

# La Prensa Texas

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27de Junio de 2021



**Cada Quien Construye Su Propio Destino**

# 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

### Should a public donation be denied to BCSO?

**By Yvette Tello**  
*Bexar County Sheriff Javier Salazar took to social media to clear the air and set the record straight about a donation for a boat from a local business that kicked off a public debate with the Commissioners Court. Can't we all just get along? Do you think this has been blown out of proportion? What do you think is right? Let's talk about it ..*

**Thomas Mc:** "I guess it's pretty standard for America now. People don't discuss or have discourse, they just get hateful."

**Monica Mendez:** "It took for someone to offer to pay for the boat with their business funds (I'm sure if Nelson took a pay cut it would resolve a lot of financial issues in the county), call out Wolff, and threaten his "reputation", to get him to consider what he mocked. Now he's a hero and Black Riffle is the bad guy. Por favor. But that's politics for you, if it's not on their agenda it's not that serious. The funds for the boat don't measure up to all the other financial corruption in the county. I hope Black Riffle follows through and helps bring change."

**Patrick Southard:** "I think you have the right to criticize public officials. He didn't say anything vulgar but at the same time the commissioners court gets to decide whether or not the donation can be accepted. I think there was a valid argument in asking the sheriff office how it was going to maintain/ shelter the boat because that is at taxpayer expense. It seems

the vet was more angry at the mocking of the sheriff and playing politics. I read his original statement and he didn't say anything especially egregious. Others did but he disavowed them, stating he would never use that language. For him to be willing to spend his own money to equip law enforcement is admirable but I don't think he understood the reasoning behind their hesitancy. Meh, just my point of view."

**Jerry Rowray:** "I feel that the commissioners court and it's leader (Mister Burns) feel that any ideas that they didn't come up with are bad... unless it has their name on it, I'm sure if the boat was named the SS WOLF it would be OK."

**Javier Ortega:** "It's just a boat! It's free to the county. The council women are tight on the funds, I get it. But the boat is readily available to save lives throughout the county!"

**Phyllis Smith:** "He didn't follow proper procedure. He should have known better."

**Jenn Robinson:** "I have to give Sheriff Salazar props here. Wolff and DeBerry need to step back and calm the situation they started down. It should never have gotten to this point, yet they started it. I don't think Taylor with BRCC did anything wrong. Sure he thumbed his nose at Wolff and DeBerry, but he didn't start it. DeBerry does need to apologize to the citizens of Bexar Co and to Salazar, IMHO. Politics need to be put aside. It's a d@mn boat for crying out loud. A

boat we need, and DeBerry should know this. Let's take a step back and assess the situation from the families of Villanueva and the Navy Veteran who passed away this past weekend. While that wasn't here in Bexar County it very easily could have been, and we have had drownings here before. So, let's all remember, especially Mrs. DeBerry, they are elected officials, and they work for us."

**William Brown:** "Leave your egos at home and start doing your jobs!"

**Kenny Grimes:** "Senile old judge needs to go back to Home Depot and start another fight."

**Michael James Tinney:** "So what if they got donated money."

**Joe Buck Kenedy:** II- "Get the boat!"

**David Herrera:** "The boat is to save lives and that should outweigh everything else! It's for the good of the entire community!"

**Donald Chase:** "It is San Antonio, Bexar county and Judge Wolf is going to keep it going as long as he thinks he can gain any kind of political leverage from it."

**Martin Muniz Gonzalez:** "Thank you Sheriff for addressing both sides; as this issue has become a circus where Wolff and DeBerry, city officials, and Taylor, from BRCC, have become cry babies and clowns in this matter."



**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.*



### Katherine D. Ortega

The first woman president of a California bank, Katherine D. Ortega has excelled in all her endeavors. Instilled with virtues of hard work and self-reliance by her parents, she graduated with honors from Eastern New Mexico State University in 1957. After founding Ortega Savings & Loan Association in New Mexico and working in California's banking industry, Ortega began to intensify her involvement in politics during the '70s. Swiftly moving through the ranks of President Regan's cabinet, she served on the Presidential Advisory Committee on Small and Minority Business Ownership and Commissioner of the Copyright Royalty Tribunal. In 1983, Ortega was sworn in as U.S. Treasurer, becoming the second Latina to hold this position.



