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Let’s Talk About it...

Hispanic Identity

By Yvette Tello

In a conversation recently, I mentioned how when I was in elementary school, I was a Mexican American. Somewhere along the way, I became “Hispanic.” I am not sure when or why. I was told the reason we are no longer called Mexican American is because our government wanted us to forget our heritage and where we come from. I asked why. I was told because we are so strong when we unite. We are the sleeping giant. We have to stay asleep. Taking our identity would make sure of that. What term should be used: Hispanic, Chicana, Latino, or Latinx? What are you? Let’s talk about it.

Frank Pancho San Miguel:

“Mexican American Chicano is what I relate to, Mexican descent American born, Chicano”

Van Vasquez:

“I am Chino Chicano”

Gilbert Dimas Jr.:

“I’m Hispanic, I was born here, my parents were born here, my grandparents born here and only one of my great-grandparents was from Mexico. So I’m of Hispanic descent.”

Barbara Ann Mendoza Mead:

“I’m an American of Mexican descent which includes a variety of bloodlines. I call myself a Latina when I’m making a statement. Like: Latinas for Trump, etc.”

Delia A Guajardo:

“I remember when freshly out of high school and applying for work. Employment applications became more and more confusing. They added “Other” later.”

Blue Rose Alvarez:

“There are 6 recognized races (White, Black/African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander). We, of Hispanic ethnicity, are considered White. Many Mexican last names are of Spanish origin and maybe that’s why “they” have lumped all Latino Americans under that ethnicity. It would not be the first time the government did that to a culture (remember Vietnam?). I remember a time when Chicano Power represented a cultural upris-

Anthony L. Green:

“They say the same thing about us!! We are to strong when we unite and are working together!! We are not African Americans we are just blacks now. I think it was by design!! If our cultures are divided we never know our true strength!! I believe that true strength scares many”

Nadine Barry:

“I prefer Latin because no one is pure Mexican or Mexican American. I have Spanish & Arab bloodlines myself. And Blue is correct in saying we are considered “white” as a race. Our ethnicity is Latin or Mexican or Cuban, etc.”

Monica Monica:

“I call myself an American because I was born here. I know where I came from. I will never forget. I wasn’t born in Mexico. I was never told not to call myself a Mexican. Why have I never heard an Anglo call themselves that? They call themselves American. Educate them. No I’m not Mexican I am an American just like you!! We were both born in this country.”

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About the Cover Artist:
Ana Fernandez

By Dr. Ricardo Romo

Ana Fernandez paints about everyday life and the experiences of her neighbors in San Antonio. She is well known for her oil paintings of modest homes and neighborhood businesses. In 2018 Artpace funded her cover art watercolor titled “Kwik Mart.” Many of the homes she paints are known to include older cars and sleeping dogs. In addition to her prestigious Artspace Artist in Residence award, Fernandez was a 2017 recipient of the Joan Mitchell Foundation Painter & Sculptors grant, a recognition that comes with a $25,000 cash prize. A native of San Antonio, Fernandez first learned painting from her mother Rosa Fernandez who introduced her to oil painting when she was five years old. Fernandez enjoyed her high school drawing classes, but it wasn’t until she enrolled at San Antonio College that she began to explore the parameters of art seriously. At this time, she was inspired by the representation art of Cesar Martinez and Jesse Trevino. Like Martinez and Trevino, she creates art that demonstrates visual references to the real world. In 1992 she enrolled at the prestigious Art Institute of Chicago. It was there that she expanded her interest in American and European art. Fernandez excelled in her art studies in Chicago and earned a Bachelor’s degree. Because of her outstanding academic record, she earned admittance to UCLA’s highly selective Masters in Fine Arts program. In 2009 Fernandez moved back to San Antonio with a goal of painting full time. Art sales were sporadic, so she created her own artistic culinary dishes as a way to pay the rent. Shortly after I met her in 2011, she had started developing an interest in dishes featuring Southwest chili. When the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) asked us last year to donate one of her paintings, we were honored and offered a beautiful piece titled “Flight.” The Fernandez “Flight” painting is now hanging in a special reading room next to the Latino Collection at the Central Library downtown. Ana Fernandez continues to make great art and her reputation as a gifted Texas artist has spread beyond San Antonio. In the May 2018 issue of Texas Monthly, the editors chose Ana Fernandez and Cruz Ortiz to represent the cultural arts on its special issue devoted to San Antonio’s Tricentennial.
Poverty in San Antonio

San Antonio Jobs, Income and Poverty

By Dr. Ricardo Romo

Cities have long been the place for good jobs. In San Antonio and other Southwestern cities, workers generally found work in a multiple of industries. For workers from nearby rural communities, San Antonio offered plentiful job opportunities to many with just a high school degree. For workers with limited education, jobs were generally available in low paying service sectors and low-skilled construction and manufacturing work. In the near future, those jobs may be more difficult to find.

The world of work is changing in San Antonio and in many large cities across America. A recent New York Times article by Badger and Bui (Jan. 12-2019) reported on important research related to the future of work in large cities. In “Opportunities in Cities Falls to the Educated,” details are offered by M.I.T. economist David Autor suggesting that “cities no longer offer low-skilled workers the economic advantages they once did.”

