

LA PRENSA TEXAS

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Tierra de La Libertad

Los votantes de Saisd aprueban un bono histórico de \$ 1.3 mil millones que tendrá un impacto en cada campus


- Replacement of aging chillers
- New school models

\$1.21 billion

Total of propositions: \$1

Por Laura Short

The Early Four Districts of Texas



by Rudi R. Rodriguez www.

Catarino Obregón de Red Sox, conectó doblete con las bases llenas Juan Serrano de Águilas de Veracruz blanqueó a Piratas de Sabinas



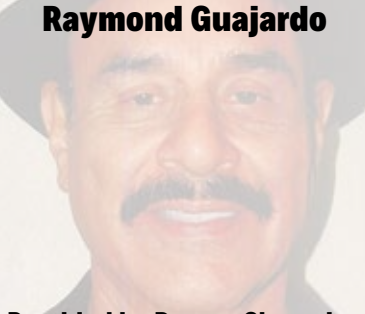
Por Sendero Deportivo

Second Annual Lights Alive! Drive-thru Light Show



By Michele Krier

About The Cover Artist Raymond Guajardo



Provided by Ramon Chapa Jr.

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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Let's Talk About It When is Enough, Enough?

By Yvette Tello

Last week in San Antonio, there was boarding up of businesses and offices. The sheriff and local police were prepared for the announcement of the results. They were concerned some people may be upset with the outcome. In my entire life, during elections, there are always people disappointed with the outcome, but not to the point that we need to prepare with law enforcement. This, after a Biden campaign event was cancelled in Texas on Friday after reportedly coming under threat from armed Trump supporters, days after the president's eldest son called on his father's supporters to "get out there, have some fun". How did we get to this point? How do we fix this? Let's talk about it...

Frank Burton: "It's a shame that this is being normalized. Common human decency needs to make a comeback. I don't care who you're voting for; it's not the America we're supposed to be. How embarrassing."

Virginia Ann Sherwood: "I am one who always goes to early voting but this time I still have no idea who to vote for and I know I have to make a choice. It's very important to me that I vote and that my family votes as well. Not looking forward to Tuesday's results."

Vanessa McBryde: "Was it necessary to circle the Biden/Harris campaign bus on the highway? What does that prove? I'm still trying to figure out what

Trump supporters see in him because no one has been able to articulate that. It's sad that the Republican party has lost its way. Gone are the days where you could agree to disagree. I can't respect people who follow a man with 0 morals & ethics."

Carlos Alfaro: "The major Democratic cities are boarding up all their stores and businesses anticipating riots on the streets after the election. I don't think those are for Republicans."

Casey White: "They know the only way they can win is to cheat."

Mike Miller: "That's BS. He didn't tell anyone to do anything except show up. Don't you think it's funny that a bus full of people and not one photo of these supposed guns? I just posted Biden telling lies right in front of the Alamo and being called out on it by Hispanics. You need to post it on your page and let people see it. Let's keep to the facts. Today of all days. Go get the video I just posted."

Das Zel: "It's a very somber time in America. Death, fear and disaster with this administration."

Tom Shattuck: "Fake news! San Marcos PD concluded it was the fault of the Biden vehicle."

Monica Martinez: "Ridiculous, immature, and reckless behavior."

Valerie Sepulveda: "Just shows what kinds of trash

they are for taking it to that level."

Tea Santos: "New norm. No one's opinion matters anymore."

Carolina Roberts: "Idiotic."

Mary Svetlik Watkins: "Police want to talk to the Biden car. Seems they broke the law."

Mona Flores: "Praying for no civil unrest, or at least minimal civil unrest."

Maria Chavez Rocco: "My faith in our future has to be stronger than my fear or sadness that we are going through such a horrid time."

Rachel Ponce: "I always used to say 'not in my San Antonio'. Can't say that anymore. Sad and hurtful times. I am nervous for us."

Elizabeth Parra: "I cannot believe this is happening. The divisiveness is so bad that we have to brace for election night like it's a natural disaster."

Penelope Perez: "When my dad forwarded me an email from his workplace that warned about uprising, I immediately thought it was spam. I think it's so weird that this idea of one opponent not conceding to the results is gaining so much popularity and air time because no one ever does that. The election has so much hype. Go outside.



By Leonard Rodriguez

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

Arturo Madrid



Accomplishing what many aspire to, but few achieve, Arturo Madrid, the Norine R. and T. Frank Murchison Distinguished Professor of Humanities at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, has reached the pinnacle of his field. One of five recipients of the Charles Frankel Prize, the highest honor bestowed by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Madrid was presented with the award by President Clinton. A champion of Hispanic rights, he established a Chicano literature scholarship and is the founding president of the Tomas Rivera Center, a national institute for policy studies on Latino issues.

