Vale Más Rodear Que No Rodar
Let’s Talk About It

Women Leaders Act

By Yvette Tello

A bill to be entitled an act in Texas relating to requiring female representation on the boards of directors of certain publicly traded corporations; authorizing administrative penalties. What do you think of this bill? Is it time to give women their place in the corporate world? Let’s talk about it...

Alice Herrera: “I work in an industry which is roughly 80% men and of varying ethnicities. I am ok with knowing I was chosen for my experience & ability. Not because I'm a woman or of a certain ethnicity. No company should be forced to hire someone solely on their ethnicity or sex.”

Jay Kapica: “Loved watching WOMEN arguing against equal rights for WOMEN…”

D.O. Wilmoth: “45 years in the making. The last vestiges of The Patriarchy eroding keeping Women in their place.”

Lonnie Bradley: “I don’t think women are equally represented, but I also think forcing a company to hire someone just because they are a certain race or color actually undercuts the accomplishment because everyone, including the person hired, is going to wonder if they got the job because they deserve it or because they were x minority. They have to be hired to serve on the board, which means non government run companies are forced to hire someone to fit the requirements or get fined, even if someone else is more qualified.”

Jerry Rowray: “Women have worked tirelessly for many years to advance in the Male dominated corporate world. They don't need our help to legislate their advancement. Just get out of their way.”

Candy Yvonne: “How is that bill going to work when genders by the left are being eliminated? No girl, boy, female, male, mom, dad and so on. That for them takes care of it all.”

Drell Workman: “Equal rights would be nice. However a biased bill that only guarantees women's rights and not men's rights is unsuitable.”

By Yvette Tello

Suzanne Lemire: “Weak men want Mothers, not Wives.”

Nate Twehues: “Republicans say women are already equal, while pushing for more control over women's bodies.”

Joanne McIntyre: “They have been trying to pass this for over 50 years, men have had ALL the rights all along, about time!!”

Thomas Mc: “It's worked very well in Europe.”

Gilbert Dimas Jr.: “I agree 100% hire the best person possible man or woman period regardless of race or gender.”

Patrick Southard: “Even Europe's most egalitarian countries struggle to put women on an even footing at work. Women still lag behind men in pay, management and company ownership.”

Tim Gideon: “So more feel good sounding B.S. that does absolutely nothing. Gotcha.”

Cindy Albers Wilson: “Yay! It's been a long time coming.”

Roseline Adam: “Awesome.”

By Leonard Rodriguez

This column highlights inspiring stories of Latino leaders. For more than 50 years, Latino men and women have positively influenced the face of United States society. Let us celebrate these outstanding hispanics.

Alurista

(Alberto Urísta Heredia)

Considered one of the Chicano movement’s most renowned poets, Alurista used his work to draw attention to the movement. As a student at San Diego State University, he helped organize various student organizations including Movimiento Estudios Chicanos de Aztlan, Centro Cultural de La Raza and, with the help of Chicano leader Rodolfo Gonzalez, helped create the “Plan of Aztlan.” His poetry has often been described as a voice to organize Hispanics and a prelude for other chicano poets. Stylistically, he is considered the first poet to use Chicano dialect and also popularized writing in bilingual form. Between 1972 and 1982, Alurista published 5 anthologies, numerous pieces on Chicano culture, TV scripts and a children’s book, “Tula and Tonan.”
About the Cover Art: Borderline III

Provided by Diana Molina

This week's cover art comes from the book, Icons & Symbols of the Borderland: Art from the US-Mexico Crossroads (2020). Author of narrative and collage artwork by Diana Molina offers the following words:

"The nation's divide on immigration policy reform and the topic's sharp and tangled nature is clearly visible in borderland structures. Tied to the economies and politics of multiple nations, current practices kill hundreds and force thousands to live and work in societal shadows. People disagree on the solutions. Minutemen in 2005 and wall advocates today demand layers of physical structure to secure the border. Migrants want access to better lives and opportunities. Immigrant advocates seek equal rights and humane treatment. The issue's complexity is tied to culture and compassion, and people take action. They trek deserts and patrol borders. They board civil-rights buses and march in the streets. And they do it so that the world, as they understand it, will get better.

