Let’s talk about it...

By Yvette Tello

I just overheard a very interesting conversation between a Mother and her son; he was about 10 years old. As they waited for their dinner, they watched another Trump headline on the television. Mom called him an idiot and said someone should put a stop to this nonsense. He asked her, “Who did you vote for?” She explained she had not voted because she felt their was not a qualified candidate to vote for. The young boy said, “then you shouldn’t complain because when you had a chance to vote, you didn’t.” Mother just stared at him. He then continued, “so next time you have the chance to vote, I think you should.” I remember many people felt very much like the mother during the election, me included. Did you vote? If you knew then what you know now, would you still have made the same choice? Let’s talk about it...

Mary Svetlik Watkins I did not vote for Trump or his opponent. I’m a card carrying libertarian. However, it irritates me to no end when people call the president names - horrible things yet get upset that he does the same. It’s the whole “that idiot called me and idiot” scenario. When ever you point fingers, three point back at you.

Jazmin D Zuñiga I voted & I encouraged ALOT of ppl to do so, some did some didn’t & I don’t Regret My Vote & there were a few who were voting for Trump Because of religious believes against abortion & I tried to explain that even if abortion is legal, you are the one that makes that decision not the law. Not sure which way they went.

Eliseo Moreno I didn’t vote for either one of them and would not for either one of them again. Between the two there were no decent candidates to vote for. I’m not going to vote for something / someone that I believe is wrong. Also makes no sense, just to be able to complain I should vote for one of the candidates that I don’t believe are good people ??

Regina Deseri Gonzales I voted for Trump because the other choice I felt was more dangerous. I do not agree with everything he’s done but I do believe he’s working hard. I support the office of the President and have even when whomever I voted for may not have won. I’m pro America, pro Democracy and pray for our country’s leaders. Yes I would vote the same…and respect difference of opinions.

Eliseo Moreno He is doing great work but if he could only work with people in a more positive manner I believe he could achieve great things. It just seems so counter productive the way he goes about some things. wish him the best but seems like when it comes to relations he keeps digging deeper.

Henry Shamdas I agree and also disagree with you. Yes respect the office of the president and as such he should also respect that office and be above petty name calling and fighting. Be above it because you represent us on the world stage not the ones calling him names.

Regina Deseri Gonzales Eliseo Moreno I completely agree. He’s not tactful at all and seems to put people off rather than encourage unity. It’s what makes me sad. Ultimately though he SHOULD be more diplomatic, not sure he will ever be great at it. Praying for the best always...

A Note from the Editor: Celebrating Grandparents Day

San Antonio is a city of grandmas and tias, of mothers and sisters. An extremely ancient family place like the families who have been here since before the borders, watching the city change from ranches to roadways.

Today we cherish our grandparents, our ancestors, their experience and how we continue their legacy. Dr. Romo has shared an incredible story in this issue (page 8) of his family beginnings in the south, the connections to Mexico and a parallelled family work ethic that has helped him reach his goals.

Where do we come from? Origins. It is in my blood and what I put in from of myself. I could live anywhere and I chose to live in the same neighborhood as my grandma. I like to see her and talk to her. She speaks only spanish.

She teaches me how to cook and how to garden and most importantly how to speak spanish.

She is 83 years old. Her name is Cointa and she was born on February 8, 1935 in Panuco Veracruz, Mexico.

I will be driving her to dallas this weekend to visit my tia and I am looking forward to all of the things she will tell me.

My Grandmothers were born on the same day. The same kind of chick, I think. My Grandma Hopie was born on February 8, 1944 in Reynosa, Mexico.

I carry their journey with me and cherish every moment with them. Happy Grandparents day.
Today we have the honor of sharing our cover with Artist: Lucy Llera. The artwork featured is entitled, Don Jesús. Lucy Llera has been living in San Antonio since 1982 and received her Art Degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio. But her desire and pursuit of being a contributor to the expression of art and the knowledge of the arts, Ms. Lucy was a bilingual elementary teacher for 17 years and was a high school art teacher for 13 years. She continually advances her own artist skills as she studied under the guidance and direction of Warren Hunter, a well regarded watercolorist, participated in painting workshops with Lesta Frank and Gladys Roldan de Moras, Daniel Green and Dalhart Weinberg among other endeavors.

