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Feliz Navidad

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<u>LA PRENSATEXAS</u>

This grass roots publication is the life source for a community that is not easily afforded viable access to diverse and accessible media. San Antonio and the surrounding counties have become accustomed to relevant news brought to them in both English and Spanish since 1913.

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Let's Talk About it...

Sheryl Sculley is Retiring

By Yvette Tello

A City Manager oversees the administrative tasks that allow a city to operate. The City Manager is the chief executive of the city government, supervising the city's employees and bureaucracy, while implementing and overseeing policies set by a city's mayor and city council. City Manager Sheryl Sculley is retiring. Is this good or bad news for San Antonio? Let's talk about it...

Fernando Frescas:

"I see several posts bemoaning the fact that we won't be able to attract the best and brightest because of these new salary restrictions. I'm confused why people are advocating for higher salaries in order to attract better candidates for the city manager position but not higher salaries to attract the best and brightest for teaching positions in our local schools."

Lisa N Jack Ybarra:

"It's about time ... but then again of course she's retiring she already did her damage and has taken all of San Antonio's money that she could take!"

Tony Martinez:

"The city passing prop A was a big mistake! For those of you who are just looking at salary and not results need to look at why council passed a salary increase two years ago from pennies to 50k per year! We by the way, are the only city in the U.S with a AAA RATING! Scully has managed to grow are city and be fiscally responsible! This means that yes even the Fire Dept needs to be fiscally responsible and do what everyone already does and pay a deductible on their ins. THIS IS A BIG BLOW TO OUR CITY!"

Tasca Mills:

"About time.... that was an expense we needed to get off the books!! We might be able to repair downtown sidewalks, clean up some areas in the East side, etc"

Robert Rivera:

"When you are more known more for your salary as opposed to your actual accomplishments while in your position, there is something wrong, These comments are being read by this individual. She is showing them to her significant other and friends. She is also laughing all the way to the bank."

Count R. Buckingham:

"The money train has ended."

Aaron D. Muñoz:

"Great, I'm looking forward to the new San Antonio with a lower bond rating, higher taxes, a less than qualified city manager, and less new business coming to town but gee whiz now she don't make as much as y'all anymore, hooray. The people who voted for this will definitely be upset when their taxes continue to go up....then who will they blame?"

Manuel Vasquez:

"The city will not find a qualified person to come to our city for that pay. Unfortunately the city will move backwards not forwards. But that's what the people want."

Donald Vormelker:

"It's more like..... I'm not taking a pay cut, I'll start looking everywhere, where I can rip off another city."

Holly Gonzalez:

"Best news the city could give us!!! Goodbye and Good Riddance!!! Now just take our Mayor with u and the city would be so much better off!"

Carol Thienpont:

"She is highest paid City Manager in Nation. We can definitely use that money elsewhere."

Robert Benavides:

"Best city manager we've ever had. I'm interested to see if the the fire union now gets their contract worth millions? Not a good move. The city council has always had the power. Crazy times."

Sue Schiller-Chavez:

"Crazy times is that we allowed her to get away with what she did. Police officers are retiring because of her and her city planning."

Gabe Gentry:

"It wasn't the term limits issue for sure. She's known for years that she's hated by most. It was the salary cap. The money stopped talking so she's about to be walking."

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About the Cover Artist:

Tim Palomera's Mosaic Star

By Dr. Ricardo Romo

Tim Palomera grew up in a San Antonio neighborhood near San Pedro Springs. He attended Fox Tech High School in the early 1960s where he developed an interest in architectural drafting and design. Following his graduation from high school, he served three years in the United States Army. He attended the University of Texas at Austin on the G.I. Bill and earned a degree in architecture in 1970.

Upon his return to San Antonio, Palomera served as City Architect of San Antonio and retired after 20 vears of service. When he is not researching and writing about local San Antonio neighborhood history, he stays active with designing

and creating mosaic art tile products. He began working with clay tile 25 years ago.

He comments that "The art work is an attempt to honor a people, a religion, life itself.

It is a metaphor of using discarded, broken and ordinary elements, and transforming them into an object of beauty very similar to the human experience of overcoming life's challenges and ultimately finding beauty and happiness."His historical interest revolves around documenting and photographing San Antonio's oldest neighborhoods, in particular, downtown and the Westside.

Palomera's cover art represents religion and culture both of which gives us the image of a star. A star in the sky can give you direction, light and hope. A star is as old as the universe and represents one of nature's most beautiful objects.







By Leonard Rodriguez

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



Esteban Torres

Reared by his mother when his father was deported to Mexico during the Depression, Esteban Torres graduated from Garfield High School in Los Angeles in 1949. After serving in the Korean War, he began his ascent as a community leader in Los Angeles. In 1976, President Carter named him Ambassador to UNESCO and later Special Assistant to the President for Hispanic affairs. In 1982, he was elected to California's 34th Congressional District. Congressman Torres is the highest-ranking Hispanic on the House Committee on Appropriations. He has spearheaded numerous laws in areas of environment, community and banking and is considered the "Chief Architect" in persuading many opponents to vote in favor of NAFTA.



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A NOT-SO-PUBLIC CITY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

By Dr. William Elizondo

In the '60s, it was evident that we were entering an era of great change. If you don't see people like yourself in leadership positions then you don't feel a part of that society. If your children don't see people who look like them in positions with clout, or people with surnames such as theirs, then they can't relate to that leadership or see themselves ever getting there.

Nowhere was the status quo more entrenched and resistant to change than in the city's electric utility, City Public Service (now CPS Energy). It was city owned, but was actually controlled by an unelected five-man board. The board was supposedly answerable to City Council, but in reality it was accountable to no one but itself. And "itself" was also all-Anglo. This arrangement would be a target for reforms by me publicly and by many other fair-minded citizens of San Antonio privately. Since the 1960's, publically, nobody has attacked the CPS.

After I set up my optometry practice in San Antonio in 1959, I joined the Junior Chamber of Commerce. I became a member of its board of directors. I soon found out that many junior chamber members were CPS employees who had been recruited out of high school, some not even from San Antonio schools. These anointed ones got a college or trade-school

education compliments of CPS and had a job waiting when they graduated. None of these fellows were Mexican American. I obtained a City Public Service Board flow chart of its leadership in 1967. Of the top 172 employees on that leadership chart, only one had a Mexican American surname. For a city whose population was half Mexican American, that was unacceptable.

Meanwhile, I knew intelligent young Hispanics who had applied for CPS jobs -- unsuccessfully. Rohen Alaniz, brother of state Rep. John Alaniz, had a degree in petroleum engineering from Texas A&M, but CPS couldn't find a position for him. Robert took a job in California and stayed there. A local lad who might have become a CPS executive and a top-flight citizen in his hometown had to take his talents to California to find a successful career.

