tiempo ha sido la clave de mi éxito participación profunda en los clubes. Estos clubes me han permitido obtener información muy útil a la hora de preparación para la Universidad, así como dando los primeros pasos básicos. Me alegro que tomé la decisión precisa de aprovechar estos recursos que se ofrecen en mi escuela. Ser miembro de organizaciones fuera de la escuela como las Latinas en curso, ha sido una experiencia muy valiosa. He tenido la oportunidad de un sábado de cada mes junto a otras Latinas que buscan el sueño lo mismo como soy. Esto me ha permitido crear nuevos amigos, escuchar a oradores muy motivacionales y practicar habilidades de larga vida. Hoy, tengo 8 cartas de aceptación de universi.....Continuacion en pagina 12



## The Good, The Bad and The Ugly

We started the season again, with optimistic hopes and a strong faith that this was *our year*. After last season's sporadic playoff run and with adding more talent to our defense, how could we not be a stronger contender and go further into the playoffs. At the very least dominate our division. And with starting the season 2-0 and against our division rivals, the season looked like it was going to be a little rocky without Romo, but it still looked promising. We then went on an optimistic 7 game losing streak. Every single one of those weeks everybody in and out of Cowboys nation was still predicting and calculating a playoff scenario. Every week we sat through an exciting but demoralizing loss. This last Sunday, thankfully, was our last loss and game of the 2015 season. It came against the division winners, the Washington Redskins, which were predicted to be last place in our division at the start of the season. I missed the first quarter of this game, but when I got to it was 21-0 at the start of the 2nd quarter. At first I was blown away, but then I started to think rationally and realized this was normal play for the Cowboys and started to laugh. Other than losing our 12th game of the season, one last embarrassing stat came out after the game. ESPN would not stop posting via social media- "Alabama won (2) more games in AT&T stadium than the Cowboys (1)." Within these social media posts were a smiling Nick Sabin and a disappointed Tony Romo and Jason Garrett. This was *the nail in the coffin* for our 2015 season.

After a 4 win season you can easily point fingers and find the losers of our organization, but can we find any winners first? Jason Witten became the second

Tight End in NFL history to get 1,000 receptions. Second to Tony Gonzalez. Witten was again the heart and soul of this team. He played through injuries and was one of very few that was consistent throughout majority of the season. With reaching 1,000 catches in his career, we are guaranteeing to see him in the Hall of Fame soon after retirement.

- Dan Bailey was the highest scorer for the Dallas Cowboys this season with 115 points. Bailey also broke his personal record for accuracy at 93.8%. With our offense not being able to produce touchdowns in the red zone, it was a saving grace to have such an accurate kicker. Without him we would have gotten blow out of the water every game.
- Cole Beasley was tied with Romo and Cassel at 2nd for the leading scorer with 5 touchdowns. We all knew how well this guy is able to get open but he performed a stellar season confirming his abilities as a wideout that's willing to do whatever he needs to do to win. With every catch this season he averaged. 10.6 yards. A guaranteed first down when he touches the ball. These yards came mostly from his impressive 302 YAC (yards after carry). This is

what great receivers do when they get the ball - they keep moving. To give you an idea of how impressive his YAC was Dez Bryant's was 135 and Terrance Williams was 210.

- Darren McFadden finally found a home with us while rushing over 1,000 yards. This guy proved all the naysayers this season finishing a season without a serious injury. He wasn't the starter at the beginning of the season but quickly earned his role with an overall avg per carry of 4.6 yards.
- The only defensive winner this season is Sean Lee. Even though he had a few injuries that sidelined him for some of the season he still performed very high while he was on the field. He racked up a total of 128 tackles this season with 76 of those being solo. 76 solo tackles are impressive for a season, especially when you didn't play in every game. Tackles is not what all this guy does though. One measurement you can't tally up at the end of the season is his coverage for the middle of the field. This man knows football and where he needs to be at all times. If you watch his quickness on the field you will see how insightful he is while plays are developing.

