

LA PRENSA TEXAS

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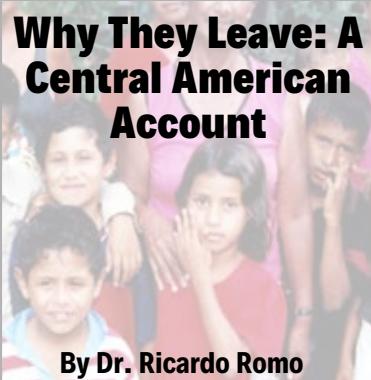
Mi Tesoro

**About the Artist
Gaspar Enriquez**



By Phyllis Price

**Why They Leave: A
Central American
Account**



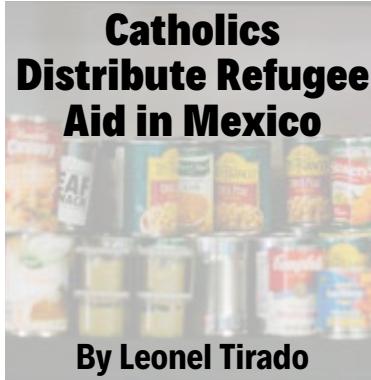
By Dr. Ricardo Romo

**La Familia Morales
celebró tercera
reunión
En Olmos Park**



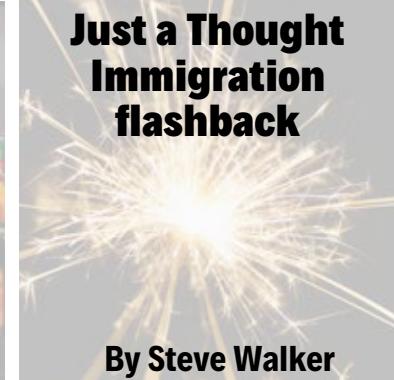
Por José I. Franco

**Catholics
Distribute Refugee
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By Leonel Tirado

**Just a Thought
Immigration
flashback**



By Steve Walker

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.

Steve A Duran Sr.
CEO/Publisher
s.duran@laprensatexas.com

Ramon Chapa Jr.
Co-Publisher
r.chapa@laprensatexas.com

Yvette Tello
Executive Vice President
y.tello@laprensatexas.com

Roxanne Eguia
Editor In Chief
r.eguia@laprensatexas.com

Nicodemus Gonzalez
Graphic Designer

Steve Walker
Dr. Ricardo Romo
Isa Fernández
Contributors
info@laprensatexas.com

Maria Cisneros
Sales Representative



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.

Leonard Rodriguez
President /CEO
leonard@westsidedevcorp.com

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Let's Talk About it... Bilingual Workplace

By Yvette Tello

I have a friend who has several bilingual employees who speak Spanish at work among themselves. Most of her workers speak little or no Spanish, and some have complained because they feel uncomfortable when they can't understand the conversations going on around them. How should she handle this? Let's talk about it...

Benjamin Godina: "It's a war of words."

Kelly Narvaez: "I don't see a big deal. A lot of my coworkers speak Spanish around me and it doesn't bother me at all. Not sure why they feel uncomfortable. Unless they are speaking Spanish and staring at her then yea would make sense but if they are just making small talk then just go about your day."

Diane Gonzalez: "Those days of not allowing spanish speakers not to speak freely are long gone. They either have to learn or get their panties out of a wad. They should not make the bilingual feel less than for being skilled at knowing two

languages. Corporate AMERICA recognizes the need and actually pays bilingual employees more. It's a skill the people who know one language should strive to learn rather than make others feel that they're offended that they don't have that skill."

Lisa Armendariz: "It's the same thing when we go get our nails done"

Robert Garcia: "Learn how to speak Spanish; all of us had to learn how to speak English when we were young. So now, Whites and Blacks will have to learn how to speak Spanish when they're older"

Chris Jones: "Sounds like some people need to learn Spanish; just saying"

Melissa Cuellar: "Although I don't see anything wrong with coworkers speaking in their native tongue to each other ; But what really bothers me is that people (mainly Spanish speakers) look down on/judge people who don't speak Spanish. And this coming from me, who was raised in a predominantly Span-

ish speaking home. If I were to move to another region/country, I would make it a point to learn their main language. And they should too, I've seen many Spanish speakers scoff at the fact that someone can't speak Spanish to them; and it's not right. They should learn to speak English, the main language of the United States "

Al Martinez:

"Mind your own business. it's a conversation between a and b"

Kristina Zavala:

" I do think it's rude when people continue to talk in a different language in front of other people. Especially if they can speak English. It just seems obvious that they're saying something that they don't want you to understand. I was talking to my friends about a challenge where people secretly record when people do this.. upload the video and have people translate. We were laughing because we could just imagine what they say in nail salons. I understand that people can speak any language they want...but it's still

a lil rude to do it."

Bradley Veloz Jr.

:"Sounds like some serious cultural sensitivity should take place; just saying"

Adelfa Reyna: "Take a Spanish class"

Sam Garcia: "America is made up of people who speak different languages. Just learn to accept and move on.."

Terry Diaz-babida: " They need to respect others not all speak or understand language"

Gracie Ortiz: "I'm bilingual I speak English all the time but when I'm around people who don't understand English. I speak in Spanish to make them feel comfortable and also they don't think we talking about them.. In the work setting, you should learn both languages so that way you can better service your clients or customers; depending where you work"

Noel Tello: "As a Spanish speaking person, I feel it's rude to speak Spanish around those that don't understand. It's really not necessary."

Jazmin D Zuñiga : "I guess they don't get their Nails done"

About the Artist

Gaspar Enriquez

By Phyllis Price

Gaspar Enriquez is the quintessential Chicano Texas artist and a fine example of what focus, commitment, and puro corazon can do to conquer early disadvantages of language and economics. His art – powerful, acrylic, air-brushed portraits of people who interest him, from former students to celebrities – asks us to perceive our fellows with clarity, without bigotry. His life we can take heart from, no matter how varied our backgrounds or ages. He's a quiet, observant man who "doesn't toot his own horn".

Born (in 1942) and raised in El Paso's Segundo Barrio, Gaspar credits some of his courage in pursuing his art to encouragement from his mother and two sisters, his fifth-grade teacher at Beall Elementary, and his now-deceased wife, Anne Garcia-Enriquez. He left home for California at 18 to earn money as a machinist, helping support his family and simultaneously taking classes at East L.A. Junior College. Returning to El Paso in the late '60s, still working full time, he earned a BA in Art from UT-El Paso in 1970, an MA in Metals from New Mexico State University in 1985. Gaspar chose to teach in order to remain independently true to his vision. Along the way, he inspired art students at El Paso's Bowie High School for 34 years, until

his retirement sixteen years ago. (Many former students are now artists, art teachers, and/or art administrators. One "filled his shoes" at Bowie.) He's inspired young nationally-known artists such as Vincent Valdez and Alex Rubio.

Gaspar's dramatic portraits range in size from 24 feet high (the cholos commissioned for the San Antonio Convention Center) to page illustrations for Rudolfo Anaya's Elegy on the Death of Cesar Chavez. No matter their size, his paintings reveal his subjects' dignity, require you to "pay attention". They arrest you; often the subjects are looking at you. The works' intensity has earned Gaspar a national reputation. His latest solo exhibition, Una Pagina Mas, ran March – May, 2006, at the Tucson Museum of Art. His most recent group exhibition just opened at the de Young Museum in San Francisco - the nationally touring Chicano Visions, curated from actor "Cheech" Marin's private collection. Museums purchasing Gaspar's work include the Tucson Museum of Art, El Paso Museum of Art, Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, and the Albuquerque Museum of Art. His art was part of Chicano Art/Resistance and Affirmation, curated by the Wight Art Gallery at UCLA, which toured museums all over the US. His work has been reviewed in

newspapers, art magazines and catalogues.

