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By Dr. Ricardo Romo

Proteja a los Niños en Nuestras Comunidades del Riesgo de Vehículos Abiertos

Por José Alberto Uclés

Washington Youth Leadership Seminar Student Application Available Now

Provided by LULAC

Empowering Youth in our Community Through the YAS Act

By UTSA Master of Social Work Graduate Program Students

About the Cover Artist: Roberta Buckles

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Let’s Talk About It
Latinas in Politics

By Yvette Tello
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About The Cover Artist
Roberta Buckles

Provided by AnArte Gallery
Artist Statement:
“We are more than our mirrored reflection, more than the surface of our skin. We are complex works of art, science and metaphysics. We are symmetry and function. Body, mind and spirit. We know our lungs because we breathe, we know our truths because we think and feel deeply. Marked and changed by significant events and illness, we heal with exquisite imperfection and are transformed.

These mixed media paintings expose the largely unseen echo of our inner bodies, revealing what lies beneath. Images from intense modulated radiation therapy scans, CT scans and others, serve as the basis for these works.

Imagery is manipulated to express the profound symmetry life possesses, yet invites unexpected mars, marks and visual tensions that emulate the imperfection of healing and memory. The butterfly serves as an icon, representing the transformational process and embodiment of both physical and psychic transformation and transcendence.

Recent events in my life and of those around me lead me to this series, a temporary shift from my usual work. It is a universal truth that physical and emotional events affect each of us in profound ways. Yet we do heal. In my own way I have experienced this and have seen loved ones pass through this sometimes arduous process. Having done so, we are in some way irrevocably changed… often for the better, but changed nonetheless.”

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Jaime Vidal, Publisher/Entertainer
Street Talk Magazine
and Vocalist of the Street Talk Band

“Let’s Make a Better Choice!”

* according to reference on www.healthline.com
Empowering Youth in our Community Through the YAS Act

By UTSA Master of Social Work Graduate Program Students

The Youth Alliance Support Act (YAS) is the name of a campaign project executed by Master of Social work graduate students in the Specialized Policy Practice and Advocacy course at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). The project is a group effort between graduate students Jose Gallegos, Rita Garcia, Kristina Gomez, Emilia Guzman, Mayra Morales Sosa, and Stephanie Enriquez Shamloo.

The YAS Act proposes to provide juvenile offenders community wrap-around services to address all aspects of a youth’s life in all efforts to create individualized assessments and interventions for rehabilitation. The YAS Act would enhance youth’s lives by following the Social Work approach and utilizing the Systems Theory, working in conjunction with the juvenile justice system. YAS would be able to link and provide resources that will assist in reducing the likelihood of reoffending, homelessness, having mental health and substance abuse issues, and encourage school participation. In addition to positive outcomes, community-based approaches permit a family-focused approach to treatment that targets risk factors within the home, peer associations, and school settings.

The Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) is the entity in charge of our juvenile justice system. TJJD presently utilizes the “community-based approach,” which consists of intense supervision, referrals to community resources, and electronic monitoring. At times youth offenders have limited access to services that can assist in rehabilitation. When they have court-mandated services, there is little to no follow through with support to ensure that services are therapeutic and beneficial. When youth offenders have limited access to services that can assist in rehabilitation, they face many risks, including substance abuse, homelessness, poverty, and continued criminal activity.

Approximately 1.6 million youths under the age of 18 are arrested each year in the United States. The MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Adolescent Development and Juvenile Justice report there is more than 200,000 youth under age 18 that are tried in adult criminal court each year. According to the Mental Health and Juvenile Justice Collaborative for Change, approximately 600,000 youth in America are placed in juvenile detention centers. On a given day, about 70,000 youth reside in juvenile correctional facilities. Furthermore, 65-70% of youth in contact with the juvenile justice system have one or more diagnosable mental health disorders.

YAS Act, in lieu of confinement and increasing recidivism, can meet the youth’s treatment and environmental needs. The YAS Act will provide juvenile offenders hope and a promising future and reduce the chances of continuing the cycle of involvement in the criminal justice system. This Act can shine a positive light and equip our future youth in the juvenile justice system, with the tools and supports that will assist them with independent living in the community, without cycling back into the legal system. It is imperative to focus on young offenders, and efforts are made for restorative justice for youth and their families to have successful reintegration into the community.

