Women on the Rise

San Antonio’s Picasso – Franco Mondini Ruiz
14,000 Marching Immigrants and Growing
La Prensa Texas Women in Action Awards
City Charter Amendments Likely Defeated Says Survey
Dia de los Muertos
Let’s talk about it…

Marching Immigrants

By Yvette Tello

There are 14,000 immigrants marching to the land of opportunity. Some say this is the work of President Trump’s build the wall and others say it is part of George Soros’ open boards. Either or / or both, this caravan has tremendous implications to our country. It seems everybody has an opinion about this migration. But perhaps the only view point that really matters is that of the Latinos that are here today. After all, it is these immigrants that represent a journey made by our ancestors, recently and many years ago. What do you think is happening and why? Let’s talk about it….

Greg Jordan: “The legality is the issue here. There’s a correct, legal way to be granted asylum in our great and prosperous nation. These people are going about this the wrong way. The Federal Government knows nothing about these people. Are they child molesters? Rapists? Gang members? Who knows? The United States has a process for admission. These people should turn around and go home. We are struggling to help ourselves, how can we help them?”

Sandy Rodriguez: “It’s so hard to decide; on one hand you can understand. They want a chance at a better life but how can they ever get a chance to apply? At the same time, not everyone deserves to be given the opportunity to apply”

Robin S. Tello: “I don’t like it. These immigrants are going to attack our borders illegally and who knows what kind if people they are? Rapists, murderers, drug dealers? They can possibly take our jobs away and we will have to provide our money to them. Remember that case with the immigrant that came back 5 times just to rape and murder an American woman? If they want to come into the US, do it right!”

Charles Cervantes: “One has to ask themselves are these people/family’s coming due to poverty, violence, corrupt government and how many were in prison, jails, gangs, only to come with ill/evil intent towards our children, Remember Fidel Castro cleaned out his jails and prisons sending boat loads to the U.S.”

Carmen Madariaga: “The eminent danger of the infiltration of terrorists, and other criminal elements is very concerning in these numbers. I believe any human has a right to peruse a better standard of life. Yet, it seems very unfair to the many honest people who wait in line, and sacrifice to come in legally. There is no doubt this tremendous influx is organized, funded, and there is an agenda behind this. LET US PRAY FOR OUR NATION…Only GOD knows the heart and intentions of these people. May GOD have Mercy on those who are sincere in seeking a better standard of life without malice.”

Mary Svetlik Watkins: “There is a legal way to come to this country. Thousands do it every year.

My other concern is what is coming? Are the terrorists, criminals? Look at the mass exodus of people from Syria and what they did to Greece and Germany. Look at the Sudanese mess in Minneapolis.”

Carey Mabry: “We have this mass Exodus of a caravan headed here from the other side of the Mexico border. Logistically speaking, a person could feasibly walk 8 miles a day. A three month long trek? If it’s a short trek, there are other forces at play and people helping create this issue at hand. I am quite skeptical about the actual reasons why they are coming here. And with the amount of news this has created it would be quite easy for terrorists to mingle in with this caravan and attempt to get here.”

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About the Cover Artist:
Franco Mondini Ruiz

By Dr. Ricardo Romo

Franco Mondini Ruiz calls San Antonio home, but he has enough history in New York that the Big Apple is also home to him. He is a fearless artist inclined to live multiple lives and thus has managed to master the art of painting, installation, structure, interior decoration and writing. He could make a living working solely in any one of these mediums, but he prefers to engage in artistic creations.

To some extent, he reminds me of Pablo Picasso whom we know often started a painting in the morning, worked at mid day decorating plates, and ended the evening building a clay model for a bronze sculpture. Mondini-Ruiz doesn’t work with clay or bronze, but he does many other creative things exceedingly well.

Mondini-Ruiz presently lives and works in a former tortilla factory in Southtown. Whether you are an art lover or a curious tourist, walking into his Presa Street studio one experiences what it must feel like to be a part of a huge art installation. Every inch of the gallery is filled with artifacts and antique-like memorabilia. All these objects crowd his large paintings, but a path has been left clear to enter his work area where more paintings and a few artifacts are stacked.

