National Police Week

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By Isa Fernández

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Let’s Talk About it...
Media Victim or Corrupted?

By Yvette Tello
Do you think that Constable Michelle Barrientes-Vela thinks she’s above the law or is she just being targeted by co-workers and people in the community? One lawsuit filed against her in district court by Deputy Constable Leoncio Moreno has alleged that the constable, while attending a conference in Galveston with him in July 2017, “referred to Moreno as her husband while in the hotel hot tub and repeatedly made efforts to touch and caress” him. He states he rejected her sexual advances. Since then, she has repeatedly tried to pursue criminal charges against him. “The facts don’t fit the elements of the crime (that have been filed),” District Attorney Gonzales said. “At the very least, it’s poor judgment. You’re talking about arresting an individual that has already filed a lawsuit against you. This, someone could argue, smacks of retaliation, vindictiveness, vendetta.” In another incident, Easter Sunday, she and a fellow deputy charged $50 an hour and pocketed the money to a family who has rented the same pavilion every Easter for over 10 years who has never had that asked of them before. Is this a conspiracy against her or is she using her position of authority to bully people around for her own personal benefit.”?

Let’s talk about it...

Gilbert Dimas Jr.:
“1000000000 %. She is crooked as a broken pen.”

Rebecca Perez:
“She thinks she is above the law. Which is sad since we the community are supposed to put our faith and trust in law officers”

Blue Rose Alvarez:
“The county pavilions are often used freely but I have known folks who paid to keep it for a certain amount of time. I’m not sure what the circumstances are in this case. I can’t say if she believes her above the law but I will say she is not the right person for that position. She does not have the experience or maturity to do the job well.”

Tiffany Ford:
“She definitely believes she is above the law. How narcissistic does a person have to be to actually change the badges to reflect her name? She is a delusional horrible excuse for a human being.”

Gabby Benavides:
“She gave her time to Bexar County Medical Society and conducted the Training for their Medical Profession members on an Active Shooter Course.”

Tina Spivey:
“Is she even qualified, for this position?”

Priscilla Cervantes:
“Beautiful inside and out.”

MC Chaser:
“Someone needs to start checking their backgrounds before they are allowed to run. It appears we now have more people with criminal activities in their past run for office just for their own agenda. And you know as well as I do If you do it once you’ll do it again. Do they think we’re stupid and we won’t find out?”

Roger Rodriguez:
“Michelle and her Husband made a Bike donation towards a great cause for Guardians of the Children Organization.”

Lupe Espinoza:
“SPEAD THE WORD. BELIEVE ME, SHE’S NOT THE ONLY ONE. SHE HAS HER CLICK. PASS THE WORD. SHE’S CORRUPTION AT ITS BEST!”

Gerald Hall:
“Constable Vela has supported fellow Officer in blue who was diagnosed with Cancer... a great cause... Edgewood blue family. It was nice of her to be there at the Basketball Game...Edgewood Gym. She shows up for many community events that she is not given credit for.”

Denise Anderson:
“While in PCT 3 she was involved in the destruction of evidence. She is one bad apple.”

George Estrada:
“The Precinct 2 Constable is dedicated to serving our community in a fair and impartial manner by working in partnership with our community. Some of these things have been put out there to make her look bad. She helps the little people when she can.”
About the Cover Artist

Toonpunk

By Isa Fernández

Art has the potential to enlighten lives of the viewers and to “comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable,” as the saying goes. Political art of the past century has helped reflect the times and serve as symbols for social change from the ground up. The history of protest art is substantial. Here, a sampling:

Diego Rivera helped lead and contribute to Muralists for the Mexican Communist Support in the 1920s as a leader and in the form of his contribution of multiple murals painted worldwide often depicting the struggle of workers. The anonymous, gorilla-mask-wearing Guerrilla Girl group calling themselves the “conscience of the art world” fight against the lack of recognition and inclusion of women and people of color in art, through protest art.

England-based artist Banksy is an anonymous political graffiti artist using satirical and subversive witticisms to remind the public of war, poverty and the absurdity of governments. He has exhibited in Barcelona and Berlin as well as having worked with established galleries in London. His contemporary style and uncompromising look at the world have brought him great acclaim over the past few years, having his artworks exhibited alongside Banksy, Peter Blake and Abner Harris.

Toonpunk’s work featured heavily at London’s Moniker Art Fair in 2015 where he collaborated with the well-known artists Ben Eine and Schoony to create “The Renaissance is Now” a 23-meter Bitcoin inspired installation. Toonpunk’s most recent works merge analogue and digital techniques to create an aesthetic of the imperfect psychedelic life trapped in a digitally sanitized world. To learn more about Toonpunk, visit toonpunk.space

Our cover artist, Toonpunk, is the political cartoonist, underground comic book artist and video producer whose love of comics and cartoons thematically runs through his artwork, often with a depth that implies a disturbing dystopian existence underneath. Toonpunk has emerged from the underground punk scene to become a recognized figure within London’s art world.

You can support free speech, free press and protest art by buying copies of it in poster, t-shirt and even sticker form on Wikileaks.com.

He lived in asylum for over seven years as a political prisoner of multiple countries his whistleblowing organization WikiLeaks has spotlighted. The painting went mainstream in 2016 after WikiLeaks used it for a promotional campaign to raise funds for the Free Julian Assange campaign.

HGB Mural Unveiling

6:30 pm

Reflection on the Life of Henry B. González, González Family.

6:40 pm

Mayor Ron Nirenberg’s Remarks

6:45 pm

HGB Mural Unveiling. Artist Andy Diego and Ronald Barba, Mayor Ron Nirenberg, Guardsman Robert G. Trevido, Former Congressman Charles Gonzalez, González Family.