Without the support of the community, government officials, and members of the public, new policy and changes to current policy are impossible. How can you start being part of this change? You can start by supporting this campaign and following us at our Youth Alliance Support Act Instagram and Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/yasact2020.

Jose Gallegos, Rita Garcia, Kristina Gomez, Emilia Guzman, Mayra Morales, and Stephanie Enriquez Shamloo are Master of Social Work graduate students in the Specialized Policy Practice and Advocacy course at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). This course focuses on the knowledge, values, and skills needed to be an effective social welfare policy advocate, focusing on diverse and underserved populations. Professor Eric Alva, MSW, Program Specialist Title IV-E, teaches this course. Mr. Alva was the first American wounded in the Iraq war and the war’s first Purple Heart recipient. He became one of the nation’s most outspoken and public advocates for the repeal of the U.S. Armed Forces’ “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy and was standing next to President Barack Obama when he signed the repeal of the policy into law. When Mr. Alva is not in the office or advocating on a social issue, he is a motivational speaker.
ASISTIENDO A LA DECISIÓN Y SOLICITUD PRELIMINAR PARA EL PERMISO DEL SISTEMA DE ELIMINACIÓN DE DESCARGAS DE CONTAMINANTES DE TEXAS (TDPES) PARA AGUAS RESIDUALES INDUSTRIALES

SOLICITUD Y DECISIÓN PRELIMINAR... City Public Service of San Antonio, P.O. Box 1771, Mail Drop 105496, San Antonio, Texas 78296, invoca la Central de Energía V.H. Braunig, una planta generadora de electricidad a vapor que consta de unidades impulsadas por petróleo/gas, una unidad de turbinas de gas de ciclo combinado. El permiso del sistema de eliminación de contaminantes de Texas (TCEQ) un área de eliminación de aguas residuales en el municipio de San Antonio, Texas.

La planta está ubicada en 15290 Streich Road, adyacente a Braunig Lake, y aproximadamente 2,75 millas al noroeste de la Ciudad de Elmendorf, en la Ciudad de San Antonio, Condado de Bexar, Texas. El efluente tratado es descargado en la planta y de una manera no mayor a 1,320,000,000 galones por día a través del Emisario 001; escorrentía de aguas pluviales, agua de refrigeración y agua de enfriamiento; y cualquier petición para reconsideración o para una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso, la respuesta a los comentarios y la decisión del Director Ejecutivo sobre la solicitud serán enviados por correo a todos los que presentaron un comentario público y a las personas que están en la lista para recibir avisos sobre esta solicitud. Si se reciben comentarios, el aviso también proveerá instrucciones para pedir una reconsideración de la decisión del Director Ejecutivo y para pedir una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso.

La audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso es un procedimiento legal similar a un procedimiento legal civil en un tribunal de distrito del estado.

PARA SOLICITAR UNA AUDIENCIA DE CASO IMPUGNADO, USTED DEBE INCLUIR EN SU SOLICITUD LOS SIGUIENTES DATOS: su nombre, dirección, número de teléfono; el nombre del solicitante y número del permiso; la ubicación y distancia de su propiedad/actividad con respecto a la instalación; una descripción específica de la forma en que usted sería afectado adversamente por el sitio que es un público en general; en todas las cuestiones de hecho que el solicitante presente un desacuerdo o una lista de todas las solicitudes que se recibieron.

La solicitud de un permiso de eliminación de contaminantes de Texas (TCEQ) ha sido presentado, el Director Ejecutivo no emitirá una aprobación final sobre el permiso y enviará la solicitud y el pedido a los Comisionados de la TCEQ para consideración en una reunión programada de la Comisión del permitido, si es aprobado, establecerá las condiciones bajo las cuales la instalación debe operar.

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Provided by LULAC

The LNESC National Office would like to announce the 2020 Washington Youth Leadership Seminar (WLYS) application is now available to qualified high school juniors and seniors!

The Washington Youth Leadership Seminar offers a truly unique opportunity for students to voice their opinions directly to national leaders and policymakers. It challenges participating youth to focus on their own leadership development and encourages participants to apply these lessons back in their communities. Participants are recommended by LNESC Centers or LULAC Councils to serve as representatives of their home states. After meeting with key policymakers in the field and discussing with representatives, participants collaborate on a position piece, which is then sent to their congressional representatives. In past years, students have focused on issues as varied as the environment, education, immigration, healthcare reform and the economy.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s seminar will be held virtually from September 24 to September 26.