Since returning to San Antonio in 2006 after living in New York, Mondini-Ruiz has devoted himself to twelve to fifteen hours daily to create art. He stays busy because he has cultivated many art lovers, including Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, who bought sixty small paintings for her 60th birthday. He can work days on a landscape or produce an excellent portrait in less than an hour.

Mondini-Ruiz hasn’t always been an artist. He graduated from Saint Mary’s University Law School in the late 1980s and went to work for USAA in their legal office. The money was good, but he was not happy. One day he decided to quit and follow his passion—art.

The San Antonio community has followed Mondini-Ruiz since he made his creative debut in the mid 1990s with his “Infinito Botanica,” a Southtown artistic gallery where he filled a former botanical store with his installations and sold the art of local artists. The space was also filled with folk art and a few pre-Columbian artifacts.

In 1996 Mondini-Ruiz had his first big artistic break with his selection by ArtPace for the International Artist-in-Residence Program. For his residency, he installed a version of his “Infinito Botanica” store at ArtPace. Art critic Frances Colpitt describes this installation as “a fluid exchange of cultural objects—historical, ethnic, sexual and religious…elegant to behold, Infinito sets up a confluence of worlds mirroring one another into infinity.”

The ArtPace residency opened new doors for Mondini-Ruiz and in 2000 his art was included in the Whitney Biennial. The Whitney Biennial is considered one of the leading art shows in the world, often setting or leading trends in contemporary art. It first started in 1932 and has always focused on identifying young, talented artists who have yet to reach prominence. Since its beginning, the Whitney Biennial has enhanced the careers of artists like Georgia O’Keeffe, Jackson Pollock and Jeff Koons.

Mondini-Ruiz’ participation in the ArtPace residency and inclusion in the Whitney Biennial contributed to his selection in 2005 for the American Academy Rome Prize. One of thirty scholars and artists selected for this prize, he spent a year in Rome, Italy and began showing internationally with exhibits in Prague, Madrid, Helsinki and Bologna.

The Smithsonian American Art Museum collected one of Mondini Ruiz’ best known pieces, Crystal City, for an exhibition titled Our America: The Latino Presence in American Art. It is a tabletop installation which the curators noted is a gathering of “disparate objects—crystal stemware, mirrors, and inexpensive tchotchkes—designed to resemble a city seen from above.”

In the early 1970s, Latinos in Crystal City, Texas engaged in a prolonged battle for civil rights which included demands for Latino representation in city government. Latinos made up 80% of the population of this small South Texas town, but not a single Latino had served in city government in the entire century. In the Smithsonian exhibition, Mondini-Ruiz “expresses his ideas about what motivated the quest for equal rights.”

Mondini-Ruiz’ work is popular in San Antonio and his iconic images of women in fancy clothes—often with poodles—as well as other images of birthday cakes and chandeliers decorate many homes and small shops. One can always count on a witty title or reference in his paintings. “The Last Brunch,” for example, shows a table surrounded by Mariachis. A painting of a wedding couple standing next to a century plant has the title “Wedding of the Century.” Mondini Ruiz is a talented artist with a mission—to make a living as an artist and to have fun with his work.
Early Voting Does Matter
Over 100,000 votes to date
Brought to you by Bexar County Election

Daily
Total Votes

33,211

Previous
Total Votes

69,330

Total Votes
TO DATE

102,541
By Rosie Speedlin-Gonzalez

The mid-seventies were a time that brings to mind Presidential impeachment, Patty Hearst & the Symbionese Liberation Army, and a brand-new face on the national political horizon, a peanut farmer from Georgia, Jimmy Carter. In Texas, Dolph Briscoe, a Democrat, a rancher from Uvalde was Texas Governor.

In Brownsville, Mr. Ruben Edelstein was running for mayor. He and his brother, Mr. Ben, were the proprietors of Edelstein’s Better Furniture, a valley wide furniture store chain, and my Mom’s employers. The Edelsteins were huge proponents of education and collaborative community efforts. Mr. Ruben was always the first to arrive to work and last to leave after a long day’s work. My Mom often spoke about how Mr. Ruben was still at the office, many times writing to our State leadership or Congressman about what Brownsville needed for progress and infrastructure. It was Mr. Ruben who was my Mom’s biggest cheerleader in her journey to attaining her college Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees.