Retired from teaching, he's creating his art - and another visionary project: restoring an ancient adobe building to studio spaces in the 400-year-old presidio of San Elizario in El Paso's Mission Valley.

Here is a Statement from the artist:

"In this body of work the images are metaphors for pages in A visual novel portraying a subculture that has endured In the mexican american community since the second world War. One is born a mexican american, but one chooses to be A chicano. Politically charged, the chicano lifestyle has Been passed from one generation to another. It has Survived wars, prisons, and strife.

The images reflect a lifestyle and an attitude dominant in The barrios. This style is identified by the style of dress, Mannerism, and language. Many chicanos use a slang called Calo to communicate and, when it was allowed, many Developed their own sign language to communicate with Loved ones incarcerated in the county jail. Standing in the Streets below the jail, women would sign to their Boyfriends held in cells on the upper floors. This activity No longer takes place since the

windows of the jail have Been covered.

The work deals with individuals whose lives have been a Part of my environment. They are individuals who remind Me of friends and acquaintances I grew up with .

The work is not a crusade to change lives nor is it an Effort to pass judgement. It is up to the viewer to judge And interpret. These images invites the viewer to come into Contact with some of those who populate the chicano World.

As long as there is poverty en el barrio, this lifestyle will endure my generation And generations to come . An identity is important to all of Us. This life style reflects the avenue some individuals Take, searching for an identity and self esteem."

(Photos by Ricardo Romo)



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Winter Wonderland Gala

La Prensa Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3, a nonprofit organization that provides scholarships to local college students and higher education institutions. La Prensa Foundation favors youth and young adults who are confronted

with financial hardships or extenuating circumstances, with the desire and motivation to pursue their dreams of higher education. La Prensa Foundation is a component of La Prensa Texas, the only bilingual newspaper in the city.

Our goal is to help needy students achieve their educational dreams by assembling the funds received from our sponsors towards their tuition. Our mission is explicit; enhancing and strengthening the lives of youth with education providing us with a better tomorrow.

On December 28, 2019, we will be hosting the first Crowning of Las Reinas de La Prensa Texas our Winter Wonderland Dinner and Dance

at Fetter Hall 504 Ave E, San Antonio, TX 78215

Our first Fiesta Queens will be the Honorable Judge Rosie Speedlin-Gonzalez and her beautiful wife Dr Stacy Lynn Speedlin- Gonzalez

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Alamo Colleges District Celebra a 5,785 Estudiantes Comprometidos con AlamoPROMISE

Por Kay C. Hendricks

El programa AlamoPROMISE de Alamo Colleges District ha tenido un comienzo prometedor, con 5,785 estudiantes locales de secundaria inscritos para participar en el programa y asistir a una de las cinco universidades del distrito en el otoño de 2020. Los estudiantes están programados para graduarse en Mayo de 2020 de una de las 25 escuelas secundarias de Fase I inicialmente dirigidas por AlamoPROMISE. Entre las escuelas secundarias con la mayor cantidad de estudiantes comprometidas están: East Central - 631; John Jay - 509; Judson - 454; Wagner - 421; Holmes - 418; y Southwest - 395. En Wagner High School, el 100% de la clase senior ha firmado el compromiso de AlamoPROMISE. El objetivo del programa es inscribir a 3,036 becarios PROMISE en la universidad del Distrito de Colegios de Alamo en el otoño de 2020. La fecha límite para comprometerse es el 14 de febrero de 2020.

“Estamos encantados de que los estudiantes hayan respondido de manera abrumadoramente favorable a Alamo-PROMISE”, dijo el Dr. Mike Flores, canciller del distrito de Alamo Colleges. “Continuaremos brindando apoyo y aliento a los estudiantes que se comprometen y esperamos verlos en una de nuestras universidades el próximo otoño”, agregó.

AlamoPROMISE es la iniciativa distintiva del distrito que proporciona fondos de último dólar a los estudiantes en uno de los Alamo Colleges para completar una credencial o tres años de universidad al

cubrir la brecha entre la ayuda financiera de un estudiante y el costo de la matrícula y las tarifas regulares. Para hacer realidad la idea, el distrito se está asociando con la ciudad y el condado, organizaciones comunitarias locales, empresas e ISD. El juez del condado de Bexar, Nelson Wolff, el alcalde Ron Nirenberg y el canciller del distrito de Alamo Colleges, el Dr. Mike Flores, son los tres presidentes del comité directivo de AlamoPROMISE. La ciudad y el condado se han comprometido a \$ 300,000 + para el primer año del programa, mientras que más de \$ 2 millones han sido donados por donantes privados, incluidos Toyota Motor Manufacturing Texas, JP Morgan Chase, la Fundación Pat and Don Frost, Frost Bank Fundación benéfica y Wells Fargo.

Después de mucha investigación y planificación cuidadosa, el distrito lanzó Alamo-PROMISE con eventos iniciales en las Escuelas Secundarias Jefferson y Judson en octubre, y los estudiantes comenzaron a completar formularios de compromiso en línea de inmediato. En los primeros diez días después del anuncio del programa, más de 1,600 estudiantes se comprometieron. Se llevaron a cabo eventos adicionales en las escuelas secundarias Holmes y Southwest.

El distrito y cada una de las universidades (San Antonio College, St. Philip's College, Palo Alto College, Northwest Vista College y Northeast Lakeview College) continuarán contactando a los estudiantes de último año de secundaria elegibles a través de una cam-

paña publicitaria continua, correos electrónicos, mensajes de texto y contactos personales para garantizar que todos los estudiantes elegibles tengan la oportunidad de inscribirse.

Para convertirse en un Beccario de AlamoPROMISE, un estudiante debe ser residente del condado de San Antonio / Bexar y un graduado senior en 2020 de una de las 25 escuelas secundarias participantes con un diploma de escuela secundaria. Para el otoño de 2021, el programa AlamoPROMISE estará disponible para los estudiantes que se gradúen con un diploma de otras 20 escuelas secundarias públicas participantes en el condado de Bexar. Los estudiantes pueden inscribirse en línea para AlamoPROMISE en <https://www.alamo.edu/promise>.

AlamoPROMISE tiene como objetivo abordar el hecho de que menos del 45% de los graduados de último año en San Antonio van a la universidad, y San Antonio tiene el mayor porcentaje de residentes que viven en la pobreza entre las ciudades más grandes del país. Múltiples encuestas han demostrado que la principal barrera para los estudiantes que se matriculan en la universidad es tener suficiente dinero, y que el 47% de los estudiantes de Alamo Colleges se preocupan por pagar los gastos mensuales.

En Alamo Colleges District, la educación de alta calidad y los costos asequibles brindan un valor excepcional a los estudiantes y ex alumnos que son los principales contribuyentes a la economía y la cultura de nuestra comunidad. Para más información, vaya a alamo.edu.

Mexican Colonized History 1821-1993

A Brief and Partial Chronology of Texas

1821- 1836

Researched, compiled & edited by Mario Longoria, Ph.D.

--1821. The Revolutionary government of Mexico approves Moses Austin plan for colonization. However, he dies before it got underway. His son Stephen Austin takes over the project and settles 300 families along the Brazos, Colorado, and Bernard rivers. The new Anglo settlers refused to abide by the conditions that granted them the rights to settle in Mexican territory.

--1824. The Texas Rangers are founded. The state law enforcement agency dealt swiftly and brutally with the Texas Mexican population. Known as “Los Rinches,” the Rangers were state sanctioned killers and murderers of Mexicans and other non-Anglo persons.

--1829. Mexican President Vicente Guerrero ends slavery in Mexico, 34 years before the end of slavery in the United States.

--1835. Anglo Texans declare their independence from Mexico and seize the garrisons at Anahuac and San Antonio.

--1836. On March 2, four days before the fall of the Alamo, delegates met in the town of Washington to sign the Texas Declaration of Independence. At least seven Texas Mexicans were elected to serve in the convention. However, only three delegates attended, Jose Antonio Navarro, Jose Francisco Ruiz, and Lorenzo de Zavala.