To be considered for the program, students must meet the requirements below and submit the online application here by 6 pm ET August 18, 2020.

Must be sponsored by an LNESC Center or LULAC Council
Must be an incoming high school junior or senior
Must demonstrate high academic achievement and extracurricular involvement

For more information, please visit www.lnesc.org/wyls.

The Washington Youth Leadership Seminar is in partnership with Nissan North America, Walmart Foundation, McDonald’s, and Comcast/NBCUniversal/Telemundo.
Air pollution and COVID-19 in Our Communities

By DeeDee Belmares

The effects of COVID-19 and air pollution on Latino communities may seem like different issues but it’s critical to recognize their relation because Latinos are experiencing disproportionate impacts from both.

The impacts are significant enough to be characterized as injustices because they are not only happening in San Antonio but across the nation. Air pollution and COVID-19 are harming our health and we can no longer ignore it. COVID-19 is a respiratory disease and air pollution in our communities is causing respiratory illnesses like asthma or emphysema.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, Latinos have been hospitalized nationwide at a rate of more than four times that of white people due to COVID. In Bexar County, the numbers are equally concerning. Seventy-seven percent of COVID-19 cases in San Antonio are affecting Hispanics while Anglos account for just 15 percent of the cases. Furthering the burden Latinos face during this health crisis is a lack of insurance that provides for quality healthcare to manage COVID-19 infections.

How then does air pollution relate to the COVID-19 health crisis? The same people that are forced to breathe polluted air are suffering most from the pandemic. A report from the Clean Air Task Force, LULAC and the National Hispanic Medical Association that analyzes EPA and Department of Health and Human Services data reveals that “industrial polluters are disproportionately located in Latino neighborhoods.”

Some of these polluters are coal-powered plants like CPS Energy’s Spruce Coal Power Plant located in Southeast Bexar County. Coal plants emit particle pollution known as PM2.5 or particulate matter. These almost invisible particles are so small they can easily enter our lungs and eventually the bloodstream causing shortness of breath, excessive coughing and wheezing. Sound familiar? These are some of the same symptoms suffered by people with COVID-19 infections.

Our Latino sisters and brothers are hardworking and resilient. Our families are the center of our lives. We deserve appreciation and protection for all we contribute to American culture and the U.S. economy. The disparities we face with COVID-19 and air pollution can and should be addressed by our local and state leaders. Leaders must take action now to ensure Latinos have access to affordable health care and testing sites. We also need a commitment from San Antonio’s big polluter, CPS Energy, to close their coal plants and reduce dirty air pollution.
Latino Parents Worry About Reopening Schools

By Dr. Ricardo Romo

For families across America, mid summer has traditionally been a time to start thinking about the upcoming fall classes. Over 50 million students were expected to enroll in the nation’s secondary schools this fall. But these are perilous times when the Covid crisis dominates many decisions and nearly every conversation.

School openings this September are expected to be chaotic in many American towns and cities. An ABC poll conducted on July 22-23 found that “a majority of all American adults [55%] are against public schools in their community reopening with in-school instruction in the fall.”

That Latino parents worry about the Covid crisis is not surprising. Texas has just reached 381,656 infections, making Texas the fourth largest state in the number of virus cases in the United States. With a death rate of 5,810 Texans, the Lone Star State surpassed a hospitalization and mortality rate greater than most European nations.

Houston, Dallas, and Fort Worth have experienced the greatest Covid increases over the past 60 days. Houston, which has the largest medical complex in the world, is rapidly running out of ICU hospital beds. Bexar County had a significant increase in Covid cases between Memorial Day and July 22. The Bexar County Covid numbers from May to July are staggering: an increase from 1,374 cases on May 1 to 36,083 cases on July 27. In Bexar County the death rate increased from 48 in early May to 313 in mid-July.

As we readied for celebrating U.S Independence on the 4th of July, we learned that Covid cases in America had surpassed 50,000 cases in one day. Leading health experts, including Dr. Anthony Fauci, predicted that we may soon see daily infection rates of over 100,000. If the Covid rate is indeed poised to double in the coming months, and September has been mentioned as a possible record setting month, how can we justify opening schools this fall?