Over the last century as San Antonio expanded its manufacturing, construction, and service industries it relied on workers from rural communities, Mexico and other Texas cities. It is certainly the case that workers moved to San Antonio in the post World War II era to find better-paying jobs than those offered in rural communities.

Professor Autor notes that “Big, dense cities offered not just better pay for lower-skilled workers; cities offered them better kinds of jobs.” Thus while the greatest number of jobs were in construction and service industries, some of the better jobs were with Kelly Air Force Base, USAA, public schools, and medical facilities.

However, in recent years middle-skilled jobs in cities have been disappearing while wages have remained stagnant. According to the New York Times, Professor Autor attributes the declining urban wage premium to the disappearance of middle-skill jobs in production but also in clerical, administrative and sales work. Many of these jobs, he offered “have gone overseas. Others have been automated out of existence.”

There are some exceptions. The Toyota plant represents the newest example of San Antonio’s expansion in modern manufacturing jobs. Auto manufacturing pays well, but full-time employment in those jobs is minimal for the low-skilled workers.

What is being lost in San Antonio and other large cities are the middle-skilled jobs which included not just good wages, but also union benefits, retirement plans and paid vacations. As these middle-skilled jobs are lost, the jobs that remain are those for the very low-skilled and high-skilled.

Professor Autor’s major finding is that the urban advantage that once existed for low-skilled workers is vanishing.” Does that spell disaster for low-income families living in cities like San Antonio? Earning a good wage has become harder. We are already seeing families survive by working multiple jobs. It is not uncommon for both parents to work two and three jobs each to try to support a family.

At this point, low-income families are staying put in San Antonio. Cities offer better school choices and medical clinics and hospitals are in abundance. Badger and Bui of the New York Times noted that opportunities of urban life include “the availability of nonprofits and social services, or of training programs, or better access to health care and public transit.”

The solution for those desiring good jobs in the future is education. Among the most and least educated cities in America, Ann Arbor, Michigan is #1 and San Antonio ranks #107. The Texas cities with higher education levels than San Antonio include Austin at #8, Dallas at #77 and Houston #92. To be fair, great cities like Los Angeles ranked only #98.

A Federal Reserve report (Dec. 2018) notes that in San Antonio “Twenty-eight percent of the population age 25 and over holds a bachelor’s degree or higher, similar to the Texas average of 28.9 percent but markedly lower than neighbor Austin at 42.8 with a bachelor’s degrees.

San Antonio has numerous pockets where educational shortfalls are evident and four areas--two in the Eastside and two in the Westside--are especially worrisome. Where there are educational shortfalls, there is poverty. Significant poverty persists in large swaths of the Westside and Eastside of San Antonio. An excellent study by Lily Casura published in October 2017 in the Huffington Post titled “Looking through an Equity Lens at San Antonio,” reveals the serious income and educational gaps of the city.

Not surprisingly, the zip codes or neighborhoods with the largest poverty index are also those with the least educated population. Casura defines the educational level as the percent of residents who have a high school diploma.
or GED. Two high poverty areas, zip codes 78207 and 78237 west of downtown, have an educational level of 52.70 and 53.20 respectively. Thus nearly half of the residents in these two zip code areas did not finish high school.

Two zip codes in the Eastside, 78202 and 78203 also have a low educational attainment population. The low educational level in these four communities cannot be blamed on immigrants or foreign-born residents. The Federal Reserve report noted that San Antonio had the lowest foreign-born population among the major Texas metros at 12.2 percent.

Lily Casura concluded that “Not only is San Antonio lower at every level of educational attainment when compared to the U.S. as a whole, but earning power is also down at every level — and worst at the high school graduate level, where the difference is more than 10 percent.”

We have work to do in San Antonio. We need to increase the minimum wages as other cities have done. We also need to increase the educational level in San Antonio. To improve our high school graduation rate, we must do more to educate the pre-K children of the city. We must do more to see those young teens complete middle school successfully. And we must encourage all high school graduates to consider going to college and graduating with an associate’s degree and consider an even higher level of achievement. This is a big task, but the very future of cities like San Antonio depends on educational success.

By Leonard Rodriguez

This column will highlight inspiring stories of Latino leaders. For more than 500 years, Latino men and women have positively influenced the face of United States society. Let us celebrate these outstanding Hispanics.

Adina Emilia De Zavala

Granddaughter of Lorenzo De Zavala, vice president of the Republic of Texas, Adina Emilia De Zavala was born at the onset of the Civil War. Growing up in Galveston and San Antonio, De Zavala graduated from Sam Houston State College and began teaching. During her 20s she became interested in the preservation of historical sites, organizing a women’s group for this purpose. Among her most important accomplishments, De Zavala prevented the razing of the Alamo. In 1912, she organized the Texas Historical and Landmarks Association where she founded libraries and historical-patriotic societies.

