Las Palabras Vuelan, Los Escritos Quedan
Let’s Talk About It
Permitless Carry Law is coming to Texas

By Yvette Tello

In Texas, you need a permit to fish but on September 1st you will not need a permit to carry after Gov. Abbott signs gun legislation. What is the purpose of this? Do you think this is a good idea? Let’s talk about it...

Thomas Mc
Is it a good idea to let the under-educated, the mentally ill, the untrained, and the petty egotist have a gun? Nah, what could go wrong? It’s all bread and circuses. He is appeasing to the lowest common denominator to distract from all the major issues. Now when he runs he can say any opponent will take gun rights away and the people with the gun fetish will forget everything else and vote him in again. I don’t care, I’m done with this state. The only exception is Alpine, Texas. Visiting new states this month and next for other places to be. Now believe me, I’m not voting for the idiot by any means, he’s a train wreck, but the GOP in this state has systematically gerrymandered for decades and has this in the bag. Even if San Antonio, Austin, and Houston, maybe even Dallas, vote against Abbott, he will still win because of all the rural towns that buy into the religious and gun propaganda. On top of that new voting restrictions make it very difficult for people to vote in some counties. It sucks but they have been building this for years with little opposition. Same story is happening all over the country. I will do my part. I just feel it won’t be enough.

Andy Squire: “Law abiding gun owners are not the ones committing the crimes. Did the people who have concealed licenses start murdering people right and left? No, they are law abiding folks. It will be no different when this takes effect. It is illegal to murder so why would people just start now?”

Cynthia Garcia: “What Thomas said. Our young people are even wanting to move to another state over the sad state of affairs our state is headed towards. They fear for their life with the entitled and angry folks able to have a gun handy to be impulsive if they don’t get their way.”

Ralph Tello: “Either way, there is no easy solution. Our children will bare the consequences.”

Jerry Rowray: “Well, as long as we keep the laws and restrictions to purchase a firearm - that will restrict some of the worst. The thought of law abiding citizens walking around with some firearms may be a deterrent to those who might take advantage of innocent people. On the other hand, in the old west anyone could pack heat and very few actually did. If there was a way to regulate hate that would be the ultimate solution.”

LeAnn M Dinsdale: “Scary”

Christopher Liserio: “To carry both do not require a permit. If you go fishing without a license you may get a fine. Maybe. If you go shooting...even if you legally own it you will be arrested until it is determined that you used your gun in self defense. This bill only really pertains to openly carrying small firearms. You will still need an I.D. and be able to pass a background check to purchase them. I am a supporter of the second amendment. I feel it is a law that was put in for a purpose and it should not be taken away. I ALSO FEEL that Joe Dummy who has never fired a gun, does not understand gun safety, and has no idea of what consequences/responsibilities come with carrying a gun in the general public should be openly carrying one.”

Frances Potter: “Hell no. I do not know who he is kissing up to, but more deaths will be on his hands.”

Michael Suarez: “But with all this said, do you think criminals really CARE about any law? If they intend to rob, kill or rape, no little paper posted is going to stop them. Kinda levels the field as most criminals don’t practice gun safety or even go to a range, a bunch of innocent bystanders are hurt or killed in spray and pray drive-by attacks.”

Gerard Bustillo: “Have you ever been hooked by someone fishing behind you that has no idea how to handle that fishing rod? It’s not a pretty sight.”

Shawn Armstrong: “Here’s how I look at it, I really don’t think any Tom, Dick and Harriet should have a gun that has never been trained to use one but I also understand that the 2nd amendment gives everybody the right to bear arms. So I don’t think that like it was back in the old days when everybody knew how to use a firearm, nobody should be using the here and now because so many people really don’t know how to use a DVR much less a gun. Open carry is for advertisement (look at me, look at me) conceal carry is for protection! The weak will die first if the sh*t really hits the fan and the weak are showing themselves front and center. It’s not my job, or the people that know how to defend themselves, to take care of them. They’ve had long enough to figure it out, the weak will just drag the strong down. If you think you’re a lion, the lion does tricks in the circus; you need to be a wolf, a wolf takes care of its own, nobody else does!”

Drew Macias: “Because fish crime is not under control.”

Jeff Mahi: “That is because fishing kills fish but guns do not kill fish.”

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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.

