

LA PRENSA TEXAS

SAN ANTONIO'S HISPANIC FAMILY OWNED NEWSPAPER

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Hispanics in Politics

**Just a Thought:
Hispanics in Politics**



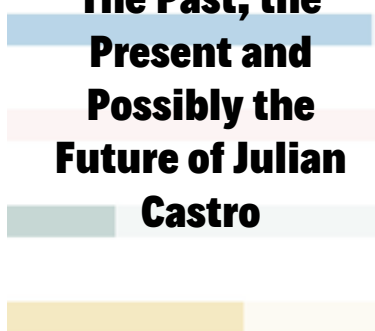
By Steve Walker

**About the
Cover Artist:
Armando Sanchez**

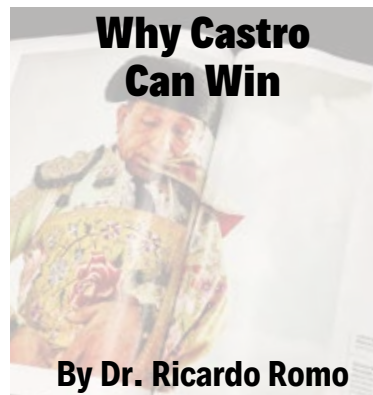


By Dr. Ricardo Romo

**The Past, the
Present and
Possibly the
Future of Julian
Castro**

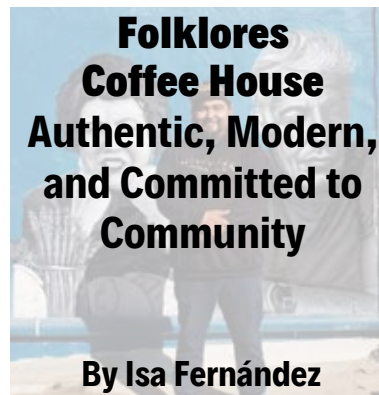


**Why Castro
Can Win**



By Dr. Ricardo Romo

**Folklores
Coffee House
Authentic, Modern,
and Committed to
Community**



By Isa Fernández

LA PRENSA TEXAS

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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**WESTSIDE
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION**

The mission of the Westside Development Corporation (WDC) is to foster economic development, promote the development and redevelopment of real estate within its target area, create viable urban communities, and preserve the character, culture and history of the Westside.

The vision is a vibrant Westside community where people want to live, work, and visit.

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Let's Talk About it...

Is it time for a Hispanic President?

By Yvette Tello

President's Day is February 18th. What if Julian Castro becomes the first Hispanic President of the United States of America? Would you consider it an honor that he came from the west side of San Antonio? He could highlight issues that are happening in our own backyards. Do you think it's time for a Hispanic to lead our country? Let's talk about it...

Michelle Butler:

"I think he lacks public appeal and it would be hard to gain appeal on a national level."

Anthony Adames:

"Julian Castro is a very intelligent person, he knows what he is doing. Henry Cisneros almost came close. My vote is for Julian Castro ALL THE WAY! Julian Castro doesn't lack anything"

Maria Ahedo:

"Right now I believe anybody can be a good President if you can find a person who knows how to tell the truth. Donald Trump

is a businessman, he knows what to say for people to believe him."

Kirk Otto:

"I think he's the only candidate that has a chance of beating Trump. If he can be very personable, it'll help. I completely disagree with his views on socialism. If he pushes that too hard, I think it'll be a mistake."

Esteef Voldese:

"He's lackluster and uninspiring. I do love him though. Henry Cisneros was on the very same path UNTIL Republicans saw him as a threat and brought him before Congress to catch him in a lie for paying hush money. They targeted him and they assassinated his political career.

What's worse is Latinos allowed this to happen to one of their own and shunned Cisneros, when most of us have done WORSE! This is what's happening to Ocasio-Cortez and now they're trying to do this to Castro. They see him as a threat and then they use hatred to unite and destroy."

Juan J. Gonzales:

"It's my opinion that it sounds so awesome to have one of ours running that big Ivory Tower. However I Believe America IS NOT ANYWHERE close to having a Hispanic Commander in Chief!"

Epi Quiroga:

"I vote for the HOME TEAM - Regardless... We must support Julian Castro... It will not be an easy battle and I can't wait to see him put the fight on for us. A San Antonio Native running for president - What an honor for our city."

Michael Suarez:

"He also did a horrid job with funds given to San Antonio for low-cost housing, to the tune of 1.1 million. Obama gave him the HUD job that he ran into the red. San Antonio failed to properly spend funds approved by Congress to combat the housing crisis while President Barack Obama's expected him to run the Housing and Urban Development better?"

Blue Rose Alvarez:

"I just don't think he has paid his dues, yet. He still has a lot to learn and experience before he should take on the task of running for Democratic candidate for the office of the POTUS. Trump is significant proof of why we cannot vote for someone who does not have the experience to run this country."

Nadine Barry:

"Yes, he would make a tremendous President and bring back class and education to the White House."

Benjamin Godina:

"Until Quintana Rd gets new streets with sidewalks I will never trust a politician. Hispanics are not ready to be represented by one of their own. We are a loving breed culture with hard working ethics and integrity. It would take a man of those qualities to run. There isn't many nowadays, unfortunately. Times are changing with greed and fame."

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SAN ANTONIO'S HISPANIC FAMILY OWNED NEWSPAPER

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About the Cover Artist:

Armando Sanchez

By Dr. Ricardo Romo

Armando Sanchez, a prolific San Antonio artist and muralist, is our featured cover artist for President's Day commemoration. In 2010 Sanchez painted a large mural at Pico de Gallo Mexican restaurant on Buena Vista street placing the Castro family at the center of the thirty by nine feet indoor painting. Sanchez was given the creative license to include, in his words, "musicos, poetas, and politicos, as well as businessmen and women--Puro San Antonio." Several of the Cortez family members are included in the mural, as are many prominent San Antonians. The artist rendering of the Castro family- Julian, Joaquin and their mother Rosie was completed when Julian was Mayor of San Antonio and his twin brother Joaquin served as a state representative in Austin. Many of Sanchez's paintings and murals are in the Cortez Family restaurants-- Mi Tierra and Pico de Gallo. Sanchez's design and image of Emiliano Zapata on t-shirts and aprons are well known and has been selling well at Mi Tierra's gift booth. One of Sanchez's proudest

moments came when President Bill Clinton jogged wearing a Mi Tierra's Zapata t-shirt on an early morning following a political event in San Antonio. Another famous admirer of Sanchez's art was the African American poet, Maya Angelou. Ms. Angelou visited San Antonio often to see old friends and stopped to buy Sanchez's art when he sold paintings at Market Square. Sanchez left Market Square 20 years ago to paint and teach art in his home studio near downtown. I am pleased to have been one of his customers over that twenty year period.