In 1974, Mr. Ruben was running for mayor and he leaned on my Mom to help him organize barrio Pachangas. The Pachangas always included music, beer and tamales. A timeless recipe for success in politics then and now. My Mom would spend countless hours on the phone looking for musicos, finding a speaker and mic or a bullhorn, ordering tamales or getting them donated, then getting the word out to the neighborhood and her friends about the Pachanga to make sure Mr. Ruben had a good grassroots crowd in attendance. I would help my Mom, even at the tender age of 9, to get organized, carry things, pass out flyers, making phone calls, whatever she needed . . . it was my first real exposure and participation in politics and I fell in love with it, all of it.

I remember the Pachanga at Garfield Park on the concrete slab that was the park’s basketball court. It was one of several my Mom helped organize. There were Pachangas at Lincoln Park and Ringgold Park, too.

The one at Garfield Park was special because it was across the street from our house with the people of our neighborhood. Everyone came out to hear Mr. Ruben speak and do his stump speech. He may not have had a deep, resonating voice, but his voice was full of hope and passion for “le gente” de Brownsville. His secret weapon and most valuable asset was that he spoke Spanish and he spoke it well. The barrio folks went nuts for him.

It was then that I started to realize that one person can create positive change for many more than just themselves.

Mr. Ruben went on to be elected Mayor of Brownsville from 1975-1979. He was also one of the founders of United Way of Southern Cameron County and helped found the local utilities board. Mom was proud to have worked for him, prouder to have had a role in his political success and even more proud to be able to call him her mentor and friend.

His politics were inclusive. His politics were for the masses. He was a true champion of the people. Thinking of that time and of him kicks in melancholy feelings for days past when folks worked for the betterment of communities and not just individual pursuits (like obsessing about how many people attended their swearing in ceremony, feeding their ego or ensuring that “tweets” go out every night to distract the masses from the real issues at hand).

Bring back Pachangas, musicos, tamales and beer and I promise the America we are meant to be will soon reappear.
By Dr. Palafox

Should doctors be prescribing weight loss as a treatment for breast cancer? A recent article in the New York Times talked about this by highlighting a study that is has gotten underway this summer. This study has been initiated by the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. The researchers have recruited 3200 women from the US and Canada with recently diagnosed Stage 2 or Stage 3 breast cancer. The women must be overweight with a BMI of at least 27 and they must have certain characteristics to their breast cancer. They have to be able to walk at least a couple of blocks and have a life expectancy of 5 years. They will be randomly assigned to either a telephone-based weight loss program or to a control group as a comparison. The weight loss program is basically a walking program and telephone reminders to exercise, as well as suggestions on how to keep up with the program. Previous studies have shown that if patients receive telephone reminders, they are more likely to keep up with the exercise program. These patient will be followed for 10 years to see if the exercise program prevents their cancer from coming back.

There are studies that are decades old that demonstrate that obese and overweight women are more likely to die of their breast cancer. Two years ago a meta-analysis was done of over 80 studies involving over 200,000 women; this study showed that women who were obese when diagnosed had a 41% greater risk of death, while women who were in the overweight category but had a BMI less than 30 had a 7% risk of dying from their cancer.

Although this study is specific for breast cancer, it has been well-established in other cancers that obesity puts us in a higher risk category for cancer. This is true in colon cancer, for example. The changes in our bodies that happen with obesity include higher insulin and glucose levels, inflammation, and higher levels of certain proteins—all of which seem to give fuel to cancer growth. All these things send a message to cancer cells telling them it is a good time to grow, and the nutrition that cancer needs is there in obese patients.

Weight loss is not easy. Consider this, however: there was a trial a few years back that also tested a telephone-based weight loss program and found that women who lost only 4 to 5 % of their body weight lowered their risk of cancer. That is only 7-10 pounds for a person who weighs about 200 pounds. So even though most of us would like to lose more than that, 7 to 10 pounds is a number that we can hope to reach.

Talk to your doctor about a walking program; it will not only help diabetes and blood pressure, but can also lower your risk for cancer by helping you lose weight. Put cancer on a diet!
By Rebeca Martinez

Last month, I had the honor of speaking at a “Su Voto Es Su Voz” event hosted by the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project as part of Hispanic Heritage Month. Today, nearly 58 million people, or 18% of Americans, are of Hispanic or Latino descent. Generations of Hispanic Americans have positively enriched our nation and culture. Our mission is a continuing one. As mid-term elections approach this November 6th, I continue to believe in the power of our collective voice in this country’s political process. Now, more than ever, your vote matters.