Tomás Rivera
Tomás Rivera was born in Crystal City, Texas, in 1935 to an immigrant family that followed the labor streams from Texas to the Midwest. Becoming a highly successful university professor, administrator and writer, Rivera quickly ascended the academic ladder. In 1978, he became executive vice president at the University of Texas at El Paso and, a year later, became the youngest and first minority chancellor in the University of California school system. As a scholar, Rivera was instrumental in the creation of Chicano literature as a legitimate academic field. His novel, “Yo no so lo trago la tierra” (1971) won the first Quinto Sol National Chicano Literature Award. Passing away in 1984, he remains one of the most influential figures in Chicano literature.
About the Cover Art: Infinite Glimpse

Infinite Glimpse is part of a series of work that will be on view at The Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center until August 12, 2021 as part of a group exhibition titled, “RESURGENCE”, highlighting work by SA artists who produced work during the pandemic.

Artist Statement

“With this current series of paintings, I’m interested in capturing fleeting moments. These moments sometimes end up having more meaning than initially thought. Life is in flux, never static; there always exists a process of change. These “subjects” are isolated in a space that is devoid of life. They're frozen in a tranquil state yet prepared to leap into existence with reckless abandon at any moment. This tension is what I attempt to capture in my painting, a subtle gedginess, an underlying tension. If change is inevitable, then things could go awry at any moment. The ephemeral moments in between always seem to linger, but there is contentment in these moments, waiting to be discovered all the time.”

Gabe Garcia is a visual artist from San Antonio, TX, and a graduate of The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (BFA, 2009). He has exhibited artwork throughout the U.S. in various media, including painting and drawing, public murals, sculpture, and mixed media installation. He is working on a current passion project exploring digital illustration in a comic series titled Boney Toe based on his late father’s experience as a young Chicano in San Antonio, circa the 1950s - 1970s.

babygibo.com
A True Institute of San Antonio: Johnny and Lillian Guerra

Interview by Natasha Gonzales
Article by Celinda De La Fuente

La Familia de Guerra has had a long-standing influence on our ciudad and beyond for many decades now. We have all been impacted by the incredible Johnny Guerra (86) and his intelligent and beautiful bride of 65 years, Lillian Guerra (83), in one fashion or another, even if we did not know it. A true testament in stewardship, The Guerras of A&A Body Frame & Paint shop, a thriving business on San Antonio’s Eastside, have used their means and resources to aid those in need as they sit on numerous boards and organizations within our community.

The late Mary Nan West, the first woman in the United States to be elected as President of a Stock Show and Exposition organization, who saw the diligence and dedication Lillian Guerra always put forth recognized her as Volunteer of the Year with the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo. West then recruited Miss Lillian to be her Assistant to the President, where the Guerras served as Directors of the Livestock Show and Exposition.

“We’re real proud to have been able to be associated with the Rodeo because of what they stand for and how they help, really the country with agriculture,” Mr. Guerra happily states.

The Rodeo has also been instrumental in the financial aid of education by providing scholarships, which by now has implemented over $200 million in donations for those in need. Johnny, who was quite influential in this matter, lobbied to assist Palo Alto Community College with $300,000 in scholarships to start. Mr. Guerra, who was originally appointed by the late Paul Elizondo to the Coliseum Advisory Board (now known as the Bexar County Community Arenas Board) of which he has served as Board Chair various times, has been able to improve our city in many ways. The success of bringing professional ice hockey to San Antonio is just one of the ways Johnny Guerra has been able to strive for more for all of us. In the wake of this success, the Guerras felt the need to assist young mothers in need of financial assistance at Our Lady of the Lake University, who weren’t exactly making straight A’s, with scholarship funds.

As a Knight “with the title of Sir in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, and with Lillian who has the title of Dame,” the Guerras have been able to assist orphanages and with scholarships in the Holy Land, as well as sponsoring young men in their journey to priesthood. Aqui, en San Antonio, for over 16 years they have assisted the juventud of San Fernando Cathedral who come from all over San Antonio for their First Communion to provide resources for the less fortunate. Their commitment to the Catholic Church and their faith is inspiring. “Pray,” matriarch of the familia Guerra adds, “Pray for the poor. Pray for the needed. Pray for the suffering. You’ll be a better person.”

Lillian Guerra leaves us with this kernel of wisdom which she and her familia say often, “There’s not a thing you can face today that you and God cannot handle.”

Juntos, let’s use the beautiful example the Guerras have laid out for us to better not only our community, but ourselves in the process as they urge us toward volunteerism in our community. Gracias por todo Sir Johnny y Dame Lillian Guerra.
Spurs Nombró A Peter J. Holt Managing Partner Y Presentó A Los Nuevos Socios

Por Franco

Los Spurs cinco veces campeón del mejor baloncesto mundial en la NBA, siguen reforzando su franquicia que desde 1973 ha ubicado a la región de El Álamo en el mapa mundial tanto en el deporte profesional como en la industria del turismo.