6:50 pm

Comment by Artist Andy Diego

6:55 pm

Reflection on the Life of Henry B. González, A HGB Panel moderated by Dr. Ricardo Romo, La Prensa Texas.

Panel: Dr. William Elizondo, Maggie Rivas Rodríguez, Former Congressman Charles Gonzalez.

7:45 pm

Appetizers, Cash Bar & Music

8:30 pm

Conclusion

Special note of thanks to District 1 City Councilman Roberto G. Treviño, The City of San Antonio Department of Arts and Culture, Director Debbie Pacca Sittre, James LeFlore, Sebastian Guajardo, Carol Schleisinger, the Director & Staff of The San Antonio Convention Center, Leonard Rodriguez, Westside Development Center, Yvette Tello and La Prensa Texas.

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Dr. Sylvia Villareal, Trustee St. Mary’s University

The Henry B. González Convent Center

May 15, 2019
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

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Movies: Villains and Heroes

By Dr. Ricardo Romo

We go to the movies for a multitude of reasons. Mainly, we want to be entertained. We also like to see heroes fighting evil and battling for social justice. I am anxious to see the “Avengers: Endgame,” a movie that features superheroes against evil. I am curious. How does a Marvel movie earn $2.189 billion dollars in just two weeks, breaking all attendance records for an opening weekend?

And very soon, I want to see the all-Latino film, “El Chicano.” This movie is about a Los Angeles police detective Diego Hernandez who discovered that his brother’s “suicide” had actually been a murder by a California cartel. He realizes that playing by the rules will not be enough to stop the cartel from further violence. Thus, he resurrects the masked street legend “El Chicano” with the goal of seeking justice.

Ben Hernandez Bray, who co-wrote the script, grew up in a barrio in the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles. Bray worked in the movie industry as a stunt man and movie director. One day Bray learned of his brother’s death as a result of gang violence. As part of coming to terms with the tragedy, he developed a story about that experience, and with his best friend, Joe Carnahan co-wrote the script, which they titled “El Chicano.” They decided early on that all the characters in their movie would be Latino.

The New York Times review noted that the movie “El Chicano” offered an origin story with a fresh perspective. A “Mexican American cop who lost a brother to gang violence adopts the mantle of a masked avenger to take on a cartel.” Finding someone to produce the movie in Hollywood proved impossible. Bray and Carnahan pitched their movie concept to a multitude of Hollywood studios and producers, but none were interested. Some questioned their goals to have an “all Latino” cast.

As movie critic Cara Buckley observed, “Through no fault of their own, Bray and Carnahan’s timing was also inadvertently off.” In 2018, as Bray and Carnahan were speaking to filmmakers and investors about “El Chicano,” “Black Panther,” with an all Black cast and “Crazy Rich Asians,” with all Asian actors, had yet to appear.

Buckley also noted that while Latinos are “the most avid moviegoers of any ethnic group, they garnered only 5 percent of the movie roles” in 2017. It was investors in Toronto, Canada who made the production of “El Chicano” possible. Bray and Carnahan opened this week during National Police Week in 600 select theaters located in large Latino communities. In communities where “El Chicano” will premiere, the Latino population surpassed more than 20 percent of the population, and in border communities, Latinos actually approached nearly 90 percent of the total population. I am curious about why it has taken so long to produce an all-Latino movie whereby all of the main characters are Latino, as well as the minor characters.

“El Chicano” will definitely be a new movie experience. Colin Biggs, writing for movie Mezzanine, acknowledged that “most films are a form of escapism, but something as simple as combining sound and moving images has accounted for some of the greatest works of art of our time.” Some of the most popular movies of the last fifty years, which for me include “The Godfather I and II,” and “Schindler’s List” reveal a world that we would not know otherwise. They are both about sinister characters who commit evil crimes, in one instance against Mafia rivals, and in the later masterpiece by Steven Spielberg, crimes against humanity. The best-written books, in my opinion, do not do justice to the drama and suspense of these two classic movies.

When I think about police theme movies, I think about James Bond. James Bond solves big crimes, those which threaten our very existence. I like James Bond movies because they take us to nearly every part of the globe. We visit exotic locations where Bond chases villains. I like the action, the suspense, and the romance of the Bond movies. Bond is a superhero with human powers.

James Bond movies are action-packed and most often fun. However, for the younger Latino audiences, both boys and girls, James Bond and his female
companions are not ideal role models. Bond is a British spy with a license to kill. And kill he does. The female actresses are most often blonde, beautiful and voluptuous. Thus, there is definitely a need for a Latino movie like “El Chicano.”

A good movie, according to writer Anupam Jolly, is “a break from the routine and provides us with respite for a few hours at least. What we cannot experience in real life we can experience through the movies.” That explains why I enjoyed “Coco” so much.

“Coco,” the last Latino movie I saw, fulfilled the entertainment requirement for the Latino community. “Coco” is rich with a family relationship, and much of the tensions revolve around a missing father, who it was thought, had abandoned the family. Later we learn he did not abandon the family. The father was murdered by a thief who stole his songs and the young great-great-grandson of Coco solves the mystery.

The movie relies heavily on Mexican traditions, especially the Day of the Dead celebration. The young boy in this film is likable and we admire his bravery. “Coco” is considered a popular movie both in Mexico and the United States in that it depicts Mexico fairly. I went to see “Coco” with my wife Harriett, a sociologist, my sociology friend Gil Cardenas and his wife Dolores, and one of Mexico’s most prominent sociologists, our host, Dr. Jorge Bustamante and his wife Endy. We had plenty of popcorn, shed many tears, and had a great time discussing the movie afterward. “Coco” is about fantasy and the movie challenges our most vivid imagination. Movie critic Jolly relates to this noting, “This is exactly why we are ready to believe the most absurd situations and fantasies made to seem real on screen. While engrossed in a movie we identify ourselves with the hero or heroine and escape into a world of their dreams.”