Until her death in 1955, she remained active in historical organizations and authored such works as “History and Legends of the Alamo” in 1917.
Ramsey Muniz Released from Prison

By Charles Jones

Ramsey Muniz had been released from prison on December 10, 2018, on a Compassionate release—in other words, they thought he was dying. He is a formerly incarcerated Hispanic political activist who ran for governor of Texas in 1972 and 1974, each time as the nominee of the Raza Unida Party. He is the first Hispanic whose name appeared on a Texas gubernatorial general election ballot. I asked permission from his wife to visit him since I was unsure of his condition. Irma, his wife, said it was O.K. As I drove in from Rockport to Corpus where he is staying-- my mind raced to when I first became aware of Ramsey and his brother Bobby who were star football players at Corpus Christi Miller in the early 60's. Jefferson went to play Miller at Corpus in a quarterfinal game(1962) and they ( the Muniz boys, Inez Perez quarterback and Johnny Roland--running back ) kicked our asses.

Ramsey went on to star at Baylor where he was an All-Southwest Conference Tackle and Bobby went to The University of Houston. Not bad for two Mexicanos from the wrong side of town. We talked and I reminded him of when the entire Waco police force along with the Texas Rangers met him on the outskirts of town ( 1971 ) because he was running for Governor under the Raza Unida Banner and had been tabbed as a, “ DANGEROUS MEXICAN”. He had been calling out the Democratic Party for their racists' policies regarding Mexicanos and they didn’t like the rhetoric.

Ramsey went to prison on what I believe were trumped up charges --but that is another story. The story today is that of the man who survived five years of solitary confinement and three bouts of pneumonia that almost killed him. On one occasion, he was given the last rites but thru his faith in the La Virgin De Guadalupe and love of his wife, he survived. He was given life imprisonment by the Feds and lived 27 years in Federal prison. His chances of ever getting out were slim to none. He said that during his five years of solitary confinement he never saw the light of day. He never killed anyone, nor did he steal money nor was he part of an organized crime syndicate. I believe in my heart the word was out --he was Dangerous. You see with his handsome features, blue-green eyes and fiery rhetoric, he was able to touch Mexicanos to their very souls. He was not in love with running for office as he was in love with promoting equality and justice for all.

The other part of the story is about Irma his wife who no matter what the circumstances stood by him thru thick and thin. She was a modern-day Adelita ---Que valiente este mujer!!! She is as beautiful now as she was when she was a young woman.

As I sat at the table with both of them --you could see they were very much in love with each other.

Ramsey wanted me to tell you that he is back and he will make public appearances as soon as his health improves. To learn about what happened to Ramsey Muniz in 1994, go to www.freeramsey.com. Order the new book about his life and unjust imprisonment titled, ‘ Freedom, Justice, and Love’ by Dr. Andrés G. Guerrero Jr.
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Broncos Ganó El Primero
A Red Sox, Piratas 11 Rieleros 1

Por Sendero Deportivo
Broncos de Reynosa SA campeón de temporada 2018 en Liga Veteranos Potranco en su serie de playoff con pizarra de 4 a 1 carreras, se agenció el primer triunfo contra el subcampeón Red Sox. La serie a ganar 2 de 3 partidos continúa este sábado 26 de enero en el estadio Potranco Baseball Field en el horario de la 1 p.m.
Entre ambos equipos existe gran rivalidad deportiva, ya que cuando militaron en el circuito Colt 45 Baseball Field, contendieron por el primer lugar de la tabla general y por el banderín de posttemporada.
Por Broncos dirigido por Roberto Garza y el coach Rick Felán, se anotó la victoria el lanzador campeón Gilbert Salazar (7-1), con salvamento del zurdo Alan Mow, la derrota fue para Chris Lee quien fue relevado por el ex profesional Humberto “El Triste” Montemayor.
Red Sox en las últimas entradas tuvo oportunidad de anotar y remontar la pizarra, en una espectacular acción el corredor Sergio Quintanilla (fotos), trató de aumentar el marcador, sin embargo fue puesto fuera de acción por el receptor de Broncos, Guillermo (Memo) Arriaga.
“Fue un buen partido, nos hundieron varios errores durante el partido, Chis Lee en siete entradas permitió 5 jits, 3 carreras. El segundo partido es crucial para Red Sox, ganar para que la serie se vaya al tercer partido”, dijo Pedro Espinosa, manager de Red Sox.

“Hubo buen pitcheo por ambos equipos. Red Sox es un duro rival, pero vamos con todo en el segundo partido, ojala y se logre detener la defensiva de nuestros rivales”, dijo Garza.

Resultados categoría dominical Abierta. Piratas de Sabinas dirigido por Sergio de Luna, apalearon 11-1 carreras a los Rieleros, sumando récord de 6 victorias, 2 derrotas y 3 empates, el zurdo Chris Pacheco contribuyó al triunfo bateando jonrón con dos compañeros en bases. Cubs 11 Cardenales 9. Mineros 2-0 ante Bravos. Broncos blanqueo 6-0 a Calaveras con pitcheo de Omar Solís y relevo de Rey Hernández. Broncos y Mineros comparten liderado con marca de 9 victorias y 2 derrotas. Este domingo Broncos y Mineros se juegan el clásico en el horario de las 10:30 a.m. en el campo 1 del Potranco Baseball Field. Suerte y adelante en el desarrollo del beisbol regional independiente.
By Rosie Speedlin-Gonzalez