Lucy Llera lives a life that is a blossoming rich fragrance of love and passion and observation, through and for the breath of arts. Born in Cayey, Puerto Rico her artwork reflects the antiquity and long reaching, heritage and culture of the island. She is drawn to the display of the foundations and commitments that she observes that are being embodied by the artisans of Puerto Rico. The cover art that is featured today is an up close vantage point; a profound segment, of her many experiences which are the real life person living in Puerto Rico performing in the historic Puerto Rican Festival of San Juan. Don Jesús made by hand the conga that he is playing and stretched and treated the leather covering that tautly drapes the instrument. His shirt is intentional and celebrates the honor and history of the African heritage, culture and traditions that are prominent fibers of Puerto Rican life.

I asked Lucy to share with me her heart and her motivations for her art through her eyes and this is what she said,” I believe that artisans, musicians, dancers and painters have the responsibility of preserving culture, wishing that traditions do not die. My inspiration through art is to showcase culture, especially that of my beloved island of Puerto Rico. But I also paint the landscapes of places I have visited abroad. I want people to see in my oil paintings and watercolors the beauty of traditions and landscapes. I paint the nostalgia, or the memory of a past that I want to preserve.

I paint traditional landscapes, like the flamboyant that invites you to sit down and rest. It is the flamboyant that, as a song says, dressed in red, looks like the king of Spring. Also, I enjoy painting children and adults. In their faces and in their traditional dresses that so much call my attention, I can see their pride in their culture.”

Please enjoy her words in Español:”Creo que los artesanos, músicos, bailarines y pintores tenemos en nuestras manos la responsabilidad de preservar la cultura, desean conservar o nuestras tradiciones. Mi inspiración a través del arte es llevar al público el conocimiento de la cultura de los pueblos, especialmente la de mi querida isla de Puerto Rico. Pero también pinto los paisajes de sitios que he visitado en mis viajes. Deseo que la gente al ver mis óleos y acuarelas vean la belleza de nuestras tradiciones y los paisajes. Pinto la nostalgia, el recuerdo de un pasado que quiero conservar en mis obras.

Pinto la naturaleza típica, como el flamboyán que te invita a sentarte y a descansar. Es el flamboyán que, como dice la canción, vestido de rojo, luce el rey de la primavera. También, disfruto pintar niños y adultos. Trato de captar su orgullo en su cultura tanto en sus caras como en sus vestidos típicos que tanto me llaman la atención.”

We are living in a world where there are many artificial influences that are powerful and pressing and have strong impacts on how we interact and engage with the world we live in. But that can be the beauty of the life of an artist. They can create the world they want to live in.

To see more of her work: Upcoming Exhibition:
Essence Exhibit Freight Gallery
1913 S Flores St. Saturday, Nov. 10, 2018
6pm- 9pm
Puerto Rican Heritage Society 16th Festival Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018 San Antonio Shrine Auditorium
901 North Loop 1604 W 12pm-6pm

If you are a local artist or know an artist from San Antonio who would like their work featured on the cover of La Prensa Texas, Please contact Melissa Bryant at info@laprensatexas.com or call 2106860600

About the Cover Artist: Lucy Llera
Southern Soul Blues Legend “Marvelous Mel” Commemorated with Mel Waiters Way Street in Hometown San Antonio

Hundreds gathered on the Eastside of San Antonio, Texas Saturday morning for the dedication and ribbon cutting.

The ceremony of “Mel Waiters Way” the newly named street running from north to south in honor of the late hometown Blues Legend ‘Marvelous’ Mel Waiters. He grew up in the East Terrace Neighborhood where he honed his skills as an artist. Waiters was known throughout the South for his hits including “Got My Whiskey” and “Hole in the Wall,” where his music set the tone for dancing and socializing.

Mel Waiters passed on May 28, 2015.

Public officials including San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg, County Commissioner Pct. 4 Tommy Calvert, City Councilman District 2 William “Cruz” Shaw, and State Representative District 120 Barbara Gervin-Hawkins joined Mel’s widow and daughter, Portia and Brittney Waiters, for remarks commemorating the music legend at the intersection of Mel Waiters Way and Paso Hondo streets.