About The Cover Artist

Raymond Guajardo



One of ten children, Raymond Guajardo was born on December 24, 1950. His mother was born in the United States and his father emigrated from Mexico at a young age, in search of opportunity. Spanish was the primary language spoken at home and although Raymond attended public school, his teachers did not realize that he did not know how to write or speak English until the second grade. Born with an entrepreneurial spirit at eight years old he baked cakes which he sold after Sunday mass to earn money.

As a teenager he sought work to learn all about construction which he later translated into all aspects of

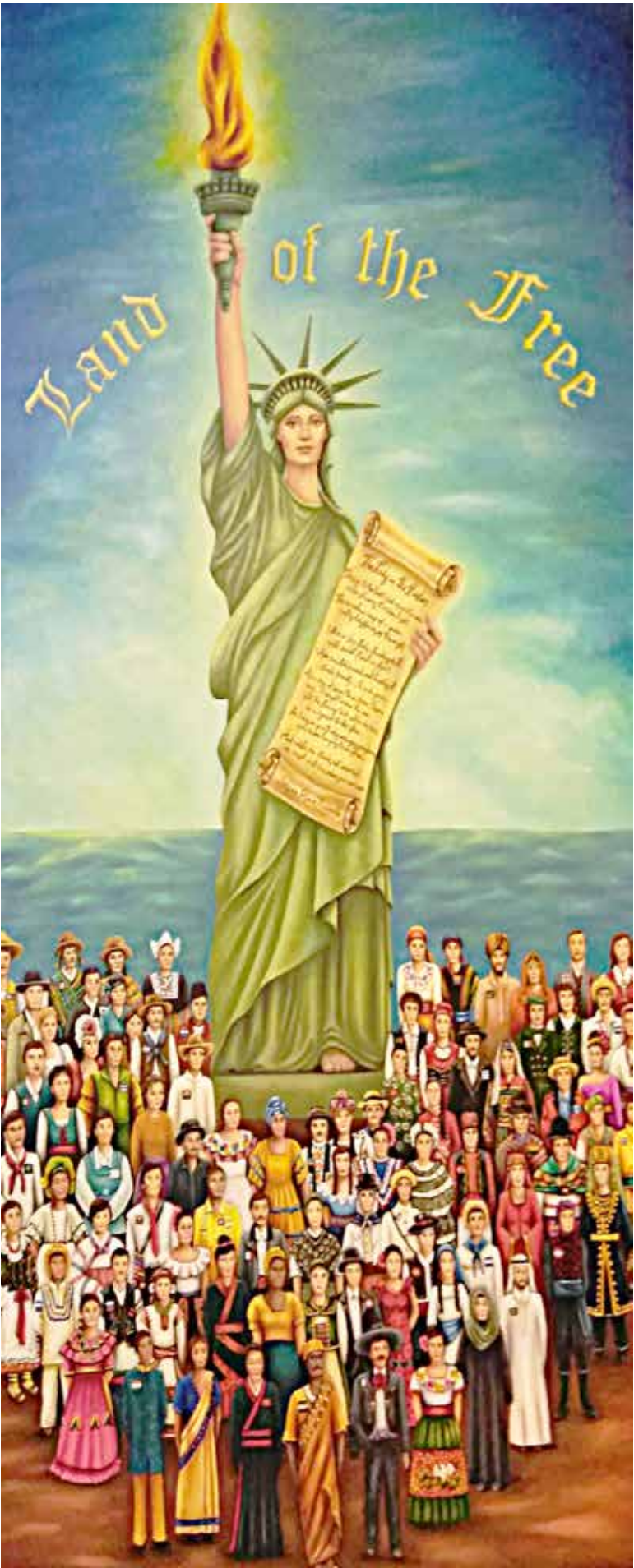
his livelihood. After working at the phone company for several years, Raymond could no longer ignore his creative and entrepreneurial nature so he left his position and started his own construction business. This life change would later lead to his current successful business of production management and rentals. Raymond's innate ability for actualizing his visions is what he considers one of his greatest gifts.

However, his true greatest passion is writing, a born writer can ascend into a world of his own ideas. This was true when working an event in December 2018 he learned about a seven year old little girl who died of dehydration while being detained by immigration authorities. Traveling from Guatemala she crossed the Mexican Border with her father. The child was helpless, as she did not speak English or have anyone to advocate for her. This is what the land of the free had become under a new administration. The immigration process was being attacked by extreme hard-line politicians.

Distressed over this story and many more detailed in the news he was compelled to make a personal statement. He drew a sketch of the Statue of Liberty surrounded by immigrants from different countries to symbolize what our great nation represents.

Raymond had a friend who's wife was a local artist and was herself an immigrant. Her name was Alejandra Martinez Hernandez. She possessed an amazing talent of bringing his thoughts and ideas to life. She painted a masterpiece. He also wrote a poem inspired by the immigrant child. This poem is the centerpiece of the painting and is inscribed on the scroll held by The Statue of Liberty. He calls this painting "The Lady in the Harbor".