I just knew Phillip was different from anyone I had ever met before and he was the man I would see whenever Mom dropped me off early to my piano lessons. I knew when he was happy and when he was not. I was never afraid of Phillip, but I was curious about him as I sat and watched him from the sofa where I waited for my turn at my lessons on those Thursdays I arrived early. I never ever saw who picked Phillip up from his lessons. By the time that happened, I was usually at the piano myself, well into my own lessons. I assume a relative picked Phillip up from that big wrap-around porch at Mrs. Harness’ place. I ended up spending 8 years with Mrs. Harness taking her direction and lessons, slowly learning more and more English (and sometimes even Latin), participating in a couple of recitals, testing out guitar lessons for a week or two, learning to be patient with myself . . . and I saw less and less of Phillip as I got older. By the time I turned 12 and decided that I wanted to play volleyball and basketball and kickball. My interest in the piano languished. By the time the chapter of my life in which Mrs. Harness played the lead role, had ended, Phillip had passed. Thinking back, I know Phillip was either a person living with the aftermath of polio or the affliction muscular dystrophy. It was only after I was taught and learned how to choose, discriminate . . . was exposed to the world with different sets of monocles that I saw Phillip as different or challenged. As a young child, I had no filters or biases, those came later, those came after adults taught me to have filters and biases, and with those lessons came the loss of my innocence, the loss of how I would see the world with wonder and awe. None-theless, Phillip taught me his own lessons of acceptance, struggle, patience. And as I grew older, traveled, studied, my awe and wonder returned. One thing that stayed with me and never left me was my desire to always champion the plights and struggles of people like Phillip, regardless of whether those plights and struggles were rooted in their physical conditions, mental deficits, racial or cultural or language or ethnic disparities and deficits that were defined by the ruling power. I have always been a true believer that children come into this world a blank slate, that their values and personalities are developed and formed as a result of their experiences in the world. I can’t help but wonder how our children, the children at the border, children around the country and world have been impacted by what has been so close to them today, yesterday, last week, last month and for the last couple of years. We are our brothers’ keepers. We are charged with creating and leaving a world for our children that is better to live in than when we entered it. I hate to think that I will be informed to the contrary at the pearly gates of heaven . . . be informed that we failed our children and made a complete mess of the world because we failed those with less than us, those weaker and meeker than us. We failed them by remaining silent when we should have spoken up. So, in the meantime, I vow to live a life well-lived, seeking and striving to serve others.
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Artwork created by students from the Good Samaritan After-School Program who participated in the Fall 2018 Air Quality Academy.

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WE ARE ALL RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENS
WHAT DOES YOUR FUTURE LOOK LIKE?
Young people sing on stage with a backdrop of marchers many years ago. Many city leaders joined thousands of residents in the historic march including County Commissioner Pct. 2 Justin Rodriguez, former Councilman Ray Lopez & candidate for St. Rep. 125, St. Senator Pete Flores, St. Senator Jose Menendez, Converse Mayor Mary Dennis, Rudy Morales, Doctor Louis Escareno, former Councilman & now Judge, City Councilman Greg Brockhouse & Manny Pelaez, Mayor Ron Nirenberg, Constable Ruben Tejeda, former Mayor & HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros, Sheriff Javier Salazar, DA Joe Gonzalez & Councilwoman Rebecca Viagran, Judge Carlos Quezeda, Dr. Laura Mery, Mario Llano Robert Vargas, Congressman Will Hurd & Senator John Cornyn, Mario Bravo, former JP Byron Miller, Joe Linson, and Harlem Globetrotter player.

(Photos by Stephen Walker)

En boletín de prensa la empresa Spurs Sports & Entertainment (SS&E), cuya mesa directiva que preside la dama de negocios Julianna Hawn Holt (Chairman & CEO), dio a conocer la agenda que tendrá durante el 2019, el club de fútbol soccer San Antonio F.C. (SAFC), que dirige el entrenador en jefe Darren Powell, en el circuito de segunda división United Soccer League (USL). De los 17 partidos locales a jugarse en el estadio Toyota Field con capacidad para 8,400 espectadores, SAFC sostendrá por primera vez en sus tres años de existencia, un partido durante la tradicional Fiesta San Antonio que tiene duración de dos semanas. SAFC celebrara su fiesta futbolera contra el club visitante Sounders de Seattle 2, en la fecha del viernes 26 de abril. “Dicha festividad futbolera, será de gran importancia a nivel cultural en la región de San Antonio”, se dijo en el boletín informativo. SAFC abrirá temporada ante los clubes visitantes Rising de Phoenix el 9 de marzo y Timbers de Portland 2 el 16 de marzo. Seguidores y nuevos fanáticos con anticipación pueden aprovechar apartando sus respectivas localidades en Toyota Field, llamando a un representante de ventas en el número telefónico (210) 444-5657 o en línea visitando el sitio SanAntonioFC.com. Fanáticos a la vez tendrán la oportunidad de seguir de cercas al SAFC en los medios sociales: Facebook, Twitter (@SanAntonioFC), así como en Instagram (@sanatoniofc), y Snapchat (SanAntonioFC). En las fotos aparecen pequeños futbolistas presentando el lábaro patrio y acompañando a jugadores durante ceremonia del Himno Nacional en Toyota Field.

(Fotos por Franco)
FINANCIAL FOCUS

Insurance Can Protect Your Aspirations

By Edward Jones

You probably already know that life insurance can protect your family if something were to happen to you. But you might not realize the many ways in which insurance can help you preserve your plans for the future – whether for yourself, the next generation, or those charitable groups you support.