Julian Castro, 2020 presidential candidate and an immigration crusader for policy reform, challenged his running mates to take a stand on Section 1325 against the criminalization of migrants by making illegal entry a civil offense.

"It cannot withstand faith; it cannot withstand truth. The wall cannot withstand freedom," said President Ronald Reagan in Berlin in 1987. While he called for the destruction of the Berlin wall, he took a middle road and called for strong borders but also granted amnesty to many unauthorized immigrants in 1986, when he signed the Immigration Reform and Control Act. The wall is a patchwork constructed of barbed wire, corrugated steel, metal fencing, concrete, and materials once used as military landing mats in Vietnam, and its construction has no end in sight."

For more information and context to further explore the themes of Icons and Symbols of the Borderland Book, Molina recommends readers to visit: http://www.juntosart.org
By Celinda De La Fuente

Terri and Rosie Lopez truly define the word comfort for many in San Antonio at Comfort Café. As a non-profit community invested establishment, the restaurant offers a gourmet donation based menu as a means to support their recovery program, which is set up for those who want to recover from addiction, yet lack the resources. The belief is that everyone who wants to change should have the opportunity, not just those who can afford to, as it is not about the money, according to our Reinas. At Comfort Café, the program also allows individuals to work at the eatery, thus providing them with opportunities to work on social skills, professionalism, and culinary art, all the while working on their self-esteem. Terri and Rosie Lopez effectively deliver a safe, sober, and spiritual space, not only for those within the program, but for the patrons as well, creating a sense of family and togetherness...dare I say, Comfort.

Our Reinas are changing the face of recovery and addiction, breaking the stigma of the stereotypical addict and background you see on TV and in the movies. At Comfort Café, you hear their stories and see their recovery firsthand. You find yourself identifying with their struggles. YOU are now part of their recovery, by simply listening...by simply being human. And, that, is why we need such establishments here which celebrate recovery and celebrate life, embracing love and embracing diversity.

If you would like to be a part of something bigger than yourself and enjoy a fun, unique experience, Comfort Café is located on 5616 Bandera Rd, open Friday-Sunday from 8am-4pm. Though the menu is donation based, the suggested price is $10 for each adult entree and $5 for each child entree. However, please pay for the service you feel you received or pay what you can. If you wish to donate to this non-profit restaurant, click https://www.serenitystar.org/ and you will find the donate button at the upper right hand corner. Plates, cups, silverware, HEB cards, Walmart cards, etc are all accepted as well if you would like to drop them off at the location. Any help from contractors, electricians, plumbers, builders, is needed for the new program and location is welcome.

The healing work Terri and Rosie Lopez are doing in this city can only be done out of love. So, with all our corazon, we thank you.
Analyssa Harrell, Celebró Su Séptimo Cumpleaños Con Tema De Snow White

Por Franco

La simpática niña Analyssa Harrell, vivió el sueño de su corta existencia. El motivo fue qué en su séptimo cumpleaños fue complacida por sus padres Aubrey Harrell y Brenda Harrell. Quiénes con anticipación hicieron todos los arreglos en el diseño con el tema "Snow White".

La dichosa cumpleañera estuvo acompañada por sus abuelos maternos Nora y Víctor Silva (dueños de Taquitos al Minuto), quienes prepararon deliciosa cena de tortas de brisket y platos de brisket.

Así cómo de sus tíos y el tío anfitrión Víctor Silva Jr. (El Perro).

Su inseparable amiguita Amber. Primos, primas. Amistades de la familia, su hermano Sean de 14 años y su hermana Adonys de 12 años de edad.

Los felices momentos para la princesa Analyssa, fueron cuando partió su delicioso pastel decorado al tono del evento social en su honor. Además de escuchar los tradicionales temas del Happy birthday to you y "Las Mañanitas".

Antes de abrir sus regalos, acompañada por sus padres se dedicó a repartir cajitas conteniendo golosinas y decoradas con la imagen de Blanca Nieves.