This in mind, I met and spoke with O.W. Sommers, the CPS general manager, 1960 and told him his utility wasn't hiring Mexican Americans for jobs they were qualified to fill. He told me, essentially, there were no Mexican Americans coming out of local high schools who could implement policies within CPS. But, he added, if I would identify qualified Hispanics to him, he'd give them serious consideration for CPS jobs. Of course Sommers' explanation was

nonsense, but I knew two bright women who could challenge his reasoning: Stella Garza and Nora Caballero, who worked in my own optometry practice. In fact, they were my only employees. I urged them to apply at CPS and, lo and behold, they were hired. Either Sommers was a man of his word, or he was trying to silence my complaining, but Stella worked at CPS till she quit to raise a family and Nora stayed at CPS for nearly 40 years. Apparently she was a good and

valuable employee, and her success proved there were solid individuals of Mexican descent who could and should fill good jobs at CPS. It was a good sign, but the Caballero-Garza hires turned out to be exceptions then, not the rule.

In 1967, the five-man CPS Board of Trustees - banker Leroy Denman, Joske's Department Store President John H. Morse, businessman Albert Steves Ill, lawyer John R. Locke and San Antonio Mayor Walter McAllister - gave us, their customers, an opportunity to make them answerable to us. The board asked City Council for approval to obtain \$30 million worth of bonds. I felt that if these bonds were sold it would rubber stamp the board's policies, including the hiring and promotion practices we'd complained about for several years. I went before the City Council and asked it to DENY the bond request - and allow CPS ratepayers to vote on the bond issue. I also advised City Council that job discrimination existed at CPS and CPS should change its hiring policies.

Meanwhile, to initiate more credence, LULAC Council No. 2 unanimously passed a resolution. It said, among other things, that the CPS Board in no way represented the average homeowner or gas and electricity consumer in San Antonio; that CPS customers were paying exorbitant and outof-proportion rates and; that the average local consumer paid more per kilowatt hour than the national average of other public utilities even though San Antonio had the dubious distinction of being classified as a low-wage town. LULAC also resolved that discrimination against Mexican Americans had been freely practiced by the CPS Board for 25 years in both employment and promotions.

I had appeared before City Council in the past on other issues such as the national vision programs, and I could relate to the council members. My voice resonated with some of them and others respected me. I'm sure they wanted to appease me, so the council, in a consensus precipitated by the mayor, decided to appoint a committee, which they did, to investigate the alleged job

discrimination at CPS.

Baugh and his committee went at it hard. I appeared at one of the panel's first meetings and asked the CRC to agree that we had a serious problem at the CPS Board, namely that the board allowed the exclusion of Mexican Americans in many job categories and that it had the indices of panern discrimination. We identified about a dozen Mexican Americans who said, anonymously. they had applied for a job at CPS and were told, in effect, "We don't hire Mexicans." Another two-time CPS Job applicant, Carmen Aguilar, obviously a brave woman, put her testimony in a letter:

"I reapplied for a position and was again told they didn't hire Mexicans. Of course, then I told the clerk personnel, 'What happens when a cashier can't speak Spanish and a customer can't speak English?' The reply was, 'We just collect for utility bills. They have to bring someone who speaks English.' To this date, I don't see how our money is any different, yet we cannot get positions because we are Mexicans. I believe in a city like this, especially in city offices, employees should speak both languages. "

Weekly CRC meetings that fall and on into 1968 disclosed more about the CPS Board's hiring practices than the utility company probably wanted disclosed.

For example, Mexican

Americans held only 2 percent of the white-collar jobs at CPS; there were no (zero) Americans of Mexican ancestry even in mid-level jobs (i.e., electricians, linemen, machinists, carpenters, meter readers, cashiers, assistant general bookkeep-

ers - some 40 job categories in all); that 80 percent of the Mexican American hires were laborer jobs; that of the 400-500 CPS jobs that came available each year, many were filled by people recruited from outside Bexar County; that in some work classifications, there were no Mexican Americans in jobs that required only a high school diploma; and, to cite one such job category, of 230 workers in the electrical distribution department, not a single Mexican American. Mexican Americans were afraid to climb telephone poles, one CPS foreman explained. In February 1968, the CRC announced there was discrimination in the CPS Board's hiring and promotion practices. Baugh's committee offered recommendations aimed at rectifying that discrimination, among them: The CPS Board should include Mexican Americans trustees in proportion to their share of San Antonio's population; that CPS should seek out and promote Mexi-

can Americans who had been bypassed through the years and; that the CRC should report the progress in achieving the CPSB 's goals every 30 days.

In a letter to City Council, CPS Board Chairman Leroy Denman spat on the critics, calling the CRC's work a "report," not what it was: actual findings Denman added: "The facts show

as Anglo Americans were added to the board payroll from 1963 to 1967." A big fat lie. Denman's response contended that "this record speaks for itself and clearly demonstrates that unproven charges of discrimination are false."

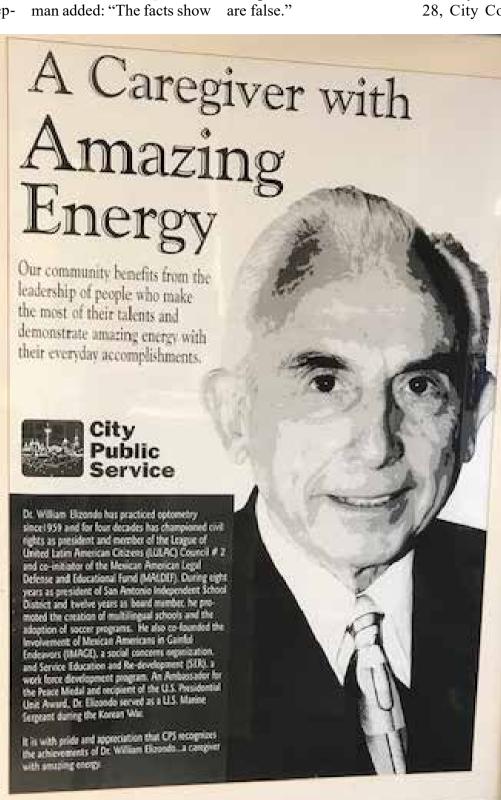
and engineer George Ozuna as candidates to fill the next vacancy on the CPS Board. Meanwhile, we recommended grocer Eloy Centeno as a third possibility.

In the spring of 1969 a vacancy occurred. On May 28, City Councilman Pete

Torres, an ally in our battles with the CPS trustees, and I met with Denman and discussed questions about filling the vacancy. Denman refused to meet with a group called the Ad Hoc Committee for La Raza. which wanted to suggest possible Mexican American candidates for the CPS board.

On June 19. 1969, in an arrangement orchestrated by Mayor McAllister, the CPS Board chose Mayor John Gatti to fill vacancy. Torres said the seat should have gone to a Mexican American and called the board's move "a slap in the face to many people."