A recurring theme amongst speakers was Mel’s constant jovial demeanor that lifted people’s spirits and the generosity and kindness he extended everybody he came in contact with.

“He took care of people and treated everybody he encountered with respect, I don’t think there was ever a time he said the word ‘no’ to anybody, ever, when they needed help,” said Portia Waiters.

Earlier this year the Mayor and City Council voted unanimously after the majority of the citizens on Rio Grande Street signed the petition to name the street after the famous, late Blues Singer.

Local non-profit community radio station KROVFM.com, Restore Our Voice, was on the scene conducting a live remote along with sponsors VIA Metropolitan Transit, Judge Genie Wright, Confidential Search Solutions, Done and Done Property Solutions, Sundt Davila and the Neighborhoods First Alliance.

Mel Waiters used to say “I sing about real life from the experiences I’ve gone through and people respond to it because they’ve been through it too.”

More than 300 people attended this historic event. Mel Waiters is only the second African American, and first musician, in San Antonio, the seventh largest city in the nation, to have a street named after him.

Send News Tips to info@laprensatexas.com
New West Side Education and Training Center Facility Announced for Construction in Spring 2019

By S. Duran

Alamo colleges announced last week that a new WETC facility will replace the existing one with a celebration at its current location near highway 151 and Enrique M. Barrera Pkwy. Students enjoyed tacos and refreshments as the district unveiled their new plans.

A decision has not been made on whether to build it where the current building sits or at a different site. The design plan process spans from September 2018 to April 2019.

Kay Hendricks, a spokesperson for Alamo Colleges said, “The planning process takes some time because this is a partnership effort and the community is very involved and we want everyone to have their voice heard in the design process.”

The size of the facility is not determined yet, but $23 million was set aside for the project from the Alamo Colleges 2017 bond issue of $450 million.

“The Westside Education and Training Center exemplifies both our mission of empowering our diverse communities for success, and one of our most important values: being community-engaged,” said Alamo Colleges District Chancellor Dr. Bruce Leslie.

“I have been chancellor for the 12 years since the WETC opened in its current form, and I am deeply gratified to see how the Westside community has embraced the center and our efforts to improve lives through the power of education and skills training. The new WETC building will allow us to serve more students with more programs so that we can build on the success of the past 12 years.”

The Health Profession Opportunity Grant program that trains healthcare workers will continue at the new location and be able to enroll more students to meet the large demand for this program.

Construction on the new facility is planned to begin in May 2019 and completed by the summer of 2020 so that students can be in their new seats by fall 2020.

Photos taken by Steve Walker
You are not forgotten
Honoring our veterans
1100 W. Commerce, San Antonio, TX
November 3, 2018 • Save the date • 10 AM - 6 PM

Join us as we celebrate veterans across all generations, honoring tradition, respect and pride—traits deeply embedded in the westside culture. This very special event highlights, honors and pays reverence to veterans from across our community and acknowledges the courage, history and legacy of their contributions and recognizes those who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country. Please save the date and share with others.

A very special “thank you” to our sponsors:

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Tres días de fiesta en Market Square por Labor Day

Por Roberto Perez

Con beneplacito para locales y turistas la Ciudad de San Antonio y los comerciantes de Market Square ofrecieron tres días de fiesta ofrecieron en las escenarios de El Mercado con motivo de Labor Day.

Con este motivo la celebración fue ininterrumpida el sábado, domingo y lunes con música variada en vivo, exhibición de artesanías, comida tradicional de Texas y presentación de magos ambulantes quienes se han hecho muy populares en lugares en eventos festivos en diferentes partes de la ciudad.
My grandfather, Jose Maria Saenz, came to America in 1882, the year of the first Labor Day parade in New York City. He came to Texas from the Mexican state of Nuevo Leon where work was scarce and salaries seldom matched the hard work.

His older brothers had settled in Benavides, Texas, a small ranching and agricultural community in South Texas. He would spend much of his life in those fields and ranches.

Although my grandfather came to be with his family, he never returned to his birthplace as he considered economic opportunities in America superior to those of Mexico.