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.



Archbishop Patrick Flores

Son of poor migrant workers, Patrick Flores was ordained a Catholic priest in 1956. For 14 years, he served as a parish priest and then as auxiliary to the Archbishop of San Antonio. In May 1970, he was consecrated Bishop, becoming the first Mexican-American elevated to the hierarchy of the United States Catholic Church. Nine years later, in October 1979, he was made Archbishop of San Antonio. Using his influence to work for worthwhile causes, Archbishop Flores devoted his time to the Civil Rights of Hispanics, farm workers, immigrants and the youth. He helped found the National Hispanic Scholarship Fund and established the Mexican American Cultural Center. The recipient of many honors he was one of four Bishops elected to represent the United States at the Synod of Bishops in Rome.



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Hispanics in Politics

Why Castro Can Win

By Dr. Ricardo Romo

In Julian Castro's announcement as a presidential candidate for the 2020 election, the former San Antonio mayor and cabinet member under President Obama promised to support a Medicare-for-all health-care system, universal prekindergarten, and new citizenship pathways in his "comprehensive" immigration policy.

Castro has also expressed support for several other policy ideas, according to the Washington Post "that have become increasingly popular among the Democratic Party's base — including a higher minimum wage, a 'Green New Deal' to combat climate change and a push for criminal justice reform and reduction in police violence."

For Castro, many of these policy ideas are not new. In his earlier days as mayor of San Antonio, he advocated for greater educational opportunities, as well as immigration and criminal justice reform. A strong proponent of early education, his PK4SA program enabled thousands of four-year-olds to start school early.

In his keynote speech to the Democratic National Convention in 2012 Castro offered the idea of investing in opportunity today in order to have prosperity tomorrow.

For Castro, the key to pros-

perity has always been education.

In recent weeks Castro has been crisscrossing the country to get his message out and firm up political support among groups that will be essential to his success: Latinos, millennials, African Americans, women and blue-collar workers. He has expressed confidence to CNN that he can win—as a start—not only Florida, Texas and Arizona, but also the rust belt states of Wisconsin, Michigan, and Ohio.

Speaking with a reporter of the Chicago Tribune, Castro offered that he was running for president "because it's time for new leadership because it's time for new energy and it's time for a new commitment to make sure that the opportunities that I've had are available to every American." To win in 2020, the candidate must win the vast majority of voters who see themselves as moderate or centralsists, as well as voters who lean to the left of the political center.

The 2016 midterm elections proved that mobilizing these voters is possible and can result in needed political change. The biggest midterm winners were women who won congressional seats in

all parts of America. The new policy ideas they campaigned on concerned health care, the deficit, taxation, and climate change. For Castro, this is not just a battle between left and right, it is a battle for the soul of America.



Photo by Steve Walker

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Jon Meacham's book *The Soul of America: The Battle for our Better Angels* captures the essence of what the American soul is and why great leadership is key to a successful presidency.

Meacham's description of "doing all we can to ensure equal opportunity" is what former mayor and HUD Secretary Castro's political compass has been about. As Meacham has brilliantly noted, equal opportunity is "a love of fair play, of the generosity of spirit, of reaping the rewards of hard work, and of faith in the future."

Castro learned about an

opportunity from his grandmother who came to this country from Mexico. President Barack Obama observed, "She worked as a maid, worked as a cook, worked as a babysitter -- whatever she had to do to keep a roof over her family's

head... A home is a source of pride and security. It's a place to raise a family and put down roots and build up savings for college or business or retirement, or write a lifetime of memories." She embodied the American

Dream. It was Castro's grandmother's struggle to have a home for her family that inspired him to strongly commit to affordable housing.

Castro told Rolling Stone Magazine that when it came to the debate about immigration he found it "short-sighted" in terms about the value of immigrants. Castro added: "It's not just the impact that the person who immigrates makes, but it's the impact of the family line." Studies have shown that the children of immigrants are highly motivated to achieve and desire to give back.

It is expected that Castro will soon release his immigration policy, a compre-

hensive policy that includes a path to citizenship for undocumented people as well as "expedited pathway to citizenship for the 'dreamers' — young immigrants brought to America as children — as well as changes to 'streamline and simplify' America's asylum process." (Washington Post)

Many who read Castro's book, *An Unlikely Journey: Waking up from my American Dream* will find an engaging and inspiring story about how his family--through hard work, faith, and devotion to each other--

enabled them to overcome the obstacles of immigration and poverty. The lessons from his family were many, including love for children, appreciation and respect for his elders, and value of public service.

Castro can win. His Stanford and Harvard Law School education and political experience as mayor and cabinet member under President Obama have superbly prepared him to lead and to creatively solve problems. Our nation needs new leadership as it faces continuing problems with income inequality, trade and tariff restrictions and absence of clear foreign policy direction. The current crisis in leadership is obvious--but we can change that with President Castro.

The Past, the Present and Possibly the Future of Julian Castro

Castro was born in San Antonio, Texas, the son of Maria “Rosie” Castro and Jessie Guzman. He is the identical twin brother of current United States Representative Joaquin Castro; Julián is one minute older than Joaquin: they were born at 2:40 and 2:41 am.

Their mother was a Chicana political activist who helped establish the Chicano political party La Raza Unida, and who ran unsuccessfully for the San Antonio City Council in 1971. Castro once stated, “My mother is probably the biggest reason that my brother and I are in public service. Growing up, she would take us to a lot of rallies and organizational meetings and other things that are very boring for a 10-year-old”. Castro attended Thomas Jefferson High School in San Antonio, where he played football, basketball and tennis. He skipped his sophomore year and graduated in 1992, ranking ninth in his class. He attended Stanford University.

Castro graduated from Stanford in 1996 with a bachelor’s degree in political science and communications. He said he began thinking about entering politics while at Stanford, where he and his brother launched their first campaigns and won student senate seats, tying for the highest number of votes. Castro has credited affirmative action for his admission into Stanford, telling The New York

Times, “Joaquin and I got into Stanford because of affirmative action. I scored 1210 on my SATs, which was lower than the median matriculating student. But I did fine in college and in law school. So did Joaquin. I’m a strong supporter of affirmative action because I’ve seen it work in my own life”. Between his sophomore and junior years, Castro worked as an intern at the White House during the presidency of Bill Clinton.