The Sunday Sun ran a long story on March 30. 1969, under the headline "Dr. Elizondo serves community,"



that in jobs leading directly to advancement to supervisory positions twice as many Mexican Americans A few months later, the Federation for the Advancement of Mexican American leaders recommended me that praised me for taking on the big boys in the big institutions. The Sun story called me the "instigator of the movement to investigate discrimination within the City Public Service Board,"(CPSB) and noted that the Community Relations Commission had found "discrimination existed in the CPSB against Mexican Americans and Negroes," and; Eloy Centeno was named to the CPS Board on Jan. 31, 1970, replacing Denman, whose term expired. Centeno was the first Mexican American on the CPS Board. It was announced that he would "train" for his place on the board, something Gatti wasn't required to do. While Eloy's appointment was good news, it was a long time coming. The board should have better represented the community all along. Putting a Mexican American on that hidebound board was real progress. A Mexican American had finally won a seat in one of the San Antonio's most exclusive clubs. It made the city a fairer, more inclusive city, one where all citizens could hope for a better job and a better life, a better place to live, work and raise a family. I am proud of what we accomplished. While members of the CPS Board seemed to loathe and fear my intervention into board activities in the late '60s, decades later in 2004 at a public event, CPS called me "a caregiver with amazing energy," noting that "our community benefits from the leadership of people who make the most of their talents and demonstrate amazing energy with their everyday accomplishments."

The Creative World of Michael Menchaca

By Dr. Ricardo Romo

Michael Menchaca's exhibition, "100 Years of Printmaking in San Antonio: Michael Menchaca," closes on January 6th and you won't want to miss it.

While Menchaca is known as an exceptional artist in print design, his studies at the prestigious Rhode Island School of Design enabled him to expand into the world of video and digital art. In his new exhibit at the McNay, there are fifty prints and an amazing video.

The entrance to the exhibit takes your breath away. There are tall columns wrapped in an intricate black and white paper design representing eagle feathers.

To see the exhibit, one enters a long hallway with four twenty foot high columns on each side wrapped in the eagle feather printed paper. Inside, all the walls have a similar pattern, for the printed paper serves as a backdrop for his many prints and a colorful and dramatic digital video. Menchaca is especially proud of his video creation which sheds light on the dark world of drug traffickers, the plight of immigrants, and the turmoil of the Trump proposed border

wall. His story about immigration is

made more complicated by a failure of police on both sides of the border to protect citizens.

Menchaca frames his images based on historical events and anthropological interpretations. For instance, he makes extensive use of the Mayan and Aztec systems of writing and uses pre Columbian figures and texts common to the Mexican Indian codices. He dramatizes these images and figures in his effort to address issues on race relations, politics, and social justice.

In a print titled "Hasta La Casta," which is a play on words from the phrase "Hasta La Vista," Menchaca delves deep into Spanish colonial history following the conquest of Mexico when conquerors created a caste system referred to as "Castas." In the matrix of castas, there were mestizos, mulatos, Indios, and coyotes, to name a few of the fifty-four racial and ethnic categories. Menchaca includes coyotes and different skin tones to show the blurred boundaries of such categorization.

As we learn from the daily news, there is ample human tragedy along the southern border. In new prints selected for the McNay exhibit, Menchaca utilizes cats as well as other animals to document the struggles and difficulties that migrants face as they contract coyotes,

fight off the narcos, and try to evade apprehension by the Border Patrol.

Menchaca strives to present cultural events through invented mythology. In many of his earlier works, he acknowledges using "animal archetypes to tell stories of class inequality, civil rights cases, and the distribution of privileges within the Americas."

San Antonians became familiar with Menchaca's iconic prints following his inclusion in the Estampas De La Raza exhibit at the McNay in 2016. The exhibit included 46 outstanding Latino and Latina artists from across the country, as well as Menchaca's cats crossing the Rio Grande print.

The Estampas exhibit, which traveled to Los Angeles, Albuquerque, Chicago, and Raleigh, gave Menchaca's art exposure in regions of America that might have been unfamiliar with his work.

The Estampas catalog, published by the University of Texas Press, also re-

ceived international distribution. In his artist's statement for the Estampas exhibit, Menchaca noted: " I try to bring various influences to bear on the

imagery...contemporary cartoons and animation, ancient writing systems, racial identity and humor."

His print, "Cuando El Rio Suena Gatos Lleva," addressed the issue of Mexican mi-



gration to the United States. In this piece, which is included in the current 2018 McNay exhibit, Menchaca's subjects are portrayed as cats wearing sombreros. They are shown swimming across a wide Rio Grande.

In the last several years Menchaca has expanded on his themes and images, adding that the cat motif opened "the doors for me to explore my cultural heritage, racial tension, stories of immigration, all with a sense of levity, while formally connecting to the ancient representational traditions of the American continent."

When Dr. Patricia Ruiz-Healy interviewed Menchaca earlier this year at her gallery in Olmos Park, she pressed him on what he saw on the horizon for Chicano artists. A forthcoming publication by Ruiz Healy Gallery offers some insight into Menchaca's current and future work. Menchaca noted that "We must initiate a new wave of Chicano imagery expressing our collective concerns in the present age. We must rise past a reliance on sociological

and cultural generalizations regarding Chicano art and insist on more comprehensive art interpretation."

His comments also revealed on-going work that appear in the McNay exhibition. Noting that "The Internet is now accepted as an art medium within museums and institutions," he called for Chicano artists to "partake in digital mediums as well as Internet art approaches."

Chicano art is coming of age in America. The Smithsonian will have a major show on Chicano art in 2020. With the exciting Menchaca exhibit along with current exhibits of Pop America and a small exhibit of the work of Mel Casas, the McNay Museum has once again demonstrated an appreciation of art by Chicanos, Latinos/as, and Mexican Americans.

This art has a place everywhere in America, but especially in cities like San Antonio where Latinos make up the majority of the population. Recent Chicano art exhibits in Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston align with San Antonio in making sure that when we view American art, we see the work of Chicanos included.



Stephanie Urbina Jones Releases "Merryiachi Christmas"



Stephanie Urbina Jones makes country-mariachi Christmas magic at Imagine Recordings in front of a live audience with a new holiday single, "Merryiachi Christmas." This release brings the spirit of the season to life with a fun countrymariachi Christmas twist. Jones says of the project, "We were longing to hear a song reminding us and everyone that 'the magic is still alive and with us,' and we felt we captured that childlike wonder."

Earlier this year, Jones made Grand Ole Opry history as the first female artist to perform with

mariachis, performing songs from her latest album, "Tularosa." Jones received a standing ovation that night and soon thereafter, the # 1 Billboard Country songwriter was approached by Imagine Recordings in Nashville to record a song for a live audience.