Although the painting in itself told a story. Raymond wanted to enlighten its meaning even more and decided to write an additional piece. He wrote "The Little Sprout". It was the story of an immigrant, little girl that had touched his soul.



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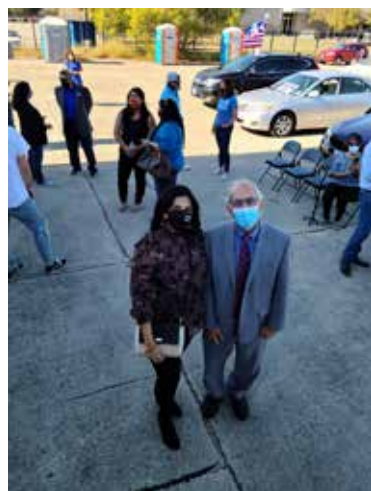


Jesse Ojeda
210-307-6345
(TTY: 711)

Dia De Los Muertos at Brooks City Base

Photos by Ramon Chapa Jr.

La Prensa Texas was honored to cover Dia De Los Muertos at Brooks City Base sponsored by the Tejano Democrats featuring DNC Chairman Tom Perez! An array of past, present and future elected officials. Some in attendance were Congressman Charlie Gonzalez, Congressman Henry Cuellar, State Senator Jose Menendez, State Rep. Barbara Gervin Hawkins and MC Little Joe Hernandez.



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Photos By Ramon Chapa Jr.



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Los votantes de Saisd aprueban un bono histórico de \$ 1.3 mil millones que tendrá un impacto en cada campus

Dos propuestas, una para la construcción y otra para la tecnología, cambiarán la cara de Saisd para las generaciones venideras

Por Laura Short

En un momento crucial para el Distrito Escolar Independiente de San Antonio, los votantes aprobaron dos propuestas de bonos que tendrán un gran impacto, impulsando aún más la calidad del aprendizaje en los campus de todo el Distrito.

• La Propuesta A totaliza \$ 1.21 mil millones e incluirá renovaciones significativas en 36 campus del SAISD: 21 campus que no han sido completamente renovados en más de medio siglo, y otros 15 que recibirían mejoras finales del trabajo que se realizó en Bond 2016 o Bond 2010. Se reemplazarían los enfriadores de 15 años o más, y cada campus también recibiría mejoras de seguridad.

• La Propuesta B incluye \$ 90 millones para actualizaciones de tecnología en cada salón de clases para brindar conectividad de alta

velocidad, dispositivos individuales, herramientas de apoyo, pizarras inteligentes interactivas y sistemas de audio.

Los votantes aprobaron ambas propuestas de bonos con casi el 70% de los votos para cada propuesta.

Este vínculo histórico cae inmediatamente después de un crecimiento académico monumental en todo SAISD. El superintendente Pedro Martínez ve el Bono 2020 como una forma de alinear las instalaciones del Distrito con el rendimiento académico que demuestran sus estudiantes.

“Estamos agradecidos con nuestra comunidad y con nuestros contribuyentes. Nuestros académicos han mejorado mucho. Somos uno de los distritos escolares que mejoran más rápidamente en el estado. Y ahora, podemos hacer coincidir nuestras instalaciones y los espacios de

nuestras aulas con esos logros académicos”, dijo Martínez. “Todas las escuelas se verán afectadas, ya sea actualizando cada aula para convertirla en un aula del siglo XXI, reemplazando nuestros anticuados sistemas de aire acondicionado o mejorando nuestros sistemas de seguridad”.

Los Fideicomisarios de SAISD votaron unánimemente para colocar las dos propuestas en la boleta del 3 de noviembre después de recibir una recomendación del Grupo de Trabajo Blue Ribbon impulsado por la comunidad, copresidido por Mario Barrera y Victoria Moreno-Herrera, para seguir adelante. El Grupo de Trabajo se reunió durante la primavera y el verano, recorrió las instalaciones y tomó nota de las condiciones del edificio. Su informe detalló la necesidad de mejoras y actualizaciones del campus. También ayuda a desar-

rollar aún más el trabajo de base a largo plazo a través del Plan Maestro 2030, que ha sido lo que los líderes del Distrito han estado creando desde 2017.

“Tuvimos personas realmente fuertes que participaron en el proceso”, dijo Barrera. “Los recorridos nos dieron una muy buena idea del estado de las es-

cuelas. Uno de los campus más antiguos que visité, ALA Euclid, se construyó en la década de 1880. ML King Academy, construida en la década de 1950, es uno de los edificios más nuevos que vi. El resto de las escuelas se construyeron en algún punto intermedio. Hemos visto nuestra parte de problemas”.