It's too easy picking out the losers for the Dallas Cowboys this season. I could go on till next season naming who's responsible for this season. I won't beat a dead horse and drone on about How Jerry needs to go and How Greg Hardy brings more harm than good to this organization and How our franchise player, Dez Bryant needs to worry about getting in the end zone more than 3 times in a season rather than caring for a monkey.

- First and foremost has to go to the coaching staff. Jason Garrett did not hold this team together through adversity. This team started falling apart very quickly this season, but nothing was strategically put together to save it. It's very easy to blame the head coach for such a terrible season. Sometimes it isn't the coach's fault. Sometimes the cards that were dealt were crap. In Jason Garrett's case, he had great cards. A number of aces on both defense and offense. The guy just couldn't put a plan together to win more than 4 games.
- Defensive coordinator, Rod Marinelli didn't have the easiest job this season. Going into the 2015 season, his defense was predicted to be one of the best in the league. But with a defense that had to be on the field majority of the game because of the offense couldn't get any drives together or touchdowns, it makes it hard for any defense to stay in the game. I'm naming him a Loser for the season because his defense could not finish one game

strong this year. Either his defense was on the first half and off the second half, or vice versa. We never saw a consistent cowboy defense. And with so many strong defensive players in the box, that should have never been a question; even with having to stay on the field for so long.

The only good thing about a 4-12 season is our upcoming draft picks this offseason. But with Jerry Jones again sitting in the driver seat for majority of these decisions, we can expect to have that opportunity fumbled. So until we screw up another hopeful season, have fun watching the playoffs.

By J. Arguello



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Continuacion de pagina 10.

dades y un medio viaje completo a la escuela de mis sueños, Texas Wesleyan University.

De cientos de profesiones que son accesibles en las universidades, he optado por seguir una carrera en la educación secundaria. Sin importar el plan de carrera que uno podría tener, todo el mundo ha tenido una maestra que ha influido para dar ese paso más. Quiero ser el profesor que estudiantes autoestiman y admiran.

## Denton Together Coalition

By Alfredo Sanchez

The Denton Together Coalition is looking for groups or churches willing to host the meetings and share their ideas with the Coalition. The Denton Together Coalition was the result of a discussion between Mayor Watts and the U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service. The purpose of the Coalition is to resolve racial tension between the communities in Denton. The first meeting occurred in July 2015 with representatives from the University of North Texas (UNT), League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Denton Police Department, Serve Denton, Denton Black Chamber of Commerce, North Central Texas College, Texas Woman's University, Denton Independent School District, several local church pastors, Sheriff Department, the community, and business leaders. At the November 19, 2015 monthly meeting, the Denton Together Coalition leadership along with Mayor Watts signed the Community Proclamation which outlined goals of the coalition. On the evening of November 19, the Coalition met at the Martin Luther King Recreation Center with citizens of Denton to create a list of issues important to Denton citizens. Future meetings are

being planned throughout the community. On January 16, 2016, the coalition coordinated three projects to bring citizens together. In the first project, volunteers assembled bleachers that will be placed at Fred Moore Park in Denton. The Guys and Girls Operating As Leaders (G.O.A.L.) assisted with the assembling of bleachers. Guys and Girls Operating as Leaders is an organization under the leadership of Chris Ice that targets high risk Latino kids. Soccer is used to teach leadership skills. At Fred Moore Park the bathrooms were painted and a smoker was installed. The second project involved refurbishing the Wheeler House. This included painting, redecorating and installing chair rails. The third project was at the Denton City County Day Care and involved putting a film over the windows in the gymnasium to reduce the heat during the summer months. Volunteers were treated to hot dogs, chips, cookies and drinks, after all their hard work. The attendees listened to encouraging words from Mayor Watts and Patrick Smith about the importance of being involved in community projects and working together to build communities. The League of United Latin American citizens would like to see Hispanic organizations and churches participate in this effort by the city leadership to identify issues that are of concern to our community.