The film production of several Black producers, notably Spike Lee, contributed to the evolution of Latino movies. Spike Lee’s marvelous “Black Klansman” is a movie for Black and White audiences, young and old, and people of all political persuasions who will admire this heroic Black policeman who risks his life to seek justice. Based on a true story, the hero in “Black Klansman” is a Black police officer who infiltrates the Klan in the South. He assumes a dangerous assignment and the suspense keeps viewers on the edge of their seats. It is about a tragic era in our history when Klansmen openly espoused hate speech associated with their warped notion of White superiority.

Movies have been gaining in popularity consistently for the past 100 years despite the rise of the internet. In 2018, worldwide, audiences spent billions of dollars on movies, ($11.6 billion in the USA alone) and the end of the theater era, predicated by many, is nowhere in sight. Enjoy yourself and go see a movie about a superhero or an everyday person doing his or her job to fight injustice.

Lauro Cavazos Jr.

Born on the fabled King Ranch in Kingsville, Texas in 1927. Lauro Cavazos was Dean of Tufts University School of Medicine prior to becoming president of Texas Tech University in 1980. In 1988, Cavazos was appointed US Secretary of Education by President Reagan. The first Hispanic name to a cabinet-level position, he was reappointed the following year by President Bush. A crusader in raising the awareness of the educational inadequacies of Hispanics in the U.S., Cavazos was instrumental in persuading President Bush to sign the executive order creating the President’s Council on educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans.
Hello Bexar County,
Welcome to the first edition of the newsletter for the Bexar County Sheriff’s Office. We look forward to utilizing this as another way to connect with our community and to show you the great work being done by the men and women of the BCSO. As an agency, we have much to be thankful for and I can’t wait to tell you all about our new developments.

One of the most important things we do is answer 911 calls. I am proud to say that we are answering emergency calls 12% faster than we did in 2018. Our response to non-emergency calls is 17% faster! This improvement is due in part to the opening of our brand-new substations. Our deputies are working hard to make sure that we are responding to calls for service as quickly and efficiently as possible.

We are proactively working on efforts to prevent crime through public education, cooperation with partner agencies, and relationship building. That work has paid off and the result is that crime is down countywide. Total crime is down 11%, property crime is down almost 10%, and violent crime is down 22.7%.

One of our other top priorities is ensuring that our personnel is trained to the best extent possible. This past year, we increased annual in-service training for every deputy from 20 hours a year to 40 hours a year. Our Basic Jailer Detention Academy, which was originally only 7 weeks in duration, increased to 12 weeks, with 3 weeks of On-The-Job Training. A better trained deputy means a safer community for everyone.

To further enhance our training environment, the BCSO is proud to announce a new partnership with Alamo Colleges, this involves the relocation of our training program to Alamo Colleges’ Public Safety Training campus near Von Ormy, Tx.

When I took office, my administration and I committed to improving the level of service to the community. I remain committed to that mission and I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your Sheriff. We will see you around Bexar County.

Respectfully,
Sheriff Javier Salazar

If you would like to receive these letters in your email inbox, please contact Robert Vargas III at (210) 335-5209 or at robert.vargas@bexar.org

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SAVE THE DATE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2019

The Westside Business Alliance (WBA) and lead the Legacy Corridor Initiative. WDC will connect business owners in the Westside to create advocacy networks, which will empower owners to promote projects that positively impact their businesses and larger communities.

DATE: May 15, 2019
TIME:
Food & Refreshments
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM
Input & Discussion
3:30 - 5:00 PM

LOCATION:
Maestro Entrepreneur Center
1811 S Laredo St
SATX, 78207

- YOU'RE INVITED -
- Finalize input around issues that affect your business (i.e. Crime, Infrastructure, Construction, Street Closures)
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Por Sendero Deportivo

Con espectaculares acciones en el campo 1 del estadio Potranco Baseball League, en partidos de posttemporada la fanaticada aplaudió las victorias del campeón Broncos de Reynosa SA que con pizarra de 11 a 4 carreras derrotó a Rieleros, yéndose adelante en su serie a ganar 2 de 3 partidos.

El subcampeón Red Sox doblegó al duro rival Cardenales con cartones de 8 a 4, lo cual le da ventaja por el resto de la serie en la que de seguro Cardenales, irá con todo.

En el partido Rieleros que se clasificó segundo lugar, la batería de Broncos (campeón actual categoría Veteranos), se hizo presente en el contundente cuarto bate Brandon Palomo (zurdo), que con dos jonrones, un extra base y sencillo, apoyó su propia causa en la lomita de los disparos y el trabajo de su compañero, el relevisurdo Alan Mow, quien logró salvar el partido, superando ambos a los serpentineros rivales, Miguel Ángel Vázquez, Luis Alfonso (Chorejas) Velázquez y Tomás Galván.

Por Rieleros destacó bateando Johnny López, quien dio de 4-3 con dos carreras producidas.

El manager de Rieleros, Juan Sánchez, agradeció el apoyo de su cuadro, enfatizando que el segundo partido será clave, para seguir adelante en la serie.

“Los errores y corredores que se quedaron en las bases, nos dejó cortos en la pizarra. Tenemos que superar nuestro plan defensivo en los partidos siguientes”, apuntó Sánchez.

“Entramos al terreno de juego con todo, motivados y nueva estrategia con lanzadores zurdos. A pesar de la victoria no menosprecio a Rieleros, ya que todavía faltan dos partidos para concluir la serie”, dijo Roberto Garza, timonel de Broncos.