--1836. Jose Antonio Navarro and Jose Francisco Ruiz served as Senators in the First Texas Legislators. Lorenzo De Zavala is named the Ad Interim Vice-President of the new Republic of Texas.

--1836. Santa Ana's army lays siege to the Alamo at San Antonio, ultimately capturing it on March 6, 1836. After the battle, Davy Crockett, who is glorified in Anglo accounts of the battle is perceived to die fighting like a tiger. However, he is identified among the surviving women and children, and is promptly executed.

“With His Pistol in His Hand”: A Border Ballad and Its Hero (Texas Classics)
Paperback – June 1, 1958
by Américo Paredes



Bellwether College Consortium Names Alamo Colleges District As Finalist For National Bellwether Award

By Kay C. Hendricks

The Alamo Colleges District is one of only ten community colleges or systems named by the Bellwether College Consortium (BCC) as finalists in the Planning, Governance and Finance category of the highly coveted national Bellwether Awards and the only community college system in Texas to be named a finalist in this category. Bellwether finalists represent leading institutions of higher education whose outstanding and innovative programs and practices were selected from competitive submissions as exemplary. The finalists will undergo a rigorous final round of peer review the 2020 Community College Futures Assembly in February.

The Bellwether Awards are widely regarded as the nation's most competitive and prestigious recognition for community colleges and are the only awards evaluated by experts and practitioners in the field. In its 26 years of celebrating community colleges, the BCC is proud to identify outstanding and innovative programs or practices which can then be shared and replicated. In addition to the Planning, Governance and Finance category, BCC presents awards in two other categories: Instructional Programs and Services and Workforce Development.

All finalists will be presented at the 2020 Community Colleg-

es Futures Assembly, and one winner will be selected from each category by a panel of national experts. The assembly convenes annually as an independent, national policy forum for key opinion leaders to work as a "think tank" in identifying critical issues facing the future of community colleges and to recognize Bellwether winners and finalist as trend-setting institutions.

The Bellwether College Consortium is a group of colleges charged with addressing the critical issues facing community colleges through applicable research and the promotion and replication of best practices addressing workforce development, instructional programs and services, and planning governance and finance. The Bellwether Award is proudly sponsored by the Alamo Colleges District in San Antonio, Texas.

For more information, consult the Community College Futures Assembly website, www.bellwethercollegeconsortium.com or email rmartinez1702@alamo.edu.

At the Alamo Colleges District, high quality education and affordable costs provide exceptional value to students and alumni who are major contributors to the economy and culture of our community. For more information, go to alamo.edu.



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NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION & COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION REGISTRATION POLICY UPDATE

PURPOSE

The neighborhood registry is a communication tool that strengthens relationships between neighborhoods and the City.

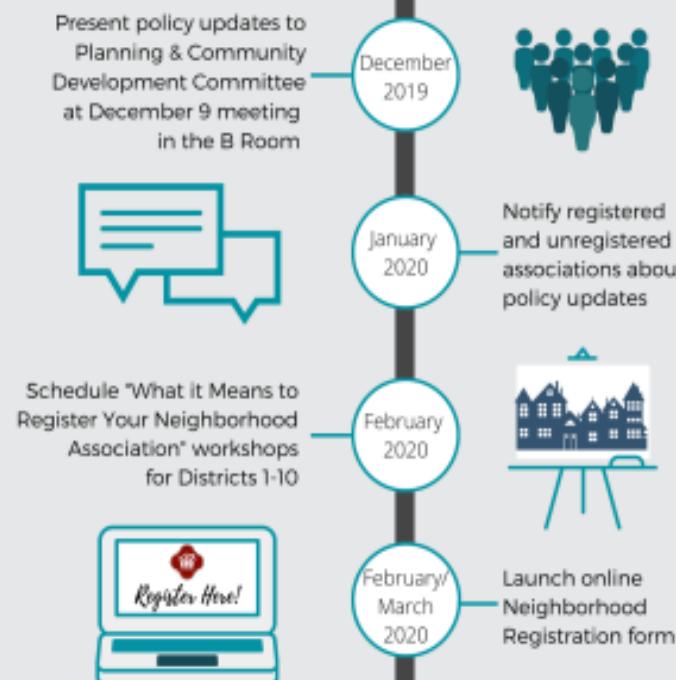
RECOMMENDED POLICY UPDATES

- Allow all neighborhood associations the opportunity to register regardless of overlapping boundaries
- Require all registered neighborhood associations to meet minimum standards

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR REGISTRATION

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> be governed by adopted bylaws | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> represent a contiguous geographic area |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> elect officers by vote of the membership | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> document at least 2 general meetings in the past year |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> hold meetings open to all residents and property owners within the association's boundary | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> make a reasonable attempt to give notice of meetings by multiple mediums |

PROPOSED TIMELINE



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
NEIGHBORHOOD & HOUSING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTCOMES

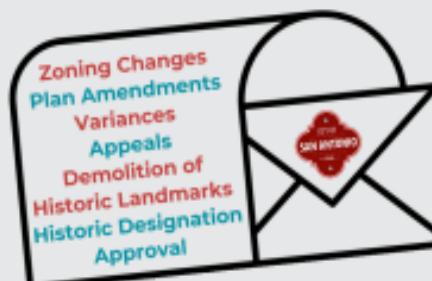


REGISTRATION = INFORMATION

Restricting the number of groups who can receive information promotes the exclusion of residents

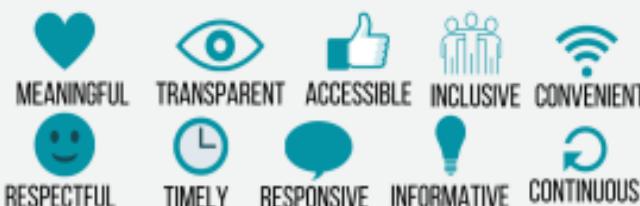
NOTIFICATIONS

DSD, OHP & other City depts. utilize the registration list to determine the points of contact for associations to receive notices.



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GUIDING PRINCIPLES

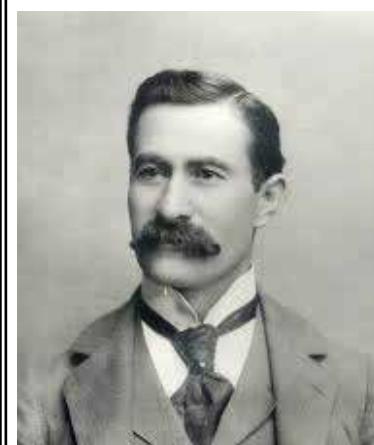
Recommended policy updates align with the Public Participation Guiding Principles adopted by City Council on January 17, 2019 by ensuring that all residents have the opportunity to receive communication from the City.



For more information about the Neighborhood Association & Community Organization Registration Policy Update, contact the Neighborhood & Housing Services Department at neighborhoods@sanantonio.gov or (210) 207-6459



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.



Casimiro Barela

Born on March 4, 1847, in New Mexico, Casimiro Barela and his family moved to Colorado in 1867. At age 22, he was elected justice of the peace and began a career in public service that lasted 45 years. He was elected to the territorial legislature and served as sheriff and county assessor of Las Animas County. In 1875, Barela was elected as a delegate to the state constitutional convention where he secured the first civil rights bill for the Spanish speaking, which required all laws to be written in Spanish as well as English. Elected to Colorado's first state senate in 1876, Barela held numerous offices including president of the senate. Retiring at age 69, Barela is forever remembered in Colorado History as "El Padre del Senado Estado de Colorado.

GED Brunch Baazar

On Dec. 7, 2019, we celebrated the 12th Annual Fabulous G.E.D. Brunch & Bazaar Scholarship Fundraiser, founded by beloved and well respected San Antonio community leader Martha Tijerina. Thank you to Texas A&M University-San Antonio for inviting me to be their guest. It was an honor to join TAMUSA President Dr. Cynthia Teniente Matson to support this important program that helps cover G.E.D. fees for students who lack the financial resources to do so. All donations for the GED scholarship and the college endowment are administered through the Alamo Colleges Foundation



Photos by Yvette Tello

Nancy Bautista Caballero, born December 6, 1931, is 88 years young. She celebrated her birthday with her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren as well as with daughters-in-law, nieces nephews and sister.