Jones wrote "Merryiachi Christmas" the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, inspired to capture the spirit of her two musical loves—country and mariachi. String and trumpet compositions were arranged, and on the Monday after Thanksgiving Jones

joined Mariachi Tennessee and headed into the studio. The song was produced by Patterson Barrett and the session led by founder of Imagine Recordings and Grammy Award-winning producer and musician Steve Fishell. Eighteen guests were present as audience members in the the studio, free to walk from the control room to the live room only feet away from the musicians as they worked in the hallowed studio on Music Row where 500 #1 hits and counting have been recorded.

on the Monday after Within two weeks, Thanksgiving, Jones the song "Merryiachi

Christmas" had been written, arranged, recorded, mixed, mastered, and released with a live video available." I feel so blessed to be living in a moment in time where it's possible to not only bring an idea to life, but to also record and release an inspired piece of work from start to finish," said Jones. "It seems we could all use a little more light, joy and a song about the simple things in life right about now."

On September 28, Jones released her latest studio album, Tularosa, an inspired marriage of country classics and mariachi rhythms named for the place where it was recorded. Tularosa honors Jones' musical icons — a string of legends from Dolly, Patsy, Willie, and Merle to Johnny and June — and the Mexican heritage that feeds her sound and soul. "Stephanie Urbina Jones is a true visionary, for who else would have thought of marrying classic country with mariachi," says LA Music Critic. "She has brought new life to these amazing classic country hits—this one belongs in the collection of every lover of classic country."

Mineros y Yaquis de La Sauceda Sorprenden en el Playoff Veteranos

Por José I. Franco

En Potranco Baseball Field, los Red Sox dirigido por Pedro Espinoza y el coach René Juárez, (clasificado en segundo lugar), ante Mineros del dueto Ramiro Morales y Ruperto Ortega, sufrió su primera derrota de la serie pactada a ganar dos de tres partidos.

Mineros (clasificado en el tercer lugar), con pizarra de 9 a 6 carreras sorprendió tras sobresalir en las últimas entradas, ya que Red Sox en el séptimo episodio empato la pizarra 6-6. "Nuestro plan de juego fue no cometer 'errores' y respaldar nuestro

pitcheo, lo cual fue el factor del triunfo. El compromiso es terminar con el rival y así agradecer respaldo de jugadores, seguidores y patrocinadores. Confiamos en nuestros lanzadores, así como de la ofensiva y defensiva", apuntaron Morales y Ortega.

"Comenzamos bien, David Hernández se fajó en el pitcheo, costos errores nos hundieron a pesar de que se logró empatar la pizarra 6-6. En este partido no se pudo pero existe confianza que vamos a sobresalir en los siguientes", dijo Espinoza.

Yaquis de La Sauceda (cla-

sificado en cuarto lugar), con su manager Benito Martínez y el coach Luis Alfonso Velázquez, con el servicio de su cuerpo de lanzadores dominó la artillería del campeón de temporada Broncos de Reynosa SA de Roberto Garza (manager), y su coach y lanzador derecho Richard Felán.

Yaquis se impuso con pizarra de 6-1. Broncos anotó la carrera del honor en el primer episodio, dejando en varias ocasiones corredores en bases. "Buen pitcheo por ambos lados. Yaquis tuvo la mejor parte, después de Navidad y Año Nuevo, vendremos con más energía para emparejar la serie", dijo Garza.

"Nuestros lanzadores estuvieron a la altura, con el respaldo de sus compañeros tanto en el terreno de juego como en la defensiva. En el segundo partido Yaquis descansado dará la pelea en lo que será un gran partido", exhortó el timonel Martínez.

La serie se reanudara el sábado 5 de enero, 2019, ello de acuerdo al presidente y compilador oficial señor Simón Sánchez. Eloy Rocha, fundador de este concurrido circuito de béisbol independiente por este conducto de-

sea feliz navidad y próspero año nuevo a los directivos de equipos, jugadores, seguidores, patrocinadores, y familias que brindan apoyo a sus respectivos clubes.

El clásico dominical categoría abierta, lo ganó Piratas de Sabinas a los Mineros que cayeron abatidos con pizarra de 7 a 0 carreras. Piratas (4-2-2) dirigidos por Sergio de Luna consiguió su cuarta victoria para ubicarse en el tercer lugar por debajo de los líderes Broncos (6-2) y Mineros (6-2). En las fotos aparecen peloteros de Yaquis y Piratas celebrando sus respectivas victorias.









GROWING UP LATINO

MANGUERA MEMORY:

Christmas





Rosa Maria Gonzalez, B.A., J.D., C.W.L.S.

Board Certified- Child Welfare Law Specialist, National Association of Counsel For Children, as authorized by the American Bar Association and the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

Born and bred in Brownsville, Texas, Gonzalez has lived in San Antonio for over 30 years. She attended St. Mary's University where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and later her law degree.

Gonzalez has a family law practice and is a graduate of the Women's Campaign School at Yale University. She has a long established history of coordinating campaigns and consulting for women candidates.

By Rosie Speedlin-Gonzalez

Holidays in the Valley. It was about this time of year every year that Mom would pull out the box that contained the totality of all the Christmas decorations she put out every year. Our experience did not include fresh pine trees, or snow, and most years, not even a freeze (which worked out just fine because balmy De-



cembers meant we all got to ride our new bikes, Big Wheels, use our skates, ride our skateboards, whatever was left under the tree either on Christmas day or the day after because the weather always came through for us). No fresh cut Christmas trees were ever brought into our home, or most of the homes we visited for that matter. Many folks we knew decorated their palmas, mesquite trees, bougainvillea bushes or matas de tulipan in a big way and as big as

any tree. My Mom would pull out her trusty, never failed Aluminum Christmas tree that was set up next to a rotating color disc that would change the color of the tree as it rotated from red to green to yellow then blue, she would throw aluminum "icicles" on it and wrap it in a red with white border

felt base cover. All in all it stood to the towering height of 3 feet. She also has a plastic Santa Claus with a sleigh and reindeer that she would talk someone into placing on the house roof for her. Last the big bulb Christmas lights were nailed around the window and door frames for "that" holiday touch. Sometime between the tree getting put up and Christmas Day, Mom made sure my brother and I went and posed for the annual Christmas pho-

to at Gulf-Mart or Sears, and then later it was Amigoland Mall. For that month that passed between Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, Mom purchased and hid Christmas gifts in the trunk of the car. My brother and I were not allowed anywhere near the trunk of the car during those weeks for fear that we would discover what Santa had entrusted my Mom with for us. We rarely had capirotada but Mom played a good game of hunting tamales down from either her old friend from Edelstein's or the lady who worked

at Garden Park Elementary School and made tamales out of her home in Las Prietas. It was a time full of hustle and bustle and countless of things to do and take care of: parades, buying gifts, driving downtown by way of Palm Boulevard and neighborhoods along the way to see how other homes were decorated, Dad making sure he had his bottles of Bacardi and Presidente, baking banana bread to give away to friends, Mom making sure she had all the ingredients she needed for Thanksgiv-



ing and Christmas meals, attending obligatory Masses, checking everyone off her list . . . regardless of how much time has passed, those valley holiday memories are alive and kickin' today. Decorated palm trees, tamales and high balls take me back to those family memories in warp speed. Time flies que no gente? Here's to my 53rd holiday season, one during which memories will be made, but I can honestly say today's memories still can't out last those memories that started to get made all those years ago.