As Latinos, we are not immune from the biased criticism I suffered in college and law school. Even as a Latina serving on the bench, I am not immune from attack. We may all share a story when at one time, we were perceived as taking a seat belonging to someone else. When we find ourselves in a room that lacks a necessary voice, we must speak up.

I am proud to have served the last 6 years as your justice on the Texas Fourth Court of Appeals, currently the only all-female court of its size in the country. On the court, 4 of the 7 Justices are Latinas. But don’t take that as a sign that we are at the end of the tunnel. Women still comprise less than 10% of the judiciary here in Texas, even less are women of color.

There is a common thread among all Americans – liberal or conservative, male or female, black white or brown, young or old. We the People, in order to form a more perfect union, ESTABLISH JUSTICE – we all believe in a fair and independent judiciary.

As Latinos, we must continue to fight to preserve the integrity of the most important branch of government – the judiciary. Shakespeare wrote in one of his classic plays, “The first thing we do, let’s kill all the lawyers.” Why? Well, in order to overthrow a sense of security and rule of law, the first thing you do is take over the judiciary. And that’s what will happen if you don’t vote.

Early voting is Monday, Oct. 22nd - Friday, November 2nd. Election day is Tuesday, November 6th. Remember to vote all the way down the ballot. Your judicial candidates will outnumber the statewide candidates at the top of the ballot. Now is the real revolution. VOTE!
City of San Antonio
Spanish Translations web page now available

As part of the City’s efforts to build a more equitable and engaged community, the City of San Antonio launched SanAntonio.gov “en español” with key information relevant to the City’s Spanish-speaking community. The page, www.sanantonio.gov/español, includes City services that Spanish-speaking residents search for the most according to web visitor data. Councilman Treviño worked to include Spanish translation services across the City’s platforms. Previously, the only Spanish translation on the City’s website involved a Google plugin. The City’s Spanish engagement efforts extend to the government access channel, TVSA. New this fiscal year, San Antonio residents can watch City Council meetings live in Spanish from their TV sets by enabling Second Audio Programming (SAP) from their remote controls. This function is also available on the live webstream at sanantonio.gov/tvsa.

BELIEF IN THESE VALUES IS WHY DEMOCRATS SUPPORT:

- Public Education
- Living Wages
- Voting Rights
- Women’s Rights
- Consumer Protections
- National Security
- Public Safety
- Social Security
- Universal Healthcare
- Job Training
- Civil Rights
- Immigration Rights

2018 GENERAL ELECTION IMPORTANT DATES:

- Last day to register to vote: Tuesday, October 9
- First day of early voting: Monday, October 22
- Last day to apply for Ballot By Mail: Friday, October 26
- Last day of early voting: Friday, November 2
- Election Office receives Ballot by Mail: Tuesday, November 6
- General Election Day: Tuesday, November 6

November 6, 2018 is the Vote of your LIFETIME!

Your Comal County Ballot—We Appreciate Your Vote

Beto O’Rourke, United State Senator
Joseph Kopser, U.S. Representative, District 21
Lloyd Dogget, U.S. Representative, District 35 — Voters in Comal
County Precincts 201, 202, 301, 302, 304, and 306 ONLY
Lupe Valdez, Texas Governor
Mike Collier, Texas Lieutenant Governor
Justin Nelson, Texas Attorney General
Joi Chevalier, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
Miguel Suazo, Texas Commissioner of General Land Office
Kim Olson, Texas Commissioner of Agriculture
Roman McAllen, Texas Railroad Commissioner
Steven Kirkland, Justice, Texas Supreme Court, Place 2
R.K. Sandill, Justice, Texas Supreme Court, Place 4
Kathy Cheng, Justice, Texas Supreme Court, Place 6
Maria T. Jackson, Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals
Ramona Franklin, Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 7
Steven King, Texas Senate, District 25
Stephanie Phillips, Texas State Representative, District 73
Edward Smith, Justice, Texas 3rd Court of Appeals, Place 2
Chari Kelly, Justice, Texas 3rd Court of Appeals, Place 3
Thomas J. Baker, Justice, Texas 3rd Court of Appeals, Place 5
Gisela D. Triana, Justice, Texas 3rd Court of Appeals, Place 6
Gloria Meehan, Comal County Clerk
Dorothy Carroll, County Commissioner, Pct. 4—4xx Precincts Only