Commissioner Tommy Calvert's Enrollment Event at Brooks City Base

Photos by Ramon Chapa Jr.

La Prensa Texas was Proud to help Sponsor Commissioner Tommy Calvert's Enrollment Event at Brooks City Base. We are doing our part to bring down the number of uninsured in our community.



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La Familia Morales celebró tercera reunión En Olmos Park jugaron partidos de béisbol, softbol y disfrutaron deliciosa cena

Por José I. Franco

Siguiendo tradición y valores familiares legados por sus padres Leopoldo Morales Velázquez y Josefina Maldonado Romo (fallecidos), los hermanos Ricardo Morales Maldonado, Juan Manuel apodado “La Lancha”, Norma, Ernestina, Alma, Ramiro, Rosario, Leopoldo, Jesús Humberto y en memoria Rolando Morales Maldonado (el mayor), con el éxito deseado celebraron en grande su tercer reunión familiar en el popular complejo deportivo Olmos Park, de San Antonio.

A la vez, aprovecharon para felicitar a las señoritas Melanie y Destiny, que un día previo tuvieron elegante fiesta por sus XV y 16 años respectivamente, motivo por el cual sus padres Lupita Morales y Adrián Hernán-

dez, les ofrecieron inolvidable fiesta en su honor.

Con este doble festejo se dio por cumplida la tercera reunión, en la que como parte del entretenimiento y diversión tradicional, organizaron eventos deportivos, con partidos de béisbol entre equipos integrados por adultos (Veteranos), y adolescentes. Los pequeños también participaron en “clínicas” de béisbol, que les sirvió para comenzar a desarrollar sus respectivas habilidades en el rey de los deportes. Algunos de ellos, a la vez optaron por echarse una “cascarita” de fútbol soccer, mientras Ramiro y familiares, se turnaban para realizar lanzamientos desde la lomita y dirigir las actividades.

En los resultados del béisbol los Veteranos se im-

pusieron a los Jóvenes con pizarra de 6 a 5 carreras. En el partido de softball femenil las chicas del equipo “Las Muñecas” se impusieron por la mínima diferencia ante la escuadra adulta “Las Tóxicas”, en lo que fue un juego cerrado de acuerdo a la señora Alma Morales.

La familia Morales, tiene sus raíces en la región de Nava, Coahuila, México, con el paso del tiempo se han establecido en diversas regiones de Texas, lo cual les ha dado la gran oportunidad de hacer los preparativos con anticipación a su tradicional reunión que celebran aprovechando las vacaciones del Día de Acción de Gracias (Thanksgiving Day).

El convivio fue disfrutado con un tradicional guiso casero llamado “Discada”,

estilo Coahuila, entre otros platillos del gusto de su delicado paladar.

La descendencia de los esposos Leopoldo y Josefina, la integran sus 10 hijos, 42 nietos, 136 bisnietos y 8 tataranietos. “Nos reunimos para seguir honrando valores familiares que nuestros padres nos legaron. Estamos orgullosos de ellos (nuestros padres), porque es bonito ver la familia reunida y convivir de acuerdo a nuestras tradiciones”, apunto Alma.

Ricardo Morales Maldonado, residente en la ciudad de Nava (segundo en línea familiar), indicó lo siguiente. “Nuestros padres siempre nos inculcaron, luchar por mantener valores en lo familiar. Inculcando a nuestros hijos, respeto, aprender a querer y a perdonar. Contentos en nuestras re-

uniones entre familia gracias a Dios. Los niños se inclinan por el deporte, ello recompensa nuestro esfuerzo de venir desde lejos. Siempre recomendamos buscar forma de continuar fortaleciendo nuestra unidad”. Añadiendo “El respeto familiar nos motiva para seguir adelante. No queda más que recomendar a otras familias que hagan lo mismo y Dios les dará la oportunidad de ver los excelentes resultados. Porque así estarán alejados de actividades negativas”. En las fotos aparecen; Ramiro, encabezando clínica de béisbol infantil. Hermanos Morales Maldonado. Equipo de Veteranos. Equipos Las Tóxicas y Las Muñecas. La Familia Morales, con la mayoría de asistentes a su tercera reunión celebrada con éxito en Olmos Park. (Fotos Franco).



Why They Leave: A Cen

By Dr. Ricardo Romo

In the last decade more immigrants arrived at the U.S. borders from Mexico and Central America than from any other region of the world. The arrival of immigrants on our southern border has been the subject of numerous print and television stories, and the migration story has been highly politicized.

Misconceptions about refugees are many as President Trump and others incorrectly blame immigrants living in our communities with crime and violence. But do we know who these immigrants are and why they come? This is a story about immigrants from Central America.

Migration is governed by push and pull forces. My visits to the Central American countries of Guatemala, Belize, and Honduras convinced me that in those countries the push factors related to poverty, drug trade, political repression, police corruption, prolonged droughts, and sexual violence are more important than the pull forces of good jobs and the American dream.

Some years ago I had the opportunity to travel to Honduras and Guatemala as part of a team of engineers with expertise in drilling water wells. The team, led by Dr.

Weldon Hammond of UTSA, received support from the Epis-

copal Diocese of West Texas and the San Antonio Rotary. In addition, Living Water International in Houston assisted our project by providing drilling equipment and training.

Dr. Hammond learned from Doctors Without Borders that e-coli bacteria in water contributed to a startlingly high number of deaths among infants. Indeed, doctors discovered that one community in Paraiso District of Honduras recorded infant mortality rates that were among the highest in the world. Health problems persisted because the community drank whatever water was available, and sometimes that water was contaminated. There were no jobs in their isolated communi-

ties, and many residents could not afford to buy fresh water from the trucks that came to their neighborhood once a week.

The Paraiso District of Honduras is in the southmost region of the nation where hundreds of small communities dot the mountainous region. Most of these communities are isolated and poverty stricken. Only a few have access to fresh water, and none have electricity or gas lines.

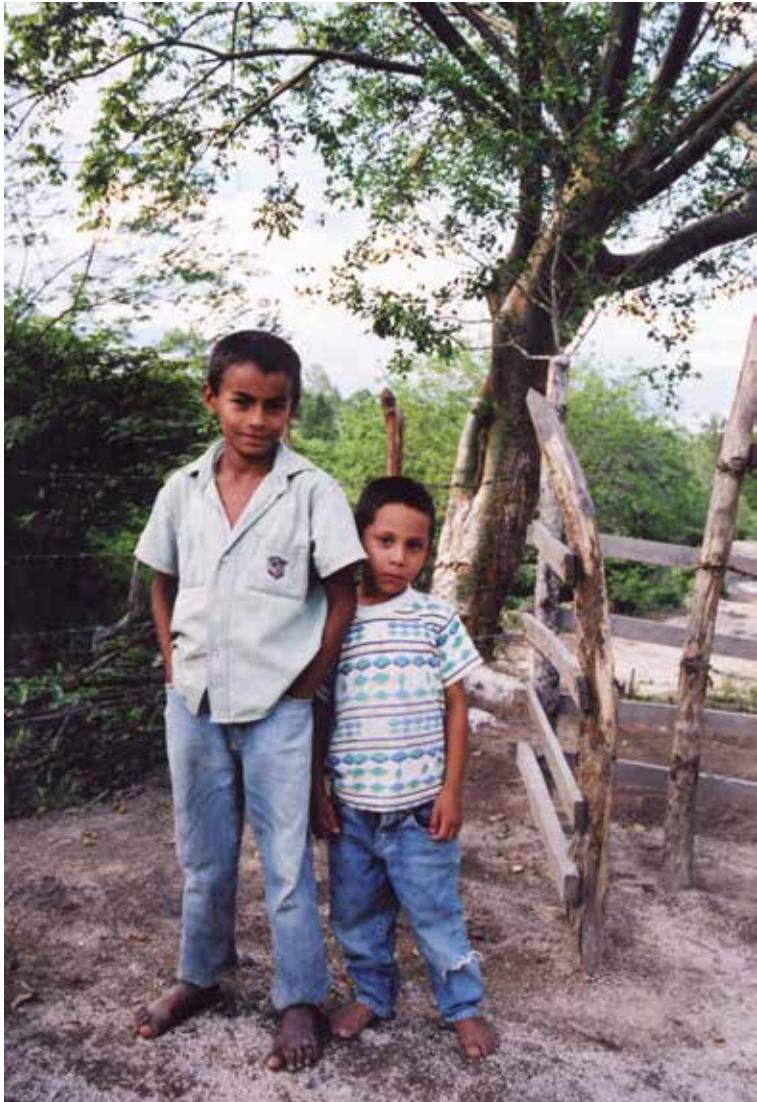
The drive up the dirt road leading to these small mountainous communities is hazardous and impossible to reach without four-wheel vehicles. The community had no automobiles, radios, or televisions