Specifically, life insurance can potentially help you address several areas, including the following:

- **Help in covering final expenses** – The proceeds of a life insurance policy can provide immediate funds at the time of your death to pay for your funeral costs, your debts and your final income tax.

- **Transfer wealth (with potential tax advantages)** – Some wealth transfer vehicles carry significant tax consequences. But the proceeds from life insurance are typically free of income tax, so if your death benefit is $1 million, your heirs will receive the full $1 million. (Consult with your tax advisor about all potential tax consequences beneficiaries might face.)

- **Provide charitable gifts** – You can use life insurance in various ways to support charitable organizations. One option is to donate a policy you may no longer need. Either you or the charity would continue paying the premiums, but the charity would become both the owner and beneficiary of the policy. Alternatively, you could purchase a permanent life insurance policy and donate it to the charity, which could then use the policy’s cash value when you’re alive and receive the death benefit when you die.

- **Help cover long-term care costs** – You may never need any type of long-term care, but if you do, you’ll find it quite expensive. It now costs, on average, more than $100,000 per year for a private room in a nursing home, according to the 2018 Cost of Care Survey, produced by Genworth, an insurance company. Medicare typically pays little of these costs, so the burden will fall on you. To avoid using up your financial assets – or, even worse, having to rely on your adult children for help – you may want to consider a traditional long-term care insurance policy.

Edward Jones is a licensed insurance producer in all states and Washington, D.C., through Edward D. Jones & Co., L.P. and in California, New Mexico and Massachusetts through Edward Jones Insurance Agency of California, L.L.C.; Edward Jones Insurance Agency of New Mexico, L.L.C.; and Edward Jones Insurance Agency of Massachusetts, L.L.C.

Martinez at 210-354-4915 if you have any questions.
Kenney’s Food Store

By Isa Fernández

Isa Fernández, MPA, is a business alliance program manager at Westside Development Corporation, advocate of the disenfranchised and a freelance photographer.

I learned about the oldest operating grocery store in San Antonio, Texas, Kenney’s Food Store while discussing San Antonio “legacy” businesses at work. Kenney’s began in June 1886 as an animal feed store by the grandparents of Mrs. Marie Kenney and was taken over in 1988 by Mr. Atilano Mendoza, an affable gentleman with kind, green eyes who used to frequent Kenney’s Food Store when it was run by Marie. He remembers the store being closed around 1pm, during the daily siesta of the kind owner of German heritage, whom he became friends with. When she was ready to retire in the late 1980s, she offered to sell it to Atilano under one condition—that he keep the name. He did that, buying Kenney’s Food Store and changing only three things—adding a restaurant and or defunct. There is also original artwork—one of an Aztec Indian, a Mexican general and a 1950s Latino with the backdrop of the San Antonio skyline behind them, and a caricature of Mr. Mendoza.

The store sells standard items every can get at most grocery stores - canned goods, cake mix, cereal, oatmeal, dried food like pasta, beans, rice, refrigerated items such as milk, eggs and juice and select produce like lettuce, avocados, onions, tomatoes and potatoes, and unique items that you can’t find everywhere (like masa), in addition to sodas, tea, chips, and candy. School supplies, pet food, detergent, over the counter medications, hair care items (including classic Three Flowers hair pomade), toothpaste, bath soap, light bulbs, electronic items, and lotto tickets are also sold, but children will especially like going to Kenney’s because of the toy selection positioned across the register. Mr. Mendoza told me when his sons were children, they used to tell customers “don’t buy the toys – they belong to my daddy and us," which is, in effect, a proper kids review of the great selection of toys you can find at Kenney’s including yo-yo’s, paddle balls, plastic cars, bicycles figurines, water guns, old-fashioned wearable plastic “painted ladies fingernails,” coloring books and other items. You can also buy real hats, for adults and children – I purchased a fedora for my two-year old nephew. It’s also clear that Kenney’s is a great place to meet friends and family for authentic Mexican breakfasts and Tex-Mex lunches. Breakfast options include tacos, pancakes, Juevos Ranchero, with sides such as avocado and tomatoes. Lunch fare includes fried fish, brisket, barbacoa, fajitas, asparagus, rice, and beans. The morning I went, I chose a papa con huevo on tortilla de maiz, hecho de mano, with a side of ranchera sauce (two for $1.89, no extra fee for the salsa). Any restaurant that makes homemade corn tortillas is an automatic find for me, so I am more than pleasantly surprised that not only do they have them, but that they began making them in front of me. The tortillas are authentic, thick and toasted to perfection. The gentlemen gathered for breakfast are friends and are interested in the work I am doing for Westside Development Corporation and by extension, La Prensa Texas. Like Atilano Mendoza, it is clear they appreciate their neighborhoods, understand the significance of supporting local businesses and the importance of cultivating the camaraderie that comes from being a member of the community.

Kenney’s Food Store is located at 342 Merida, 78207, (210) 225-6884 and store hours are 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM.
Los Angeles Rams Set To Meet New England Patriots in Super Bowl LIII

Por Jessica Duran

Another Tom Brady and Patriots Super Bowl have been set. This time, they will face the Los Angeles Rams who haven’t been to the Super Bowl since 2001-2002 season formally as the St. Louis Rams. This will be Tom Brady’s 9th Super Bowl appearance.