### An organization interested in hosting a meeting can contact

Jessica Rogers at (940) 349-8302 or at [jessica.Rogers@cityofdenton.com](mailto:jessica.Rogers@cityofdenton.com).

## Primary Election is Here Get Out and Vote

By Alfredo Sanchez

In every issue of Nuestra Voz, readers are reminded to vote. How many readers have taken that advice seriously? The primary elections are just around the corner and many people including many in the Hispanic community have not registered to vote. A person must be registered to vote 30 days prior to the Election Day, which is March 1, 2016 to be allowed to vote. Therefore, in order to vote in the March primary voters must be registered no later than February 1, 2016. Anyone registering after February 1, 2016 will not be allowed to vote in the March primaries. If you have not registered, you still have a few days to get registered. If you cannot vote, encourage family members to register and vote. If the Hispanic community wants politicians to address their concerns they must vote. Early voting starts on February 16, and ends February 26, 2016. Most voters prefer voting during early voting because voters can vote at any voting location within their county and voting lines are short. Go to [votedenton.com](http://votedenton.com) to locate early voting locations or obtain a voter application. If you print a voter registration card from the Election Administration office and intend to mail in the application the application must be post marked by February 1, 2016. That may require you to hand delivering your application to the post office and making sure it is stamped, February 1. The other option is to stop by the Election Office and fill out the card at the Election Office. If you don't have access to finding early voting locations go to the Elections Administration Office, at 710 Kimberly Drive, Denton, Texas 76208. Early voting always occurs at the Elections Administration building. The Elections Administration Office in Denton is located off loop 288 just behind Aldi's.

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## Mexicanos en el Norte de Texas Por Felix Alvarado

Si hubiera estado en las áreas de Thurber, Coalville, Mingus, Gordon, Strawn o Bridgeport a finales de la década de 1890, podría haber visto la zona repleta de mexicanos. Vinieron a Norte de Texas durante un período llamado como el Porfiriato en México. Porfirio Díaz, Presidente de México podría haber sido un poderoso gobernante pero los únicos que tenían que temer eran los ricos y los poderosos dispuestos a tomar la oportunidad de desplazarle. Para la mayoría de los mexicanos la vida consistía de trabajo, iglesia y un ocasional viaje a la cantina. Vida en México era sencilla y pacífica. Excepto algunas peleas en algún bar o algún borracho perturbando la vida tranquila.

Porfirio Díaz quería que México fuera una potencia económica. Él abrió el país a la inversión extranjera. Dinero de Gran Bretaña, Francia y los Estados Unidos entro al país. Transporte era la clave para el desarrollo económico, un sistema de ferrocarril para conectar todo México tuvo que construirse. Una vez que el ferrocarril fue construido era necesario el sector del carbón. El carbón se encuentra en Zaragoza, Coahuila. México tenía experimentado traqueros como se les llamaba y mineros del carbón. Eran lo mejor de México.

Los comerciantes tejanos también vieron la necesidad de un ferrocarril en el estado de Texas, y alentó a la legislatura a invertir en la construcción de un ferrocarril en Texas. Los ferrocarriles fueron necesarios para conectar Texas a la costa del golfo y el Río Grande. También se vio la necesidad de conectar Texas a Nueva Orleans, al oeste de California y el norte de Chicago. Sólo había un detrimento a la construcción del ferrocarril. Comanche's. North Texas era el país del Comanche. Esto cambio con el fin de la guerra civil. El ejército tenía los recursos para utilizar para eliminar esta amenaza.

Astuto empresarios tejanos sabían a dónde obtener traqueros con experiencia. Astutos empresarios tejanos también sabían dónde obtener mineros con experiencia. Justo al cruzar el Río Bravo en México. No era demasiado difícil para obtener traqueros para instalar las vías férreas en el estado de Texas. No habi más vías férreas para instalar en México. El sueldo no puede haber sido grande pero es mejor que el desempleado. Sólo había una estipulación. No se podía tener miedo de los indios.