BOND PROPOSITIONS



Proposition A

- Renovations for 36 campuses
- Safety upgrades at all schools
- Replacement of aging chillers
- New school models

\$1.21 billion



Proposition B

- Technology upgrades for all schools

\$90 million

Total of propositions: \$1.3 billion

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The Early Four Districts of Texas

by Rudi R. Rodriguez
www.texastejano.com©

As a result of the founding of Texas by the Spanish in 1690, four distinct areas of development occurred in the province. The first district began at “Los Adaes” in 1717 by Domingo Ramon and was later abandoned in 1719. It was re-established under the direction of the Marques de Aguayo in 1721. The presidio was garrisoned, and the mission was reoccupied near the location of present-day Robeline Louisiana. In 1729, “Los Adaes” was declared the capital of Texas. The town of Nacogdoches was begun by the Tejano families as an outgrowth of the presidio and missions first built along the Sabine River.

Soldier settlers received grants for ranching and homesteading in this area. The friendly Caddo Indians made the development of the district very peaceful. Ranching also led to the creation of an economy based on horses and cattle. The Tejano families who began here continued well into the late 1700s. Yet, in 1772, the capital was removed and some of the missions were transferred to San Antonio. The inhabitants were ordered to San Antonio but did not resettle there, instead, they returned to Nacogdoches to continue their futures.

The second important district was the Bexar District which included San Antonio. San Antonio began in 1719 as a presidio and Mission de Valero. Then in 1731 sixteen families from the Canary Islands arrived to settle in the

village and had received royal decrees to establish the first city council along with its first mayor, councilman, secretary, and judges. The first civil government in Texas was established by the Canary Islanders and the soldier-settlers of the presidio in 1733.

More importantly, San Antonio became the hub for the other districts to receive soldiers, quartermaster provisions, and civilian trade. Also, the demand from the civilian communities helped fuel the ranching and farming economy in the San Antonio District.

Further, San Antonio was geographically centered in the middle of the province to receive communications and transportation of men and goods from the south at the Presidio de Norte on the Rio Grande. This presidio was located fifteen miles south of present-day Eagle Pass, Texas, and had long been the gateway to Texas.

Then, in 1772, “Los Adaes” was removed as the capital, and San Antonio was made the new capital. This action further cemented the importance of San Antonio as a political, military, religious, and economic center. By the late 1700s, all roads led from San Antonio to all the other military and civilian centers of influence. Tejanos who lived here were destined to prosper and enjoy the fruits of their labors as soldiers, ranchers, and merchants and as leaders of their communities.

The third district in Spanish Texas was the “La Bahia de

Espiritu Santo” on the Gulf Coast. It was founded in 1747 by Spanish explorer Marques de Aguayo” to help protect the entry of the French by the sea. Later, they constructed a separate mission complex to serve the Native Americans. The early Franciscan Padres faced challenging circumstances as they dealt with both friendly and hostile natives that they hoped to Christianize.

The surrounding fertile lands were ready for ranching and farming activities by the Tejanos. They had come as soldiers and settlers with their extended families to colonize the frontier. Many of the soldiers came from a ranching heritage that was over two hundred years old. Although being trained soldiers, they possessed extreme horsemanship, cattle handling, and thorough ranching experiences to become successful ranchers.

In 1778, it is reported that over 40,000 cattle were branded with very large ranching operations. “Vaqueros”, the Spanish term for “cowmen” would be the very first to rope and break mustangs, round-up longhorns and trail them to market. The Texas cowboy legend has much to be thankful to the “Vaquero” who rode across Texas long before there were any cowboys here.

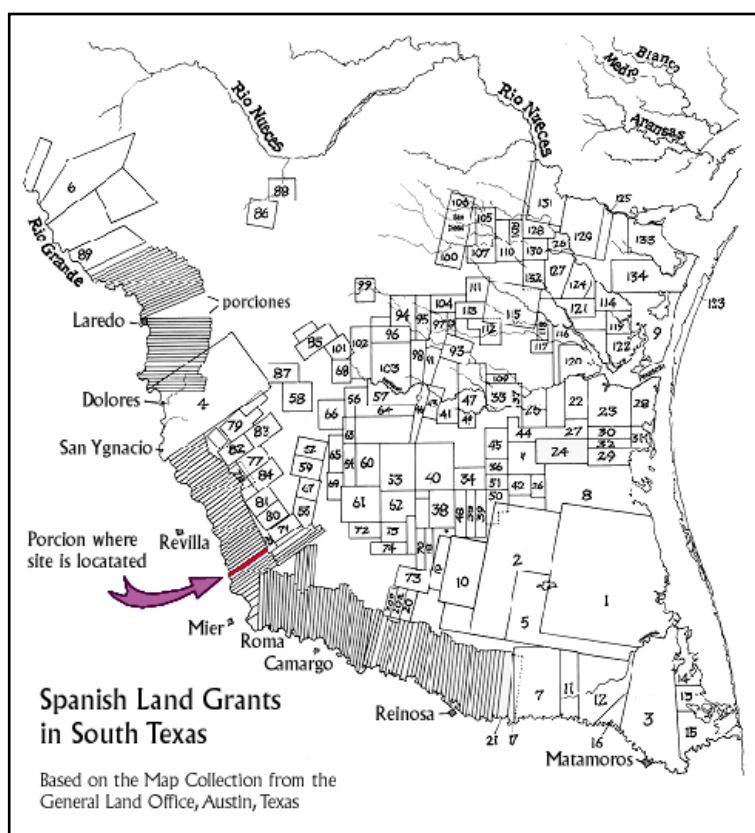
The fourth district of Texas was “Nuevo Santander” South Texas defined as the “Sierra Mountains” on the west, the Gulf of Mexico on the east, and the “Bay of Espiritu Santo” at the San Antonio River. In 1746, General Jose Escandon was selected by the