EVENTOS ESPECIALES

Familias y Fanáticos Colaboran Apoyando el Deporte

La Prensa Texas, se complace en agradecerle su apoyo al deporte que le dan familias, fanáticos, y patrocinadores en la comunidad deportiva en la región de Bexar County. Por consiguiente ello sucede en el béisbol regional independiente invernal con sede en los estadios de Liga Potranco y el legendario Colt 45 Baseball League que durante el año son sedes de circuitos en las categorías Veterano y dominical Abierta.

Familiares, fanáticos, patrocinadores, beisbolistas y directivos se encuentran colaborando en el respaldo de la práctica de este popular deporte, el cual por años los ha mantenido unidos y responsables de continuar adelante ejerciendo esa consistente disciplina deportiva y social que a la vez sirve de ejemplo entre beisbolistas adolescentes.

Familiares y fanáticos sin importar los bruscos cambios del medio ambiente, no han dejado de acudir a respaldar a sus equipos favoritos. Por igual patrocinadores quienes con su granito de arena le dan solvencia económica a cada club que brindan ayuda en diferentes formas para que el equipo logre salir adelante en cada campaña, ya sea de primavera, verano o invernal.

En las fotos aparecen la señora Araceli Reza, quien en el pasado Torneo de Acción de Gracias (Estadio Potranco), aceptó flamante trofeo ganado por su equipo Agujita de Coahuila, dirigido por su esposo JP Reza Sr. Seguidores del club Agujita, familiares y fanáticos que desafiaron la onda fría del pasado fin de semana en la séptima jornada temporada invernal durante el partido Bravos vs. Rieleros (Liga Potranco).

Fotos por Franco







Celebrating 300+ Years of Hispanic History in Travis Park

Photos by Steve Walker











EVENTOS ESPECIALES

Santa with Kids

Photos by Steve Walker







OBITUARY

Ben RiosFounder of Rios Golden Cut Salons Dies

It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of the founder of Rios Golden Cut Salons, Ben E. Rios, Sr.

Born in 1933 in Floresville, Texas, Rios grew up in a poor family and developed an entrepreneurial spirit at a young age. After serving in the military during the Korean War, he returned to San Antonio and began working for La Vue Beauty Supply. Due to his strong work ethic, honesty and strong relationship with the owner, Rios was provided an opportunity to start his own business. In 1964, he opened the first hair salon that built the foundation for the family business.

"He was a great businessman who cared for his employees and for his community," said Eric Rios, CEO/President. "His dedication, work ethic and ideals influenced

every aspect of the success we have today."

Today, Rios Golden Cut Salons has been in busi-

S A L O N S

ness for over 50 years and has over 30 salons across San Antonio. Rios Golden Cut Salons is the recipient of several awards, including the MEDWeek Minority Legacy Firm of the Year for 2016. It is the largest family owned salon in Bexar County.



FINANCIAL FOCUS

What's Smarter-Paying Off Debts or Investing?



By Edward Jones

It probably doesn't happen as much as you'd like, but you may occasionally have some extra disposable income. For example, perhaps you have recently received, or will soon receive, a year-end bonus. Or maybe you will get a sizable tax refund in just a few months. Wherever this money comes from, you will want to put it to good use. Should you use the cash to pay down debts or should you invest it instead?

There's no simple answer, and everyone's situation is different, but here are a few suggestions for helping you make a good choice:

• Evaluate your cash flow. If you already have enough cash to meet your daily living expenses, you might lean toward investing the money, but if you are just getting by, possibly due to

heavy debt payments, then you might be better off using your newfound funds to reduce your debt load. Another way of possibly reducing your debt load is to build an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses,

with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. Once you have such a fund, you could use it, instead of going into debt, to pay for unexpected costs, such as a new furnace or a major car repair.

• Evaluate your debts. Some of your debts are actually more "expensive" to you than others. This expense level doesn't necessarily refer to the size of the debt, however. You might have a large mortgage, for instance, but because your interest payments are typically tax deductible, your "after-tax" interest rate may be relatively modest. Therefore, you might consider using your excess cash for investments, rather than paying down your mortgage. But if you have consumer loans or credit cards that carry a high interest rate and whose interest payments are not full amount to a Roth IRA.) deductible, you might be better off paying down this

• Evaluate your investment opportunities. You may have heard that one season or another is a "better" time to invest – but there's really no strong evidence to support this claim. However, now that we are nearing the end of the calendar year, and only a few months away from the tax-filing deadline on April 15, you may want to take advantage of at least

one time-related investment opportunity. Specifically, you could use whatever extra money you have to fully fund your IRA, if you haven't done so already. For the 2018 tax year, you can contribute \$5,500 to a traditional or Roth IRA, or \$6,500 if you are 50 or older. (Depending on your income, you may not be able to contribute the

You've got until the April 15 deadline to fully fund your IRA, but if you have the money sooner, why wait? The quicker it's in your account, the faster it can go to work for you.

One final suggestion: If you have a company match as part of your 401(k) or similar retirement plan at work, consider contributing enough to get your employer's full matching contribution before you pay down debts - don't leave this "free money" on

the table.

Your year-end bonus, tax refund or other source of beyond-the-paycheck money can help you make progress toward your financial goals - so evaluate your situation and options carefully before making any moves. It will be time well spent.

Please contact Ernest Martinez at 210-354-4915 if you have any questions.