En boletín informativo la empresa Spurs Sports and Entertainment (SS&E por corto), mediante su departamento de Servicios a los Medios impresos y digitales, aportó la siguiente información,

Spurs propiedad de la empresa SS&E, recientemente ascendió al joven empresario Peter J. Holt, para ocupar el puesto de Managing Partner, a la misma vez indicó que la empresa financiera Six Street líder global en inversiones dentro de su programa denominado “Strategic Partners”, de unirá al selecto grupo de inversionistas y también invitó al inversionista Michael Dell, CEO Dell Technologies que fundó a la edad de 19 años en Texas.

Todo esto será revisado por NBA Board of Governors, que será el que de la aprobación oficial.

“Siempre estaremos agradecidos por las contribuciones de cada inversionista con los Spurs. Ello desde que la franquicia llegó a San Antonio en 1973. Han sido muchas las personas y compañías que han puesto en alto el nombre de nuestra comunidad, durante cinco décadas”, dijo Holt, quién añadió lo siguiente. “La familia Holt se encuentra feliz y seguirá adelante trabajando con nuestro grupo de inversionistas para dar mayores resultados y seguir recibiendo apoyo, liderazgo, y recursos que Spurs necesita para seguir con éxito en nuestra sede de San Antonio”, apuntó el joven magnate.

Por su lado Corinna Holt Richter, quién también ostenta importante puesto en la directiva de SS&E, firmó lo siguiente. “Emotivo momento darle a conocer a San Antonio en su historia la bienvenida a nuevos inversionistas Sixth Street y Michael Dell, ambos han sido bien recibidos por nuestro grupo de inversionistas.

Estos dos socios comparten el valor y tradicional de Spurs en nuestra cultura, excelencia y labor comunitario. Vamos a lograr el avance en los compromisos de la franquicia “.

Six Street es una empresa con capital financiero de $50 billones de dólares que opera en nueve oficinas a nivel mundial. La firma fue creada en 2009. “Spurs de San Antonio es una franquicia admirada en los deportes. Spurs es un equipo campeón estamos agradecidos con la familia Holt y la NBA por darnos la bienvenida”, señaló Alan Waxman, cofundador y CEO de Sixth Street.

“Emocionado de unirnos a Peter J. Holt y Sixth Street, la comunidad entera y Spurs. Cómo nativo tejano apreció programas con éxito que Spurs han cumplido en beneficio de su comunidad y cultura lo que los ha echó ser el orgullo de San Antonio”, afirmó Dell.

Las fotos de Holt y su hermana Corinna son cortesía de Spurs la foto de los cinco trofeos es de Franco/La Prensa Texas.
El Aeropuerto Internacional De San Antonio Presenta Un Nuevo Programa Canino De Detección De Pasajeros: Capa Adicional De Seguridad

Por Tonya Hope
El Aeropuerto Internacional de San Antonio (SAT) en asociación con la Administración de Seguridad del Transporte (TSA) y el Programa de Capacitación Canina de la TSA firmaron un Memorando de Acuerdo para presentar el nuevo programa Passenger Screening Canines (PSC). Estos equipos caninos altamente capacitados agregarán una capa adicional de seguridad y protección para los viajeros en todo el aeropuerto.

Los perros seleccionados para este programa altamente sensible provienen directamente de las instalaciones de adiestramiento canino de la TSA aquí mismo en San Antonio. La instalación de entrenamiento de $12 millones está ubicada en la Base Conjunta San Antonio-Lackland y entrena a los caninos y sus manejadores para detectar materiales explosivos y su fuente.

Varios congresistas junto con funcionarios del aeropuerto y de la ciudad han trabajado diligentemente durante los últimos años para llevar este programa a San Antonio. Jesus H. Saenz, Jr., IAP, Director de Aeropuertos, San Antonio Airport System dice: "La magnitud de este acuerdo importante acuerdo no hubiera sucedido sin el trabajo y la dedicación de muchas personas. Me enorgullece dar la bienvenida a los equipos de Passenger Screening Canine a San Antonio, y estoy con nuestros socios, y espero seguir cooperando con nuestros equipos del aeropuerto y el público viajero para hacer que la experiencia de cada pasajero sea segura y positiva."

"El programa canino de la TSA es un gran ejemplo de las agencias policiacas federales, estatales y locales que trabajan juntas para proteger al público que viaja", dijo Jesus Presas, Director de Seguridad Federal de la TSA para el Aeropuerto Internacional de San Antonio. "La firma de este programa altamente sensible para frustrar cualquier amenaza potencial a la seguridad, especialmente en los puntos de control de los aeropuertos, y los viajeros pueden sentirse confiados y seguros de que su seguridad es la máxima prioridad aquí en San Antonio.