For more information about the voting process, candidates, or to join the team:
Comal County Democratic Party
1592 W. San Antonio St. New Braunfels, TX 78130
web: comalcountydp.org
830-620-5739
Party Chair, Bob Rogers

Phone: (210) 732-1798
Notry Public
Auto, Home & Tax Services

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Rosemary Vasquez, Manager
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David Bísonó, Conferencista principal
WOMEN ON THE RISE

By Yvette Tello
In very powerful opening remarks, Judge Melisa Skinner discussed the #METOO movement. “This last year has been both a mighty and painful year”, she said “Women have come forward in a way that they have never come forward before to say, “NO MORE.” As painful as the struggles have been and still will be, we move forward. With the examples set by the women that we honor tonight and ALL women in action, it is my hope and prayer that we move forward to a future world where a girl, a woman, a sister, a daughter, a friend will type in #METOO and, instead of being a message of pain and embarrassment, it will be a message of pride and accomplishment”. Judge Skinner served as La Prensa Women in Action Awards Gala on Tuesday October 23rd.

The gala supports educational empowerment by raising money for scholarships. Honorees discussed real issues affecting women within our community, and shared how they have overcome obstacles within their personal lives. It was an inspiration for other women to do the same. They encouraged us all to give our younger generation of women positive self-esteem, empowerment, and professional development.

La Prensa Foundation, Inc. hosted its 29th Salute to Outstanding Women in Action Awards Gala at the San Antonio Zoo from 6 p.m to 9 p.m. The Foundation honored 6 community members who, through their outstanding commitment, dedication and hard work, have enhanced our community.

Honorees

Antonia Arteaga
#METOO I am a State Judge

Rosie Castro
#METOO I am a community organizer and activist

Karen Crouch
#METOO I am a County Judge

Shirley Gonzales
#METOO I am a City Council member

Rosa Santana
#METOO I am the CEO of my own company

Melissa Skinner
#METOO I am a County Judge
Women in Action Awards Gala
A recent public opinion poll shows San Antonio Strongly Supports The Secure San Antonio’s Future PAC Vote No on Propositions A, B, and C; it is likely all 3 city charter amendments will be defeated in the November 2018 election. The poll was conducted by Opinion Strategies, a political consulting and opinion polling firm in San Antonio and has a margin of error of +/- 4.4 percent. Opinion Strategies said they are not working for either side of the proposed amendments.

Proposition A, which relaxes the requirements for citizen groups to place an ordinance on the ballot, had 29% support vs 49% opposition, while 22% said they were undecided.

“Clearly, the voters are not in favor of making these types of changes at this moment in time,” said Dionisio Salazar, president of Opinion Strategies. “The opposition to these amendments has done a better job of getting their message to the voters and generating support across party lines and voter groups,” he said.

Dionisio attributed the pending victory to the Secure San Antonio Future PAC due to the overwhelming financial support and resources devoted to the Vote No campaign. The PAC has been far superior in generating support across civic groups, and placing intense scrutiny on Chris Steele, President of San Antonio Professional Firefighters Association, whose organization championed the proposed amendments to the ballot.

Proposition B, which limits the salary of the San Antonio City Manager, had 48% opposition compared to only 24% in favor of the amendment, with 14% undecided.

Proposition C, and the most controversial proposal that calls for binding arbitration between the firefighter and the City, has only 27% support and 44% opposition. Twenty three percent are undecided.

“Clearly, the voters are not in favor of making these types of changes at this moment in time,” said Dionisio Salazar, president of Opinion Strategies. “The opposition to these amendments has done a better job of getting their message to the voters and generating support across party lines and voter groups,” he said.

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Opinion Strategies Political Consulting and Opinion Polling

San Antonio City Charter Amendments Opinion Poll October 9th– 16th, 2018

Three proposed city charter amendments on the November 6th, 2018 ballot appeared to be headed for defeat. A recent opinion survey by Opinion Strategies, a political consulting and polling firm, indicates that support for the amendments is weak.