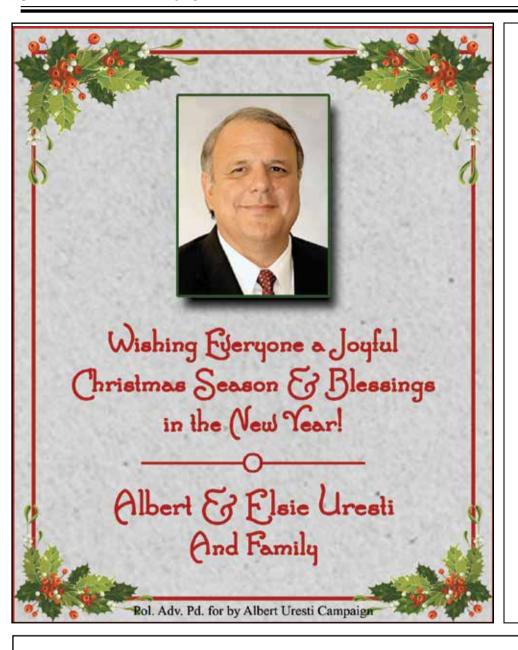




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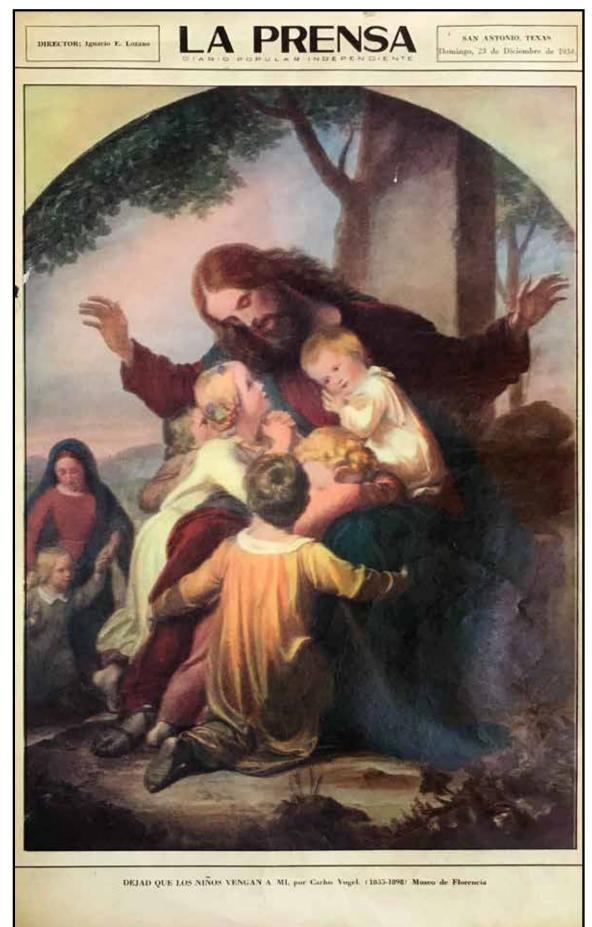


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BUSINESS WAREHOUSE

THIS DAY IN LA PRENSA HISTORY



¿Qué Queremos Decir con "Devolver a Cristo a la Navidad"?

Si al devolver a Cristo a la Navidad quiere decir que reconocemos que nuestros semejantes son seres humanos de Dios tan amados como nosotros, entonces devolvamos el Cristo a la Navidad.

Si al devolver a Cristo a la Navidad quiere decir que entendemos que nuestras palabras vacías de proclamar el evangelio sin demostrar el amor de Dios por la gente a través del servicio y la justicia social son el equivalente moderno de un gong ruidoso o un címbalo de platillos, entonces pongamos al Cristo de nuevo en Navidad.

Si al devolver a Cristo a la Navidad, quiere decir que entendemos que nuestras acciones de servicio y justicia social a menudo no llegan a la Gran Comisión porque no entendemos la razón por la que servimos, entonces devolvamos el Cristo a la Navidad.

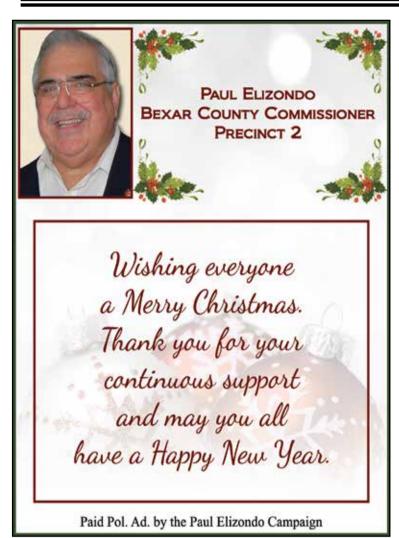
Si al volver a poner a Cristo en Navidad, quiere decir que abandonamos nuestros escandalosos e insignificantes y nos centramos en los casos reales de persecución, entonces devolvamos a Cristo en Navidad.

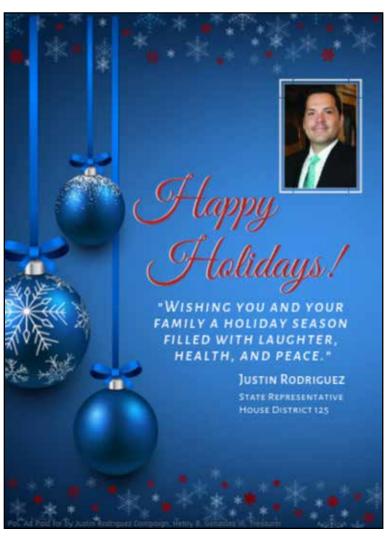
Si al volver a poner a Cristo en Navidad, quiere decir que dejamos de enfocarnos en ciertas palabras y frases que dicen nuestros políticos, comerciantes y figuras públicas, y recordamos que Dios está más preocupado por nuestro corazón, entonces devolvamos el Cristo a la Navidad. Si al devolver a Cristo a la Navidad quiere decir que animamos a nuestros líderes espirituales a preocuparse menos por la institución de la iglesia y más a la misión de la iglesia, entonces devolvamos el Cristo a la Navidad.

Si al devolver a Cristo a la Navidad, quiere decir que separamos la falsa doctrina de vincular el éxito monetario con la bendición de Dios y recordamos que en la economía de Dios los necesitados están provistos, entonces devolvamos a Cristo a la Navidad.

Para muchos cristianos, la Navidad puede ser una estación bastante conflictiva. ¿Ha notado cómo nos quejamos a lo largo de la temporada, gastando demasiado en juguetes y chatarra, comiendo en exceso y dejándonos "demasiado ocupados" ... mientras que con el mismo aliento lamentamos la pérdida de la "razón de la temporada"? ¿Y la forma en que el mundo ha asumido el "verdadero significado de la Navidad"?







NON- PROFIT HIGHLIGHT

Depression During the Holidays

By Michelle Idar

Christmas is known as a time, when families and friends unite and celebrate. It's a time for laughter and making memories. Unfortunately for some, Christmas is a time of deep sadness and loss of hope. Christmas can cause anxiety and intensify common stressors and struggles of everyday life such as: a loss of a loved one, family separation due to divorce, or financial hardships.

During the holidays, some may experience the feeling of defeat. "How do I pay my heat bill and buy presents for my kids" or "Why is this happening to me?" I recently asked someone, "What she was getting their kids for Christmas" and her answer, "Candies and snacks". She was embarrassed to admit that, "She could not afford anything more". She greatly appreciated my time. Having someone just listen and not



judge her made her feel safe. Christmas time brought her doubt and fear. Fear of disappointing her family which caused her symptoms of depression to escalate. A family member of mine just lost her father and husband within three days of each other this holiday season. A shadow now covers this joyous and happy occasion. This trauma has brought on sadness, grief and the need for someone to lean on.

Depression during the holidays is a common occurrence throughout Texas and the United States. Please understand, you are not alone, and help is available. Knowing your triggers and taking proper steps to prevent stressors that lead to depression is possible with the support of a mental health professional. If you or someone you know is dealing with depression, don't be ashamed to ask for help. For more information on the services provided by TCP Marriage & Family Services, please call our office at: (210) 516-2607 or visit our website at: www.tcpmfs.org.