In 2001, Castro was elected to the San Antonio City Council, winning 61 percent of the vote. At age 26, he was the youngest city councilman in San Antonio history, surpassing Henry Cisneros, who won his council seat in 1975 at age 27. Castro represented District 7, a precinct on the city’s west side with 115,000 residents. The population was 70 percent Hispanic and included a large number of senior citizens.

Castro ran for mayor of San Antonio in 2009, announcing his candidacy on November 5, 2008. Castro hired Christian Archer, who had run Hardberger’s campaign in 2005, to run his own 2009 campaign. Castro won the election on May 9, 2009 with 56.23% of the vote, his closest opponent being Trish DeBerry-Mejia. He became the fifth Latino mayor in the history of San Antonio. He was the youngest mayor of a top-50 American city. Castro eas-

ily won re-election in 2011 and 2013, receiving 82.9% of the vote in 2011 and 67% of the vote in 2013.

In 2010, Castro created SA2020, a community-wide visioning effort. It generated a list of goals created by the people of San Antonio based on their collective vision for San Antonio in the year 2020. SA2020 then became a nonprofit organization tasked with turning that vision into a reality. Castro also established Cafe College in 2010, offering college guidance to San Antonio-area students. In 2012 he led a voter referendum to expand pre-kindergarten education.

In March 2010, Castro was named to the World Economic Forum’s list of Young Global Leaders. Later that year, Time magazine placed him on its “40 under 40” list of rising stars in American politics.

Castro gained national attention in 2012 when he was the first Hispanic to deliver the keynote address at a Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. Following the 2012 elections, Castro declined the position of United States Secretary of Transportation, partly with an eye on running for governor of Texas after 2017. However, in 2014, Castro accepted President Barack Obama’s offer of the position of United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Castro

resigned as mayor effective July 22, 2014, so that he could take up his duties in Washington. The San Antonio City Council elected councilmember Ivy Taylor to replace him.

On May 22, 2014 the White House announced Castro as the nominee to be the next secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by President Barack Obama. He was confirmed by the Senate on July 9, 2014 by a vote of 71-26 and replaced Shaun Donovan, who was nominated to be the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. He took office on July 28, 2014. Following the announcement, Castro was discussed as a potential nominee for vice president for the Democratic Party in the 2016 presidential election.

On July 28, 2014, his first day in office, Castro was honored at a reception called “Celebrating Latino Cabinet Members” hosted by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute.

Upon exiting office in 2017, Castro’s final memo outlined various accomplishments of the department under his leadership. These areas included HUD’s work to stabilize the housing market, rebuild communities struck by natural disasters through a \$1 billion National Disaster Resilience Competition, expansion of lead safety protections in federally assisted housing,

and the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule to “finally fulfill the full obligation of the Fair Housing Act.”

On October 15, 2015, Castro endorsed Hillary Clinton for president. Discussion of Castro as a candidate to run on the Democratic ticket with Hillary Clinton increased markedly in January 2016, as the Iowa and New Hampshire primaries approached. In late January, Castro began to campaign for Clinton in Iowa, a move interpreted as a test of his appeal to the electorate.

Castro has already visited the first in the nation New Hampshire primary state in 2018 and delivered the commencement address at New England College in Henniker, New Hampshire, on May 12, 2018. Castro stated that he would make his decision on whether to run in 2020 after the November 2018 mid-term elections. On December 12, 2018, Castro announced the formation of an exploratory committee.

Castro formally announced his candidacy for the 2020 presidential election on January 12, 2019. He is the first Texan in the 2020 race, and would be third-youngest president if elected. In his announcement, Castro emphasized Medicare-for-all, universal pre-K and a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants as part of comprehensive immigration reform.

FINANCIAL FOCUS

Your Financial Advisor Can Do Some “Life Coaching”

By Edward Jones

Life coaches – not surprisingly – strive to improve the quality of life of their clients. And financial professionals essentially embrace the same mission. So, if you decide to hire a financial advisor, you should expect to receive some “coaching” as you work toward all your important objectives, such as sending your kids to college, enjoying a comfortable retirement and leaving a legacy that can benefit the next generation.

What tips from life coaches might you also get from your financial advisor? Here are a few:

- Create a plan. A life coach can help you create a plan for your future, taking into account your career aspirations, relationships, hobbies, charitable activities and so on. And a financial advisor will also take a “holistic” approach by looking at many elements – including your age, income, family responsibilities and desired retirement lifestyle – to create a long-term investment strategy. Of course, you may need to adjust this strategy in response to changes in your life, but it can still



serve as an overall map on your journey toward your financial objectives.

- Identify and prioritize goals. A life coach will help you identify and prioritize your life goals, whether they are personal or professional. And your financial advisor can help you do the same with your financial goals. For example, your goal of retiring comfortably at age 65 may take precedence over your wish to purchase a vacation home. As such, you will need to focus your efforts first on the retirement goal, and then, if it appears likely that you will meet that goal, you can devote the resources necessary for your vacation home by the mountains or

the sea. You may even be willing to accept a lesser goal, such as renting, rather than owning, your vacation residence.

- Move beyond your comfort zone. A trained and experienced life coach can help you recognize your perceived limitations – and move beyond them. For instance, if your new job requires that you make many presentations, but you are nervous about public speaking, your life