To put in perspective, Brady has been to the Super Bowl more than the Dallas Cowboys, Pittsburgh Steelers, and the Green Bay Packers as teams. The Patriots beat the Kansas City Chiefs in overtime 37-31 to punch their ticket to the Super Bowl which will be held this year in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Chiefs defense couldn’t hold their end and let Brady and company to a quick overtime opening drive to an eventual Rex Burkhead rushing touchdown. Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes, who finished with 3 TD passes and 295 yards, never even got to touch the ball in overtime for a possible win. As for the Rams, their ticket to the Super Bowl has been punched, marked with a thick stain after one of the most controversial plays in NFL history which might or might not have determined the result of their overtime victory over the New Orleans Saints.

A clear and blatant pass interference penalty was not called on Rams cornerback Nickell Robey-Coleman for his hard hit on Saints receiver Tommylee Lewis inside the 5-yard line that could’ve given the Saints a first down and potentially wind the game clock to zero. Instead, they settled for a Will Lutz 31 yards field goal with just under 2 minutes left in the game.

The Rams would eventually get within field goal range and force the game to go into overtime. Drew Brees would throw an interception off a dropped pass from receiver Micheal Thomas. Rams then take it downfield and with a booming 57-yard kick, Rams kicker Rob Zuverlein would send his team to the Super Bowl as a hero.

A firestorm of shocked celebrities and fans took to social media to share their frustration and shock over the game. 8,000 Rams fans petitioned the league to switch referee crews before the game. Looks like the most unpopular referees might now be the most popular crew amongst Rams fans in Los Angeles. The NFL will reportedly look into again for the second straight year at changing the rules to review pass interference calls during games.

Rams Head Coach Sean McVay attended the 2002 Super Bowl in which the Rams were playing when he was a teenager, celebrating his 14th birthday. The date of that game was February 3rd, 2002. Ironically, the date for this Super Bowl is February 3rd. Destiny could be coming for coach McVay, as he returns to the Super Bowl 17 years later as a coach instead of a spectator, also as the youngest head coach ever in Super Bowl history at the age of 32 years old.

Super Bowl LII will be held at Mercedes Benz Stadium in Atlanta, Georgia and will be broadcast on CBS at 5:30pm CT.
A Brief History of La Raza Unida Party

During the activism of the 1960s, the Chicano Mexican people came to the realization that the mainstream political mechanism had only served to abuse and manipulate us. After much soul searching, we finally concluded that the only solution to our political, social, and economic conditions was to organize our own independent political organization.

In 1969, the concept behind La Raza Unida spread throughout the Southwest. Other independent Chicano political organizations sprang up as well during this time. In California, La Raza Unida Party was first organized in the Bay Area. It took on a more militant line, organizing under working class issues and emphasizing the development of a Chicano Mexican, ideological line. In Colorado, La Raza Unida was a product of the work done by La Crusada por La Justicia, under the leadership of Corky Gonzales. It dealt with Chicano Nationalism and youth. In Texas, La Raza Unida organized around electing Chicanos to Boards of Education and City Councils.

The spirit and force of La Raza Unida were truly embodied in Texas under the leadership of Jose Angel Gutierrez, a student, and president of the Mexican American Youth Organization (MAYO). La Raza Unida concept in California and Texas created a flame that quickly spread throughout the Southwest and other areas populated by Chicanos. By 1970, La Raza Unida existed throughout the Southwest. In California, chapters existed from San Francisco to San Diego. In the County of Los Angeles alone, thirty chapters existed. In the San Fernando Valley, La Raza Unida originated from a MECHA Political Committee out of the University of Northridge. Hundreds of Chicanos Mexicans were registered in San Fernando and Pacoima by Northridge students in 1971. These early organizers formed La Raza Unida Chapter in San Fernando that followed, transforming the organization from a student migratory one to a stable one. Addressing issues affecting the Chicano Mexican, La Raza Unida differs from other Chicano and “Hispanic” organizations in that it has been consistent and persevered. In some areas, La Raza Unida has been active since the early 1970s and is still active today. The San Fernando chapter is such an example.

La Raza Unida Party held its first National Convention in 1972. The main figures were Jose Angel Gutierrez, Corky Gonzales, Reyes Tejerina, and Cesar Chavez. Jose Angel Gutierrez was elected National Chair. Since its inception, The National Partido was plagued with contradictions. However, the major one was the lack of a clear position on what we wanted to achieve and the strategy for achieving it. In order to correct this lack of clarity, La Raza Unida went through a period of re-organization and re-structuring since 1975 to the present.

Today, La Raza Unida has advanced to a bi-leveled structure: Internal and External. Under this structure, the Commission of Popular Action is utilized for organizing different committees. Such committees include La Raza Youth Committee, The San Fernando/Pacoima Health Council, Foros del Pueblo, August 29th Commemoration, Obreros Unidos, and Padres Unidos. Community work and study are prerequisites under the new structure and may take place simultaneously.