"Muchas gracias por acompañaron a nuestra hija Analyssa. Estamos felices por todos los regalos y de su compañía", dijo Mister Harrell.

El ambiente musical fueron temas infantiles qué los chiquitines y la cumpleañera disfrutaron, con actuación sorpresa del niño Noah Silva, primo de Analyssa, quién se llevó las palmas entre los invitados y familiares.

Con este evento celebrado en el sector sur de San Antonio, la comunidad comienza a retomar sus acostumbradas forma de entretenimiento y continuación cultural. Todo bajó las normas de higiene propuestas por la ciudad y condado. En especial del honorable gobierno estatal, de esta grandiosa geografía estadounidense.

En las fotos aparecen: Analyssa con invitaditos. Analyssa Harrell con sus padres Aubrey y Brenda. (Fotos por Franco).

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Legado de negligencia: 'Sin máscara' arriesga la vida de las familias latinas

Por Juan H. Flores

El levantamiento del mandato de la máscara por parte del gobernador de Texas Greg Abbott tiene riesgos mortales para la salud de las familias latinas, su movilidad económica y la economía del estado.

Esta decisión no es un caso aislado de la insensibilidad y las desigualdades del liderazgo estatal hacia las personas de color y los trabajadores de bajos ingresos que ya son vulnerables. Hacer de los inmigrantes chivos expiatorios como una desviación de su decisión fue un insulto adicional. Los inmigrantes indocumentados dan más a nuestra economía de lo que reciben. Arriesgan sus vidas a diario, sin reconocimiento ni recompensa, en áreas esenciales de nuestra economía o en el cuidado de nuestros seres queridos durante el COVID-19.

Texas es el único estado donde más de la mitad de todas las muertes por Covid-19 son latinos; morimos a una tasa 3.5 veces mayor que la de los blancos no latinos. Los trabajadores domésticos latinos, los trabajadores agrícolas y otros trabajadores de primera línea, en las plantas empacadoras de carne, la construcción, la hospitalidad, la atención médica y las industrias de servicios de alimentos, han experimentado graves pérdidas financieras y una salud más precaria. Pagar la comida y las facturas, evitar los desalojos en el hogar, conseguir una guardería, controlar el aprendizaje remoto de sus hijos y satisfacer las necesidades de salud de sus familias son preocupaciones constantes.

Las pequeñas empresas de propiedad de latinos, el sector empresarial de más rápido crecimiento de la economía de Texas, han sufrido pérdidas desproporcionadas y devastadoras relacionadas con la pandemia. Lucharon por adquirir un apoyo equitativo del Programa de Protección de Cheques de Pago COVID-19 para la recuperación económica y la reempleo de empleos de tiempo completo. Las empresas latinas deben exigir apoyo financiero, oportunidades de vacunación para los empleados y una guía eficaz de salud pública (no decisiones políticas partidistas) para hacer la transición a operaciones comerciales completas.

Las alarmas preparéndicas que piden inversiones en capital humano dirigidas a la movilidad económica latina están bien documentadas. Por ejemplo, los latinos comprenden el 62% (3,2 millones) de los 5,2 millones de habitantes sin seguro de Texas. Incluye a más de 2,5 millones de adultos y 674,000 niños. Muchos trabajadores latinos se concentran en industrias donde el seguro médico no está disponible o no es asequible y está muy afectado por COVID-19. A pesar del abrumador apoyo de una amplia base (profesionales de la salud, empresas, economistas) para la expansión de Medicaid, el gobernador Abbott y los líderes legislativos continúan negando la seguridad financiera y de salud a milones de tejanos.

Los latinos son un activo capital humano crucial necesario para la prosperidad económica del estado. Los activos abarcan las contribuciones económicas del crecimiento de la población y la fuerza laboral (nativos e inmigrantes), el crecimiento de la vivienda y las pequeñas empresas, las mayornias de inscripción en las escuelas públicas y universidades, el aumento de los ingresos fiscales y los mercados de consumidores en constante crecimiento. La mala salud, las muertes, la pérdida de empleos, los desalojos y pérdidas de viviendas, el menor rendimiento educativo y las pérdidas comerciales debilitan estos activos.