Por su lado Red Sox dirigidos por Pedro Espinoza, con su lanzador campeón derecho Chris Lee, doblegó a Cardenales con pizarra de 8 a 4 carreras. La derrota fue para el abridor derecho C. Moreno, quien fue relevado por el ex profesional derecho Ernesto Velázquez. El capitán Erick Montez, campo corto de Red Sox, se discutió conectando perfecto 4-0.

Durante intermedio en el partido Red Sox y Cardenales, se rindió un minuto de silencio en memoria de Aurora Castro y Aira Castro, tía y prima de la señora Bárbara Sánchez, esposa de Efraín Cruz Franco, manager de Cardenales, quienes horas antes lamentablemente fallecieron en trágico accidente automovilístico. Los también directivos de Cardenales, Nacho García y Saúl Navejar, jugadores y familiares, dieron sus condolencias a la señora Bárbara Sánchez.

El segundo partido de posttemporada se jugara en los horarios de 11 am. Entre Red Sox y Cardenales. 2:30 pm Rieleros vs. Broncos. En la cuarta fecha de la categoría abierta dominical, el domingo 19 de mayo, se jugará en los horarios de las 9:30 am Broncos vs. Piratas (campo 1 Potranco Baseball Field). 12:45 p.m. Highsox vs. Cubs. 4 p.m. Mineros vs. Rieleros que será el clásico. Campo 2. 9:30 am Bobcats vs. Águilas. 12:45 p.m. Inidianos de Nava vs. Calaveras (clásico). 4 pm Leones vs. Cardenales. En las fotos aparecen los equipos Broncos y Rieleros.

(Fotos por Franco)
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Happy Mother’s Day to the woman I owe so much to. She has helped me keep my father’s legacy alive. I love you Mom!

- Steve Duran
Mother’s Day When Mom is in Heaven
Let’s Talk About it Part Two

By Yvette Tello
Mother’s Day; the day to celebrate the wonderful women (or not so wonderful) who gave us life. I dread this time of year. Everywhere I go it is like there is a giant sign reminding me that my mom died and that she is no longer alive and a reminder that I will have to live today, every day and all the rest of my Mother’s Day’s without her. It brings my grief to my thoughts even when I was just fine. It brings out emotions I have been able to cope with. It forces me to grieve and feel, all over again. I know her spirit is here with me and most of the time, that’s enough; it has to be. But some days... Just one more day, 5 more minutes, one more conversation. My beautiful family.. blood and not blood, always gives me the most beautiful thoughts, prayers, gifts, texts. I am so grateful for. She died in 1995. It has never gotten easier. Is there a right way to feel? A right way to act that day? A right thing to say to someone as complicated as me? Let’s talk about it. And if you are blessed enough to still have your mamas; no matter how crazy, stubborn, difficult, or obnoxious, love her and tell her. Treat her like every day could be her last. Death came like a thief in the night. She was coming home the next day. Tomorrow never came but she knew how much we loved her. When she went, a part of me went with her. but one day, we will be together. To all you crazy mamas out there.. lots of love, hugs, and positive vibes. Our job is not an easy one. Let’s talk about it...

Mary Svetlik Watkins: “I’m on the memory of my mom’s final days as we approach the Anniversary of her death. It is being a mother without a mom to celebrate with. We didn’t know the last we spent together was the last. I wonder if we knew we’d have done more. Her last Mother’s Day was spent in a vegetative state in the ICU. We couldn’t bring flowers or give her cards. My first thought when we moved her to hospice was now we could have flowers.”

Donna K Browning Benson: “Beautiful, feel the same way.”

Sandy Rodriguez: “I am blessed to still have my mom and even though we don’t see eye to eye on anything I appreciate every day I have her she’ll be 80 in September.”

Esteef Voldese: “What a Beautiful post. I’ve been having an emotional reckoning with my mom, whose faults have been hinging on narcissism. You point it out toward the end of the post. Yet, how could anyone not love a mom like mine? It’s just she can be a bit much (and so goes with me). Recently I’ve thought of moving far away from my narrow-minded family. Then I imagine being somewhere all by myself and I don’t feel peace. “Tremenda” describes my mom to a tee. She’s tough, bold, wise and amazingly talented, yet her kids can longer stand each other. So it’s love when it’s good but then resentment when it’s all the times I could have used my moms love and she was cold, unsympathetic and resented me because I am a man. The truth is complex...”

Yvette Tello to Esteef Voldese: “I believe you and I’m so sorry but I hope you can see her ways have made you the strong wonderful resilient person you are. Love her for you, not for her. but be grateful that you have that crazy dramatic family you have. They are part of us. Lots of love to you and your difficult Tremenda mama. She’s the only one you got. God will bless you for it.”

Nanette Jambers: “I feel you. My ma’ has been gone for 20 years now. And I still walk around feeling lost on Mother’s day.”
Memories of Our Mothers

By Rosie Speedlin Gonzalez

As I walked into the Guadalupe Theater, I was greeted by Michelle, a local media and PR entrepreneur, who was excited to tell me about her latest marketing venture. I then proceeded, aprisa... because I was running late, into the theater area that was filled with the intense energy of women, mujeres everywhere, talking, laughing, catching up, comadres chismiendo, selfies being taken... as I hurried to the one of the front tables where I had been given guest seating by the Westside Chamber of Commerce, I quickly exchanged greetings with Mary Alice, Zan, Lourdes and a few more women there to bask in the celebration of achievements of local women leaders, business owners, educators and other professionals.