- **Favorable support** for all three amendments ranged from 27% to 34%.
- **Opposition** to the amendments ranged from 44% to 49%.

Opinion Strategies conducted a robo-poll of San Antonio likely voters. The poll was conducted from October 9th - 16th. Five hundred voters participated in an automated robo-poll. Voters were asked if they supported or opposed each of the three city charter amendments. These amendments involve:

A) a process that makes it easier to place a proposed ordinance on a city-wide referendum.

B) placement of limitations on City Manager’s salary, and

C) binding arbitration option for San Antonio firefighters and the City of San Antonio.

A. Process for Citizen Proposed Ordinances

**Proposition A** allows for citizen groups to place proposed ordinances on city-wide referendums by decreasing the number of required signatures from 70,000 to 20,000 voters. The time period for gathering these signatures is lengthened from 40 to 180 days.

- 29% of voters were in favor of the amendment. This was in contrast to 49% of voters who opposed the amendment. Men (51%) were more opposed to this amendment than women (47%).

- Opposition to the amendment was significantly higher for non-Hispanic (53%) versus Hispanic (41%) voters.

- Opposition to this amendment was similar for both Democratic (48%) and Republican (51%) voters.

- Voters in County Commissioner Precinct 4 were most in favor (44%) of the amendment. Voters in Precinct 3 had the highest opposition (58%).

San Antonio City Charter Amendments – Opinion Poll October 22, 2018

B. Limitation of City Manager’s Salary

**Proposition B** places limits on the amount of salary that the City Manager can receive. Specifically, the city manager’s salary cannot exceed the equivalent of 10 times the lowest paid city employee. Employment tenure is also limited to eight years.

- 27% of voters were in favor of this amendment. This is lowest level of support of all three amendments. 44% of voters opposed the amendment.

- Men (48%) indicated more opposition to the amendment than women (42%).

- Hispanic (44%) and Non-Hispanic (46%) were similarly opposed to the amendment.

- Opposition to the amendment was significantly higher for non-Hispanic (53%) versus Hispanic (41%) voters.

- 34% of voters indicated they were in favor of this amendment. This was the highest support of all the amendments. **Opposition** to the amendment (48%).

- Men (49%) were slightly more opposed to the amendment than women (47%).

- Hispanic (46%) and Non-Hispanic voters (49%) had similar opposition to the amendment.

- Democratic (50%) and Republican (48%) voters were similarly opposed to the amendment.

- Voters in Precinct 2 were most in favor (40%) of the amendment. Voters in Precinct 4 had the greatest opposition (54%).

C. Binding Arbitration for Firefighters Association and City

**Proposition C** allows for binding arbitration in the event the Firefighters Association and City of San Antonio can not reach agreement on a labor contract. The proposition allows the firefighter’s association to decide when negotiations are stalled and an arbitrator is needed.

- 49% of voters were in favor of this amendment. This was the greatest level of opposition (53%) to the amendment.

- Opposition to this amendment was weak.

- Favorable support for the amendment was: Precinct 1 – 33%, Precinct 2 - 25%, Precinct 3 – 39%, Precinct 4 – 3%.

**Background**

Opinion Strategies is a San Antonio political campaign and opinion polling firm. Gabriel Salazar has many years experience working in political campaigns in south Texas. Dionisio Salazar has a broad range of experience in opinion research, non-profit work and community development initiatives.
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.

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Voters, if they choose, will make the ultimate decision on the most important issues. Citizens will have the chance to make a change by collecting 20,000 signatures and earning majority support in the election. This is still a difficult standard to meet to call an election, but provides a good check and balance when political leaders make a serious mistake.

Capping the City Manager’s out-of-control salary and term of office.

San Antonio City Manager pay has grown completely out-of-control in recent years. We pay more in this position than any City in America. Nobody else is even close. Our City Manager now makes more than the U.S. President and Texas Governor combined. In the past 5 years, she has received more total dollars in raises than the 1,500 San Antonio Fire Fighters combined.