Organizaciones sin fines de lucro prominentes como Texas 2036 tienen una visión simple para nuestro estado: "el mejor lugar para vivir y trabajar". Su enfoque es lograrlo para todos los texanos que van más allá de las políticas partidistas, regionales y generacionales. Abogan por que los datos y la investigación deben impulsar nuestro enfoque en los problemas que son importantes para los tejanos y abordar las brechas que afectan a los más vulnerables. Proponen que el crecimiento de la población, los resultados educativos, los requisitos laborales, la atención médica y la pobreza son cuestiones importantes vinculadas que requieren una atención y soluciones concertadas.

Los defensores y aliados latinos describieron un futuro similar para sus familias: el Plan económico de la familia latina de Texas. Piden poner fin al racismo institucional, las inversiones equitativas en capital humano y la necesidad de superar las barreras políticas y de políticas para lograrlo.

El gobernador Abbott levantó el mandato de la máscara y otras restricciones de COVID-19 sin la participación de los funcionarios de salud estatales o federales. Después de recibir críticas generalizadas, culpó a los inmigrantes indocumentados por la propagación del COVID-19. Unas semanas antes, mientras sus electores se congelaban literalmente en sus hogares porque ERCOT les falló, Abbott apareció en la televisión nacional y culpó al 'Nuevo Acuerdo Verde' no implementado por los problemas energéticos del estado. Abbott demostró preferencia por el uso de chivos expiatorios y el uso de una retórica de bandera roja sobre el gobierno real, arriesgando conscientemente la salud y la vida de las familias latinas.

Juan H. Flores (juan@ix.netcom.com) es un analista y defensor jubilado de la comunidad y la salud pública de Texas y fundador de Chicano Health Policy Development, Inc. Es el ex director de La Fe Policy, Research and Education Center, el brazo de políticas a nivel estatal para el Centro De Salud Familiar La Fe, un Centro de Salud Federalmente Calificado con sede en El Paso, Texas y una organización sin fines de lucro galardonada de salud, servicios humanos y justicia social que atiende a las personas de bajos ingresos de El Paso. y poblaciones vulnerables.
La Prensa Texas

La Prensa Texas SAN ANTONIO

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From Kelly To Port SA: Where San Antonians Build Their Futures

By Chris Alderete
Port San Antonio Board Chair - District 7

As San Antonians know well, for decades Kelly was a place of life-changing opportunities. At Kelly, thousands of civilians maintained and modernized our nation’s military aircraft. Scores of mechanics, engineers and support personnel ran the massive operation—which was a place of great jobs.

Being part of Kelly meant turning dreams into reality, including home ownership and putting kids through college.

My own mother-in-law was part of that history. Victoria Alderete was a “Kelly Katie” during World War 2—among the women who did their part on the home front. Like my husband Joe and I, families across town have stories of their own proud connections to that legacy.

Today, 1,900 acres that spanned Kelly continue as Port San Antonio. More than 20 years since Kelly’s closure, our Board of Directors and the team running the Port have been laser-focused on reimagining this special place for the century ahead.

I am thrilled to report that, with a lot of hard work and the support of partners across our community, we’ve seen unprecedented growth as we connect people with life-changing opportunities in careers, education and as entrepreneurs.

Since 2018, with our support, more than 80 tenant customers have created nearly 4,000 additional jobs on the campus, including over 1,000 jobs in advanced technologies last year alone. This brings the Port’s workforce to more than 14,000 today. That activity contributes more than $5 billion to our economy annually—supporting thousands of additional jobs, including restaurants, retailers and other small businesses.

This success is the result of the Board’s strategic plan, which we call Tech Port. It is focused on playing to San Antonio’s strengths as a leading place of innovations in defense, cybersecurity, aviation, medicine, robotics and other fields. Each day, we work on growing collaborations that develop new technologies in San Antonio that are then used across the world.

Leading employers like Boeing, StandardAero and CNF Technologies at the Port were founded by former Kelly employees.