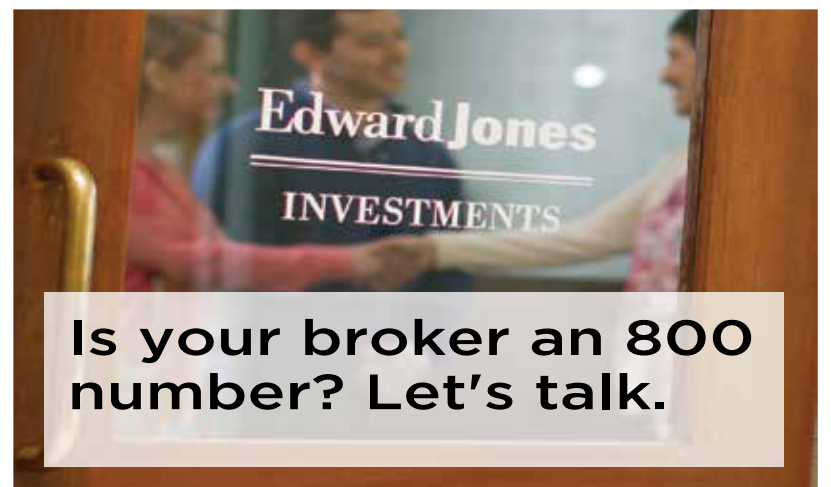
coach may offer techniques to help you get past this fear – to move you out of your “comfort zone,” so to speak. This same scenario could play out in your interactions with your financial advisor. If you happen to be a cautious and risk-averse person by nature, you might be inclined to bring those same traits into the investment arena. But a competent financial advisor – one who truly

has your best interests in mind – will likely warn you that you will have trouble achieving your financial objectives if you try to avoid all risk by sticking exclusively with so-called “safe” investments, which do not offer much growth potential. Instead, your advisor will help you incorporate your risk tolerance, along with your time horizon and your short- and long-term goals, to help shape an investment mix appropriate for you. Such a mix may well include those “safe”

investments, but it would also contain a reasonable percentage of growth-oriented ones.

Whether it’s self-improvement or your financial future, you can benefit from good coaching – so take full advantage of it.

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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

NON-PROFIT HIGHLIGHT

The Southside First Economic Development Council

The Southside First Economic Development Council announces the appointment of Judith A. Canales as the organization's Executive Director.

"We are pleased that Ms. Canales has joined Southside First to lead the organization and create an economic development strategy to improve the economic, educational and social opportunities for businesses and residents in South San Antonio and Bexar County," said Michael Rey, Southside First Board Chair and Senior Principal and Vice-President for Operations at Overland Partners.

"We recognize the Southside is experiencing economic development and growth as a result of investment from Toyota, Brooks, Port San Antonio and through educational institutions such as Texas A&M-San Antonio, Palo Alto College and the University of the Incarnate Word located at Brooks," said Canales. "We must also support the estimated 7000 local small businesses that operate in the Southside First region which runs south of U.S. Highway 90."

Canales has served in two presidential administrations. She was appointed by President Barack Obama as the Texas State Executive Director for the USDA Farm Service Agency based in College Station, Texas. She was the first woman and Latina to be appointed to this role in the history of the Agency. Previously, she was appointed Administrator at USDA Rural Development Rural Business-Cooperative Service. Canales was appointed by President Bill Clinton as Deputy State Director for Texas Rural Development, Acting Associate Administrator for Rural Business and Cooperative Service in Washington, D.C. and Legislative Representative for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Canales served as the Executive Director of the Maverick County Development Corporation in Eagle Pass, Texas, and as



an adjunct faculty member for Southwest Texas Junior College.

Canales is presently a doctoral student in Leadership Studies at Our Lady of the Lake University. She received a Master of Public Administration degree from Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government; a Master of Arts degree in Urban Studies from Trinity University in San Antonio; a Bachelor of Journalism degree from the University of Texas at Austin and an Associate of Arts degree from Southwest Texas Junior College. Canales is a native of Uvalde, Texas.



SOUTHSIDEFIRST
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Southside First Economic Development Council, a 501(c)3 non-profit, is an initiative launched by the South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Foundation to be the voice of economic prosperity, community bridging and responsible development for the Southside (South San Antonio/South Bexar County). The 15-member board reflects a cross-section of community members, businesses and Southside institutions. Its primary role is to be a convener and to assist in facilitating programs, services or partnerships that move forward the Council's goals of investment, engagement and accountability.

Southside First Goals

1. Encourage and Promote Investment
2. Energize and Empower Businesses and Residents
3. Support Revitalization Efforts for Southside Business Corridors and Neighborhoods

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LaMarcus Aldridge Elegido al 68vo NBA All Star Game

Por Sendero Deportivo

El tradicional partido de exhibición NBA All Star Game 2019, en su 68va edición entre las escuadras representativas de las conferencias oeste y este respectivamente, se estará jugando este domingo con audiencia nacional (TNT) en el horario de las 6 p.m. La sede es el estadio del club Hornets de Carolina del Norte que es propiedad del legendario guardia Michael Jordan.

Con la nueva estructura que la NBA realizó en la edición 67, en la que se decidió tener dos capitanes, quienes por sus destacadas participaciones en el lider-

ato en encestes de puntos y por elección mayoritaria en el oeste y este, fueron designados para que ellos se encargaran de convocar a jugadores de las quintetas estelares y jugadores reserva mixta (elegidos del oeste para jugar en el este y viceversa).

Por el oeste será el capitán LeBron James (elegido por segunda ocasión), titular delantero y guardia de Lakers de Los Ángeles y por el este el también guardia y delantero Giannis Antetokounmpo (nativo de Antenas, Grecia), quien estará representando a los Bucks de Milwaukee.

Los entrenadores serán Michael Malone de los Nuggets de Denver (oeste), y Mike Budenholzer de los Bucks. Por los Spurs de San Antonio, estará presente el poste y delantero LaMarcus Aldridge quien tiene marca personal de 21.1 puntos por partido, 8.8 rebotes por cotejo y 2.6 asistencias por juego. Aldridge, con 12 años militando en la NBA, estará jugando su séptimo NBA All Star Game.

Equipo LeBron: James Harden de Rockets, Kyrie Irving de Celtics, LeBron James (15to NBA All Star Game). Kawhi Leonard de Raptors: Banca, Aldridge,

Bradly Beal de Wizards, Anthony Davis de Pelicans, Dwyane Wade del Heat. Karl Anthony Towns de Timberwolves, Klay Thompson (Warriors). Ben Simmons de 76'ers, Damian Lillard de Trail Blazers.

Equipo Giannis: Stephen Curry (Warriors), Joel Embiid de 76'ers. Paul George (Thunder), Kemba Walker de Nets, y Antetokounmpo (Bucks). Reservas: Blake Griffin (Pistons), Nikola Jokic de Nuggets, Kyle Lowry (Raptors), Kris Middleton de Bucks. Dirk Nowitzki de Mavericks. Victor Oladipo (Pacers), D'Angelo Russell (Nets). Nikola Vucevic del

Magic, y Russell Westbrook del Thunder. Este partido es aprovechado por jugadores no elegidos, quienes estaran disfrutandolo en su merecido periodo vacacionales. La acción para los Spurs retornara en su estadio el AT&T Center para recibir el 27 de febrero a los Pistons de Detroit en el horario de las 7 p.m. y posteriormente el sábado 2 de marzo contra el Thunder de Oklahoma City (7:30 p.m.).