La Raza Unida Party is an independent community organization that is dedicated to struggle for the betterment of our people. It is not manipulated by the two mainstream political parties, instead, it is independent and accountable only to our people and principles.

In order to understand the need for an organization like La Raza Unida Party, it is important to understand the differences among the various organizations that exist. Basically, there are student organizations, agencies, mainstream political organizations, and independent community organizations.

Student organizations are crucial because they provide students the opportunity to develop those skills that will make them better community activists. However, we must accommodate our organization to student organizations since they have limitations. Not only do student organizations serve as a training ground for future activists, but they also provide a pool of potential activists and revolutionaries.

Funded agencies play a vital role in our communities, but must not be confused with independent community organizations. They are also limited by the mere fact that they are held accountable to their funders. Frequently, these agencies are manipulated by politicians for the purpose of personal gain. Rather than giving validity to existing independent community organizations, these politicians push community agencies as community organizations. Although important to our communities, funded agencies are limited to the service or program they provide.

Mainstream political organizations differ from independent community organizations in that they are tied to the Democratic or Republican Parties. These special interest “Hispanic” groups assume the position of power brokers, obtaining votes for their particular mainstream candidate without regard for valid community input or betterment, but rather for their own personal political interest.

Neither the Democratic nor the Republican Parties have represented our people or allowed us full participation. The Democratic Party has a long history of broken promises that now tries to be covered by token appointees. The Republican Party is blatantly racist, yet attempts to convince us of their concerns.

This does not mean that we can not or should not work with organizations that represent either party. It simply means that we do it on an equal basis without go-betweens that may sell our people for their own personal gain.

Thus, the need for an independent community organization that represents the will of our people to be self-determined. It is the only alternative to the oppression our people face.

La Raza Unida has consistently strove to work with other peoples. The only requisite is that they are organizations or individuals that are working toward the betterment of their communities. We have successfully worked with African Americans, Anglos, Asians, Native Americans, and Filipinos.

In regards to our youth, it is our position that Chicano Mexican youth get educated and return to their communities to practice their profession, and thus, contribute to the community’s improvement. We reject the “poverty draft” that is offered to our youth as the only alternative. It simply creates an illusion that they can “be all they can be” in the army when in reality they “can all be they can be” in their communities while improving their communities at the same time.

Internationally, El Partido Nacional de La Raza Unida has supported the just struggles of Latina America, Europe, Asia, the Middle and the Far East, particularly the Palestinian struggle. We are strongly against U.S. intervention in El Salvador and Nicaragua. Such an imperialistic action will surely use our youth as cannon fodder for the U.S. armed forces.

Mexico also plays a crucial role in our struggle, for our historical, cultural, and family ties demand that our Movements and organizations work closer together. Whatever happens in Mexico has a direct effect on our people and vice-versa. Thus, we have established communication with the Revolutionary Movement in Mexico, such as PST, PMT, PSLM, Unions, and Campesino groups.

La Raza Unida is committed to organizing our people, raising our consciousness, and rescuing our culture. If you agree with us, join us. Be part of the solution, not the problem.

Written by a member who remains anonymous.
Bird’s Eye View, San Antonio TX.

West Commerce St. At Market Square Looking East

This postcard is a view looking east on West Commerce Street from atop the Giles Market House circa 1910. The card shows Paschal Square with a central water feature, Santa Rosa Street, The Teatro Nacional, Chapa Drug Store, and City Hall with its central dome and four turrets.

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Gym Memberships

The New Year is here and many of us are busy setting goals for 2019. That often involves a resolution to eat healthier and get more physically fit. But, before you think about signing up for a gym membership to conquer those goals, Better Business Bureau has some advice that won’t make you and your bank account sweat BEFORE you hit the gym.

So far this year, BBB received just over 3,400 complaints nationwide involving health clubs, which is about the same as last year. Common complaints include billing and contract issues, difficulty cancelling memberships, certain fees added that consumers were not aware of, and charges that occurred even after cancelling a membership.

Here are some common tips to consider:

Avoid High Pressure Tactics: Don’t feel pressure to join right away. A trustworthy gym will give you enough time to read the contract thoroughly and do some research. If you’re pressured to join right away, consider walking away.

Calculate the True Costs: Gyms often use special introductory offers to encourage new members, but the price could go up more than you budgeted once the initial period is over. Make sure you understand what the regular monthly fees will be and what they include.

Understand the Terms: Take the time to read the contract carefully before signing. Make sure that all verbal promises are in writing. What happens if you move? Will your membership renew automatically at the end of the term? Can you get out of the contract altogether and under what circumstances?

Determine Your Fitness Goals: Talk with your physician first. Lay out your goals before you decide where to join – Lose Weight? Gain Muscle? Increase Endurance? Different facilities can target one goal better than another.

Take A Tour: Make sure the gym has the equipment, classes and trainers that will help achieve your goal. Check cleanliness of gym floor and locker rooms. Ask about gym hours, busy times, and whether classes require an additional fee.

Ask for a Free Trial: Gyms will often give a one-week free pass – make sure to ask. This is a great way to see if the gym is a good fit for you. Try the gym at different times in the day to see how crowded it gets at the hours you will use it. Don’t forget added perks such as child care, juice bars or free massages. Finally, are you taking advantage of fitness discounts through your health insurance plan or alumni pricing at your alma mater? Have you considered community recreation facilities?