A central part of Tech Port is empowering people with skills in advanced fields. This is why we are very focused in developing multiple paths to connect educators and students—from all levels—with industries thriving here.

The cornerstone of this effort is the San Antonio Museum of Science and Technology (SAMSAT). Since launching at the Port in 2017, thousands of students have been inspired by exciting STEM/STEAM programs, including model rocket launches, robotics, cybersecurity simulations, and design activities.

With our support, SAMSAT recently added a tech training center so adults—especially those who lost their jobs in the hospitality and other industries hit hard by COVID—will be empowered with new talent to access in-demand tech careers. We are also cementing relationships with UTSA, Alamo Colleges, A&M San Antonio and others as essential partners supporting research, internships and educational programs tied to industries here.

We are now taking this work to the next level. A new state-of-the-art innovation center approved by the Board last summer will open in 2022. It will be a fun environment for families with exciting spaces that will scale these activities, including expanding the SAMSAT’s offerings to highlight San Antonio’s latest technologies and how to access jobs in these fields. It will also include a large event arena, a food hall for families to gather, esports gaming, tech competitions and more.

We are honored by our Kelly heritage and what it has meant for so many in San Antonio, and we are excited about the road ahead as we help transform our community’s economic landscape for today’s and future generations.

We truly appreciate La Prensa’s invitation to share our journey. We look forward to keeping readers informed of the great opportunities ahead for you and your families.

Photo Caption (Victoria Alderete shown on the back of a truck as the forklift she operated at Kelly was transported from one location to another. She was a “Kelly Katie” during World War 2. Like her, thousands of San Antonio families trace their history to the former Kelly Air Force Base. www.port-sanantonio.us)
Águilas Ganó El Primero A Indios
En Serie Del Playoff Semi-Pro Colt 45

Por Sendero Deport
Con la pizarra empatada 2-2 carreras, en el cierre del noveno episodio el campeón Águilas de Veracruz, ante Indios de Nava se agenció el triunfo 3-2.

La noble afición se dio por bien servida, luego de ver las espectaculares acciones. El jugador internacional Víctor Mercedes "El Caminante", en el cierre del noveno capítulo recibió su cuarta bases por bolas (en el primer inning abrió el marcador con su primer swing. Poniendo la pizarra 1-0. Con jonrón que sobre voló la arboleda del jardín derecho).

Mercedes, en el partido finalizó anotando la primera y tercera carrera para asegurar el primer partido de la serie.

Gregorio Quintero (Goyo), con salvamento de Juan Pedro Reza. La derrota fue para el abridor Joey Farias con relevo de Juan Martínez.

Sultanes SA de Gabriel Ruiz, los coaches y jugadores Toño García (Pimpollo) y Ruberto Ortega, ganaron su tercer partido consecutivo ante el campéon Cachorros de Nava qué comanda la tercia Alejandro Becerra (Rábano), Benito Martínez y Rubén Galindo (el Alacrán).

La pizarra final fue de 11-6 carreras, con lo que Nava perdió lo invicto en 15 partidos. Gilbert Salazar sé llevó la victoria, con salvamento de Julio Aquino. Por Nava, perdió Héctor "Papo" Garza, siendo relevado por Víctor Vázquez. "Nos tocó un equipo bien reforzado. Íbamos bien. Errores nos hundieron, Sultanes aprovechó. Cachorros trae gran pitcheo, en esté partido faltó el acostumbrado bateó", dijo Becerra.


Por los Cachorros, Johnny López, en su turno al plato en el primer inning impulsó dos carreras.

Por Sultanes, Sergio Torres dio de 4-3 y Ulises Arriaga sé fue de 6-4.

Rol de juegos sábado 20 de marzo. 11 a.m. Missions vs Cachorros. 2 p.m. Red Sox vs Mineros. Descansa Sultanes SA.

En las fotos aparecen: Sergio Torres llegando al plato. Johnny López, con tremendo swing. Víctor Mercedes "El Caminante", anotando la tercer carrera de Águilas contra Indios. (Fotos por Franco).
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Primera Feria Anual Del Libro De Southside San Antonio En Mayo De 2021

Por el personal de LPT
La primera feria anual del libro de Southside se llevará a cabo el 16 de mayo de 2021. Organizada por Live from the Southside, Scooby Van de San Antonio y Brooster's Backyard Icehouse, autores locales de Southside y se presentarán otros autores de Texas.