TOGETHER CHANGE IS POSSIBLE

Spurs Go 5-1 in 6 Game Home Stand

By Jessica Duran

Spurs have not had an ideal start to their season that most fans have seen and appreciated the past 5, 6, well let's just say 20 years, but their past 6 game home stand has been a bright light for them this season. The Spurs kicked off their homestand against the Los Angeles Lakers who've had a run of some impressive wins climbing up currently to the 4th seed in the Western Conference. With Spurs guard DeMar DeRozan scoring 36 points, the Spurs scored their second-highest point total at 133 against the

Lakers, their highest being 141 also against the Lakers. The Spurs would take on the Utah Jazz, Phoenix Suns, and the Los Angeles Clippers. Then, Chicago came to town and the Spurs let the Bulls sneak in a win. After leading by 17 points at the half, the Spurs only scored 16 points in the 3rd quarter to Chicago's 31. The Spurs fought to keep the game close but ultimately let it slip through their fingers. The team ended up being fueled by their horrendous 2nd half play from their game against the Bulls and used that fuel against the Phila-

delphia Sixers. The Spurs finished with just 6 turnovers and kept the Sixers under 100 points as forward Rudy Gay led the way with 21 points and 6 rebounds. LaMarcus Aldridge also had quite the game by scoring 20 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. The next true test for the Spurs will not be this Saturday against the Rockets but will be who they face after Christmas. On December 26th they will host the Western Conference-leading Denver Nuggets then fly over to Denver on the 28th. After facing off against the Nuggets, they will fly to Los

Angeles to meet the Clippers then fly back to host Kyrie Irving and the Boston Celtics. Now is the time to earn some wins and prove themselves to the league. These wins might be the difference between a 6th, 7th, or 8th seed. And

for the first time in over 20 years, this might be the year when a loss that could've been a win, really could be the difference between the playoffs or their playoff streak finally snapped.



Texans and Cowboys Look to Clinch Divisions in Week 16

By Jessica Duran

The Houston Texans and the Dallas Cowboys both lead their divisions heading into week 16 but haven't clinched them yet. For the Texans, it's a feat that's almost a sure bet, if not at least a playoff appearance.

For the Cowboys, they will have to win their last 2 games. They will face the Tamp Bay Buccaneers at home but will have to finish their season up north at MetLife Stadium against rival New York Giants.

After a shocking upset by the Indianapolis Colts,

their fate lies in their own hands. Luckily for them, they own the tiebreaker over the Philadelphia Eagles

and Washington Redskins if either team's record ties with theirs. If they lose both games and the Redskins or



Eagles win both their games, then Dallas loses their division and possibly a playoff berth.

Philly faces off against the Texans and Redskins to finish the season. The Redskins face the Titans before meeting the Eagles in week 17.

For the Texans, they are currently in 2nd place in the AFC Conference behind the Kansas City Chiefs at a record of 10-4. The Texans warm a playoff berth with a win over the Eagles and also with a loss by either the Baltimore Ravens or Pittsburgh Steelers. If the

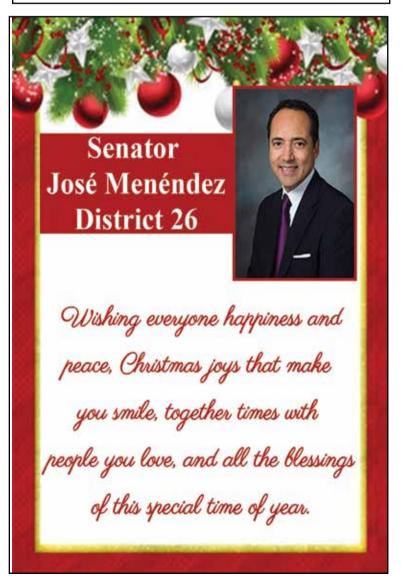
Texans want their first round bye in the playoffs, they'll need a win and also a New **England Patriots loss against** the Buffalo Bills.

Get ready for the best 2 weeks of regular season football. Weeks 16 and 17 are make or break for teams still in the hunt for a playoff spot. For the Texans, it's a matter of where they'll land on the playoff bracket. For the Cowboys, it's either make the playoffs by division title or depend on rivals along with how the Vikings and Seahawks finish their seasons.

Sacred Little Lamb

By Carmen Madariaga

OH! LITTLE LAMB SO TENDER and small. come to earth to carry the burden for us all! Prepare your heart to receive HEAVEN'S KING the Joy of GOD the angels sing! HE will grow so strong and pure. .. HE came to SAVE mankind, you can be sure! Wise Kings from far and wide, Came seeking GOD'S SON their gifts to provide... And gentle Shepherds heard the call, Angels proclaim peace and joy to one and all...not the peace as man suppose, not the joy the world knows... But PEACE in soul, everlasting assurance Divine JOY, the world can't steal, can not influence! Oh little lamb both meek and mild... GOD'S LOVE so GREAT HE became as a child... This is the gift that CHRIST mass brings, FORGIVENESS, SALVATION, don't lose focus because of material things! Mary CHRIST mass to one and all! Lamb of GOD'S Mercy GOD'S GIFT to redeem the fall!



Chow Train's Hot Meal for the Homeless and Hungry



The Chow Train will end its Tuesday hot dinner service on Christmas Night after 13 years and 100,000—plus meals. Joan Cheever began the weekly service in 2005, serving people at four locations on Tuesday nights, with the last stop at Maverick Park, near San Antonio's downtown.

Cheever and her husband, Dennis Quinn, distributed a printed announcement to diners on Tuesday, Dec. 11th, with information about other hot meal services on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, all at downtown locations.

"We aren't ending The Chow Train. Just the Tuesday night dinner. We will still be available for disaster relief," Cheever said. "I want to spend more time writing about issues surrounding homelessness. I am committed to this community -as an advocate and as a lawyer. We will continue The Chow Train's mission of educating people about homelessness, hunger and food waste. There are several restaurants, caterers and grocery stores who hate food waste as much as we do and help us out a lot."

Cheever and Quinn have provided meals to thousands

-including the "newly homeless" when tornadoes struck in Moore, Oklahoma and Joplin, Missouri as well as after Hurricane Isaac in La Place. Louisiana and in Brooklyn, New York after Hurricane Sandy. They also served victims and members of the Smithville, TX fire department in the Bastrop wild fires in 2012 and served first responders and victims in the San Marcos/ Wimberley floods in May 2015. Their most recent trip was in August 2017 to Aransas Pass to serve the survivors and first responders after Hurricane Harvey. They returned last December-with 100 Christmas trees with "all the trimmings" for Aransas Pass residents who lost their Christmas decorations in the hurricane.

Cheever said they have tried to identify an organization or individuals to continue the Chow Train but as of yet, they have been unsuccessful.

Through the years Cheever and Quinn carried out, what many consider a novel idea -- promoting good nutrition: those being served could take whatever they wanted so long as they began their meal with a cup of fresh vegetable soup.

The Chow Train became better known after Cheever was cited and fined \$2,000 on April 7, 2015 for serving food at Maverick Park. An outraged response in the community took The Chow Train to national prominence, with Cheever appearing on major TV networks, in the Washington Post and on National Public Radio.