For more information on gyms and fitness clubs, visit www.bbb.org. BBB has Business Profiles on more than 15,000 health clubs where you can read customer reviews and see how the business responds to complaints.
By Tammy C. Perez

One of the most rewarding things you can do is volunteer! Between the stressors of working a full-time job, going to school, caring for a family, etc., how do we find time? A wide variety of volunteer opportunities are available. Start by finding one that works with your schedule and consider involving your family and friends. The more, the better!

Volunteering does a world of good and the benefits can help you achieve a greater quality of life. Not only are you helping an organization fulfill their mission by helping others in need, you are also helping yourself. Giving your time is a selfless act of kindness, it can have a tremendous effect on a person’s life. We sometimes don’t see these results immediately, but we can feel it. Volunteering puts us into a positive mindset by boosting our energy levels which improves both our physical and mental well-being.

Other benefits of volunteering include:

- Increased confidence. Working with likeminded individuals with the same goal in mind allows everyone involved to reach a sense of accomplishment and gratitude for their efforts. Volunteering can have a worthwhile influence on all involved.
- Connect with others. Volunteering allows you to network with others who also want to contribute. Be active in your community and become part of a family whose generosity is greatly appreciated! You will also learn new skills, gain experience and make endless memories.
- Challenge yourself. What is your purpose on Earth? How can you make a difference? Volunteering allows you to try new things. We all want to have an impact in the world, why not start by giving your time!

Would you like to volunteer? TCP Marriage & Family Services collaborates with multiple organizations who need volunteers to fulfill their missions. For more information, please contact our office at: (210) 516-2607 or visit our website at: www.tcpmfs.org.
Por Steve Walker

Si ha vivido en San Antonio muchos años como yo, ha sido testigo de mejoras y mejoras en el lado norte de la ciudad, el lado este de la ciudad y el lado sur de la ciudad hasta cierto punto. Sin embargo, no ha visto tanta mejora en el lado oeste.

Las estadísticas del lado oeste muestran una mejora más lenta en el mismo período de tiempo que los otros tres. Se necesita mucha gente comprometida para darse cuenta de su opresión cuando se trata de economía, educación, clase y etnia.

Como ex maestra en La Memorial, en Edgewood ISD y McCollum en Harlandale ISD Vi por mí mismo la cantidad de estudiantes con baja autoestima porque les dijeron que eran “mexicanos” y que no eran lo suficientemente inteligentes como para asistir a la universidad.

Siempre les recordaba que se sintieran orgullosos de su herencia hispana y que podían aspirar a lo que quisiieran hacer en la vida. Les recordé a mis estudiantes de McCollum que uno de los miembros de nuestra junta escolar, Robert Castaneda, se graduó de Yale. Enseñé a su hija Angela como estudiante de 9no grado. Racionalicé con ellos que si él podía hacerlo, ¡ellos también!

¡Joseph Medina, uno de mis otros antiguos alumnos de noveno grado en McCollum, es un fideicomisario de la junta escolar en Northside ISD! Otro ex alumno de noveno grado, Adam Ortiz en McCollum, es dueño de su propio negocio de medios. Cuando cubro los eventos en las fotos, él también suele estar allí. El ex alcalde y el secretario de HUD Julian Castro recientemente anunció su candidatura a la presidencia en 2020 en el Centro Guadalupe. Adam realmente estaba detrás de mí mientras tomaba fotos.

Después de la infame inundación de 1921, apodada “la más grande en la historia de la ciudad”, los periódicos de San Antonio pidieron controlar las aguas pluviales. Sin embargo, la ciudad gastó millones para proteger el distrito central de negocios mientras ignoraba en gran medida las destructivas y mortales inundaciones del West Side.

De acuerdo con el registro, lo que se construyó fue la presa de Olmos, que no hizo mucho por el lado oeste, y lo único que recibió el lado oeste fue un poco de espacio en las zanjas. En ese momento se notó que básicamente defendía los intereses blancos y no prestaba atención a Brown.


El West Side es un área diversa, dependiendo del área específica en la que se encuentre. Verá una variedad de personas diferentes. En áreas cercanas al centro de la ciudad, verá una gran cantidad de tráfico peatonal. Sin embargo, hay algunas partes más aisladas del vecindario donde se recomienda no caminar por las calles. Esta área debería ser extremadamente prometedora, con los residentes que han estado allí desde la década de 1920 y algunos que se están mudando al West Side para ver qué tiene para ofrecer. En comparación con el lado norte, no es un concurso. En el lado norte, las calles son mejores, los parques están mejor cuidados y las casas se están construyendo a un ritmo más rápido y definitivamente más caros.

El salario promedio en San Antonio, Texas es de $48,330. Las tendencias en los salarios están aumentando con un aumento del 0,3 por ciento en el último trimestre al tercer trimestre de 2018. El costo de vida es un 13,6 por ciento más bajo que el promedio nacional en San Antonio. En el lado oeste la población estimada es 58,069. Los salarios en el lado oeste son notablemente menores. Eso necesita cambiar. Si la calidad de vida en San Antonio va a mejorar para todos, Westside debe ser nuestra principal prioridad para garantizar que sea igual al resto de la ciudad.

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