La feria del libro exhibirá hasta veinte autores que firmarán y venderán sus libros.

Se llevará a cabo un concurso de escritura para niños para animar a los niños a escribir y compartir sus historias. Los primeros tres ganadores recibirán premios y aparecerán en Live from the Southside Magazine.

El Scooby Van de San Antonio estará allí para una colecta de libros usados para ayudar a apoyar su misión de dar libros gratis a los niños desatendidos y abastecer pequeñas bibliotecas locales gratuitas. Esta feria del libro es gratuita y abierta al público. Habrá refrigerios gratuitos, y también habrá refrigerios y alimentos disponibles para su compra a través del anfitrión del evento interior y exterior que admite mascotas y niños en el lado sur de San Antonio, Brooster’s Backyard Icehouse.

April Monterrosa, editora en jefe de Live from the Southside Magazine y presidenta de Scooby Van of San Antonio Southside Chapter, Alda P. Dobbs, autora, y Linda Pearson, fundadora / directora ejecutiva de Scooby Van de San Antonio presentarán un panel de autores para dar inicio al evento.

Live from the Southside es una publicación en línea e impresa propiedad de latinas que ayuda a los residentes y visitantes a encontrar cosas que hacer en el lado sur de San Antonio y en todo Texas.

Scooby Van de San Antonio regala libros y bocadillos Scooby a los niños desatendidos. Admite pequeñas bibliotecas gratuitas. Promueve la alfabetización y cree entusiasmo por la lectura. Unir comunidades a través de la alfabetización. Una organización sin fines de lucro 501 (c) 3.

Los autores interesados en ser exhibidos pueden contactar: contact@aldapdobbs.com. Para obtener más información sobre patrocinios, comuníquese con linda@scoobyvansa.org

Para obtener más información sobre el evento, los medios y la publicidad, comuníquese con livefromthesouthside@gmail.com

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The Nation’s Top-Ranked Minority- and Women-Owned Investment Banking Firm Donates $100,000 to Winter Storm Uri Relief Funds

By LPT Staff

As millions of Texans rely on their resilience and resourcefulness to recover from the devastating effects of Winter Storm Uri, the Siebert Williams Shank Foundation (SWS Foundation) is donating $100,000 to the relief effort to help those impacted by the once-in-a-generation arctic blast.

The storm caused widespread power outages; days without heat; difficulty accessing food, water, and fuel; and damaged or destroyed homes. More than 8 million Texans were under a boil-water advisory, and more than 100,000 went for days with no water at all.

Keith Richard, Senior Managing Director and Head of the Texas Region for Siebert Williams Shank & Co., LLC (SWS), is a native Texan and recalls devastating storms such as Hurricane Alicia (1983), Tropical Storm Allison (2001), Hurricane Ike (2008), and Tropical Storm Harvey (2017).

“These storms greatly impacted the Houston area, where I am from, however the impact of the recent winter storm was felt statewide,” said Richard. “I am proud to be part of a firm that not only provides investment banking services to municipalities across the state but is also able to provide critical assistance to the residents of Texas in a time of need,” he added.

*The SWS Foundation is contributing $25,000 directly to the Let’s Help SA Emergency Fund which will use the donation to help in the effort to bring the lives of the most vulnerable – seniors, families and persons of color - in San Antonio back to normal. The funds will go toward immediate needs such as food, water, heating costs and lost wages.

Siebert Williams Shank CEO and co-founder Suzanne Shank says the firm feels a responsibility to provide support for those in need in the communities it serves so this was a natural call to action.

“When I saw the suffering caused by the storm, I thought of my many friends in Texas and the millions of others who were facing life-threatening conditions,” she said.