Los viajeros a través del SAT comenzarán a notar estos increíbles equipos caninos en los puntos de control de seguridad tan pronto como el otoño, justo a tiempo para el viaje de vacaciones. Estos perros especiales son hermosos y pueden parecer amigables, se le pide al público que no se involucre con ellos ni los distraiga mientras trabajan para mantener seguro nuestro aeropuerto. Los equipos están entrenados para maniobrar sin problemas a través de multitudes ocupadas olfateando olores explosivos en los pasajeros y su equipaje. Si el perro alerta a su guía de la presencia de un explosivo, la TSA seguirá los procedimientos establecidos para inspeccionar y resolver la alarma.

Se sabe que los explosivos son la mayor amenaza para el sistema de aviación civil en este momento, y este programa de PSC es el medio más eficaz para detectar materiales explosivos. El SAT tendrá cuatro equipos de PSC trabajando juntos para frustrar cualquier amenaza potencial a la seguridad, especialmente en los puntos de control de los aeropuertos, y los viajeros pueden sentirse confiados y seguros de que su seguridad es la máxima prioridad aquí en San Antonio.

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La Prensa Texas SAN ANTONIO
4 de Julio de 2021
Carta En Referencia Al Scr3

Por Lisette Alamo

Escribo para dar un gran agradecimiento a la Legislatura estatal de Texas por sus esfuerzos en la aprobación de la Resolución Concurrente 3 del Senado, la cual condena la práctica del régimen comunista de China de la sustracción forzada de órganos vitales (de personas que siguen una fe). También, felicitaciones al Gobernador Abbott quien el 7 de junio firmó la Resolución.

SCR3 (por sus siglas en inglés), aprobada por unanimidad en la Cámara de Representantes y el Senado de Texas, llama la atención a la práctica del Partido Comunista de China (PCCh) de abastecerse de órganos para trasplantes de presos de conciencia detenidos. Por lo general estos son practicantes de Falun Gong, pero también es muy posible que entre ellos se incluyan budistas tibetanos, cristianos de las Iglesias Caseras, y miembros de la minoría étnica musulmana uigur.

Falun Gong (también conocido como Falun Dafa), es una práctica de meditación que se originó en China basada en la Escuela Buda y centrada en los principios de Verdad, Compasión y Tolerancia. La práctica fue prohibida por el Partido Comunista de China en el 1999 debido a su naturaleza espiritual y su enorme popularidad (el propio PCCh estimó más de 100 millones de practicantes).

SCR3, aún con el sistema bien desarrollado que tiene EE. UU. para la donación de órganos, el tiempo de espera para un órgano compatible puede tardar cientos de días. Sin embargo, los centros de trasplante en China pueden programar una cirugía de trasplante dentro de dos semanas de tiempo, “sugiriendo un conocimiento previo nefasto con respecto a la ‘donación’ de estos órganos”.

La disponibilidad de órganos en China ha atraído pacientes de trasplantes de todo el mundo, incluidos los estadounidenses. SCR3 aborda este problema alentando a la comunidad médica a educar a los tejano sobre los peligros de viajar a China para ser trasplantados, de modo que puedan evitar “involuntariamente involucrarse en asesinatos en forma de extracción forzada de órganos de presos de conciencia”.

Lo que está sucediendo en China afecta a creyentes de toda fe. Soy de Puerto Rico y me crié en la fe católica. Estoy muy consciente de la difícil situación de los cristianos en China. Actualmente practico Falun Gong y cuentan entre mis amigos varios sobrevivientes valerosos de la persecución en China. Es alentador ver a la Legislatura del Estado de Texas asumir este grave problema.

Enfrentar el problema de la extracción forzada de órganos es importante no solo para los tejano, sino para toda la humanidad.

Little Miss Dynamite: The Indelible Shelly Lares

Interview by Natasha Gonzales
Article by Celinda De La Fuente

The dynamic and effervescent Shelly Lares has announced her retirement from Tejano music, but continues to advocate for the gente’s music. She recently debuted what would be her last album titled “LMD82” which stands for Little Miss Dynamite and 1982 for the year she began in the industry. With just about 40 years of experience in the music industry, Lares has great insight and knowledge to share with all us and future generations.

Lares recently met with Dr. Matthew Knowles, founder of Music World Entertainment and father of Beyoncé, “to talk about what we can contribute to Tejano now for the future.” Her passion to push Tejano forward in this new age is admirable, especially since she is taking action and the necessary steps to solidify a higher standard for our gente’s music.

“[Tejano] is evolving and changing...We can’t keep the mentality that we had in the 90s because things are different now. We have so many things that work to our benefit...internet, social media...So, we gotta figure out how to get the younger generation to listen to Tejano music,” Lares states with fervor and a tenacity that cannot be extinguished.