The University of Texas School of Public Health recently concluded that a fragmented Covid-19 pandemic response led to a decline in “trust in expertise and institutions.” Indeed, the response was horribly fragmented with significant differences in how cities and counties handled the pandemic. Ultimately, it was the poor response to the pandemic by our Texas political leaders, especially the governor and lieutenant governor, that first put parents in this state in a critical health dilemma.

Many schools remained open in February when Asian and European cities were closing schools and businesses. Thus, it was a failure by Texas officials to take the pandemic seriously earlier in the year which led to a disastrous business as usual approach during all of February and half of March as the virus was spreading worldwide.

The governor’s initial failure to close Texas business and schools was undertaken with little reliance on scientific data or consultation with health experts. As a result, too many adults went about their daily lives, going to work and gathering in public places, without wearing masks or practicing social distancing. Many of the first to be infected were the essential workers laboring in jobs where Latinos are employed in high numbers such as meatpacking plants, restaurants, and food processing industries. In addition, service workers who cleaned offices and buildings or labored in warehouses grew sick by the day.

In mid March Texas state and local officials began to take the coronavirus seriously and ordered the closure of most non-essential businesses, with the exception of liquor stores.

In mid May, state political leaders decided to take a risk, believing that the Covid pandemic had peaked. They believed that a weak state economy was worse than a pending Covid crisis and thus prematurely allowed non-essential private businesses such as bars, gyms, and restaurants to open. The opening of bars and gyms was particularly foolish, as epidemiologists who specialized in contagious diseases, considered those spaces to be a dangerous spreader of the virus.

Texas officials decided to defy science data as well as ignore the advice of national health experts and allowed large gatherings on Memorial Day weekend. In doing so, state officials contributed to the spread of the Covid crisis, and not surprisingly, Texas saw a new surge of the virus. At the same time, state officials erred in allowing local officials to decide on the question of when to reopen businesses and schools. The issue of when to open schools has perplexed all elected leaders. There is no agreement as to how and when schools should be opened.

A return to classes this fall will especially be hard for working parents. In several Texas cities Latinos make up the majority of young students attending public schools. Working parents are anxious about the coming school term. They want their children in school, but not if there’s a chance of getting sick with Covid-19.

I recently spoke to Amanda, a Latina neighbor of mine in San Antonio, about her concerns over the current plans to open schools in September. Amanda [not her real name] is deeply concerned: she has two school-age children who are eager to get back into the classroom, but like their parents, they are anxious about when it might be safe to return. Amanda and her husband are both teachers and they worry about their own safety and exposing their own children to the virus in the event that schools rush to open.

Many working Latino parents are not able to work remotely from home, and they need child care programs. A Covid spike this Spring in childcare centers in Texas led to additional worries. Texas officials reported that at the end of June there had been 576 Covid cases in the state’s childcare centers.

Latinos are admired for their strong family networks and the frequency in which they see one another. It is not uncommon for grandparents, aunts, cousins and other relatives to live with or in close proximity to each other. Covid-19 is already straining these relationships. There is growing concern among Latino parents that their children will become infected at school and bring the Covid virus to their household where extended family, especially grandparents, could be infected.

The growing health uncertainties of our times is making life ever more difficult for Latinos to balance work and family.
Por lluvia se canceló partido del playoff en Colt 45

Por Sendero Deportivo

Tras sorpresivo torrencial el domingo 26 de julio, el señor Jaime Guerrero, gerente general de la legendaria Colt 45 Baseball League, tuvo que cancelar el segundo partido de las series (playoffs) entre los clubes Indios de Nava vs. Diablos y Águilas del Veracruz contra Texas Jays.

En el primer partido de la serie del playoff, con sendas victorias los trucos de Indios de Nava que son dirigidos por Juan (Pachín) Martínez y Rudy Barrientes, dieron cuenta de su rival Diablos comandados por Starky Dávila II.

Águilas del Veracruz San Antonio, bajo la acertada dirección del manager Luis Cerros, clasificaron a la postemporada con el mejor récord, por lo que seguirán adelante en las series del playoff, y así darse la satisfacción de ganar o perder la gran serie final.