It was the kind of moment, the kind of event that my Mom loved to find herself in. On a few occasions throughout my legal career my Mom had joined me for a conference here and there, Red Mass a few years running and at times even helped sponsor efforts by law students working to help those less fortunate through one of Sister Grace’s activities or the Center for Legal and Social Justice. She dreamed of a world where women were acknowledged for their worth, skills and talents. Today, just a little over three months since she left us, her presence was very much felt at this luncheon on the Status of Women: Be part of the Conversation presented by the West San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and VIA. To hear Dr. Punjabi and Councilwoman Viagran, Gonzales and Sandoval talk about their work individually and collectively was what my Mom would have said should be always, not just at these special events and moments in time.

As I sat in the audience and took it all in it became so apparent to me that my Mom, all our Moms, had worked their entire lives to pass this legacy on to their daughters and granddaughters, a world without barriers or obstacles to our happiness and success, a world in which women are supported and encouraged to be all they can be and are not limited by societal norms or relegated to lives limited to only raising children, or being housekeepers, or only wives to be subservient to their husbands. Back in the 70s, I remember she used to love to sing along to the “Charlie” perfume commercial, you know the one... “I can bring home the bacon, fry it up in a pan...”

Although it’s been just over a month since that beautiful March day on the Westside, the buzz and energy in the theater is still very much within me. My Mom’s memory and that feeling of quiet and confident celebration go hand in hand. I knew on that day that the passing of the torch had been completed. She and all women before us worked hard, despite all obstacles, not taking “NO PUEDES” for an answer, embracing us and teaching us that we are the anointed gender, we are the peacemakers, we are the born leaders of our clans, and as Emma Tenayuca so eloquently once said, “It’s the women who have led. I just have a feeling, a very strong feeling, that if ever this world is civilized, it would be more the work of women.”

This Spring let us all join as women and work toward blooming and growing from that seed our mothers planted and nurtured in all of us. Let us look toward the sun in our full and colorful glory for the world to see and acknowledge what God created.

HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY

Yvette Chiem-Villanueva
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ychiem@eltropicanohotel.com

Christine Valle
210.277.4025 Catering Manager
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Our Collective Power
Our Voice in the Justice System

By Steve Huerta
Political, Civil Rights & Community Activist, Writer and San Antonio DJ

In every community in San Antonio, there is someone who has had contact with the justice system. They live in one of the poorest cities in America. This amplifies poverty for many because we are already locked out of the economy and living in a poor city doesn’t help. It means little opportunity for real security and growth and It means our children will also have to struggle. The problem continues as inter-generational poverty with no end in sight.

It doesn’t matter if its a misdemeanor or felony or if you've been convicted or not, society treats you all the same. We’ve become invisible people in forgotten communities. People are struggling to survive with low paying jobs, no benefits, little food to eat, no health insurance and often experiencing homelessness. Too many of us are raising our children in the midst of extreme poverty. Does anyone even care?

We can change things in our communities and the circumstances of our lives but it’s going to take some work. We didn’t get here overnight, so there is no quick fix, but there are solutions. One solution available is to begin exercising our collective voting power like the 130,000 registered justice impacted voters in Bexar County and others across the state.

Our elected officials or candidates running for office or reelection aren’t going to stop the cycle of poverty, stop job discrimination or end mass incarceration, give us health care or provide a future for our children unless we force them to. If we truly want these things, we are going to have to fight for them and the first step is at the ballot box.

The Civil Rights Movement in the ’60s was often referred to as the “Second Reconstruction” and we need a “Third”. We are a destitute people, we are the poor and brown and black slaves living in the age of the New Jim Crow. The nation seems to be moving backward.

Low-income people of color are overrepresented at every stage in the system in San Antonio. They are more likely to be arrested, incarcerated, and put on probation, and they serve longer jail and probation terms. They are even burdened by unpayable fines and fees that are not only unfair but serve no rational purpose and are counterproductive to the economic security of families and their children. We need to fight back in the 2020 primary.

Fighting back also means confronting attacks like Senate Bill 9 that seeks to criminalize mistakes voters might make when registering as a state jail felony. Party and union activist and grassroots organizations who work the Polls could face class B misdemeanor charges for impeding a walkway. Meanwhile, Senate Bill 466 that would give people on parole or felony probation the right to vote is going nowhere. Brown, Black and poor people all across Texas should be worried. We are tax paying citizens being denied a voice in the communities we work, live and raise our families in. “Those in power will ignore what they do not want to see as long as we let them”. We need to refuse to be invisible when we know we are present or silent when we can make noise.

Take Lewis Conway for example, who stood up and ran for city council in Austin. Or Walter Perry who is currently running for District 2 in San Antonio and myself the first formerly incarcerated Latino who stepped up and ran for state representative in the special election for Texas House District 125. All three of us are formerly incarcerated, but that is not who we are. We are community activist and community leaders. We aren’t the only ones in our community who are directly impacted that are also doing great work. The point is that movements are the best lead by those directly impacted and we have leaders to choose from. We should have the right to cast our vote for them and others who choose to stand up to take their place in history.

So if your tired of poverty, tired of being hungry, tired of not being able to provide for your family and tired of a broken unfair racially biased justice system and tired of waiting for empty campaign promises then register to vote. The first step to freeing ourselves is educating ourselves and spreading the word that we can make a difference. So if you’re not certain what your voting rights are as a justice impacted person watch the Texas Voting Rights for People with Records video put out by All of Us or None Texas. Remember that Your vote is your voice and our collective voice is our power.
Por Sendero Deportivo

En el complejo social y deportivo Potranco, la afición y familias acudieron a celebrar la tradicional fiesta beisbolera con motivo del 5 de Mayo. Los pequeños asistentes acompañados por adultos (familiares y amistades), se divirtieron realizando diversas actividades, mientras que las damas se dieron a la tarea apoyando a su jugador y equipo favorito. En el mismo evento se dio por iniciada la espectacular serie de semifinal, en la que cuatro clubes estarán compitiendo para luego disputar la gran final de postemporada del circuito Potranco Veteranos 2019. El evento anual una vez más contó con el respaldo del señor Eloy Rocha, quien en los últimos años se ha dedicado al desarrollo de eventos deportivos y de convivencia social, aportando espacio seguro donde la comunidad pueda disfrutar de sus eventos sociales, deportivos y de reconocimiento a líderes que también promueven el bienestar familiar.