The Foundation is contributing $25,000 each to the Dallas Mayor’s Disaster Relief Fund, which is sponsored by the Dallas Foundation; the Houston Harris County Winter Storm Relief Fund, which is administered by the Greater Houston Community Foundation and United Way of Greater Houston; the Let’s Help SA emergency fund, spearheaded by the Morgan’s Wonderland Inclusion Foundation; and the Austin Community Foundation.
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Para más información, viste [cpsenergy.com/flexsteprfp](http://cpsenergy.com/flexsteprfp)
Community Health Fair

By Ramon Chapa, Jr.

La Prensa Texas was honored to be a sponsor with Pastor James Robinson and Gospel Vision Ministries to organize this incredible Community Health Fair Saturday! Thanks to All the agencies that attended, all the volunteers and elected officials and Justina Gonzalez and IDEA Carver School's Volunteers for signing Precinct 4 residents up for the Covid 19 Shots!
By DeeDee Belmares

Earlier this year, General Motors Chairman and CEO Mary Barra announced that the auto manufacturer will phase out gas powered cars by 2035. Volvo and Jaguar also plan to electrify all their cars in the next 10-15 years. Barra is now calling on other car manufacturers to follow their lead in building greener cars.

Barra recognizes the damage that gasoline engines inflict on our environment and climate. Our communities, and especially the most vulnerable among them, should no longer be forced to breathe in tailpipe pollution from combustion engines. These proactive and responsive automotive leaders have listened to public pressure for cleaner cars, as cities around the nation and world build electrical vehicle infrastructure to provide drivers with readily available charging stations. They also recognize the global urgency to transition away from fossil fuels. General Motors is not stopping at building greener cars. All their facilities in the United States will be carbon neutral by 2030 and worldwide by 2040. They plan to use various available technologies to reach those target dates.

Sadly, this kind of visionary leadership is desperately lacking at CPS Energy. San Antonio’s largest utility needs a bold policy maker at the helm who envisions a bright, clean future for San Antonio, not one choked by dirty natural gas and coal-power plants. A forward-thinking leader will see that the cost of renewable energy, such as wind and solar, is getting cheaper and that battery storage technology is becoming more reliable. Leaders are imperfect and will re-direct their course when they see things coming such as federal regulations that may affect their plans for the future.

Right before GM announced they would phase out gasoline vehicles, they were plaintiffs in a lawsuit, along with the Trump administration, to keep California from setting its own vehicle emission standards. Did Barra see that a possible Joe Biden administration would adopt climate change as a national priority? Probably so, because after Trump lost the presidential election in November, GM removed itself from the California lawsuit.

CPS Energy’s President and CEO, Paula Gold-Williams, recently said that the utility may delay its Flexible Plan, which was the utility’s path to shutting several aging natural gas plants and replacing them with renewable energy sources. Instead, they are considering building another natural gas-fired power plant. They blame this on the $1 billion financial hit they took from last month’s Winter Storm Uri. Gold-Williams is fear mongering when she says that closing the Spruce Coal Plant sooner than planned will cause bill shock for customers as they will be forced to raise rates. The CPS Energy CEO refuses to acknowledge the human costs of burning coal. CPS Energy is poisoning our air and people are suffering.

When will Gold-Williams acknowledge that refusing to explore energy options aside from coal and natural gas is pushing us faster toward a climate cliff that will trigger even more extreme weather events like last month’s freeze. Too many people suffered and continue to suffer from the freeze. There are still thousands of residents with broken water pipes that need assistance. The CPS Energy CEO refuses to acknowledge the human costs of burning coal. CPS Energy is poisoning our air and people are suffering.

The mayor and council can also help CPS Energy lead San Antonio to a future free of carbon pollution by making bold commitments like the city of Los Angeles. Its mayor, Eric Garcetti, committed to bold climate action through their Green New Deal. They have a goal of carbon neutrality by 2050, like San Antonio, but their plan also calls on the city to get 80% of its energy from renewables by 2036. All of their municipally owned buildings must be all electric by 2030 as well. In 2019, Los Angeles’ water and electric utility company made plans to build the largest solar and battery storage system in the U.S. When completed it will be able to power nearly 293,000 homes.

It’s time for this type of leadership and vision for San Antonio.