En cuanto al novel timonel Luis Cerros, lo que cuenta es haberse clasificado en el subliderato y sobresalir obteniendo la primera victoria de postemporada. Cerros, hizo buenos pronósticos de temporada regular en la que durante la segunda vuelta afirmó que tenía suficiente para cuando volviera enfrentarse ante Indios de Nava, a quienes sorprendió abriendo con su lanzador estelar Wanel Vázquez, que se adjudicó la victoria con pizarra de 6 a 5 carreras, y hubieran podido haber anotado más carreras, tras haber dejado las bases llenas en tres ocasiones.

De acuerdo a la señora Linda Garza, gerente general del remodelado estadio Colt 45 Baseball Field.

Para el internacional manager Pachín Martínez, haberse adjudicado el banderín de temporada, no refleja en él gran satisfacción, ya que está acostumbrado a consolidar un equipo duro de vencer a lo largo de las dos vueltas. Para Martínez, lo importante es seguir adelante en las series del playoff, y así darse la satisfacción de ganar o perder la gran serie final.

El gerente general Jaime Guerrero, captado preparando el terreno de juego para el segundo partido del día en la primera jornada de la serie de postemporada. “La suspensión por lluvia de los partidos del playoff, nos deja buena experiencia, ya que por lo pronto el terreno de juego se beneficiará y ello es bueno durante esta temporada de altas temperaturas y sequia. Estaremos listos para volver a darle la bienvenida a los cuatro equipos del playoff y aficionados”, añadió Guerrero.

(Fotos por Franco).
Proteja a los Niños en Nuestras Comunidades del Riesgo de Vehículos

Por José Alberto Uclés

El primer niño que murió de calor extremo (Hipertermia) en un vehículo este año se salió a escondidas de la casa de su familia, se subió adentro del vehículo de la familia, y se encontró atrapado. Más de la mitad de las muertes en vehículos calientes en el 2020 han pasado de esta misma manera. NHTSA urgentemente les pide a ustedes que exhorten a sus televidentes y lectores a que siempre mantengan sus vehículos cerrados en el garaje o entrada de automóviles – aun si ellos no tienen niños propios.

Con más padres y niños en sus casas en estos momentos, el riesgo que vehículos que no estén cerrados poseen es grande – y urgente.

Consejos Importantes para la Prevención del Calor Extremo:

Todos pueden participar en la prevención de estas tragedias:

• Nunca deje a un niño en un vehículo cuando haga mandados, ni siquiera por un minuto.

• Bajar una ventana hace poco para mantener un vehículo fresco, y se han producido muertes por calor extremo incluso en vehículos estacionados en áreas sombreadas.

• Los observadores también pueden desempeñar un papel importante en salvar una vida: si ve a un niño solo en un vehículo, llame al 911 y obtenga ayuda inmediatamente.

Para más información:

Seguridad Infantil en Vehículos

https://www.noheat-stroke.org/ (Datos en inglés)
Women In The Workforce

By Carlos de León

For the past year, Alexzandra Perez worked part-time as a cashier at HEB. Alexzandra was 22, had a high school diploma and no post-secondary education. Opportunity and a path toward economic mobility felt out of reach, so she contacted Workforce Solutions Alamo and enrolled in the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) program. In February, she started attending the University of Incarnate Word’s Dental Assistant Program. Workforce Solutions Alamo provided her with career training and course work support as she completed her studies. With the help of Workforce Solutions Alamo, she successfully graduated from the program in June and is now actively seeking full-time employment.

“I felt stuck and wanted more out of life,” said Alexzandra Perez. “Workforce Solutions Alamo helped me find purpose and a career pathway.”

The YES program removes barriers to training and higher education opportunities and develops career pathways in critical industries such as IT and Health professions for underserved youth.

Recently, Port San Antonio allocated a $500,000 annual sponsorship package for the San Antonio Museum of Science and Technology to support its education and workforce development activities. Workforce Solutions Alamo will leverage this funding to support its YES program. The investment will positively impact residents in the West Side of San Antonio who have experienced generations of inadequate education and career training opportunities.

If you are seeking a job or career assistance, visit Workforce Solutions Alamo at www.workforcesolutionsalamo.org or call (210) 224-HELP (4357).

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