Supporting our new generation of Tejano musicians along with our veteran Tejano artists will allow many to see that this deeply cultural music is not just for the older generation. Es para toda la gente.

“Tejano music is my family. Tejano music is a family member to me.”

It’s part of our familia as well, as it reminds us of yesteryears and connotes nostalgia with every chord. With Shelly Lares at the helm, we can ensure the survival of Tejano Music for all.

Now with a new venture in her life, the nurturing and caring Lares is entering the nursing field as a Hospice Nurse.

“Music was one chapter in my life. Now I’m ready for another.”

Helping and caring for others is part of her nature, so it is only natural that she finds her path amongst one of the most hardworking, underappreciated fields. Lares already has experience as a caretaker of three years and is aware of the need for caring nurses as her own father was in hospice and his nurses provided loving care for him until his very last breath.

“To me, if all I’m known for when I’m gone is just my music, I didn’t do something right. I want to do something on the human level, as a human being.”

We will remember Lares for all the work she has done for our musica, for our comunidad, for our gente, and for all the future lives she will touch. Gracias.
Por Sendero Deportivo

El club Sultanes SA en el cierre de la tercera vuelta con marca de 9-2 se coronó campeón de temporada Veteranos Potranco 2021.

Los regiomontanos dirigidos por el legendario timonel Gabriel Ruiz Sr., sus coaches Antonio (Pimpollo) García, Ruperto Ortega y Jesús “Chuy” Ramírez Sr., quienes también se encuentran firmados como jugadores activos. Se impuso ante el trabuco de Red Sox de Pedro Espinoza y su valioso coach y también jugador Catarino Obregón, qué finalizó con récord de 5-5, clasificado en tercer puesto para la semifinal.

Por Sultanes en la lomita ganó Julio Aquino con salvamento del zurdo fronterizo Tomás Rodríguez, la derrota fue para el estelar derecho Alfredo Obregón.

La pizarra final fue de 14-0, con la que Sultanes SA les regreso paliza que la gente de Espinoza les había dado en partido de segunda vuelta con score de 16-1 carreras.

Por Sultanes batieron bien Henry Pichardo con 5-3, Manuel Zapata 2-2, Ulises Arriaga 4-3 con 4Rbi’s. Ya que pegó doblete con las bases llenas. “Nadamas les regresamos la paliza que nos dieron. Con descanso del 4 de julio vendremos listos el diez de julio para seguir adelante en serie del playoff”, dijo Ruiz Sr. “En la serie del playoff Red Sox presentará diferente alineación vamos por todo. Fue buena experiencia durante el rol regular así conocimos al rival en turno”, apuntó Espinoza.

La temporada organizada por el presidente Simón Sánchez y el artista Eloy Rocha, gerente general y dueño del complejo deportivo y social Potranco, consistió de tres vueltas ya qué participaron cinco equipos lo cual al final concluyó con tres victorias consecutivas para los Missions SA del timonel y jugador Mike Tabhan quien sin pena ni gloria se despidió feliz de la postemporada.

Por otra parte los Cachorros de Nava derrotó en 14-5 a Mineros de Juan Sánchez y Ramiro Morales, para asegurar el segundo lugar. Nava qué en la campaña pasada se agenció invicto el banderín de temporada con marca de 9-0 y pos-temporada de 4-0 bajó el mando de los directivos Rábano Becerra, El Venado Martínez y el Alacran Galindo, con pitcheo del lanzador campeón René Rodríguez, quién tuvo el apoyo de sus compañeros.

Nava con su victoria sumó 7 victorias por 4 derrotas con triunfo para el fronterizo derecho Héctor “Papo” Garza, quién admitió jonrón de Sergio González con un compañero a bordo.

Lo emocionante de este último partido fue que los compañeros de Nava, el profesional Victor Mercedes “El Caminante” y Victor Vázquez, estuvieron compitiendo en gran final por el título de bateó.

El Caminante con 5-5 logró acaparar el campeonato de bateó con av-
The Forever Purge Makes a Statement about Modern Society

By Celinda De La Fuente

Many cinematic features are often entrenched with underlying current issues, offering metaphors and themes which resonate in modern society. From elitism, to political corruption, to racial tensions and now highlighting the differing perspectives of immigration in The Forever Purge which premiered July 2nd, James DeMonaco, Jason Blum, Brad Fuller, and Sebastien K. Lemercier of the Purge franchise are leaders in creating allegorical stories which are a commentary of the world we live in.

Starring Anna de la Reguera and Tenoch Huerta as Adela and Juan respectively, a Mexican couple who journey to Texas in the search for a better life due to the growing tensions of the cartel in Mexico. After surviving their first Purge in the United States, they along with the Tucker family (played by Cassidy Freeman, Leven Rambin, Josh Lucas, and Will Patton) are met with hostility from an unsanctioned group who are no longer satisfied with one night of violence and murder, and decide to take over the good ole USA and restore it to its former glory according to their perspective.