Under Prop B, City Manager pay will be pegged at 10 times the lowest salaried City employee. Right now, that’s still a total of $290,000. That would keep San Antonio City Manager pay competitive but limit the growth. The Proposition will also set a term limit of 8 years for the position.

Resolving the City’s 5-year stall on the firefighter fair pay contract

While the City managed to quickly sign a world record-breaking pay contract with the City Manager in a matter of days, they have taken an incredible 5 years to complete a simple pay contract with firefighters. Prop C would push the city and firefighters into binding arbitration – so a fair resolution can finally be achieved. This is an inexpensive way to end disputes quickly and fairly without expensive lawsuits.

WHY DO SPECIAL INTERESTS OPPOSE REFORM?

A well-funded effort against reform has been launched by supporters of the status quo. The anti-group is mostly funded by developers and other folks with business before the City Manager. Special interests trying to curry favor with the City Manager by opposing a cap on her pay further emphasizes the current problems with the city and explains how we got so far off-track.
Commissioner Tommy Calvert held his 2nd Chance Job Fair this week. Attendance estimated at 1500 with hundreds of former convicts and felons getting jobs on the spot.

“People need to work, even if they have a criminal record. We’ve been in touch with hundreds of local companies who have said they would hire the formerly incarcerated. But finding those employers can be difficult. So we have the second chance job fair so they can make a connection. We’d rather them be working and starting their lives anew than to be robbing somebody’s house or selling drugs.”

ATTENTION M/WBE/ VBE AND SBE VENDORS

Harper Brothers Construction is requesting bids from Subcontractors for the following San Antonio Water System (SAWS) projects: Central Water Integration Pipeline Seg 5-4 (Nov. 8) and Pleasanton Rd. Water Main Replacement (Nov. 12). The Asphalt, Hauling, Traffic Control, Boring, Seeding, SW3P comprise major needs for the project. All inquiries shall be directed to 210-740-0099 Attn: Carlos Benavides. All quotes shall be in our office by 10AM on Nov. 7th and 9th respectively. Please email quotes to: bidssa@harperbro.com or fax: 210-740-0056. Harper Brothers Construction is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
By Steve Walker

October 27 and 28 San Antonio officially celebrates Dia de Los Muertos. Before the celebration the city got a head start on the partying by a few days earlier to bring together traditional art and culture with the best in live music entertainment.


The festivities were dedicated to the goddess known as the “Lady of the Dead”, corresponding to the modern La Calavera Catrina.

By the late 20th century in most regions of Mexico, the practices developed to honor dead children and infants on November 1, and to honor deceased adults on November 2.

November 1 is generally referred to as Dia de los Inocents (“Day of the Innocents”) but also as Dia de los Angelitos. (“Day of the Little Angels”) November 2 is referred to as Dia de los Muertos. (“Day of the Dead”)

Of all the Hispanic celebrations we celebrate her in San Antonio, Dia de Los Muertos is the only one to date that I have not participated in over the years. It is on my bucket list. For whatever reason, I have somehow missed the opportunity to do so.

The Smithsonian Institution with the University of Texas in El Paso has established a Smithsonian Latino Virtual Museum and accompanying multimedia e-book: Día de los Muertos: Day of the Dead.

The project’s website contains some of the text and images which explain the origins of some of the customary core practices surrounding the Day of the Dead, such as the background beliefs and the ofrenda. (The special altar commemorating one’s deceased loved one)

The altar exhibit includes up to seven levels. They represent the levels the soul must go through to get to final rest. It includes an image of a loved one to help the soul find its home.

The traditional day of the dead colors are orange, black, purple and yellow. Incense is used to make the evil spirits go away. The use of salt purifies and avoids corruption and an ash cross cleanses the soul to the offering.

Día de Los Muertos Celebration brings together traditional art and culture with the best in live music entertainment to create a two-day destination event for the City of San Antonio to celebrate the Day of the Dead. The event hosts a variety of activities over the weekend celebration including the largest open altar exhibition in the city.

Events are free and open to the public including: live music at Arneson River Theater; original Day of the Dead art; living altar; dance, drum and puppet procession; live poetry and more.

The Day of the Dead activities in Mexico developed from ancient traditions among its pre-Columbian cultures acknowledges the death of its ancestors.