En la agenda de eventos especiales, el señor Rocha, tiene varios compromisos por llevar a cabo en lo que resta del 2019. Con la apertura de su tercer campo deportivo espera continuar apoyando equipos que se encuentran afiliado a liga regional (Liga Regional Los Amigos), que sostiene partidos en las zonas de Kerrville, Boerne, San Antonio y Seguin. “Vamos bien en nuestro proyecto deportivo y social, para que nuestra comunidad siga realizando sus tradicionales eventos. Todo bajo un ambiente familiar y seguro”, dijo Rocha.

Durante la fiesta beisbolera del 5 de Mayo, las damas se divirtieron jugando Lotería mexicana, y los varones (jugadores y directivos de clubes), brindaron y saborearon delicioso platillos.

Así una vez más después de una larga semana de trabajo, ellos le sacaron provecho al tradicional evento, y posteriormente le siguieron con la tradición mayor. El Día de Las Madres, el cual respectivamente celebraron con sus seres queridos. El mes de mayo, cerrará con las actividades del Memorial Day durante el fin de semana del 25 al 27, por lo que La Prensa Texas, por adelantado les desea felicidades y disfruten familiarmente, ya sea con su evento social y deportivo favorito. En las fotos aparece la señora Araceli Reza, encabezando la porra del club Rieleros, y Linda Garza al frente de seguidoras del campeón Broncos de Reynosa SA.

Fotos por Franco
FINANCIAL FOCUS

Do You Have a Business Succession Strategy?

By Edward Jones

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.

If you own a business, you’ve always got plenty to think about: sales, marketing, employees, competition, industry trends, consumer preferences – the list goes on and on. It’s easy to get so caught up in your work that you might not take time to think about retirement. But if and when that day arrives, you’ll want to be prepared – which means you need a business succession plan.

And you will have to put considerable thought and effort in selecting such a plan, because you’ve got several choices. You could keep the business in your family. You could offer it to an employee or an outsider. You could design a plan that will take effect while you’re alive or after you’ve passed away. Your decision should be based on several factors, including your family situation, the nature of your business, and your overall financial position (including the composition of your investment portfolio), but, at the outset of your search, you may want to know about some popular succession strategies, including:

• Giving the business away – You can leave your business to your children, but if you transfer it during your lifetime, you may be able to obtain some valuable benefits. For example, by relinquishing control gradually, you can be reassured that your children will be able to manage the business on their own. This strategy may also offer tax benefits. You can give your business away outright, but you may want to consider using a trust or family limited partnership, both of which may allow you to control the business for as long as you want, while still receiving a regular income stream.

• Selling the business outright – You can always sell your business outright whenever you like – right now, when you retire or some time in between. Of course, any sale brings tax considerations.

• Using a buy-sell arrangement to transfer the business – Instead of simply selling the business in a traditional transaction, you could employ a buy-sell agreement. With this arrangement, you can generally determine when, to whom, and at what price you can sell it. If you would like to keep the business in your family, you may be able to fund the buy-sell agreement with life insurance, so family members could use the death benefit to buy your ownership stake.

• Buying a private annuity – When you buy a private annuity, you can transfer the business to family members, or someone else, who will then make payments to you for the rest of your life, or, possibly, for your lifetime and that of a second person’s. In addition to potentially providing you with a lifetime income stream, this type of sale can remove assets from your estate without triggering gift or estate taxes.

These and other techniques can be complex, so before deciding on what is best for your situation, you’ll want to consult with your tax, legal and financial advisors. By taking your time and getting the professional help you need, you can make a successful succession choice.
When Journalism Becomes a Crime in a Democracy

By Isa Fernández
Isa Fernández, MPA is a Legacy Corridor Business Alliance Program Manager at Westside Development Corporation, a freelance photographer and peace and justice advocate.

“"To learn who rules over you, simply find out who you are not allowed to criticize," wrote French enlightenment philosopher Voltaire.

A thought-provoking concept given that May 3rd was World Free Press Day, significant for Americans boasting a U.S. Constitution that guarantees free speech and press, whose role it is to monitor centers of power and keep the public informed. Freedom of speech, the right to speak freely and express our thoughts while alive represent the very dignity of what being a human being is. And without free, independent journalism as the foundation of our society, democracy is crippled.

Yet, according to PBS Independent Lens, only five corporations own the thousands of newspapers, magazines, radio stations, TV stations and publishers around the world. This concentration of power negatively impacts democracy by constraining the view of the world to the interests of those who seek to maintain power. That is why non-corporate news funded by the public are essential and why free speech advocates and journalists support Wikileaks, the 100% crowd-funded publishing organization created in 2007 by Australian native Julian Assange.

Assange studied Mathematics, Physics and Quantum Mechanics in college and saw the potential for the fields to impact social justice. According to the 2011 publication, “Julian Assange – the Unauthorized Autobiography,” Assange says, “It was becoming obvious to me, that we needed mechanisms - brand new ways - to take the fruits of science and implement them for the common good. Not for the service of particular agencies, but for truth itself. I shared the view with a handful of computer scientists around the world that quantum mechanics offered a methodology for understanding justice.” (Assange, 2011, p. 111).