“In this one in particular... they do talk about equality and racism, and immigration. All the issues in the border. Different backgrounds, different religion. A lot of things that sometimes are a problem in our society because we don’t respect whatever the other person thinks. So, I just also think that this movie is a lot about respecting one another, whatever your background. Whatever you are, or you like, you have to respect one another,” states Anna de la Reguera who plays Adela, a strong independent female lead.

The Forever Purge takes an introspective look at what the United States of America could be when we are at our worst. The latest addition to the Purge franchise forces us to confront our own personal prejudices, no matter the color of your skin, as well as other deeply rooted issues embedded in the threads of our society. Representation of people of color in every industry is now more important than ever, especially given the growing dissen- sion and rising discrimination against the Latino population in the United States within these past four years. With Mexican Director and executive producer of the new film, Guillermo Valerio Gout at the helm, authenticity is ensured depicting Mexicano actors playing the role of Mexicano characters.

“It is really important and that’s why I’m so happy to be part of this. You know, that we’re leading this movie, me and Tenoch [Huerta]. We’re in a big franchise, that is an American franchise, and it’s seen through our eyes and in a very good way. I think things are getting better, but obviously we do need more and more representation,” de la Reguera adds.

Recuerdas gente, representation matters. Even our fictional stories matter as they always hold kernels of truth.
Community Animal Vaccination Event

By Ramon Chapa Jr

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By Dr. Ricardo Romo

On a clear day on April 9th of last year, 10,000 cars filled several lanes of a San Antonio highway leading to Traders Village where the San Antonio Food Bank was hosting a food distribution. The wait was long, but worth it to the families seeking food assistance--all total, the Food Bank provided food that day to feed 50,000 individuals. The food had been donated to the Food Bank by 500 food partners such as HEB, aided by cash donations from nearly 100,000 Texans.

Similar days would follow. From January 2020 through June 21 more than 88 million pounds of food had been distributed to families in need. Successfully managing such a large-scale distribution effort required a dedicated staff numbering 260 employees aided by 72,000 volunteers. For the past twenty years, Eric Cooper, the Food Bank CEO, has managed food assistance with military-like precision. Feeding Texas is his passion. The Food Bank is a model national program, and the San Antonio Food Bank led by Cooper has been recognized as one of the best in the charity world.

During the pandemic of 2020 community health leaders faced unprecedented challenges: the level of hunger, especially for low income families, reached new heights. An example of the need was reflected in the case of Elsa and Joe. When they arrived at the Food Bank distribution center in San Antonio, they told a volunteer: “We only have money for groceries for the next two days. When someone asked me to open my truck and your employees started to fill it with groceries, I started to cry.” Elsa and Joe speak for thousands of others in similar situations.

Many arriving that day had lost their jobs in the midst of the pandemic and struggled to feed their families.

I have lived in San Antonio for most of my life, but until the Food Bank story appeared on the national news last year, I knew little about it. That story enlightened me and other members of my family. It was apparent that the Food Bank organization merits greater coverage. The staff and volunteers at the Food Bank worked bravely throughout the Covid crises to feed San Antonio Families.

One of those many talented staff is Gina Macias, an employee of the Food Bank since 2012. Gina Macias grew up in San Antonio’s Southside attending St. Joseph’s Catholic School and Incarnate Word High School. She earned a degree in English from the University of Houston. Her career path to the Food Bank began with two different professional sports teams: the Houston Texans, followed by several years with the marketing unit of the San Antonio Spurs. The work with the Spurs was exciting and gratifying, but the hours were long. Macias next landed a job at Clear Channel Communications where the sports news kept her busy. Nonetheless, she made time to volunteer with the Food Bank.

Macias is a proud member of a Food Bank team that includes dedicated employees working through various means to assure the preparation of 120,000 meals per week. She uses her communication skills and her leadership and engagement strategies to make things run smoothly at the Food Bank.

Over the past twenty years the Food Bank has vastly expanded its outreach and services. It currently serves 68 million meals annually across 29 Southwest Texas counties. In addition, it operates three community kitchens. At the Haven for Hope, the Food Bank feeds thousands of homeless weekly.

The highly experienced chefs in the Food Bank’s large modern kitchen also help in job training programs associated with culinary skills. On a typical week Macias might visit with the food partners or assist in the processing and assignment of the 1,000 volunteers who show up on a weekly basis, something I experienced first hand on a busy Saturday morning with my wife and two grandchildren, Lily, age 11, and Emmett, age 9. Teams of volunteers and Food Bank staff filled grocery bags and boxes with fresh vegetables, canned goods, and dairy products and loaded them in the trunks of cars beginning at 8 am.