In the first Labor Day parade in New York, ten thousand workers took an unpaid day off to march for the rights of workers. These rights included decent wages and working conditions. In all the workplaces, which included factories, steel mills, mines and sweatshops, men and women worked twelve hour days with no paid holidays or benefits.

U.S. Department of Labor data from the 1880s shows an average wage of $1.34 daily with an annual income of $345. Thus, in some cases, workers earned pennies per hour. The exploitation of children, as young as eight and nine years of age, was common in most industries, especially in the mines and mill works. Children earned an average of $8.00 per month for a sixty-hour week of work or 240 hours.

Ranch work was no easier. My grandfather, who worked with cattle and horses, was up at sunrise, usually by five in the morning, and worked until sunset. A Texas wage report for that time period shows that ranch hands made $30 per month in the 1880s, with housing and food included, which would average about $1.15 a day for a six day week. However, many ranch hands were always on the job. The ranch hands often drove cattle to market, which meant little home life for weeks or months at a time. They ate and slept, rain or shine, under an open sky.

The salary for ranch hands actually seems a bit high given that the same Texas report showed male teachers earning $72.00 per year, while women teachers earned only $54.50. Thus male teachers earned $8.00 per month for nine months with no salary during the summer months while women teachers earned $6 per month!

In the 1880s, numerous labor demonstrations on the East Coast turned violent as protestors and police clashed in the streets. Some labor organizers believed a holiday and celebration was needed and they pushed for a special day to recognize, in their words, the “social and economic achievements of American workers.”

By 1894, Texas had joined 23 other states in adopting the holiday. That year the U.S. Congress passed Labor Day legislation making the first Monday in September a legal holiday.

There is irony to the fact that my grandfather’s family came to Texas in the year of great labor unrest in America. The workers who marched in New York in 1882 were actually protesting several incidents whereby police had shot and killed labor protestors in strikes and demonstrations. The demonstrations and strikes led to greater organization of labor and the rise of several charismatic labor leaders. These labor leaders paved the way for later formation of the American Federation of Labor (AFL) and the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) labor organizations. These organizations were able to eventually succeed in limiting the number of hours that employers could demand of workers and end the use of child labor.

U.S. Department of Labor data actually shows a slight increase in wages for blue collar workers in America over the following years when labor organizations gained strength in the decade of the 1880s.

Labor organizations also made possible the expansion of work opportunities for women. Today women still do not earn the same wages as men, but many industries are catching up. An example of this is in the nursing profession where wages have increased substantially over the last fifty years and where there seems to be greater equity between male and female nurses.

Fields such as nursing did not have strong labor affiliations, but as wages increased for skilled blue collar and service workers, nurses did better financially. No doubt, salary gains came at a snail’s pace. Nurses who averaged $3-$5 daily for 20 hour shifts in 1908 still only earned $140 per month in 1950, or $35 per week.

In the last 20 years, the nursing profession has made significant gains, as nurses today average $68,000 annually nationally. There is currently a high demand for health profession workers, and many hospitals have problems finding enough well trained and skilled healthcare providers.

The high demand for nurses in California today is such that the average hourly wage is $45, while the annual average wage has risen to $94,120. Other states that are losing nursing staff to California are making salary adjustments.

Thus workers have made significant gains over the past century which calls for a celebration. Labor Day is when we barbecue and say good bye to the summer, but this holiday is also the day when we thank all the workers in the past who made it possible for us to afford the grill and steaks.
Tuesday we celebrate the 17th anniversary of the 9-11 massacre of nearly 3-thousand people during a series of four coordinated terrorist attacks on New York City and the Washington D.C. area on that fateful Tuesday morning. Many of us remember vividly where we were and what we were doing when the disaster happened.

On that day, I was a Special Education Teacher at Kingsborough Middle School in Harlandale ISD. I recall sitting in the back of the classroom at the computer gathering information for my students. The lead teacher was presenting a lesson while I was getting the needed material when a fellow teacher burst into the room and shouted that planes had just crashed into the World Towers in New York City.

The other teacher immediately turned on the television and we watched aghast as the scenario played out in front of us. All day long, students and faculty in various classrooms were glued to the TV. Students and teachers were engaged in numerous discussions about the repercussions. It touched us all.