La mayoría de los ferroviarios se instaló en áreas

deshabitadas de Texas. Comida y alojamiento para dormir fueron proporcionados por el ferrocarril. Traqueros vivían en furgones. Ahí tenían todo lo que los trabajadores necesitaban. En una buena semana podían instalar 12 km de vías. En ocasiones entretenimiento proporcionado por la compañía de ferrocarril.

No todos estaban de acuerdo con el Porfiriato. Los mexicanos de la clase obrera eran conocidos por expresar su descontento contra el gobierno en varias formas como huelgas o ralentizaciones de trabajo. Cuando el gobierno era insensible a las necesidades de sus trabajadores que mineros expresaron su descontento lo único que pudieron, con sus pies. Que fue la única voz que tenían y lo utilizaron. Se fueron rumbo al norte de America. Los mineros encontraron trabajo en las minas de oro, plata y carbón. Vinieron con su familia e hicieron América su hogar. Traqueros y mineros son el nacimiento del mexicano del norte de Texas y más allá.

## Carta del Editor

Felix Alvarado

Es temporada de elecciones otra vez y hay mucho alboroto acerca de las elecciones. Veremos las elecciones locales que significan mucho más para todos nosotros que las elecciones presidenciales. Una de las principales preocupaciones es la Corte Suprema. Cuatro magistrados son mayores de 80 años y el próximo Presidente también puede ser quien nombre cuatro reemplazos. La Corte Suprema contrariamente a la creencia de muchos es un cuerpo de legislación. Cuando hace una decisión sobre la Constitución, como Roe v. Wade, es la ley de la tierra. La Corte Suprema es muy conservadora ahora mismo. Si una persona muy conservadora es elegida Presidente se va a sentir en las decisiones de la Corte Suprema de Justicia. Los jueces hacen decisiones basadas en ideología.

Damos la bienvenida al Dr. Kent Paredes-Scribner como Superintendente del FWISD. Le deseamos lo mejor y esperamos que la comunidad y la mesa directiva se pongan detrás de sus ideas sobre cómo mejorar el distrito. Recordamos al Dr. Thomas Tocco, Dr. Melody Johnson y al Sr. Walter Dansby. Tal vez no tenían las habilidades de relaciones humanas para el trabajo. Pero no solo eran responsables. La mesa directiva también debe compartir la responsabilidad de su fracaso. Dr. Kent Paredes-Scribner debe ser dado a la latitud para dirigir el distrito en la dirección que va a beneficiar a la comunidad lo mejor. Pueda que tenga que dejar de ir administradores que pueden ser favoritos con unos pocos miembros de la comunidad o de un miembro de la mesa directiva. Debemos mirar el distrito en su total y no lo que beneficia a un puñado de personas. La educación de nuestros hijos es demasiado importante.

Felicitemos a la Sra. Marta Plata, Directora de escuela primaria de Manuel Jara. Su programa de la Universidad de Padres es un gran éxito con los padres. Necesitamos ese tipo de liderazgo en todo el distrito. Muchos padres involucrados es un espectáculo para la vista. Esto es un verdadero puente cultural. Nos centramos esta edición en éxito y educación. Muchos de nuestros niños se gradúan de la secundaria y van para una educación más alta. Necesitamos muchos más. En este esfuerzo es necesario que todos nos



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involucremos. Necesitamos a los políticos sean líderes de su comunidad. Es bueno ser fotografiado en funciones públicas pero es mejor verse involucrados en la comunidad. Es temporada de elecciones. No es la única vez que los políticos debían de salir de su oficina.