With all the various Hispanic celebrations to participate in throughout the year in the Alamo City, Dia de Los Muertos is one that has a long religious tradition. The rich history adds to the diverse culture of the city we know as San Antonio.
El USGP 2018 en Austin, Texas: “¡Qué carrera!”

By Jorge Mendoza Sr

¡La combinación del clima y la gran cantidad de fanáticos hicieron de esta USGP la mejor carrera en COTA!

Mercedes, el gran favorito con Lewis Hamilton al volante, no pudo pasar a Kimi Raikkonen por el liderato. Raikkonen, el segundo piloto de Ferrari que estuvo muy cerca de ganar en varios eventos pasados, finalmente pudo entregar un primer puesto a su equipo. Raikkonen, dejará Ferrari al final de la temporada en una nota alta para unirse a Sauber. Más que ganar una carrera, pudo ayudar a su compañero de equipo Vettel a extender la lucha por el campeonato al detener a Hamilton. Lewis Hamilton quedó en tercero detrás de Max Verstappen que tomó el segundo lugar. El año pasado, Verstappen fue penalizado y su tercer puesto fue retirado por los oficiales debido a un pase que realizó en una zona que estaba fuera de los límites. Verstappen, finalmente fue recompensado con un podio final. El corredor mexicano Sergio Pérez, como siempre, fue muy consistente. Obtuvo valiosos diez primeros puntos finales con su extraordinario coche de carreras de color rosa.

El campeonato sigue en el aire. ¡El Gran Premio de México es el siguiente! Sigue la Fórmula Uno en LA PRENSA TEXAS por Jorge Mendoza.

Fotos de Jorge Mendoza Jr y Adrian Narvaez.
When local artist Cruz Ortiz was approached by Eva’s Heroes about collaborating with the nonprofit’s teen and adult participants on a Tricentennial inclusion mural, he didn’t hesitate to say yes. “My daughter, Graciela, has Rett syndrome, so I know what it’s like to for individuals with special needs,” Ortiz said. “They are often ignored, but they just want to be included.”

So, on October 17, despite the chilly morning air and chances of rain, more than 20 teens and adults with intellectual special needs picked up paint brushes and used bright orange, red, yellow and blue to paint three 4-feet by 6-feet wooden panels to create an official Tricentennial inclusion mural at the Harvey Najim YMCA on the South Side.

Participant Justice Simeon said his favorite part of working on the mural was “having fun” with his fellow Eva’s Heroes friends, while Sandra Hernandez said she liked using her favorite colors “red and yellow to paint the mural.”

Later that evening after the panels had dried, the participants, their families and other guests gathered outside at the Mission Marquee Plaza, formerly the Mission Drive-In Theatre, adjacent to the Najim YMCA for an unveiling of the mural, which now hangs on the back wall of the marquee plaza through December 31.

“The whole idea behind this mural is about inclusivity, so this mural is about them and all of San Antonio’s special needs community,” Ortiz said. “The entire process of the image was developed by the participants and they made their marks with these colors. Together we have made something beautiful for all of San Antonio to see.”

Eva Longoria Baston, who co-founded Eva’s Heroes, sent a special message from her home in Los Angeles: “Happy 300th Birthday San Antonio! A huge thank you to Cruz Ortiz for collaborating with Eva’s Heroes and working with our participants, who had an absolutely wonderful time. We are proud to display this spectacular mural to commemorate San Antonio’s Tricentennial celebration and honor our city’s efforts to be an all-inclusive community, especially for those with intellectual special needs.”

During the unveiling, Christiane Perkins-Garcia, co-founder and interim executive director, announced that Eva’s Heroes plans to offer services and programs to the South Side in the coming months. “It is only fitting that this inclusion mural be displayed on the South Side now that we will be offering services here soon,” she said.

In addition to thanking the City of San Antonio World Heritage Office for allowing the mural to hang at Mission Marquee Plaza, Garcia also acknowledged the Grainger Foundation for awarding Eva’s Heroes with a $5,000 grant to help fund the mural project.

In closing the reception, Garcia called the “artists” to the podium for a surprise gift. All were given a Tricentennial commemorative Texas charm, courtesy of James Avery Artisan Jewelry.

Rudy Arispe: 210.438.2088
Christiane Perkins-Garcia: 210.316.4356

By Rudy Arispe
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