At lunchtime, one of my fellow teachers shared with us that her aunt was standing near the Towers at the time, when a huge piece of concrete weighing hundreds of pounds fell off the tower and landed very near her. The impact was so great the backlash threw her more than 20 feet away. When she woke up two days later she didn’t remember anything. She did suffer a broken collar bone. Thank God she lived to tell about it.

Closer to home, I heard from one of my brothers who was living in North Carolina and did business in New York. He was scheduled to be on the very plane that crashed into the Pentagon. He related to me that he cancelled minutes before the plane left the airport because he received a message that he needed to return to the office of a client whom he had previously visited. He then rescheduled a later flight that day to accommodate the client. Once again it could have been devastating for my family.

People also forget that numerous Hispanics perished in that terrorist attack. The Dominican community contributed the highest quota of fatalities, (25) among all the Hispanics who died in the carnage that fateful day. But today, 17 years after the terrorist attack, very few remember many of those victims and how it continues to affect their loved ones.

According to official figures, 9 percent of all citizens that died that day were Dominicans, Columbians, Ecuadorians, Cubans, Argentinians, Chileans, Haitians, Mexicans and others from El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Peru, Venezuela, Paraguay, and even some from Guyana.

We recall that four passenger airliners were hijacked by 19 Al-Qaeda terrorists. 227 civilians and the hijackers aboard those four planes died. It was also the deadliest catastrophe for firefighters and law enforcement officers with 343 and 72 respectively.

The words of President Franklin Roosevelt when Pearl Harbor was bombed, ring loud and clear many years later quote: “It is a day that will live in infamy.” It certainly applies to September 11th, 2001.

On a more positive note, I remarried my wife, Linda, three years ago Tuesday on 9-11. That is also a day I won’t forget!

As always, I write “Just a Thought.”
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Auburn and Notre Dame Sneak into Top 5 Poll

Por Jessica Duran

Auburn sneaks into the number 3 spot in week two polls following a 21-16 victory over Washington. Washington’s offense led by senior quarterback Jake Browning, couldn’t shake Auburn’s powerhouse defense. Some wonder if this Auburn team will be the team to face either Georgia or Alabama in the SEC Championship. Number three Auburn will face Alabama State, a matchup that will look more like a scrimmage game for the War Eagles.

Alabama course took care of business against Louisville in the Camping World kickoff game. The Roll Tide rolled over the Cardinals in a 51-14 result. Sophomore quarterback Tua Tagovailoa got the start instead of Senior Jalen Hurts. Tua proved he’s the real deal and might have sealed Jalen Hurts’ fate. The Roll Tide will face Arkansas State on Saturday.

Clemson moved up to the number two spot in the top 25 poll after defeating Furman 48-7. Freshman quarterback Trevor Lawrence led the way for the Tigers throwing for 3 touchdown passes. Lawrence may come out of the shadow that was cast over the position after the loss of former quarterback and now Houston Texans quarterback DeShaun Watson. The Clemson Tigers will face Texas A&M in what will be a big test for the freshman, this will also be a test for A&M Coach Jimbo Fisher and the Aggies. If A&M wants to crack the Top 25, they’ll need to shock the nation in an upset over Clemson.

The biggest disappointment in week one was the Texas Longhorns. Now ranked 18 and back injuries may have stirred the pot to his release. Bailey was set to make $4 million next year but will now instead try to get a roster spot with the New York Jets.

For Jets fans, this could be the start of a new era, the Sam Darnold era. With the Teddy Bridgewater trade and with 38 year old veteran Josh McCowan’s lackluster pre-season, Darnold has earned himself the starting quarterback job for week one against the Detroit Lions. Darnold did not throw a single interception in pre-season and was about as efficient as a successful veteran quarterback. First year head coach Matt Patricia from the Lions may have his hands full against Darnold in the bright lights of Monday Night Football.

With teams following the likes of “Super Teams” in the NFL, teams are gathering prime athletes to hoist up the Lombardi trophy in February. So far, it’s looking like it’s anyone’s year. Get your football game snacks ready and buckle up for a wild ride. The NFL is back!
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