# About the Cover Art: What the World Needs Now

Provided by  
Suzy González

“This painting contains genderless silhouettes in a series of queered figures, with a color palette that references the pansexual flag and everything in between. Pan folx like me are those that love or are attracted to people regardless of specific anatomies or genders. I use color theory to discuss difference, sameness, and the necessity for us to love one another. When I make a painting that has a multitude of figures like this one, I’m thinking about concepts of collectivity versus solitude. I’m also always considering dismantling constructs of social binaries, the middle ground, and the importance of healing and love. I also recognize where my art materials originate, relating each material to a part of my identity, and recognize when they stay separate



or are mixed. I call these paintings “mestiza media” works, reclaiming the “mestizo” colonial caste label, and using it to partly replace the term “mixed media.” Accepting mixedness is also about embracing queer-ness and the fluid nature of identity.”  
*Acrylic, dyed corn husks, and oil on canvas*  
36 x 48 in.  
2019

Breathe Collective is a new BIPOC San Antonio-based artist collective made up of Anthony Francis, Audrya Flores, Ceiba Ili, Julysa Sosa, and Suzy González. They seek to offer creative experiences of reflection and healing for our communities.  
*Artwork descriptions left to right: Ceiba Ili, Protección de la Conexión, Photograph collabo-*

*ration with Lupito Acuña, 2018 Julysa Sosa, The Eight Ancient Ancient Hands, Digital Illustration, 2021 Anthony Francis, Dimitri, Photograph, 2019 Suzy González, What the World Needs Now, acrylic, dyed corn husks, and oil on canvas, 36" x 48", 2019*  
*Audrya Flores, Tending To, latex paint on stretched vintage linen, 48" x 72", 2019*

June 27th is PTSD Awareness Day and This is One Soldiers Experience



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Todo Un Éxito En El Festejo En Honor De Padres Beisbolistas Y Sus Familias



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Jose Arpa: America's First Latino Impressionist



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From Immigrant to Successful Business Owner: The Story of David Lara and Southtown Barbers



Interview by Angel Contero  
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Prospect Hill Iglesia de Dios Pastors



Excerpts of writings by  
Annie Tafolla  
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# Declaring Independence From Covid: The 'All-of-America Sprint' to Achieve Vaccination Para Todos by July 4th

Interview by Natasha Gonzales

Article by Celinda De La Fuente

Our collective struggle against Covid-19 is a fight we all need to win. Xavier Becerra, the 25th Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services for the Federal Government and the very first Latino to hold this position, is diligently working to “make sure every community has enough vaccines for the people who want to get vaccinated.”

“We want to be independent of Covid-19. We want to be free of it, and we want to be free to do as we choose without worrying that Covid will harm our families, perhaps take a life. And so, Independence Day takes on more meaning this year than perhaps ever before for a lot of Americans, and we hope everyone will help us be independent of Covid-19 by July 4th,” Becerra explains.