Viceroy of New Spain to carry out his plan of exploration, colonization, and development of this undeveloped area. This decision was largely based on the discovery of the French Fort La Salle along the Gulf of Mexico. This defensive action would help deter further incursions by the French or the U.S.

He called for a survey of the region by his captains: Blas Maria Falcon, Carlos Cantu, Vasquez Borrego, Francisco Chapa, and Thomas Sanches. Captain Sanchez was deployed to a place founded as Laredo (1755), Falcon to a place called “Carmargo” (1749), Cantu to the founding of “Reynosa” (1749), Chapa was sent to found “Mier” (1753), Vicente Guerrero was sent to “Revilla” (1749). Then, the general made a call throughout New Spain declaring the availability of land for ranching and settlements. Colonists came

from the provinces of Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, San Louis Potosi, and other states of New Spain. Reportedly, over five-thousand pioneers settled in the four districts by 1851.

Typically, the land received by settlers was called an “Entrada” and had frontage on the banks of the “Rio Grande”. Small and large ranches helped create a ranching economy. Some of these ranches were immense enterprises with thousands of mustangs and longhorns. Overall, the four districts succeeded in providing its new Tejanos with land, ranching opportunities, and the promise of a good future. Once again, Tejanos were courageous and self-reliant to prevail in the new frontier and bring about a rewarding future. Viva Tejanos! For more information please visit Texas Tejano.com.



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Moody’s Elogia El Plan De Recuperación Y Resiliencia De La Ciudad Y El Programa De Fuerza Laboral Ready To Work Sa Aprobado Por Los Votantes Programa Ready To Work Sa Workforce De La

Por Laura Mayes

Elciudad de San Antonio, aprobado por los votantes, ha obtenido un aviso de crédito positivo de Moody’s Investors Service. El programa asignará un impuesto sobre las ventas de 1/8 de centavo para proporcionar fondos de \$ 38.5 millones anuales para programas de capacitación y educación laboral para miles de residentes de San Antonio. El programa fue aprobado por el 77% de los votantes. El programa se financiará hasta el 31 de diciembre de 2025.

“La pandemia de CO-

VID-19 ha devastado la salud de nuestra comunidad, pero gracias al rápido trabajo de la comunidad y el apoyo de los votantes, el programa Ready to SA Work le brindará a miles de residentes capacitación crítica de la fuerza laboral, mientras reciben un estipendio para mejorar sus habilidades,”Dijo el alcalde Ron Nirenberg. “Me alegra ver que San Antonio reciba el reconocimiento nacional por nuestro compromiso con la recuperación económica de nuestra comunidad”.

Moody’s señaló en su

alerta crediticia positiva que:

Ya en mayo, la ciudad demostró una gobernanza sólida al anunciar una inversión inicial de \$ 191 millones como parte del Plan de recuperación y resiliencia comunitaria para brindar ayuda a las pequeñas empresas y financiar el desarrollo de la fuerza laboral, aumentar el acceso a la tecnología (inclusión digital) y mejorar la seguridad de la vivienda. .

“Me complace ver que Moody’s reconoce la respuesta temprana y coordi-

nada que lanzó la Ciudad con nuestro Plan de Recuperación y Resiliencia. El plan, desarrollado e implementado a través del trabajo incansable del alcalde, el Concejo y el personal de la Ciudad, está ayudando a nuestros residentes a través de la seguridad en la vivienda, la capacitación de la fuerza laboral, el apoyo a las pequeñas empresas y la inclusión digital. Este trabajo está sucediendo mientras respondemos al impacto continuo de la pandemia de COVID-19”, dijo el administrador

de la ciudad Erik Walsh. “Nuestro objetivo es asegurarnos de que San Antonio se encuentre en una posición más fuerte y resistente que antes del inicio de la pandemia”.

Con la creciente pérdida de empleos y el aumento de los niveles de desempleo debido a la pandemia de COVID-19, Moody’s destacó la aprobación de la Propuesta B como una medida que puede ayudar a aumentar el empleo en San Antonio y, en última instancia, elevar los ingresos por impuestos a las ventas.

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NON-PROFIT HIGHLIGHT

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Provided by TXserves

AmericaServes is the country's first coordinated system of public, private, and non-profit organizations working together to serve veterans, service members, and their families. The vision is that every service member, veteran, and their family can easily access the full range of comprehensive services required to achieve their unique goals, and to provide a first-class service experience to match service members and veterans' first class military service.