En las fotos aparece LaMarcus Aldridge (12), y la quinteta de Spurs defendiendo el perímetro contra el visitante Pelicans.

(Fotos por Franco)



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GROWING UP LATINO

MANGUERA MEMORY: Summer Skies



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

Most kids I speak to nowadays have no concept of only watching three television networks on TV, much less watching TV in only black & white, no color, P.C. era (pre-cable). Today, we are overwhelmed with the number of stations available on ATT, U-verse, Spectrum, satellite disc . . . but despite the broad selection, I still

tend to get stuck on one or two stations on the weekends I get to stay home to watch cable television or Netflix. Yup, I'm one of those people who gets stuck on Law & Order or Ancient Alien Astronauts. I probably fit the perfect profile of a Law & Order watcher, but maybe not so much the demographics of an avid Ancient Alien Astronauts and Giorgio A. Tsoukalos fan. So, I confess. My name is Rosie Gonzalez and I love to watch Ancient Alien Astronauts on the History Channel every chance I get.

I am purdy sure my fascination with outer space, aliens, spaceships and the stars was securely imprinted in my brain early in my childhood as I watched reruns of Lost in Space, Dr. Smith, Will, Jetsons cartoons and spent Saturday mornings watching Land of the Lost with it's weird lit up stones inside the pyramids and hokey dinosaurs chasing freaky half monkey/half human creatures around the jungle. All that great alien material was stoked by regular UFO Sightings headlines in newspapers with stories from Europe, Japan, and Mexico about flying saucers, alien sightings, and alien abductions.

Closer to home in south Texas, those stories from across the globe seemed so

near when we would hear news about nearby cattle mutilations and "big bird" sightings. Our south Texas "big bird" sightings were the equivalent of Chupacabra sightings of more recent times. There wasn't much to be said about the cow mutilations aside from the usual Satanic cult, Brujeria, work of aliens theories. The "big bird" sightings were varied and colorful, from the bird looking pre-historic with silver dollar sized eyes, to the bird hanging out on someone's roof or looking into someone's house through the screened windows in the dark of night. Closer to home in south Texas, UFO sightings and alien abduction stories seemed more personal when we would hear news about sightings in the Arizona and New Mexico deserts, or abductions from the Washington and Arkansas forests.

I can't help but smile and grin when remembering how my Mom made the best of our childhood fears and anxieties that were centered around aliens and abductions. We were believers. After all, my Mom had even shared that my Dad had sworn he saw aliens and

flying saucers during one of his stints working one of his night shifts out in the Mexican mountains. Every time I watch an episode of Ancient Alien Astronauts it jettisons me back to nights when my Mom had my brother and I climbing up a homemade ladder to sit on our carport roof, with binoculars in hand. She would start to scan



the sky and within minutes would help us spot moving objects in the sky. Was it a plane? Was it a bird? Could it be a UFO? She would entertain us for an hour or two on those hot, sweltering summer nights. Those UFO searches took place on nights when the skies were clear and the silhouettes of Gaviotas raced overhead. Those UFO searches took our minds off the heat, they took our minds off the sensationalized stories of the global alien phenomena. Those UFO searches served to humble us and remind us of just how big our universe really is, and

they opened our minds to the possibilities that came with the "what ifs . . ." The last time I drove to Boca Chica Beach my wonder went into exponential gear when I realized what I saw on the drive was most likely the SpaceX South Texas Launch site.

Because after all, if ancient alien astronauts didn't exist, how did they build everything? And although we, as humans, do not have answers to all the world's questions, we know the answer is that it was aliens. But what if Giorgio is right? I am not saying it was aliens, but it's aliens . . .

Yup. I'm a believer. I'm a believer on every level. I believe that the universe is bigger than anyone can imagine. I believe in things yet to be discovered. I believe that we don't have all the answers. I believe in things that I have been told can't possibly exist. I believe in what ifs and I believe in the possibilities. I believe that a person's commitment to hope and openness to believe is what gets us through times when we are surrounded by unknowns, find ourselves in darkness, even lost. Today, believe.

Manguera Memories is a series of short stories that will be published in a book this year with proceeds benefiting La Prensa Texas. Read past stories at LaPrensaTexas.com

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DIRECTOR: Ignacio E. Lozan

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EVENTOS ESPECIALES

Comunidad y Aficionados se Divierten en la Sede de los Spurs

El estadio multiusos AT&T Center (propiedad del condado de B  xar), inaugurado en el 2002 bajo la administraci  n gerencial de la empresa Spurs Sports & Entertainment (SS&E), continua cumpliendo con lo prometido (entonces por el magnate Peter Holt, quien fungiera como presidente de la mesa directiva de SS&E), sobre el uso comunitario que se le dar  a a este majestuoso inmueble.

El se  or Holt, entonces propuso que de llevarse a efecto la construcci  n del estadio que ser  a la sede del club de baloncesto profesional Spurs de San Antonio, ah   en ese precinto se realizar  an eventos en los que se convocar  a a la comunidad en su participaci  n en la proyecci  n de eventos deportivos, art  sticos y de entretenimiento.

A la fecha esa visi  n sigue vigente, ya que ahora SS&E bajo el comando de la dama de negocios Julianna Hawn Holt, est  a cumpliendo con lo prometido. Spurs antes de partir a su decimos  ptima gira para dar paso al tradicional Rodeo de San Antonio, felicit   a los grupos participantes en su partido sostenido contra el club visitante Pelicans de Nueva Orle  ns. En la ceremonia del Himno Nacional, participaron el coro Saint Mary’s Hall Choir y la escolta militar NIOC Texas Honor Guard. La promoci  n y competencia denominada Cross My Heart patrocinada por Frost Bank (el banco oficial de los Spurs). Los aficionados antes y despu  s del partido se divirtieron con espectacular concierto musical celebrado en el patio Bud Light Court Yard, se tomaron fotograf  as frente a la vitrina que alberga los cinco trofeos conquistados por Spurs en las temporadas de 1999, 2003, 2005, 2007 y 2014.