and the residents were almost completely cut off from the rest of the world.

I had travelled in 30 states of Mexico, and I was familiar with poverty. In Honduras, I witnessed urban and rural poverty, but the rural poverty of isolated villages was the most profound that I had ever seen.

In the communities we visited, families lived on what they could grow and harvest, a farming pattern known as subsistence farming. With climate change, they are experiencing longer dry seasons which hamper crop production.

Ten years ago these villagers were not leaving their homes, even in difficult times. But in the last ten years, much has changed with the region's climate. A recent drought which continued for more than five



Central American Account

years devastated most farming communities. In rural Honduras, there is a scarcity of food and malnutrition has become a serious health concern.

The villagers cooked their meals with wood gathered in the forest at the bottom of the mountain. Wherever we drove in the countryside, we saw men and boys walking up and down the mountain with wood bundles on their backs. Wood made possible the cooking of the few meals they managed to prepare. Today, there is less wood and also less crops to harvest.

While we were surprised by the prevalence of poverty, rural poverty is especially hard on Honduran families. A recent NBC news team found that almost two-thirds of the Honduran population lives in poverty,

making this Central American nation one of the poorest in the Western Hemisphere. The Honduran government offers little or no assistance to these isolated rural communities.

In a thoughtful article in the online magazine Vox, investigative reporter Jen Kirby suggested that the best way for the US to assist countries like Honduras "is to support the civil society organizations and local groups on the ground that are already working to improve their societies." Assistance from wealthy nations is essential. A solution to Honduran poverty is continued United

States foreign aid.

The \$1.1 billion dollars of U.S. foreign aid allocated to Honduras in 2017 is directed principally to the development of manufacturing and infrastructure construction and fails to address the prolonged droughts brought about by climate change. Poverty persists in Honduras despite the aid because corruption has not been rooted out. People are pushed out of their country by hunger and by an absence of security and political reform.

It is not just the United States' government than can assist the poorest of communities, but

also organizations such as those from San Antonio, Texas that helped bring fresh water to the Paraiso community. I witnessed the drilling of clean water wells and the enormous joy that fresh water brought to the community. I also witnessed the training of local residents to maintain the well operations.

Writing about "How the U.S. Created the Central American Immigration Crisis," Common Dreams writer Rebecca Gordon concluded that "even if there were no corrupt regimes, no government repression, and no drug wars, people would still be fleeing Central America because climate change has made their way of life impos-

sible."

Americans can and should do something to reduce U.S. dependence on fossil fuels which helped accelerate climate change and the warming of the earth. The crops of Central America are ruined by America's energy consumption habits. U.S. aid could emphasize internal changes in our own country, i.e. reduce drug use and dependence on fossil fuels, at the same time that our country provides expertise that can help rural communities develop clean water sources, food production, health care, and ethical and fair institutions.

(All Photos By Dr. Ricardo Romo)



Comisión de Calidad Ambiental del Estado de Texas



**NOTIFICACIÓN DE SOLICITUD Y DECISIÓN PRELIMINAR
PARA PERMISO DEL TPDES PARA AGUAS RESIDUALES DE ORIGEN INDUSTRIAL ENMIENDA
ENMIENDA
Permiso Nro. WQ0001517000**

SOLICITUD Y DECISIÓN PRELIMINAR. El Servicio Público de la Ciudad (CPS Energy) de San Antonio, P.O. Box 1771, San Antonio, Texas 78296, que opera la Planta de energía de Leon Creek, solicitó a la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental de Texas (TCEQ) una enmienda sustancial al Permiso del Sistema de Eliminación de Descargas de Contaminantes de Texas (TPDES) Nro. WQ0001517000, para autorizar la eliminación de todos los requisitos de permisos asociados al Título 40 del Código de Regulaciones Federales CFR 423, Categoría Fuente Puntual de Generación de Energía Eléctrica a Vapor; la eliminación del Desagüe 001 existente; reducción de la frecuencia del monitoreo de cloro; una actualización de los métodos de monitoreo de cloro; reducción de la frecuencia de la toma de muestras para todos los parámetros del Desagüe 101 interno existente a una vez cada seis meses; y la eliminación de los requisitos de monitoreo para el cobre y el hierro en el Desagüe 101 interno existente. El proyecto del permiso autoriza la descarga de vaciado de la torre de refrigeración y residuos de bajo volumen en forma intermitente y con variable de flujo, por medio del Desagüe 001. La TCEQ recibió esta solicitud el 1 de mayo de 2019.

Las instalaciones están ubicadas en 7718 Quintana Road, en la Ciudad de San Antonio, Condado de Bexar, Texas 78211. Este enlace a un mapa electrónico del lugar o la ubicación general de las instalaciones se proporciona como un servicio público gratuito y no es parte de la solicitud o notificación. Para ver la ubicación exacta, consulte la solicitud. <https://tceq.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=db5bac44afbc468bbdd360f8168250f&marker=-98.57574%2C29.351675&level=12>

Las aguas residuales se descargan a una zanja de drenaje de la ciudad, de ahí a la parte inferior de Leon Creek en el Segmento Nro. 1906 de la cuenca del río San Antonio. Los usos no clasificados de las aguas receptoras son usos mínimos de vida acuática para la zanja de drenaje. Los usos designados para el Segmento Nro. 1906 son la recreación de contacto principal, el suministro público de agua y el uso de alta vida acuática.

De acuerdo con el Capítulo 30 del Código Administrativo de Texas, artículo §307.5, y los Procedimientos de la TCEQ para implementar los Estándares de Calidad de Aguas Superficiales de Texas (junio de 2010), se realizó una revisión de antidegradación de las aguas receptoras. Una revisión de antidegradación de Nivel 1 ha determinado preliminarmente que los usos existentes de la calidad del agua no se verán afectados por esta solicitud de permiso. Se mantendrán los criterios numéricos y narrativos para proteger los usos existentes. Una revisión de Nivel 2 ha determinado preliminarmente que no se espera una degradación significativa de la calidad del agua en la parte inferior de Leon Creek, la cual se identificó como de uso de alta vida acuática. Se mantendrán y protegerán los usos existentes. La determinación preliminar puede ser reexaminada y modificada, si se recibe nueva información.

El Director Ejecutivo de la TCEQ finalizó la revisión técnica de la solicitud y preparó un proyecto de permiso. El proyecto de permiso, de ser aprobado, establecería las condiciones conforme a las cuales deben operar las instalaciones. El Director Ejecutivo tomó una decisión preliminar de que este permiso, si se expide, cumple con todos los requisitos legales y reglamentarios. La solicitud de permiso, la decisión preliminar del Director Ejecutivo y el proyecto del permiso están disponibles para su visualización y reproducción en la Oficina Principal de Servicio Público de la Ciudad (CPS Energy) de San Antonio, 145 Navarro Street, 4to. Piso, San Antonio, Texas.