Active duty, National Guard, Reserve Service members as well as Veterans and their families who reside in the San Antonio area are eligible for support from the network. We aim to support all individuals who have worn the uniforms of our military – regardless of age, era, branch or discharge

status. Not all services are available to every member however, our Care Coordinators will strive to find an appropriate local resource.

Each local AmericaServes network consists of vetted service providers that are connected together through a Coordination Center – a backbone organization that supports the local network by understanding each provider's services, capacity and eligibility requirements, and facilitating accurate referrals for network users to receive the services they seek. This means that veterans and military families are connected to providers who understand their unique situation, and provide the services they need, and that providers are able to refer veterans and military families they are unable to serve to the care they need without taking on the time burden associated with

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TXServes

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Catarino Obregón de Red Sox, conectó doblete con las bases llenas Juan Serrano de Águilas de Veracruz blanqueó a Piratas de Sabinas

Por Sendero Deportivo

La primera vuelta en Liga Invernal Veteranos Potranco 2020, durante sus clásicos dedicados al "Halloween", registró buenos resultados en el aspecto deportivo y amistoso. Sultanes de Monterrey SA de Gabriel Ruiz (La Puntada), con pizarra de 7-3 carreras derrotó a los Missions SA del timonel y jugador Mike Tobhan.

En la victoria contribuyeron los bateadores Jesús (Chuy) Ramírez Sr., que dio de 4-2 y John Villarreal de 3-2.

Cachorros de Nava, del trio Alejandro (Rábano) Becerra, Benito Martínez y Rubén (Alacrán) Galindo, con pitcheo de su as René Rodríguez, se anotaron holgado triunfo de 17-7 carreras ante el duro contrincante Red Sox del manager y jugador Pedro Espinoza, quien teniendo las bases llenas, decidió enviar al plato a su coach y jugador Catarino Obregón, quien respondió al llamado, conectando doblete por la pradera izquierda, remolcando a sus tres compañeros. Nava, en el cierre del séptimo capítulo, puso la pizarra 17 carreras por 7, con lo que por reglamento el partido fue parado por la "vía del

nocaut", que es cuando un equipo en calidad de local supera al rival por 10 anotaciones.

Por Red Sox, lanzaron el abridor Amado Razura, los relevistas Alfredo Obregón y Faustino Cortinas. "El consistente bateo y defensiva, fueron los factores del triunfo. Con ello estamos listos para comenzar la segunda vuelta ante Sultanes", dijo el coach Benito Martínez.

"Vamos a comenzar la segunda vuelta con refuerzos que estarán alineando en posiciones donde no se ha tenido éxito. Felicitamos al coach Catarino Obregón, porque con casa llena respondió con doblete aumentando el marcador", indicó el estratega Pedro Espinoza.

Simón Sánchez, presidente y Eloy Rocha, gerente general de Potranco Baseball Field, convocan a la afición, para que asistan al Torneo Thanksgiving 2020, a jugarse el 28 y 29 de noviembre, con la participación de los equipos Rascals de Eagle Pass. Potosinos de San Luis de Catarino Obregón, Cachorros de Nava y Sultanes de Monterrey. Rol de juegos sábado 7 de noviembre. 11 am Red Sox vs. Missions SA. 2

pm Cachorros vs. Sultanes.

En Colt 45 Baseball League, categoría Abierta dominical, en partido sabatino que también fue el "Clásico de Halloween 2020", el campeón Águilas de Veracruz con pitcheo del astro internacional Juan Serrano, y salvamento de Ezequiel Pérez, se agenciaron importante victoria ante el potente club Piratas de Sabinas, que por primera vez no lograron pisar la registradora cayendo con pizarra de 9-0 carreras.

Por Sabinas, dirigido por Sergio De Luna y su coach Iván Rubinsky, comenzó en la lomita de los disparos el ligamayorista Roel Ramírez, quien en seis entradas, permitió tres carreras, y poncho a 11 aguiluchos. Le siguió el zurdo venezolano Gregorio (Goyo) Quintero, que aceptó en el séptimo inning racimo de cinco carreras.

Veracruz, dirigido por Luis Cerros y su legendario coach Manuel (La Liebre) Limón, quien el domingo primero de noviembre estuvo de manteles largos por su cumpleaños. Con su victoria ante Sabinas, dejó ver que siguen firmes para llegar a buen sitio en la tabla general que les dé la oportu-

nidad de defender el banderín en la serie de postemporada.

"Contentos por el buen resultado. Confié en mis jugadores, su consistente bateo y pitcheo de Serrano quien tiró hasta la octava entrada dejando la pizarra 9-0, así como el trabajo del cerrador Pérez, fue como salimos adelante. Serrano, aceptó cuatro imparables, lo cual es grandioso ante un rival como lo es Piratas", apuntó Luis Cerros.