The Food Bank is not far from where Gina Macias grew up. Located on the Southwest side of San Antonio, the 200,000 square foot facility occupies 40 acres of land. Large trailer trucks come in and out throughout the day delivering food and supplies. An extensive parking lot is reserved for the many volunteers who come to the facility daily, contributing to more than 400,000 volunteer hours a year.

The Food Bank also responds remarkably well to disasters. When the pandemic struck South Texas in early March of 2020, the Food Bank stepped up its programs of feeding children who were out of school. Over the next twelve months, nearly 3,000 individuals benefited from the Food Bank’s nutrition education program. During the Texas Winter Storm of 2021, Food Bank workers and volunteers provided almost 100,000 pounds of supplies for those without water and electricity.

One of Gina Macias’ goals is to help feed every single Texan that faces hunger, and she believes that the more people know about the Food Bank, the more likely the Food Bank will be able to achieve that goal. Macias finds her work immensely gratifying. She is an excellent example of the many talented individuals at the Food Bank committed to making a difference in their community.

(San Antonio Food Bank warehouse. Photo by Ricardo Romo)

Saturday morning volunteers at the Food Bank distribution center. Dr. Harriett Romo, Lily and Emmett. Photo Ricardo Romo)
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Por Laura Aplin

Si bien hay más oportunidades para que los adultos obtengan la vacuna COVID-19, la accesibilidad puede ser un verdadero desafío para las personas que viven con una discapacidad. El objetivo de ATC es asegurarse de que la vacuna COVID-19 sea fácilmente accesible para cualquier persona de 12 años o más con autismo. Para las personas con autismo u otra discapacidad del desarrollo, un sitio de vacunación apto para discapacitados es uno donde la estimulación sensorial se mantiene al mínimo y el personal y los voluntarios están capacitados para trabajar con comportamientos desafiantes causados por la ansiedad y el estrés.

El Centro de Tratamiento para el Autismo ofrecerá una clínica sensorial amigable con la vacuna COVID-19 para personas mayores de 12 años con autismo u afecciones relacionadas y sus cuidadores. Los miembros de las comunidades auditivas. Para las personas sordas o con problemas de audición, habrá intérpretes de ASL de Deaf Interpreter Services está donando intérpretes de ASL para garantizar que la comunicación no sea una barrera para la vacuna para las personas sordas o con problemas de audición.

Según los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades, sas tasas de vacunación de adultos por edad hasta el 22 de mayo analizaron, y se encontró que el 80 por ciento de los adultos mayores de 65 años habían sido vacunados en comparación con solo el 38,3 por ciento de los de 18 a 29 años.

Según la FDA, desde el 1 de marzo de 2020 hasta el 30 de abril de 2021, se han informado a los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (aproximadamente 1,5 millones de casos de COVID-19 en personas de 11 a 17 años). Los niños y adolescentes generalmente tienen un curso más leve de la enfermedad COVID-19 en comparación con los adultos, pero algunos niños pueden enfermarse gravemente y requerir hospitalización. También ha habido casos raros y trágicos de niños que mueren por COVID-19 y sus efectos, incluido el síndrome inflamatorio multisistémico en niños, o MIS-C.

En respuesta, el CDC adoptó recientemente el Comité Asesor sobre Prácticas de Inmunización (ACIP) de su CDC. Esta acción oficial de las acciones del CDC abre la vacunación a aproximadamente 17 millones de adolescentes en los Estados Unidos y fortalece los esfuerzos de nuestra nación para proteger a más personas de los efectos del COVID-19. Vacunar a los adolescentes significa que regresan más rápido a sus actividades sociales y puede brindarles a los padres y cuidadores la tranquilidad de saber que su familia está protegida.

La vacuna Pfizer estará disponible para jóvenes y adultos de 12 años o más que puedan tener dificultades para recibir una vacuna en otros entornos comunitarios debido a comportamientos desafiantes y a personas de 12 años o más que son sordas y tienen problemas de audición y dependen del ASL para comunicarse. Los miembros del hogar y los cuidadores mayores de 12 años también pueden registrarse para vacunarse al mismo tiempo.

Fecha de la primera dosis: miércoles 7 de julio
Fecha de la segunda dosis: miércoles 28 de julio

Cuando se registre, se le asignará un intervalo de tiempo y recibirá instrucciones sobre qué esperar cuando llueve. A todos los que se registren en la clínica del 7 de julio también se les asignará un horario para la segunda vacuna el 28 de julio.