COMENTARIOS PÚBLICOS / SESIÓN PÚBLICA. Puede presentar comentarios públicos o solicitar una sesión pública sobre esta solicitud. El propósito de una sesión pública es dar la oportunidad de presentar comentarios escritos u orales o hacer preguntas sobre la solicitud. Generalmente, la TCEQ celebrará una sesión pública, si el Director Ejecutivo determina que existe un grado significativo de interés público en la solicitud, o si la solicita un legislador local. Una sesión pública no es una audiencia contenciosa sobre el asunto.

OPORTUNIDAD PARA UNA AUDIENCIA CONTENCIOSAS SOBRE EL ASUNTO. Después de la fecha límite para los comentarios públicos, el Director Ejecutivo los considerará y preparará una respuesta a todos los comentarios públicos relevantes y esenciales o significativos. **La respuesta a los comentarios, junto con la decisión del Director Ejecutivo sobre la solicitud, se enviarán por correo a todas las personas que presentaron comentarios públicos o solicitaron estar en una lista de correo para esta solicitud. Si se reciben comentarios, el correo también proporcionará instrucciones para solicitar una audiencia contenciosa sobre el asunto o la reconsideración de la decisión del Director Ejecutivo.** Una audiencia contenciosa sobre el asunto es un procedimiento legal similar a un juicio civil en un tribunal de distrito estatal.

PARA SOLICITAR UNA AUDIENCIA CONTENCIOSAS SOBRE EL ASUNTO, DEBE INCLUIR LA SIGUIENTE INFORMACIÓN EN SU SOLICITUD: nombre, dirección, número de teléfono; nombre del solicitante y número de permiso propuesto; ubicación y distancia de su propiedad/sus actividades en relación con la instalación propuesta; una descripción específica de cómo se vería afectado por la instalación de una manera no común al público en general; una lista de todas las cuestiones de hecho en disputa que presente durante el período de comentarios; y la declaración “[Yo/nosotros] solicito/solicitamos una audiencia contenciosa sobre el asunto”. Si la solicitud de audiencia contenciosa sobre el asunto se presenta en nombre de un grupo o una asociación, la solicitud debe designar al representante del grupo para recibir correspondencia en el futuro; identificar por nombre y dirección física a un miembro del grupo que se vería afectado por la instalación o actividad propuesta; proporcionar la información mencionada anteriormente con respecto a la ubicación del miembro afectado y la distancia de la instalación o actividad; explicar cómo y por qué el miembro se vería afectado; y explicar cómo los intereses que el grupo trata de proteger son relevantes para su propósito.

Después del cierre de todos los períodos de comentarios y solicitudes aplicables, el Director Ejecutivo enviará la solicitud y cualquier solicitud de reconsideración o de audiencia contenciosa sobre el asunto a los Comisionados de la TCEQ, para su consideración en una reunión programada de la Comisión.

La Comisión sólo podrá conceder una solicitud de audiencia contenciosa sobre cuestiones que el solicitante haya presentado en sus comentarios oportunos y que no hayan sido retirados posteriormente. **Si se concede una audiencia, el asunto se limitará a cuestiones de hecho en disputa o cuestiones mixtas de hecho y de derecho relacionadas con asuntos relevantes y esenciales sobre la calidad del agua presentados durante el período de comentarios**

LISTA DE CORREO. Si presenta comentarios públicos, una solicitud de audiencia contenciosa sobre el asunto o reconsideración de la decisión del Director Ejecutivo, será agregado a la lista de correo para esta solicitud específica, a los fines de recibir futuras notificaciones públicas por correo, enviadas por la Oficina del Secretario principal. Además, puede solicitar que se le agregue a: (1) la lista permanente para un nombre de solicitante y número de permiso específicos; y (2) la lista de correo para un condado específico. Si desea ser incluido en la lista de correo permanente y en la del condado, especifique claramente en qué lista(s) y envíe su solicitud a la Oficina del Secretario principal de la TCEQ, a la dirección que aparece a continuación.

Todos los comentarios públicos por escrito y las solicitudes de sesión pública deben presentarse a la Oficina del Secretario principal, MC 105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087, o por medios electrónicos, a www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/ en un plazo de 30 días a partir de la fecha de publicación de esta notificación en el periódico.

INFORMACIÓN DISPONIBLE EN LÍNEA. Para obtener información sobre el estado de la solicitud, visite la Base de datos integral del Comisionado en www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Busque la base de datos usando el número de permiso para esta solicitud, que se brinda en la parte superior de esta notificación.

CONTACTOS E INFORMACIÓN DEL ORGANISMO. Los comentarios y solicitudes públicos deben presentarse electrónicamente a www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, o por escrito, a la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental de Texas, Oficina del Secretario principal, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Tenga en cuenta que cualquier información de contacto que proporcione, incluido su nombre, número de teléfono, dirección de correo electrónico y dirección física será parte del registro público del organismo. Para obtener más información sobre esta solicitud de permiso o su proceso, comuníquese con la línea telefónica gratuita del Programa de educación pública de la TCEQ al 1-800-687-4040, o visite el sitio web en www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Asimismo, se puede obtener más información del Servicio Público de la Ciudad (CPS Energy) de San Antonio, en la dirección indicada con anterioridad, o llamando a Summer Johnson al (210) 353-2770.

THIS DAY IN LA PRENSA HISTORY

LA PRENSA
DIARIO POPULAR INDEPENDIENTE

DIRECTOR: Ignacio E. Loraño

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Domingo, 19 de Diciembre de 1937



FELICIDAD, por Lauro Potter.



Audubon

Mitchell Lake
Audubon Center

Council District 3
Rebecca J. Viagran

District 3 Contractor & Developer Fair



TUESDAY
DECEMBER 17
9:00-11:00 AM

Mission Library
3134 Roosevelt Ave.

The purpose of this event is to share information with contractors & developers about the City's rehabilitation programs, available City incentives and upcoming opportunities to participate.

PRESENTATION TOPICS

- Housing Rehabilitation Programs
- Available City Incentives
- Fee Waivers & Impact Fees
- Permitting Process
- City Infill Development
- City Procurement Process
- Small Business Resources



Quickpath Inc. seeks an on site Solution Consultant for its San Antonio office (relocation does not apply). Min requirements: Bachelor's in Electrical/computer/software Engineering or closely related field. Minimum of 5 yrs exp. developing business intelligence solutions & dimensional data modeling. Proficiency in SQL, TDM, DB2, Netezza, Hortonworks, Hadoop, SSRS, Cognos, Microstrategy, QlikView and Spotfire. Experience with hands-on ETL development, project management, Agile and SixSigma preferred. Send resume to Quickpath, Inc (c/o Human Resources), 110 E. Houston Street San Antonio, TX 78205.

Overcoming Barriers to Homeownership in Hispanic Communities

By Maria Figueroa, Enterprise Retail Sales Manager, Bank of America, San Antonio

Over time, the definition of the American Dream has changed. Still, the desire to own a home remains a defining attribute.

This rings especially true for Hispanic families, who are purchasing homes at faster rates than other minority demographics. In fact, an annual report by the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals found the national homeownership rate in Hispanic communities has increased from 45.6 to 47.1 percent in the past three years. In San Antonio-New Braunfels, the Hispanic homeownership rate is more than 59 percent.

Unfortunately, barriers to homeownership still exist for many first-time buyers, including those in Hispanic communities. While many would-be buyers can afford monthly mortgage payments, they often have difficulty saving for the upfront costs of homeownership, like a down payment and closing costs.

The San Antonio housing market presents its own set of challenges with a shortage of affordable housing and rising

home prices. According to the Texas Quarterly Housing Report, the median home price in San Antonio rose more than 4% in Q2, a larger increase than every other major metro area in Texas.

So, the question remains: how do Hispanics make their homeownership dreams a reality?