La pueblo de Denton tiene una buena relación de con la ciudad. Necesitamos el mismo en todas las comunidades. No espere que alguna catástrofe para expresar su opinión. Expresan todos los días. Antes de que ocurra. Fernando Florez está implicado en la redistribución de distritos del Ayuntamiento de Fort Worth. Redistribución significa que tal vez algunos de aquellos en el poder pueden ser votados fuera de su oficina. Otra vez, esto no es un problema para el beneficio de la comunidad pero el beneficio a pocos. Esto es algo que creemos - es bueno devolver a su comunidad.

## Resolución del Año Nuevo # 6: Deshacerse del Desorden de su Hogar

por Linda Carrasco

Mi madre tenía una manera sarcástica de referirse a la gente. Me acuerdo que a los ancianos que se comportaban tontos para su edad les llamaba "sesentones." Nunca le pregunté qué quería decir con ese término. Para este comentario usaré el apodo para referirme a alguien que tiene más de 60 años y que ha logrado enriquecer su vida con la sabiduría obtenida durante los años que han progresado, por sus experiencias de la vida diaria, y que tiene valiosos consejos que desea compartir con los demás. Por ejemplo, algunos "sesentones" tienen una manera sencilla de mantener el orden en su casa, por el hecho de tener tantos años haciendo las cosas que ahora pueden compartir sugerencias que les sirven bien a los demás. Durante esta temporada parece que todos hacen resoluciones. Las resoluciones se hacen para marcar un comienzo nuevo. Es una oportunidad para renovarse y hacer algo mejor. Bueno, los "sesentones" tienen algunos consejos que se pueden utilizar todo el año y serán útiles, con garantías de éxito, porque están respaldados con muchos años de pruebas. Aquí hay algunos consejos para estimular y apoyar que su hogar sea libre del desorden, compartidos por unos "sesentones" sabios. Haga inventario de su armario o clóset. Si no se ha puesto un artículo de ropa en los últimos doce meses; regálo. Se puede donar ropa a Goodwill, a su iglesia, o alguna otra organización que recoge ropa para los indigentes o personas sin recursos. Pásenla ropa hacia adelante. Alguien en algún lugar puede hacer uso de ella. Si tienen algunos artículos que se pueden vender, se recomienda que se intente. Pero si los artículos no se venden en un plazo razonable, se deben regalar. No es buena idea regresar los artículos que no se venden al armario.

Haga inventario de la despensa de la cocina. Vivimos en un país donde tenemos acceso a una abundancia de alimentos y donde es fácil acumular comida. La mayoría de las veces compramos más alimentos de lo que vamos a utilizar cuanto antes. Revise las fechas en las latas, las botellas, las bolsas, y las cajas que indican que se ha pasado la fecha de caducidad. Es necesario tirar a la basura todos los alimentos con las fechas pasadas. Si hay comida que no se ha vencido pero que no se va a utilizar en el corto plazo, es comida que se puede dar a una despensa de alimentos de su iglesia, a un banco de alimentos de la ciudad, a un vecino necesitado. Pase hacia adelante la comida que no se usará de modo que se

pueda utilizar por alguien más.

Haga inventario de su garaje, los cobertizos del patio trasero, y los almacenamientos alquilados. Algunos expertos especializados en organización recomiendan usar cajas o bolsas grandes, marcadas con estas categorías: Regalar, Reciclar, y Vender. Cuando se considera cada artículo hay que pensar que el motivo es reducir la cantidad de "cosas." Hay que deshacerse de los artículos que no tiene sentido guardarlos; que no se ha hecho nada con ellos; que la intención era usarlos pero nunca se hizo. Si se trata de vender y el artículo no se vende; hay que pasarlo adelante. Considere que hay cosas que se pueden vender a una empresa de reciclaje de metales. Para mantener su escritorio ordenado puede comenzar sencillamente con el hecho de abrir el correo y hacer la determinación de guardar, reciclar, o tirar de inmediato. Quitar los "montones" de papel se logra si se clasifican los papeles con frecuencia usando archivos y un archivador para guardar todo papel importante para referencia futura. Siga la regla de una "sesentona" sabía que contribuyó esta regla: "Para toda cosa, su lugar." Es importante que toda hoja que contiene información personal se rompa o se pase por una trituradora de papel.