"Alguien tenía que ganar. Errores nos hundieron, por igual dejamos varios corredores en las bases. Seguiremos adelante peleando por un buen sitio en el standing y así estar presentes en los playoffs", afirmó De Luna. Cabe anotar que Piratas en el cierre del noveno episodio, recibió dos bases por bolas, regaladas a los bateadores Bo González y Freddy Rodríguez Jr., por Ezequiel Pérez, que luego permitió se le llenara la casa. Teniendo dos outs en la pizarra, Pérez, en duro batazo que le golpeo, en el rebote decidió ir por la pelota, para poner fuera a Bo González, quien nunca pensó en esa rápida acción ejecutada por Pérez. En resultados del domingo primero

de noviembre, Indios de Nava de Juan (Pachín) Martínez, doblegaron a los Hooks con pizarra de 7-2. Broncos de Reynosa SA de los esposos Linda y Roberto Garza, retornaron por la senda del triunfo ante Texas Jays de John Alvarado. La pizarra fue de 21 a 4 carreras. Broncos pegó 23 hits con 2 errores. Jays, conectó 4 imparables y cometió 3 errores.

Por Broncos lanzaron, el abridor Barry Núñez, seguido por Elías Orosco y Felipe Rodríguez, destacándose con el bate el jardinero central Ulises Núñez, con perfecto 6-6 y 5 carreras anotadas.

Jaime Guerrero, manager de Colt 45 Baseball Field, hace la atenta invitación, para que aficionados acudan a presenciar Torneo del Día de Acción de Gracias 2020 categoría Abierta, con la participación de los equipos Dallas Diamondbacks, selección Liga Azteca de Austin, Tuneros de San Luis y Alianza de Houston. Las fechas son el 28 y 29 de noviembre. En las fotos aparecen: Catarino Obregón, de Red Sox, y Juan Serrano, lanzador de Águilas de Veracruz.

(Fotos por Franco).





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For Latinos, the COVID-19 Trends are Getting Worse — and the worst may be yet to come

The latest CDC shows that Latinos and Black Americans are dying at rates 3.2 times higher than white Americans



By: Rogelio Sáenz
Originally published at poynter.org

Many states and the nation itself are reporting record-breaking daily numbers of new COVID-19 cases, putting to rest any hope that the pandemic is under control. Over the last 10 months, we have learned a lot about the coronavirus and COVID-19 disease, and there still is plenty we do not know.

One thing is certain. Americans of color are much more likely than white Americans to contract the virus and to die from COVID-19. My analysis of the latest provisional data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that after adjusting for age differences, Black Americans and Latinos are dying at rates 3.2 times higher than white Americans, and American Indians and Alaska Natives are dying at rates 2.6 times higher. Asian Americans, who annually die at much lower rates and have more favorable educational and socioeconomic levels than white Americans, are dying at a rate that is one-third higher than white Americans.

Put simply, white Americans have a shield that protects them from succumbing to COVID-19. They are dying at a lower rate than non-white groups, pointing to white advantages and privileges in the institutional arrangements of the nation since its founding.

The data also reveal an interesting portrait of people whose lives have been taken by COVID-19. Nearly 90% of white Americans who have died from the disease were 65 years of age or older, compared to 63% of Latinos. People between the ages of 50 and 64 account for only 9% of white Americans who have died, and those younger than 50 account for less than 2%. In contrast, persons in these age groups constitute, respectively, 26% and 11% of Latinos who have succumbed to COVID-19.

This is also the case for other non-white groups. The higher prevalence of death of the non-elderly among people of color reflects that they are more likely to be on the front lines in jobs where they are disproportionately at risk of contracting the virus. Again, it appears that white Americans who are not older tend to be protected from being at risk of catching the virus and dying from COVID-19.

Here's another revealing finding. While children less than 18 years old die at relatively low levels, they are not immune from the clutches of the disease. At least 108 children have died from COVID-19 in the U.S., including

two whose race and ethnicity is not known. About 80% of these children were persons of color. Latinos account for the largest number with 45 children losing their lives to COVID-19. Precious lives with so much potential and years of life ahead of them, leaving behind grieving parents and loved ones.

My research tracking the impact of COVID-19 among Latinos across the country continues to illustrate the devastation that our community has sustained. Latinos are now disproportionately overrepresented among persons contracting the virus in all 45 states that collect data on Latino cases. Latinos are disproportionately overrepresented among COVID-19 fatalities in 15 states and the District of Columbia.

While the numbers suggest Latinos do not die from the disease at the same rate they contract the virus, that really reflects the youthfulness of the Latino population. The median age of Latinos is 29.5 and nearly one-third are children, whose probability of death is low. Still, nearly half of the states where Latinos are overrepresented among people who have died from COVID-19 include some of the states with the largest Latino populations including Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, New York, and Texas.