“"By using our technology to understand why certain material was kept out of the public domain, and then devoting ourselves as publishers to making that material public, we could subvert the meaning of Orwell’s words (“Who controls the past, controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past” “Big Brother is Watching You”) and turn them into a message of hope. Who would control the future? All of us,” (Assange, 2011, p. 122). Assange designed the site to ensure anonymity of whistleblowers who share original source material published in full searchable format without the filter and interpretation of corporate journalists. This help ensure an accurate record of history is unfiltered by monied interests from the world’s five mass media owners.

Since its inception in 2007, the motto of Wikileaks has been, “If wars can be started by lies, peace can be started by truth... (they serve) the public interest, to the ending of wars, by supplying journalists with the means to keep a check on the excesses of power” (Assange 2011, p. 195). Wikileaks securely houses 10 million documents and has a pristine record of publishing accuracy (zero retractions), dwarfing all media entities combined. Publications help to expose global corruption, which has led to multiple prestigious international human rights and journalism awards. Wikileaks has received nine years of consecutive nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize. Assange himself was the runner-up for Time Magazine’s Person of the Year award in 2010. And yet today he rots in a London prison for doing his job as a journalist, vilified by government officials who treat him as an enemy of the state. Why? Here are two possible reasons.

First, in 2010, Wikileaks released a video showing American soldiers indiscriminately killing Iraqi civilians and two Reuters journalists, which are classified war crimes. The video was leaked by then U.S. Army private Bradley Manning (now known as Chelsea). The U.S. responded by detaining Manning without trial for over 1,000 days before being found guilty in 2013 and given a 35-year sentence. U.S. politicians began calling Wikileaks a terrorist organization, pressuring allied countries to detain Assange and prevent Wikileaks from operating in their territories. There was also a financial blockade by private banking companies to block contributions to Wikileaks.

Second, politics. When Wikileaks was exposing the Republicans, Democrats loved it. But after publishing emails exposing the DNC, some blamed Wikileaks for Trump’s win. This, despite damning DNC emails demonstrating collusion between the DNC, Clinton and the corporate mass media which propped up Trump as a serious candidate. He could have easily gone the way of other celebrity candidates (see Kid Rock, Roseanne Barr and...
Julian Assange, Wikileaks founder, father, son and imprisoned journalist

Howard Stern, but no. The leaks also showed a concerted effort to dismiss the popular candidacy of Senator Bernie Sanders, confirming the media and the DNC (officially, a corporation, not an actual functional organization promoting democracy), lied to the public, utilizing propaganda and stealing votes from its own constituents. If what happened in the 2016 elections were to happen in any other country and the winner was disliked by Washington, history pretty much predicts what would happen.

[Subheading here] The State Responds

The price for giving the masses a safe channel to have their voices heard? Personal attacks meant to detract from relevant information shared in publications. Assange has been accused of being an anti-Semite, a rapist, a pedophile, a Russian operative. It’s an old tactic from a political playbook used throughout history against dissidents.

Daniel Ellsberg, the most famous American whistleblower, lived through this. Ellsberg, a U.S. marine and military analyst in the 60s, was responsible for releasing the “Pentagon Papers” in 1971, which helped end the Vietnam War by informing the public of what was happening throughout Southeast Asia. Vilified and hunted, he was accused of being a Russian operative and called “the most dangerous man alive” by Richard Nixon. Yet given the lapse of time and general disdain for the Vietnam War, he is celebrated today for his exceptional moral courage, which continues to this day. Ellsberg has been on the Wikileaks advisory board since its 2007 inception and founded the Assange familiar, stating, “Every attack now made on Wikileaks and Julian Assange was made against me and the release of the Pentagon Papers at the time...It’s a very serious assault on the First Amendment, clearly an attempt to rescind freedom of the press.” (Institute for Public Accuracy).

In 2012, the UK Supreme Court ordered Assange extradited to Sweden over alleged sexual assault allegations (a classic playbook tactic), which Assange vehemently denied. Fearing persecution from the U.S., Assange requested and was granted asylum by Ecuador by then president Rafael Correa. Living in the Ecuadorian embassy in London for seven years, he became an Ecuadorian citizen, writing and publishing multiple books promoting “transparency for the state, privacy for the individual.” He supported international groups fighting for transparency, justice and peace and was interviewed remotely by groups from around the world. Yet his time at the embassy was not easy - access to sunlight was denied, he had no privacy and during the last few months of his asylum heating and internet access were cut off and he was denied visitors. The U.S., under both Presidents Obama and Trump, pressured the UK to violate asylum law and multiple United Nations rulings related to his case. Sexual assault charges were dropped in 2017 but Assange remained in the embassy due to fears of being extradited by the U.S.

In 2017, after years of cruel and degrading imprisonment, Chelsea Manning was released by outgoing President Obama. Yet last month, the Trump Administration summoned her to speak to a grand jury about the 2010 leaks and against Assange. She refused and was put back in prison. Many viewed this as a first step in building a case to extradite Assange to the U.S. Ecuador’s new president, Lenin Moreno, rescinded asylum last month, allowing Assange to be sent to a London jail where he awaits a hearing for forcible extradition to the U.S. to face charges of related to the 2010 leaks. Interestingly enough, former Ecuadorian president Rafael Correa is on record speaking to France 24, a news station accusing current president Moreno of expelling Assange in exchange for a favorable trade deal, which demonstrates how Assange has become a pawn political games of the powerful.