(Fotos por Franco)



Chinese New Year

(Photos by Ramon Chapa)



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Folklores Coffee House

Authentic, Modern, and Committed to Community

By Isa Fernández

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

I met Tatu Herrera, the tattooed, friendly owner of Folklores Coffee House, for a \$2 cup of his artisan coffee on a crisp February morning. The coffee shop is a bright cobalt blue building trimmed in fuchsia, known for its Anthony Bourdain and Julia Child mural, (painted by local artist Mike Comp, who also painted the Manu Ginobili mural on San Pedro). Tatu tells me when Bourdain passed away, it hit the culinary community hard and he wanted to pay tribute. As the former chief of the Grand Hyatt, Herrera wanted to create a “chef’s take on a coffee shop” and formally opened Folklores Coffee House, with his



partner wife Emilie in October of 2018. Check out their social media footprint – they have nearly 15,000 Instagram subscribers - to get a view of the changing menu – they sell anything you can get at a standard coffee shop - sandwiches, salads, yogurt and fruit parfaits, oatmeal, pastries (breads from local panaderias on weekdays and vegan

baked goods from Miss Chickpeas Bake Shop on weekends) - all with artisan flare. The coffee is locally sourced from San Antonio locals, 1885 and brewed at the Blue Star. There are craft Valentine’s Day cards - “I Donut Know What I Would Do Without You,” says one with a donut on it, and another with a drawing of narwhals, known as the unicorns of the sea, crossing spiral ivory tusks that say, “Narwhal you be my Valentine?” There are also hats and t-shirts – one, in particular, stands out in gold letters that say “Cabrona with a Big Heart.” They sell Mexican Coke too but aren’t another boring run-of-the-mill gentrifying coffee shop, so common near downtown.

By contrast, the coffee shop is owned by San Antonio natives and located on



the far Southside on 5007 S. Flores. The building was formerly an ice and meat house and has Friedrich relics inside, only identifiable to discerning eyes. The storefront has a prominent “CBD Pain Relief” sign, as they house the CBD oil shop, Lady Grace, owned by Herrera’s wife Emilie, Gilda Garcia and Lucy Salinas, curanderas (traditional native healers, shamans or witch doctors found in Latin America, the United States, and Southern Europe) for the modern age. Listed as an “Alternative & Holistic Health Service” Lady Grace CBD is marketed for pain relief associated with chronic conditions, such as arthritis, anxiety and even depression. The shop’s entrance has three large gold letters – C-B-D, a rug that encompasses the entirety of the room and a large

crystal chandelier that attracts myself and I assume, other potential customers. The staff are friendly and answer any questions you may have. You can buy juices (pineapple, orange, ginger with CDB and berry and mint with CDB), gummies, t-shirts, and other wares. You can even buy CBD-infused coffee back at Folklores.

But comfortable sofas, sarapes, coffee tables, and interesting artwork make space have what Tatu calls “Grandma Chic.” That is, if your Grandmother was cool enough to have photos of Malcolm X with Muhammad Ali, a painting of Tupac Shakur, a black and white photo of Herrera’s great-grandfather holding an accordion and one I incorrectly thought was Syd Barrett of Pink Floyd, which turned out to be another



Folklore Coffee House continued
culinary “rock star” chef, Marco Pier White, a British chef called the “godfather of modern cooking.” there is a Misfits poster and a painting of a dainty cat in Amy Winehouse garb and bouffant wig, a nod to the couple’s punk roots. There’s Jenga!, Connect Four and an unclassified board game, the varieties of which change often, since Herrera tells me neighborhood kids sometimes ask, and are given permission to take games home to play. Another sign of comradery with the community, Folklores Coffee House participates in the Little Free Library program, whose motto is “take a book, share

a book.” At press time, there were two James Patterson books, *The Microwavable Guide and Cookbook* and several children’s books, including *I Want to Potty and Scruffy Teddy’s Books of Opposites*. It is the Herrera’s furniture, art, photos and board games that fill the coffee shop and it sets Folklores Coffee House apart from others - it is relaxed, unpretentious and feels like home because it is many ways, their home, and the community’s, whom they are committed to.
As such, once a month, they host free yoga classes, open mic poetry and every third Saturday of the month, they set up 14 tables outside where local vendors can sell

products. The venue is also rentable during off hours. Magnets near the register are only from local businesses and include Dignowity Kolaches, Red River Acupuncture, Barrio Barrista and a TexasCompetes.org magnet, signifying a partnership of business leaders “committed to a Texas that is economically vibrant and welcoming of all people, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people.” The fact that Folklores Coffee House is committed to diversity, community, building up small businesses and have “Death Before Decaf” as their official slogan



(the meaning of which I have known since middle school), means that I will continue to be a grateful patron of Folklores Coffee House, a true “Hecho en San Antonio” business that is as authentic and endearing to the community as

they come.
Folklores Coffee House, 5007 S. Flores St., San Antonio, TX 78214, (210) 455-7829, Business Hours (M-W, 8AM-5PM, Thursday – Closed; Friday 8-5; Sat 9AM-5PM; Sun-10AM-3PM)

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SPORTS

Big Win for Commanders and The City of San Antonio

By Jessica Duran

Last weekend the Alliance of American Football kicked off their inaugural season. For our local team, the San Antonio Commanders made a splash on the national stage with their 15-6 victory over the San Diego Fleet. Although it wasn't a particularly high scoring game for the Commanders, their defense shined bright.

One particular Commanders defender made a bone-crushing sack on San Diego Fleet Quarterback Mike Bercovici. The sack was made by the 6-4 and 239 linebackers Shaan Washington. The former Texas A&M Aggie's play took social

media by storm, comments were made from former and current NFL players celebrities alike.

While the play was exhilarating and just pure fun to watch, the city's reaction and support were far more than what anyone could've predicted. Despite the grim, wet, and cloudy weather, fans showed up to tailgate and show their support for the team. Over 27,000 were in attendance at the Alamodome for the nationally televised game.

Many feared this would turn out to be another USFL disaster. Many players from the former San Antonio team the "Gun-slingers" were failed to be

paid as checks bounced and no answers were given. The support at the time was underwhelming.

The NFL teams like the Dallas Cowboys and the Houston Texans have major support from San Antonio as do other teams. With the fight for San Antonio as an NFL city dying, the Commanders have found a home here with the AAF. The excitement from this one game and team proves how much San Antonio is a football City.

This Sunday, the Commanders will face off against the Orlando Apollos. The Apollos kicked off their season with a big 40-6 win against the Memphis Express. The high powered Apollos offense will face the intense defense of the newly fan nick-named "Sack Antonio Commanders" in a matchup to get the league and fans alike talking.