Texas continues to stand out in various ways. A racial or ethnic identifier is missing from 94% of the cases, a level

much higher than any other state. Texas also continues to be the only state where Latinos account for most of those who have died from the disease, 55%. In fact, across age groups, Latinos comprise the majority of fatalities: All 19 children who died and were identified by race or ethnicity were Latino, as were 79% of persons 18 to 29 years of age, 73% of those 30 to 49 years of age, 67% of persons 50 to 64 years of age, and 49% of those 65 or older. Reflecting these alarming percentages, my analysis of the CDC provisional data adjusting for age differences shows that Latinos are dying at a rate four times higher than white Texans.

I have previously called attention to the catastrophic situation that emerged in the Rio Grande Valley, the area where I was born and raised, and the exponential increase of cases and deaths this summer due to the pandemic. While the Valley has seen numbers falling below the peak in July and August, there continues to be much concern. At the beginning of this week, Hidalgo County, the largest county in the region, reported 130 new cases and five fatalities. The disproportionate devastation in the Valley is best revealed by the fact that the region accounts for less than 5% of the Texas population but nearly 17% of those who have died from COVID-19.

The new hot spot in Texas is located along the border 800

miles northwest of the Valley. El Paso is experiencing major increases in COVID-19 cases, rising 44% in the last two weeks. With El Paso at full capacity in its hospitals and intensive care units, patients are being sent to San Antonio and elsewhere for treatment. This is a very dangerous situation, and it has the potential to replicate the horror that occurred in the Valley a couple of months ago.

When will the pandemic end?

This seemed to be an innocent query months ago in the idyllic spring. Given the major second wave we are seeing globally and the record-setting numbers in our own country, the reality is that there is much pessimism. With the upsurge that public health specialists and scientists had been warning us about for months, there will be more misery than hope over the coming months or even years.

Yet it is clear the suffering will fall disproportionately on the shoulders of people who are barely hanging on. The one shred of hope is that we learn the lesson that the pandemic has laid bare. What are you willing to do to make this a more just world? Or will it be business as usual when the pandemic ends?

This is part of a series funded by a grant from the Rita Allen Foundation to report and present stories about the disproportionate impact of the virus on people of color, Americans living in poverty

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Second Annual Lights Alive! Drive-thru Light Show Computer-Animated, Musically Synchronized Light Display

By Michele Krier

Lights Alive! Drive-Thru Light Show, the exciting holiday drive-through tradition, continues with its nearly mile-long high tech Christmas celebration opening this month.

"Our drive-thru holiday light display features computer generated designs and is synced to a modern soundtrack to the entire length," said creator Matt Johnson, Creative & Technology Development, Living Light shows. "It's immersive and family-friendly, with a one-of-a-kind soundtrack with modern high-energy, up-beat, non-traditional remixes as well as popular Christmas classics."

Local creators Matt and Melissa Johnson's innovative work has been featured on ABC's "The Great Christmas Light Fight" and featured on Good Morning America, Nightline, NBC News, The Late Show, Yahoo!, Buzzfeed and more. "Our show is not your traditional light show! There are no inflatables, or characters," said Melissa. "Even the music is not traditional Christmas music; it is a custom soundtrack composed of Dubstep, EDM, hip hop, and movie clips. It feels like a dance party!"

The Second Annual Lights Alive! is a 100% computer-controlled, musically synchronized, drive-thru light show experience. The entire show uses RGM pixels with embedded computer microchips, meaning more effects than what can be done with Christmas lights. The nearly mile-long attraction is the first

of its kind in Texas and showcases innovative new lighting technologies which captivate viewers of all ages.

Gates open on Nov. 20 for this spectacular event, which is located at the National Shooting Complex near Loop 1604 West and Culebra Rd. in the Alamo Ranch area.

The show runs nightly through Jan. 3, 2021.

Guests can park at the end of the drive-thru light show to walk through the Winter Wonderland. Here families and friends can enjoy Christmas treats, create holiday crafts for loved ones, shop at vendor booths, take photos with Santa, and view the 50-foot tree.

"A highlight of the experience is our 50-foot tall animated Christmas light show tree with its unique animations," said Matt. "It's a great place for photos with the family and offers a spectacular vantage point to view our drive-thru light show down the hill."

Family priced at only \$30 per car, when purchased in

advance on-line, this event is perfect for the whole family! Start a fun new family tradition this year. While you enjoy this event with your family and friends, you are helping to give the gift of family to local foster children. A portion of proceeds will benefit 1 Hope for Kids Foster Program.

ADVISORY: This show consists of continuous flashing lights. Please be aware if you have a photo or sensory sensitivity.

WHAT: Second Annual Lights Alive! Drive-Thru Light Show

WHERE: National Shooting Complex grounds, 5931 Roft Rd, San Antonio, TX 78253 near Alamo Ranch off Loop 1604 West near Culebra Rd.

WHEN: Nov. 20 thru Jan. 3, 2021

Tickets available online and at the entrance gate. \$30 per car purchased online in advance or \$35 per car at the gate (plus tax).

seelightsalive.com



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