Some predict Assange will be extradited to the U.S. where he may be used as an example to journalists monitoring centers of power too closely and expose the indecency of the state. These are actions befitting of a totalitarian regime that thrives on spectacle, not an enlightened democracy, as the U.S. pours to be. Julian Assange is a political prisoner. His treatment has been internationally condemned and the ramifications of his situation threaten democracy and free press around the world. Glenn Greenwald, an independent journalist tweeted, “If the US can force the arrest and then extradite foreigners like Assange on foreign soil for publishing docs, what prevents China or Iran or, you know, Russia for doing the same to US journalists who publish secrets about them?” (4/11/19 @1:08pm, twitter).

What’s happening to Assange is not isolated. Journalists throughout the world who expose crimes of the powerful are often harassed, imprisoned and sometimes murdered. How will history remember Wikileaks and Julian Assange, the individual who had the ingenuity to create an unbreakable international forum through which to share untraceable news ignored or censored by the five corporations that tell us what to think? The case of Wikileaks and Assange can teach us a lot about ourselves and how far we really are from the principles underlying our constitution.

To support journalistic freedom, visit www.Wikileaks.com
Effective Family Communication

By Tammy C. Perez

Effective communication within the family involves empathetic listening. All members should be allowed to express both positive and negative feelings to each other, without feeling judged or blamed for their thoughts and opinions. Active listening and better communication within a family starts at the parent or caregiver level. This relationship affects a family’s dynamic tremendously. There are a few things to take into consideration when establishing effective family communication.

Think before you speak or react. Consider how your message will be interpreted. What is your current mood? If you are angry, you may project your anger out on others around you and say something you will regret. If you are stressed or anxious, you may react with strong emotions. Being angry, stressed or anxious does not justify your negative behavior towards others in your family. Children are very observant when their parents don’t follow through with their demands or consequences. When parents are not consistent, children may become confused and their behaviors will reflect these uncertainties.

Parents and caregivers need to have realistic expectations that they regularly model. Is it fair to expect your children to behave in a way that you don’t? Taking a child’s current age and developmental level into consideration is important when it comes to expectations and discipline. When addressing an issue with a child, be clear, specific and avoid sarcasm, which can have a double meaning. Get to their level and make eye contact while talking and listening. Make sure your tone and body language are appropriate when delivering your message. If you are angry, it’s ok to take a “timeout” to calm down and refocus. Make sure you revisit the situation and come to an agreeable solution.

The most important aspect is to listen before you judge or disagree. Try to understand what others in your family are saying. Start by being mindful and not interrupting. “I” statements are useful instead of “you” statements which can be interpreted as judging or undermining another person. Parents need to model fair and open dialogue between family members to encourage resolving differences in a positive manner. Family rules and expectations should be followed equally with the opportunity to express disagreements respectfully. Each member should be able to have a voice and express their own preferences and opinions.

If your family is having trouble with effective communication, TCP Marriage & Family Services is here to help. For more information on our services, please call our office at (210) 516-2607 or visit our website at: www.tcpmfs.org.

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Sólo un Pensamiento

Día de la Madre

Hoy celebramos el Día de la Madre. Es el día en que honramos a nuestra madre y maternidad, los lazos maternos y la influencia de las madres en la sociedad. Se celebra en varios días en muchas partes del mundo, más comúnmente en la primavera de abril o mayo.

Aquí en los Estados Unidos se designa como el segundo domingo de mayo, que es el 12 de este año. La fiesta moderna del Día de la Madre se celebró por primera vez en 1908, cuando una mujer llamada Anna Jarvis celebró un memorial para su madre en Grafton, Virginia Occidental. Luego comenzó una campaña para hacer del “Día de la Madre” un día festivo reconocido en los Estados Unidos.

Ambos son graduados de la Escuela de Derecho de Harvard y de la Universidad de Stanford. La propia Rosie está bien educada con una maestría y marca la diferencia en la comunidad por sí misma.

Luego tenemos a la madre Millie Duran, fundadora de la Fundación de Educación La Prensa, que ha recaudado millones de dólares para becas. Millie es la esposa del ahora fallecido editor de La Prensa SA Tino Duran y de madre a hijo Steve, David, Steve y Tino Jr., además de dos hijas, Margie y Nina Duran.

Hijo, Steve es ahora el tercer miembro de la familia en ser el Editor de La Prensa Texas, como se le llama ahora con capacidades en línea, impresión, y una designación sin fines de lucro. Me enorgullece decir que he escrito una columna durante más de 8 años para los 3 a quienes llamé en ese momento y ahora llamo a Steve “jefe”.

Según la historia, Jarvis, el fundador del “Día de la Madre”, quedó muy decepcionado con su comercialización en la década de 1920. Su misión era “honrar a su madre con un Día de la Madre oficial” y no comercializarlo en sus palabras. Obviamente, se hizo tan popular que finalmente fue adoptado por muchos otros países y ahora se celebra en todo el mundo.

En México, por ejemplo, el gobierno de Álvaro Obregón importó el día festivo del Día de las Madres de los Estados Unidos en 1922, marcando el 10 de mayo de cada año como Día de las Madres, y el periódico Excelsior realizó una campaña de promoción masiva para el día festivo de ese año.

En esta tradición, a principios de la década de 1920, las Tarjetas Hallmark comenzaron a crear y producir tarjetas del Día de la Madre para que cada persona pudiera ofrecer un regalo, una tarjeta o un recuerdo a sus madres, abuelas y / o figuras maternas en ese Día especial de la Madre.

Hemos recorrido un largo camino en más de cien años celebrando el Día de la Madre. Solo una sugerencia sería darle a su madre una tarjeta de “Día de la madre feliz” si aún no lo ha hecho, y tal vez llevarla a cenar a un buen restaurante.

Steve Walker is a Vietnam Veteran, former Justice of the Peace and Journalist

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