El Autism Treatment Center (ATC) es una organización 501 (c) (3) cuya misión es ayudar a las personas con autismo y trastornos relacionados a lo largo de sus vidas mientras aprenden, juegan, trabajan y viven en la comunidad. Para obtener más información, visita www.atcoftexas.org y Facebook en: https://www.facebook.com/ATCSanAntonio/

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It’s Time For The U.S. To Embrace Its Relationship With Mexico

By Jorge Reina Schement

It’s Time For The U.S. To Embrace Its Relationship With Mexico

President Biden resists pressure to declare a crisis on the southern border, even as members of his administration declare the border “closed.” And, therein festers one of the oldest misconceptions in the American psyche. When we visualize the border as a crisis with a gate, we portray the United States as a besieged victim, as we’ve done for nearly 200 years. Each time, the “crisis” elicits the same narrative — desperate people, alarms of an invasion, calls for paramilitaries, the Rangers, the Border Patrol, or the US Army. Given the perpetual repetition of this story, it’s no surprise that a majority of Americans view Mexico as a dangerous and unstable country with a primitive economy.

Yet, as long as we stick to the same old narrative, we’ll never break the cycle that prevents us from exploring new possibilities. It’s time for a more complete story of the people, things and cultures that actually cross that border.

The story of the border begins with people. Of the 350 million yearly documented crossings on the world’s busiest border, about 330 million funnel through 33 border towns to shop, visit, play, and learn. On the north side, 11 million Mexican immigrants live all over the U.S. But, this part of the story is incomplete. On the south side, 1.5 million U.S. citizens live all over Mexico.

And, whereas 4 in 10 Mexican immigrants live here without proper documentation, about 9 in 10 U.S. immigrants to Mexico live there without proper documentation. While the number of undocumented Americans in Mexico appears to be rising, the number of undocumented Mexicans in the U.S. has declined for over a decade.

Mexicans seek jobs and economic stability for their families, while Americans, many in retirement, go South to improve their quality of life. The U.S. may challenge Mexico to export goods not people; but, in fact, both countries export people.

When it comes to goods, Mexico, not China, ranks as the U.S.’s largest trading partner, $615 billion in 2019. Moreover, the total balance of trade favors the U.S. and supports 1.2 million American jobs. Agricultural goods, vehicle parts, petro and chemical products, computer and communications equipment flow in both directions.

In other words, what each economy produces depends on the other. Neither can go it alone.

With the second largest number of Spanish speakers in the world, the U.S. supports 35 Spanish-language television networks plus 624 Latino news media outlets, and at least 55 Spanish-language/bilingual newspapers. In the other direction, Mexican school policy aims to make English learning universal, thereby ensuring that the two languages will coexist.

In their daily lives, 9 in 10 Americans consume Mexican food and include Mexican ingredients in their cooking. They patronize 59,800 Mexican restaurants, 9% of all U.S. restaurants, and more than the number of pizzerias. Birthday parties and celebrations include piñatas. Americans celebrate Cinco de Mayo and drink $600 million worth of beer. For its part, Mexico adopts American culture, from its language, to baseball, to academic exchanges. On both sides of the border, the two cultures continue to assimilate each other.

The bottom line is this: The border is a zone of rich exchanges where people in motion seek a better life, where one of the world’s great trade exchanges takes place and where multiple cultures share visions that enrich the human experience. So, it’s time to quit imagining the border as if it’s Hadrian’s Wall. Let’s acknowledge our all-embracing relationship with Mexico for one big reason — we need each other.

Jorge Reina Schement is a Distinguished Professor of Communications Policy, American Studies, and Latino Studies in the School of Communication & Information at Rutgers University-New Brunswick.

La Prensa Texas was honored to have been asked to be the primary sponsor at the 1st Taco Eating Contest with Constable Leticia Rodriguez Vasquez! What a turn Out! What Fun! The pictures tell the story! Thank You Constable Leticia Rodriguez Vasquez and James Mejia for leading the Classic Car Show with his Dark Heaven! And thanks to Ramon Chapa, Jr and Clint Westwood as they represented La Prensa Texas as Honorary MC’s! The Taco contest winner was Chris Cowely, 2nd place Jessica Ochoa and 3rd place Michael Rios! Thank you to all our sponsor’s, vendor’s and those all that attended! See you next year!
Los invitamos a acompañarnos en un programa virtual gratuito: **Hacia Adelante: Navegando el Mar del Parkinson** el miércoles 15 de julio, 5:00-6:30 pm.

Villas at Echo East
Groundbreaking Ceremony

By Ramon Chapa Jr.

State Rep Barbara Gervin Hawkins held her Groundbreaking Ceremony at Villas at Echo East last week and Commissioner Tommy Calvert once again stole the show with an incredible speech.
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4 de Julio de 2021