Considering how many showed up last week to the Commanders game, expect an even bigger crowd at the Alamodome this Sunday. The game starts at 3pm and will be broadcasted on the CBS SportsNetwork.



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Alamo Plaza

This is an early 1900's view of a tree-lined landscaped garden in Alamo Plaza. The Gibbs and Maverick Office Buildings are shown on the left at Houston Street. Other buildings south on Alamo are the Giles Crockett Block and the Grand Opera House built in 1886. The Richardsonian Romanesque Post Office and Federal Office Building also built in 1886 is shown in the center. Around the Plaza, which was used as a terminal, were the popular electric streetcars in use from 1890 to 1933. Also shown are the work and passenger wagons and carriages pulled by teams of horses.



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More than 1,200 San Antonio Senior Citizens to Celebrate Valentine's Day

with Dance Featuring Latin Grammy Award-Winning Tejano Musician Ram Herrera



By Lindsey Amick

San Antonio senior citizens broke out their dancing shoes last week to celebrate the season of love with their fellow active seniors during Gonzaba Medical Group's annual Senior Valentine's Dance. Dancing, photo booth ac-

tivities, lunch and a live musical performance from nationally-recognized Tejano singer Ram Herrera and the Latin Legends all await the more than 1,200 seniors that historically attend the event, which is open and free to the public.

Gonzaba Medical Group Founder and President/CEO Dr. Bill Gonzaba and Gonzaba Medical Group team members shared re-

marks during the event, encouraging attendees to continue maintaining active

and healthy lifestyles long into their golden years.



VIEWPOINTS

Former San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros responds to 'Poverty in San Antonio' article by Dr. Ricardo Romo

Dear Ricardo,

Your paper, San Antonio: Jobs, Income and Poverty, is well-researched and well-reasoned. It is admirable that you have allocated valuable time to a subject that is of such great importance to so many people, your description of the spectrum of jobs and attendant incomes in San Antonio paints an accurate picture of the bifurcation of the employment market. Researchers such as Peter Doeringer have similarly described a "segmented labor market: two ladders which are completely separate, one composed of low-skill jobs with low wages and another of higher-mobility positions

with an escalating wage structure. Ernie Cortes of COPS used to refer to his "iron law": low skills/low wages versus high skills/high wages.

Making matters worse across our nation is the decline of the manufacturing sector, once the nation's best source of living wages; our increased dependence on foreign produced goods; the loss of worker protections with the demise of unions; and the inadequacy of the rate of increase of the minimum wage. And yet to come are functional changes in the content of work as technological innovations, such as artificial intelligence, eliminate the human content from entire

job sectors.

You are clearly correct that education is key to providing prospective workers with more skills, more choices, more flexibility, and more mobility to pursue new job options. But tightly inter-related with investment in human capital is the nature of work itself. A city must make sure it is growing the employment base fast enough to create higher demand for labor, thus driving up wages. It must also make sure there exists a broad range of jobs across many skill profiles and therefore of various wage ranges. A community must be careful to match the spectrum of jobs to its demo-

graphics, even as it exerts constant pressure for more skilled jobs and better paying jobs. It must therefore seek to diversify its economic base and be watchful to develop industries where human workers will not be replaced by machines. That is why the bioscience sector, which San Antonio has emphasized in recent years, has such great potential. The realities of an aging population which requires human care; of high-quality medical research and the development of new devices; and of local breakthroughs in the treatment of epidemic diseases, such as diabetes, can create high-potential educational

tracks and remunerative careers.

San Antonio has continuing work to do on both sides of the equation: our base of good paying, long-term jobs and our educational offerings and outreach. Your paper contributes to a vital San Antonio dialogue. It is important to underscore your point about education, because while San Antonio has markedly enhanced its trajectory of economic development over the last several decades, we are only beginning the education transformations which will be necessary.

Henry Cisneros
Chairman

The Importance of Self-Care



By Tammy C. Perez

We've all been there! Come home from work and enter a house of chaos. Kids have homework, the house is a mess, dirty clothes are piling up and dinner needs



to be made. On top of that, you brought homework from work that needs to be finished. It feels like a never-ending cycle. Sound familiar? How are you doing it all? We often put self-care on the back burner to continue the demands of our fast-paced lives. But did you know, self-care is crucial for our physical, emotional and

mental well-being? So where do you begin?

First, start by knowing your worth! Proper self-care allows you to maintain healthy relationships, confidence, and self-esteem. Your needs should be your #1 priority. Second, practice a good work-life balance. Overworking leads to unnecessary stress which can have

a negative impact on your quality of life. Not to mention, stress can lead to other health problems such as; anxiety, depression, insomnia, and high blood pressure. Learn to set boundaries and don't overextend yourself. Third, start living your life and not just existing! We only have one life. Yes, we all have responsibilities, but we also have a gift and purpose in this world. So why waste it when we have the choice to have a more meaningful existence?

Finding your purpose and what truly makes you happy will give you a different perspective on life. Get up

in the morning with positive intent and gratitude. Tell family and friends you love them. Self-care is not just about your mental health, it's also about caring for your physical health. Make sure you are eating well, getting proper sleep, and incorporating some type of exercise into your daily routine. Remember, life is short! Laugh more, stop overthinking and learn to say "no" without feeling guilty. 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.

Foreclosure Rescue Scams



By Jason Meza

*Regional Director
Better Business Bureau
425 Soledad St., #500
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A San Antonio woman was contacted by a foreclosure rescue group after she became delinquent on her home mortgage in Spring 2017. She agreed to sell her home in exchange for the company paying off the approximately \$92,000 remaining on the mortgage and \$2,000 to cover her moving expenses. The

group created a trust naming both her and the group 50 percent beneficiaries. But the same day, they had her sign a trust modification which assigned her 50 percent interest back to the group. The modification says the group would pay \$8,700 to the bank to bring it current.

The \$8,700 was apparently paid to get the mortgage current, but then nobody continued to pay the mortgage. The bank contacted the woman in June 2017 to say she was late with her mortgage payment. Figuring the sale did not go through, the woman resumed paying the note. She then contacted a real estate agent to see about selling the house but was told she no longer had title to the house and couldn't sell it.

Eventually, she stopped paying on the mortgage loan and it fell into delinquency again. The house is scheduled for a March 5 foreclosure sale.