When Cheever told the police officer she was protected by the First Amendment's right to religious freedom, the officer told her to pray in church.

"Every plate of food I serve is a prayer," she replied. "I pray quietly."

Cheever started The Chow Train in 2005 to set an example for her then, pre-teens, Daley and Austin. "They were normal tweens, but I heard a little bit too much of 'I want. I want.' When it got to be too much, I just went into the kitchen and cooked a big pot of spaghetti, put together a salad, iced down some bottles of water and threw the kids in the car. I told them, 'We are going to serve people who have nothing, and they aren't complaining."

Cheever and Quinn's nowadult children —who live in New York City and Los Angeles -- will be with them on Christmas evening when they serve their last meal on the street.

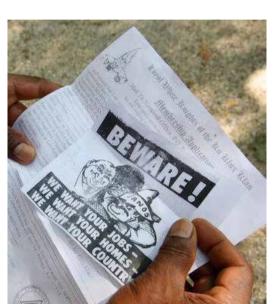
"We will be with our little family, serving our family on the street. The gift is in the giving. That's the best Christmas gift ever."

The Ku Klux Klan's

Campaign Against Hispanics

By Juan O. Sanchez

Long overlooked by historians, anti-Hispanic activity by the Klan was savage and brutal, yet in areas of the Southwest



where Hispanics constituted a majority, or held political sway, they were successful in countering the Klan's racial and cultural bigotry. Historians typically

> addressed Klan activity against Hispanics in passing, covering the subject in a paragraph to a page. This work demonstrates anti-Hispanic activity by the Klan was extensive. The Klan vented its racial bigotry against

Hispanics much as it did against African Americans. Through the use of race, religion, and language, the Klan deemed Hispanics as inferior, foreigners, and minions of the pope. As non-White products of race mixing, Hispanics were inferior; as non-English speakers they were foreigners, members of a priest ridden, and inferior culture. Hispanics were part of the unfounded Catholic Conspiracy attempting to subvert U.S. institutions and install the pope as leader of the nation. These factors were justifications that led the Klan to vent its hatred, racism, bigotry, and

violence against Hispanics. Furthermore, collusion between civil authorities, law enforcement agencies, and the Klan ensured Hispanics were kept marginalized. This collusion and the secretive nature of the Klan als o assured that documentation verifying anti-Hispanic activity would be next to nonexistent.

The Ku Klux Klan's Campaign Against Hispanics, 1921-1925 Rhetoric. Violence and Response in the American Southwest -Juan O. Sánchez







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Solo un Pensamiento:

Recuerdos de Navidad



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

By Steve Walker

La anticipación de que la Navidad se acerca pronto nos trae recuerdos vívidos de años pasados, abriendo regalos y escuchando carollers en nuestra puerta cantando canciones festivas. ¿Quién podría olvidar canciones como "Silent Night", "Oh Come All Ye Faithful" y el clásico "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer"?

Decorar el árbol con guirnaldas, luces y adornos está grabado en mi mente a medida que crecí de niño a adulto joven y finalmente al estado de abuelo.

Cuando era niño, recuerdo que estaba muy emocionado, me levanté temprano en la mañana de Navidad y corrí escaleras abajo desde mi habitación que compartí con algunos de mis hermanos. Intenté ser el primero bajo el árbol. Mi objetivo era poner mis manos en los regalos envueltos antes que nadie. A veces funcionó y otras veces llegué en segundo lugar.

Avancemos a la Navidad en los años 90. Para entonces adquirí dos nietas y dos nietos. Pasar la Navidad con nietos pequeños se convirtió en una experiencia completamente nueva al ver cómo se iluminaban sus ojos como lo hicieron las mías muchas décadas antes.

Durante algunos de mis años de adolescencia, mi madre y mi padre decidieron, por el motivo que fuera, comprar un árbol artificial en lugar de un árbol real. No hace falta decir que simplemente no generó la misma emoción que el árbol real. Estábamos acostumbrados a cambiar religiosamente o agregar agua en la sartén cada pocos días para asegurarnos de que no se secara y causara que las agujas se cayeran o rompieran.

Más tarde, cuando me gradué de la escuela secundaria en Nueva York y regresé a Texas para la universidad, no volvía a casa todos los años. Después de graduarme de la universidad, me fui a Vietnam, donde pasé una Navidad no tan emocionante antes de regresar a San Antonio.

Durante los años noventa reavivé la alegría de celebrar

la Navidad con los nietos. Un año, la abuela, los nietos y yo pasamos mucho tiempo buscando un árbol real y comprando adornos, guirnaldas y luces para decorar. Las dos chicas mayores, Jesse y Nikki, hicieron la elección final en un abeto de Douglas que casi toca el techo.

Durante esa Navidad en particular, caminamos por el paseo del río. El Riverwalk se iluminó durante semanas con luces y decoraciones a lo largo de las orillas con botes que transportaban a turistas y nativos hacia arriba y abajo del río. Los capitanes del barco señalaron a los turistas las diversas atracciones. También vimos cómo la procesión de Las Posadas se abría paso por el sendero a lo largo del Riverwalk. No es raro ver una serie de negocios del centro decorados e iluminando el horizonte también.

Como cada año, Alamo Plaza albergaba un gigantesco árbol de Navidad que estaba completamente decorado e iluminado con luces brillantes para que el público





lo disfrutara. Como parte de ese público en general, Jessie, Nikki, (ahora con 22 años y viviendo con mi esposa, Linda y yo), Jimmy y Sammy admiraban el árbol de manera extática.

Al recordar las conversaciones sobre la Navidad en la Escuela Católica de San Gregorio en Balcones Heights en los años 50, aprendí de las monjas que el Día de Navidad, que se celebra el 25 de diciembre, se acredita al Papa Julio, quien instituyó la celebración en 352 dC.

También aprendí que la temporada navideña en México, por ejemplo, se extiende del 12 de diciembre al 6 de enero, con una última celebración relacionada el 2 de febrero. Estas diversas tradiciones incorporan vestigios de prácticas indígenas, costumbres de España y

nuevos inventos mexicanos del período colonial.

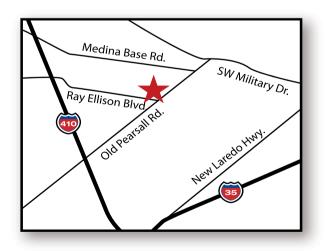
En 2009, México albergó el árbol de Navidad más grande del mundo según Guinness con 110.35 metros (aproximadamente 362 pies) de altura y un peso de 330 toneladas en Glorieta de la Palma en el Paseo de la Reforma.

Con la anticipación de las bandas de villancicos navideños que recorren RiverWalk y en otros lugares de la ciudad cantando canciones de buen ánimo, la esperanza de un feliz año nuevo es primordial en los pensamientos de muchas personas para incluir el mío.

A los lectores de La Prensa Texas y a todas las familias de San Antonio, les deseo "Feliz Navidad" y un Feliz Año Nuevo.



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