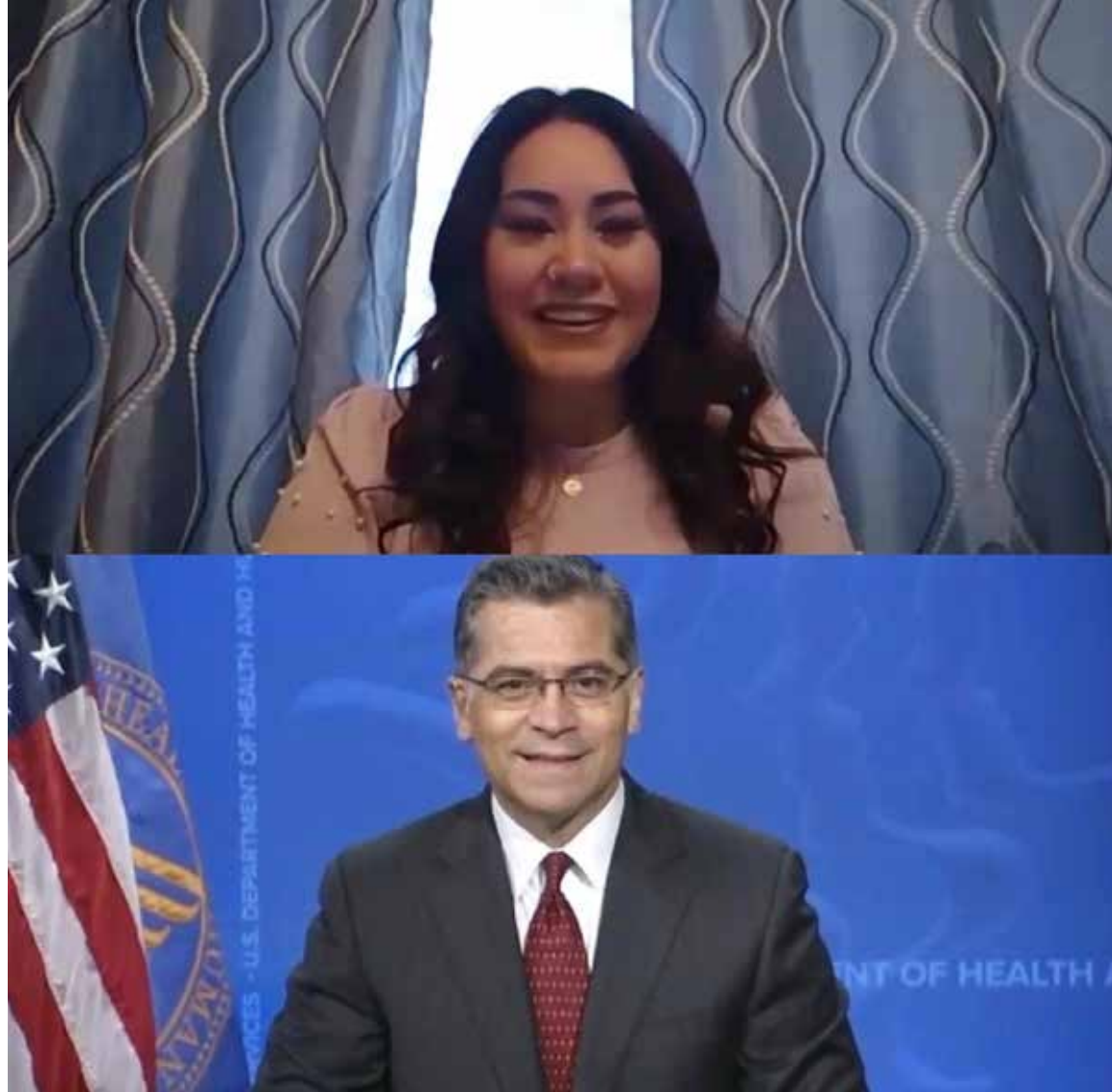
The month of action goal is to have 70% of the adult population inoculated with at least one Covid vaccine by Independence Day. Co-

vid-19 cases and hospitalizations have dramatically decreased by 90% since the availability of the vaccines.

“We hope everyone takes advantage of the fact that the vaccine is not only safe, and it’s working, but it’s also free. No one has to pay, and we don’t discriminate. Everyone is entitled to be vaccinated.”

Regardless of your financial status or citizenship, this vaccine is for you. Free child care will be provided for those who need it so you are readily able to receive your vaccination. If you need time off of work or transportation to reach a vaccination site, that will be offered at your convenience. With the many on-site locations and mobile clinics, our government is providing us with the resources we need to be free of this detrimental virus.

“Right now, we have three vaccines that are being used in the United States that have all proven themselves very



effective. They’ve been tested. They’ve gone through trials, and the Federal Government, through the FDA, would not have certified that they could be used in these circumstances of pandemic had they not gone through those trials and shown efficacy.”

The vaccine is safe for ages 12 and over, and is being tested to deter-

mine the safety for those younger. As a country, we are at about 64% of the adult population with at least one shot. The target is to have 70% of adult Americans with at least one shot in the arm by July 4th, 2021. We continue to see the decline of Covid-19 as we see an increase in those with vaccinations.

“We need you to get out there, help us meet that goal, because it’s not just good for America to make its mark, it’s good for Americans to be safe and be able to return to normal,” concludes Secretary Becerra.

So, gente, let’s do our part in making this an Independence Day para todos like never before, and become part of that 70% and more.



# Todo Un Éxito En El Festejo En Honor De Padres Beisbolistas Y Sus Familias

**Por Franco**

El patrocinio que tanto aficionados, directivos de equipos y beisbolistas le han dado durante la reapertura del complejo deportivo y social Potranco del gerente general, artista y vocalista Eloy Rocha, entré él y sus compadres, los estimados esposos Linda y Roberto Garza, propietarios del club Broncos de Reynosa SA, le retribuyeron con la presentación de un espectacular concierto musical en honor de tradicional Día del Padre en el que padres beisbolistas

y sus familiares se divertieron en grande al culminar las jornadas tanto el la postemporada liga Abierta dominical Potranco 2021 como en el nuevo circuito denominado "Potranco Semi-Pro Men's Independent Baseball League" con sede en el campo No. 3.