Across the U.S. in 2016, only four of these kinds of foreclosure scams were reported to BBB. In 2018, that number grew to nearly 20. While these scams may seem uncommon, they are growing rapidly each year and can be prevented if you know the signs.

The U.S. Departments of the Treasury and Housing and Urban Development recommends the following tips to avoid foreclosure scams:

•**Watch out for anyone offering a HAMP modification.** The Home Affordable Modification Program closed on December 31,

2017.

•**Beware of advance fees.** In most cases, it is illegal for anyone to charge you in advance for mortgage modification services.

•**Be cautious of big guarantees.** Only your mortgage company can grant a loan modification, never a third party. These guarantees may be false claims.

•**Beware of solicitors.** Individuals who contact you over the phone or email may be scammers claiming to be from your mortgage company, and then they ask you to send payments to an alternate contact or address.

•**Never sign over your property deed.** This should only be done if you're working directly with your mortgage company to forgive your debt.

•**Maintain personal con-**

tact. Getting to know your lender or mortgage servicer personally will reduce your chances of getting scammed.

Never sign a document you don't understand. Be sure you fully understand the situation you are committing to.

•**Take action if you have already been scammed.** If you have been the victim of a foreclosure scam, you should contact a mortgage servicer or attorney to assist you in the foreclosure process.

Both agencies also recommend reporting any scams you have been a victim of. You can report them directly to these agencies, the Federal Trade Commission, or to Better Business Bureau at bbb.org.

Solo un Pensamiento:

Los Hispanos en la Política



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

Por Steve Walker

Mañana celebramos el Día del Presidente en honor a aquellos hombres y mujeres que sirven o han servido en cargos públicos para hacer de nuestro país lo que es hoy. En consonancia con ese pensamiento, parece apropiado que seleccionemos a los hispanos locales que han dedicado su tiempo en el servicio público. La población hispana de San Antonio se estima en un 60 por ciento en la ciudad de Álamo. Habiendo dicho eso, uno esperaría un buen número de hispanos calificados, hombres y mujeres, en cargos electos en todos los niveles, con muchos más aspirantes a seguir su ejemplo. Tal es el caso.

Tenemos jueces hispanos, miembros del Concejo Municipal, miembros de la Junta Escolar, representantes estatales, senadores estatales, presidentes y cancilleres universitarios, superintendentes del distrito escolar y más que forman parte de la política local.

Como columnista de La Prensa Texas, puedo dar fe de que tenemos numerosos hispanos bien calificados en el cargo porque he cubierto a la

mayoría de ellos en algún momento en los últimos 8 años. Ex alcaldes Henry Cisneros, (Secretario de HUD) Ed Garza, y Julian Castro, Secretario de HUD y candidato a la presidencia. Miembros del Consejo Chris Medina, (yo estaba en su personal del Consejo) Joe Alderete, (también miembro de ACCD) Roberto Trevino, Rebecca Viagran, Shirley Gonzales, Manny Pelaez, Rey Saldana, Ana Sandoval, María Berriozabal, Elena Guajardo y uno de mis alumnos de noveno grado, Joseph Medina, que actualmente se desempeña como miembro de la Junta Directiva de Northside ISD, por nombrar algunos. ¿Recuerda al doctor William Elizondo, el presidente de la Junta de SAISD que ahora está retirado?

El número de jueces hispanos, antiguos y actuales es impresionante. El Juez Supremo de la Corte de Apelaciones, Alma López, se convirtió en la primera mujer hispana en

convertirse en Jefa de Justicia en Texas. La 4ta Corte para mujeres actualmente incluye a: Rebeca Martínez, Patricia Alvarez y Luz Elena Chapa. Centrándose en otros tribunales, el condado de Bexar actualmente tiene a Laura Salinas y Gloria Saldana. La hija de la juez Laura Salinas nació casualmente en mi cumpleaños, el 5 de septiembre. ¡Tengo edad suficiente para ser su bisabuelo!

La lista de Jueces continúa, con los Jueces ahora jubilados Mónica González y Al Alonzo. Este ciclo, Liza Rodríguez, Alfredo Ximénez, Michael De León, Carlos Quezada, John A. Longoria y Rosie González fueron elegidos para el banquillo.

Los dos jueces de paz en el precinto 1 son el ex comisionado Robert Tejeda y el ex congresista Ciro Rodríguez. Juez

Edmundo Zaragoza se ha retirado hace mucho tiempo. PCT 2 JP son Robbie Vásquez, quien tomó mi lugar y Mónica

Caballero. En el PCT. 4, tanto Rogelio López como Yolanda Uresti sirvieron.

Le enseñé a Dolores, la hija del juez Edmundo Zaragoza, en McCollum en los años 90 junto con el hijo de la juez Yolanda Uresti, Michael casi al mismo tiempo. Durante ese tiempo di clases de discurso en McCollum. Hace unos años, cuando era juez de paz, presenté la boda de la hermana del juez Michael De Leon. Ella y su esposo ahora tienen una niña.

En estas elecciones pasadas, parece que ha llegado el momento de que muchos más jueces hispanos sean elegidos en el futuro. Los nuevos jueces incluyen: Melissa Vara, Monique Díaz, Veronica Vasquez, Mary Lou Alvarez, Cynthia Chapa, Velia Meza, Jennifer Pena, Oscar Kazen, Ray Olivarri, Mary Roman y Toni Arteaga, así como John Longoria.

Mary Angie Garza ganó como Secretaria de Distrito y Lucy Adame-Clark como

Secretaria del Condado. No se olvide de los representantes estatales Diego Bernal, Roland Gutiérrez, Philip Cortez y el ex representante de St. Rey Art Reyna ahora en una elección especial para regresar a su asiento anterior.

Luego están San Senadores Trey Martínez Fischer y Pete Flores. Los congresistas Henry Cuellar y Joaquín Castro fueron reelegidos, el Sheriff Javier Salazar, y ahora el nuevo DA, Joe Gonzales.

Es asombroso que tengamos tantos hispanos bien calificados en San Antonio, hombres y mujeres para tomar las riendas del liderazgo y hacer que nuestra Ciudad sea grande. Parecen estar teniendo éxito. Incluso mi ex alumno de 9º grado, Joseph Medina, está haciendo una gran diferencia. Cuando lo eligieron para el consejo escolar, le recordé en ese momento: “No olvides que te enseñé todo lo que sabes”. Se rió y sonrió asintiendo con la cabeza y exclamó: “bien”.





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