Ask the right questions

Once you've made the decision to purchase a home, the next step is to ask the right questions to fully understand the homebuying process.

Prospective home buyers must understand how much they can comfortably afford. As a general rule of thumb, the mortgage payment should be no more than 30 percent of the pre-tax household income. If you're unsure, try setting aside the equivalent of your potential mortgage payment each month and gauge whether you can comfortably live within the new budget.

One of the most pressing concerns for homebuyers is the down payment. Although a 20 percent down payment is ideal – it helps avoid private mortgage insurance (PMI) costs, which can increase your monthly payments – there are loans available that require a substantially lower down

payment, including some with a down payment as low as three percent and no mortgage insurance requirement. Grants to be used toward down payment and closing costs may also be available from lenders, as well as from cities and municipalities.

For example, Neighborhood Housing Services of San Antonio's Down Payment Assistance program provides a variety of homeownership opportunities for first-time homebuyers, with low interest rates, low monthly payments and a maximum fixed Down Payment Assistance of \$10,000 for 20 years.

Creating a plan

Once you know what's ahead, you can create and execute a plan to move beyond the role of homebuyer and into the role of homeowner.

First, create a budget. The budget should include a detailed account of all revenue streams and all expenditures. Then, create a line item on the budget that outlines the anticipated cost of homeownership, including planned and unexpected maintenance costs.

Next, if necessary, go to work on improving your credit score with two goals in mind: first, keep the total debt you owe below the total

amount of credit available to you; then, reduce your debt-to-income ratio by making greater payments toward high-interest loans and credit cards. Do not close your credit accounts, as your credit history plays a significant factor in determining your score.

Finally, take advantage of the plethora of resources available in your community. Potential homebuyers can seek assistance on down payments from a number of resources in San Antonio. In addition to the Neighborhood Housing Services of San Antonio Down Payment Assistance program, the City of San Antonio also offers a Homeownership Incentive Program, as well as a First Responders Homebuyer Assistance Program tailored specifically to first responders and full-time City of San Antonio police and fire department employees. The Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation also offers loan programs to help first time homebuyers.

Additionally, talk to your financial institution about programs and grants for which you may qualify. For instance, Bank of America recently announced it was bringing a new Down Payment Grant

program to San Antonio as part of its \$5 billion commitment to help more than 20,000 families purchase a home. Through the program, San Antonio homebuyers may be eligible for the grant amounting to three percent of the home purchase price (up to \$10,000) to be used toward a down payment, with no repayment necessary. Bank of America also offers a closing cost grant which, when combined with the Down Payment Grant, may allow qualified homebuyers to receive as much as \$17,500 toward the purchase of a home.

With the right support and guidance, homeownership can be a reality for every family in every community.

Maria Figueroa is an Enterprise Retail Sales Manager for Bank of America in San Antonio.



Winter Wonderland

at Palo Alto College

Dec. 5 - Jan. 5

Largest Holiday Light Display on the South Side

Se Vende

**Lavador y Secadora, \$225 el par Exellente
Condiciones. Refrigerador (Frost Free)
Solamente \$100. Tambien reparamos lava-
doras, secadoras, y refrigeradoras. Tambien
entregamos a domicilio.
Llame Hoy (210) 324-9821**



Johnny López con elevado de sacrificio dio empate a Piratas vs. Tecolotes

Broncos hizo homenaje y donativo económico a Guillermo 'El Vikingo' Arriaga

Por Sendero Deportivo

Cuando todo parecía que los Tecolotes se quedarían con la victoria de 3 a 2 carreras faltándoles una entrada para derrotar a Piratas de Sabinas, en el octavo capítulo, con las bases llenas se toparon con duro tras batazo conectado por Johnny López, quien puso la esférica a volar por el jardín izquierdo, permitiendo que su compañero en la antesala, anotara en jugada de pisa y correr, para así empatar la pizarra 3-3.

Johnny López, finalizó el partido pegando de 4-2 y produciendo la carrera que forzó el partido a quedar 3 a 3 carreras. Tecolotes vinieron al bate en la apertura del noveno episodio, siendo dominados en orden. Los ampáyeres por falta de visibilidad decretaron suspender las acciones en lo que hubiera sido partido a extra innings (décima entrada).

Los directivos de Tecolotes Frank Torres, Gustavo Torres,

Pedro Espinoza y Catarino Obregón, felicitaron deportivamente a su rival (Piratas) dirigido por Sergio De Luna, Iván Rubinsky, y el capitán Brayan Guerrero.

En otros resultados de la categoría dominical Abierta, Broncos derrotó 8-3 a Águilas de Veracruz. La victoria se la agenció Maikel Tylor con salvamento de Antonio Galván. Por derrotados perdió el abridor Raúl Originales, que fue relevado por Noé "Chiquilin" Rivera, quien lanzó 2 entradas y un tercio sin permitir jits y carreras.

Cardenales 2-1 ante Rieleros. Indios de Nava blanqueo 5-0 a Tuneros&Mineros.

La franquicia Broncos de Reynosa SA de los esposos Linda y Roberto Jesús Garza, organizaron dos partidos amistoso, para hacer homenaje y otorgar donativo económico a su receptor Guillermo 'El Vikingo' Arriaga, quien lam-

entablemente se encuentra convaleciendo de lesión visual. Arriaga, quien durante ocho temporadas jugó para Broncos, con varios campeonatos ganados, dijo estar agradecido porque los esposos Garza, aficionados y los equipos Águilas de San Luis y Dodgers de la Liga de Veteranos Laredo, apoyaron esta noble doble jornada en la que le fue presentada placa de reconocimiento y recibió donativo económico. "Agradecido con toda la gente que colaboró y con directivos que se preocupan por bienestar de sus jugadores", dijo Arriaga.

Broncos ante San Luis, salió airoso con pizarra de 8-7. Rick Felán, Kelly Skeen y Chris Urdiales se combinaron en la lomita de los disparos por el equipo anfitrión, mientras que por San Luis, el popular lanzador derecho José Luis Gómez (Liga Mexicana), se encargó de lanzar toda la ruta, en lo que Águilas tuvo ventaja en varias ocasiones.

El visi-

tante club Dodgers de Laredo, que cumplieron invitación hecha con anticipación por Garza, vinieron dirigidos por el manager y jugador Salvador Pedraza y el coach Andrés Santos. Broncos se quedó cortó en la pizarra siendo superado por Dodgers y su serpentinero abridor Alex Martínez, quien se impuso ante los lanzadores rivales, Gilbert Salazar, Óscar (Giro) Rodríguez y Edwin Walker. "No queda más que esperar a que Broncos nos visite para que paguen la visita. Nuestra participación en esta justa, fue para estrechar lazos deportivos, y ser participantes del homenaje a Memo Arriaga, a quien le deseamos pronta recuperación", dijo Pedraza.

"Cumplimos con el objetivo programado. Todo salió bien se jugaron dos buenos partidos ante duros rivales. A la vez se le reconoció su trayectoria beisbolera a Memo Arriaga, quien es un hermano de Broncos. Esperamos en el futuro ir a pagar visita a Dodgers en Laredo.

Gracias a todos los aficionados, familiares y jugadores de los tres equipos que apoyaron esta noble causa", indicó Roberto Jesús Garza.

Eloy Rocha, propietario del estadio Potranco Baseball Field, dijo que continuará apoyando este tipo de eventos, aportando facilidades para que utilicen sin costo alguno sus tres campos de juego. En las fotos aparecen; Johnny López, conectando elevado de sacrificio por los Piratas ante Tecolotes, en partido que finalizó empatado 3-3. López, produjo la carrera que emparejó la pizarra. Adolfo Morones, coach y patrocinador de Águilas, Noé "Chiquilin" Rivera, Luis Cerros, manager de Águilas y su hijo Junior. Jugadores y directivos de Dodgers de Laredo y Broncos de Reynosa SA con Memo Arriaga al centro quien recibió emotivo homenaje por su trayectoria en el béisbol regional independiente en el sur de Texas. (Fotos por Franco)



Holiday Travel Tips

“Take the stress out of Holiday travel”



By Jason Meza

*Regional Director
Better Business Bureau
13750 San Pedro Ave, Suite 400 San Antonio, Tx. 78232
p: 210.260.9843
bbb.org Start With Trust®*

Consumers are preparing for one of the busiest travel seasons of the year. Many are planning to visit family during the holidays, others take annual trips around this time. Some may feel the need to just escape for a bit, while thrifty travelers take advantage of holiday deals to plan vacations months in advance.