Si durante todo el año se siguen estos concejos sencillos se logrará una medida de orden en su casa. Una "sesentona" sabía compartió cómo ella toma una actitud de caridad que le ayuda cuando se encuentra con la decisión de deshacerse de las cosas cuando siente una necesidad percibida para guardarlas. Explica, "Digo a mí misma, otra persona puede utilizar este artículo en lugar de que se quede en mi casa sin uso." Ella sigue el dicho como resolución para toda su vida, "Es mejor dar que recibir" o en este caso; es mejor dar hacia adelante que guardarlo y no usarlo!

## Libre albedrío y acumulación de riqueza

Durante nuestra vida son tres cosas que tenemos que son muy valiosas son: salud, tiempo y libre albedrío. Dos de ellos se contradicen. Si no tienes salud no tienes mucho tiempo. Lo único que tienes para todo el tiempo es libre albedrío. Libre albedrío es lo que le constituye. Es lo que crea tu personaje y quien y eres. Es lo que Dios le ha dado para que decida por su cuenta para mostrar su amor por él. Por ello podemos hacernos dignos de la vida futura con Dios en el cielo para siempre. Libre albedrío nos permite determinar nuestro propio futuro. Digamos que su vida es un gran programa y las opciones son las variables utilizadas para escribir un programa de ordenador. Todo lo que Dios tiene que hacer es ejecutar el programa de ordenador de la vida y saltara, buena o mala, lo será siempre igual. De todas las opciones que tiene una opción más importante es el variable de "Amor". Ese crea la mejor ecuación para programar el ordenador de la vida. Muchos renunciar a su libre albedrío cuando se dejan de tener deseos incontrolables de cosas que no son buenas para el alma o el cuerpo. Asumen esos deseos y tu libre albedrío va en "tengo que tenerlo". Ahora eres un esclavo de esos deseos.

Más a menudo se utiliza mucho de nuestro libre albedrío para hacer cosas que nos permiten acumular riqueza y poder conseguir cosas. Creemos que tenemos que tener más y más cosas que podemos mirar éxito o ganar el juego de tener más juguetes que los demás. Bueno cuando morimos dejamos todo el materialismo y riqueza aquí en la tierra. No nos llevamos nada. La única riqueza que es buena para ti es la riqueza que has acumulado en el cielo. Como acumulas riquezas en el cielo, bueno me alegra la

pregunta. Primero es necesario tener las herramientas adecuadas que incluyen: el conocimiento de la palabra de Dios encontrada en la Biblia, tienes que estar en comunicación con Dios a través de la oración, y tienes que ser capaz de humillarse a sí mismo. Eso incluye mostrar amor por sus vecinos que también incluye los malos.

Libre voluntad y tiempo van juntos. Dios sólo le da una cierta cantidad de tiempo. Una vez que ha pasado el tiempo no te puedes volver. Cómo utilizas el tiempo que tienes aquí en la tierra es totalmente tuya. Te han dado el cerebro en la cabeza y un libre albedrío para tomar esas decisiones. Recuerde que Dios trabaja a través de usted. Cuando ves a una persona en necesidad y ayudas a esa persona ese es Dios trabajando para ayudar a alguien a través de ti. Cuando damos con amor un poco de nuestro tiempo para hacer el bien por Dios, cuando oramos, asistir y participar en la misa, es como regalo para Dios. Esos regalos se acumulan como riqueza en el cielo y amigos, ese el tipo de riqueza que debemos todos querer acumular.

La paz sea con vosotros todos,

Joe Govea, un católico de toda la vida cuya tarea es evangelizar.

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