Traveling can be stressful, from planning to staying safe while on vacation. Stress only seems to increase during the holiday season; fortunately, your Better Business Bureau has tips to keep your holiday travels sailing smoothly.

Plan ahead for best deals. Give yourself enough time to research flights, hotels and the area you'll be visiting. Not only does planning cut down on stress, but typically, the earlier you

make reservations, the better deals you can find.

Watch for scams. Be cautious of calls or letters informing you that you've won a vacation, or advertising trips at prices that seem too good to be true. You should also avoid using broad terms when searching the internet. Phrases like "best travel deals" can take you to questionable websites designed to scam consumers.

Do your research. If you're looking for a travel site or agent, ask family and friends for recommendations. You can also check business profiles on bbb.org to read customer reviews and complaint histories.

Get details in writing. You should have the details of your trip in writing before making the final payment. Details should include the total cost, the names of the airline and hotel, restrictions and cancellation fees.

BBB also offers these tips to keep yourself and your belongings safe while you travel:

Wait to post. Wait until you return from your trip to post photos from your vacation. You don't want to let people, and potentially thieves, know when your home is unoccupied.

Check your insurance. Check your home insurance to see what your responsibilities will be under your policy. Some won't cover damage if your home hasn't been checked on in a certain amount of time. If this is the case, consider asking a trusted friend to visit your house periodically.

Avoid traveling alone. Traveling with friends or family is always the safest option, especially if you're in an unfamiliar place.

Use hotel safes. When you're out exploring, use hotel safes to keep your valuable items locked up. You should also keep part of your cash in there; avoid keeping all your cash in one place, in the event some of it gets stolen.

Safe travels and Happy Holidays from your Better Business Bureau!

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NON-PROFIT HIGHLIGHT

U.S. and Mexican Catholics come together once again to distribute refugee aid in Mexico border town

By Leonel Tirado

Knights of Columbus from Texas and Mexico delivered supplies to a center in Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico, that serves migrants in need. Over \$50,000 worth of supplies, including clothing, food, water, and medicine, arrived at Frontera Digna, a home for migrants and refugees, which is operated by the Catholic Diocese of Piedras Negras.

Over 20 volunteers were joined and blessed by Bishop Alonso G. Garza Treviño of Piedras Negras, and Laredo Bishop James A. Tamayo. Sister Isabel Turcios, the Director of the center, thanked the volunteers for their kindness, generosity and prayers.

Last month, the Knights delivered supplies to a center in Juarez, Mexico as part of their commitment for humanitarian needs at the border. Additional deliveries are planned as part of the of \$150,000 commitment made earlier this year.

(photos provided by The Knights of Columbus.)



The Knights of Columbus are a fraternity of Catholic men committed to building a bridge back to faith, assisting the sick and disabled, and protecting those who can't protect themselves.

All the works of The Knights of Columbus are informed by four core principles:

Charity – Catholic faith teaches us to “Love thy neighbor as thyself.” Members of the Knights of Columbus show love for their neighbors by conducting food drives and donating the food to local soup kitchens and food pantries, by volunteering at Special Olympics, and by supporting, both spiritually and materially, mothers who choose life for their babies. Knights recognize that our mission, and our faith in God, compels to action. There is no better way to experience love and compassion than by helping those in need, a call we answer every day.

Unity – None of us is as good as all of us. Members of the Knights of Columbus all know that – together – we can accomplish far more than any of us could individually. So we stick together...we support one another. That doesn't mean that we always agree or that there is never a difference of opinion. It does mean that – as a Knight of Columbus – you can count on the support and encouragement of your brother Knights as you work to make life better in your parish and community.

Fraternity – The Venerable Michael J. McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus, in large part, to provide assistance to the widows and children left behind when the family breadwinner died – often prematurely. The Order's top-rated insurance program continues to do this today, as do individual Knights, who last year gave more than 10 million hours of their time to assist sick and/or disabled members and their families. In the Knights of Columbus, we watch out for and take care of one another.

Patriotism – Members of the Knights of Columbus, be they Americans, Canadians, Mexicans, Cubans, Filipinos, Poles, or Dominicans, are patriotic citizens. We are proud of our devotion to God and country, and believe in standing up for both. Whether it's in public or private, the Knights remind the world that Catholics support their nations and are amongst the greatest citizens.

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Just a Thought

Immigration flashback



By Steve Walker

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

November 29th in 2014 I wrote "Just a Thought" about then President Obama making good on his promise to issue an executive order on immigration during a televised press conference from the White House.

Many on both sides of the issue still react to his words to this day in the Hispanic community that felt relief while many others not so much. Dreamers were excited then but not now with the current President continually insulting and demeaning refugees at every turn.

In that article I was referencing the 800 thousand Dreamers in limbo. The statistics show that 95 percent of those Dreamers are gainfully employed, own their own homes and vehicles, and pay taxes. Many are nurses, doctors, teachers, members of the military and independent business owners. Nothing has changed on those statistics.

Many others believed at that time as well as now that President Obama was well within his right to do so as previous Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Walker Bush. Both Reagan and Bush issued executive orders limiting immigrant deportation as well, setting the precedent.

He pointed out that he was attempting to correct policies that he believed unjustly punished parents of children who were born in this country, although the parents were not naturalized citizens. The terms "illegal" or "undocumented" come to mind depending on each individual's take on the subject. Since then we have seen parents separated from their children and coverage of young children incarcerated in cages! Despicable to say the least!

An excerpt from his speech back then is as follows:

"My fellow Americans, tonight, I'd like to talk with you about immigration. For more than 200 years, our tradition of welcoming immigrants from around the world has given us a tremendous advantage over other nations. It's kept us youthful, dynamic, and entrepreneurial. It has shaped our character as a people with limitless possibilities – people not trapped by our past, but able to remake ourselves as we choose."

He continued, "But today, our immigration system is broken, and everybody knows it." He pointed out that some play by the rules and others don't. He talked about exploitation by some businesses, and how many immigrants are forced to remain in the shadows at risk of their families being torn apart. He added, "It's been this way for decades. And for decades, we haven't done much about it." Sound familiar?

He reminded the country in his address that when he took office he was committed to fixing the problem. He noted that America has more agents and technology deployed to secure the southern border than at any time in our history.

He also pointed out that

during his term, illegal border crossings were cut by more than half and the number of unaccompanied children were lower than it's been in the previous two years. He emphasized the number of people trying to cross the border illegally was at its lowest level since the 1970s. The current President takes credit for the decrease of immigrants coming with threats to build a wall at great expense to the taxpayer.

President Obama also in his speech addressed his attempt to work with Congress to come to a common sense compromise. Obviously to date that has not happened under this administration.

President Obama laid out his plan of adding additional resources for law enforcement to stem the tide of illegal crossings. He also explained his effort to make it easier and faster for high-skilled immigrants, graduates, and entrepreneurs to stay and contribute to our economy, which is born out in the numbers. Dreamers are making that a reality of immigrants who already live in our country.

He challenged the Congress to do their job and pass an acceptable immigration bill in his parting words. He also said, "Scripture tells us that we shall not oppress a stranger, for we know the heart of a stranger – we were strangers once, too." He closed by saying, "Thank you, God bless you, and God bless this country we love."

Now in 2019 under President Trump, we now await the fate of the Dreamers and others who have fled intolerable circumstances for a better life to contribute much to America. As Always, I write just a thought.



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