De acuerdo a Garza, manager de Broncos, quién ostenta siete trofeos de campeón en categoría Veteranos, la invitación fue para los equipos de categoría Veteranos, Abierta y Semi-Pro.

Se contó con buena asistencia a

pesar de qué muchos jugadores que son padres de familia optaron por cumplir compromisos familiares contraidos con anterioridad.

El ambiente musical estuvo a cargo del artista Eloy Rocha y su grupo Potranco, quién con su vasto repertorio complació a los ahí reunidos que bailaron u disfrutaron del estilo único de el género norteno del anfitrión.

"Con esté homenaje a los padres le estamos agradeciendo su apoyo a los aficionados, dueños de equipos, beisbolistas y sus familiares.

El año pasado se canceló porque estuvimos en cuarentena obligatoria por la epidemia COVID-19, ahora que el estado de Texas quitó las restricciones, se logró organizar este inolvidable concierto musical de forma gratuita", dijo Rocha.

"Estamos contentos porque se logró cumplir con lo prometido. Después de largas jornadas beisbolistas en sábado y domingo padres con sus familiares se divertieron y a la vez convivieron entre las tres ligas que militan en el complejo Deportivo y Social

Potranco. Esperamos continuar celebrando festejos tradicionales aquí en San Antonio, Texas", apuntó Garza.

En las fotografías aparecen: Eloy Rocha y su compadre Roberto Garza. Nacho García y Efraín Cruz Franco directivos del campeón de temporada Cardenales. El artista y vocalista Eloy Rocha con su grupo Potranco. Roberto Garza, acompañado por padres beisbolistas. (Fotos por Franco).



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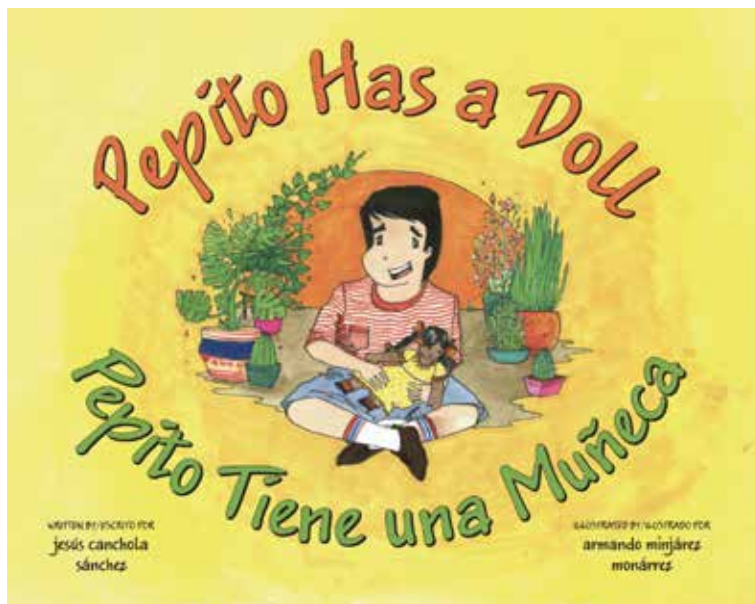


## Author and Filmmaker Jesús Canchola Sánchez & Illustrator Armando Minjárez Monárrez Present The Children's Book "Pepito Has a Doll"



By L. Leon

Like many kids, Pepito has not yet made a friend at school, so he comforts himself by carrying his favorite doll in his backpack. Every night he prays to



make a friend and one day his prayers are answered when he finds the perfect friend. Written in English and Spanish, the book has a powerful message for kids who feel they are different.

In fact, each of us is totally unique -- we are supposed to be different from everyone else. Boys playing with dolls or kitties or puppies is not such a big deal after all. Playing with dolls doesn't have to mean a person is gay.

Many boys, including Selena's fashion designer Martin Gomez and my own brother --both of whom are in straight marriages now

-- enjoyed playing with dolls. In my brother's case, he really had no choice when the family would get together if he wanted to play with us -- he was the only male cousin, so he played dolls with us, pretending to be the father. No one made a big deal of it, so it wasn't a big deal. The experience may have even made them more nurturing fathers, which dovetails nicely with the lesson of "Pepito Has a Doll."



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# Safety First with South Texas Safety Alliance

Interview by  
Natasha Gonzales  
Article by  
Celinda De La Fuente

Our society, as a whole, is still reeling from the effects of the pandemic. Loss of employment is only one example of the aftermath we face. Now that our city is opening up again, companies and businesses are hiring again. Mark Anthony Ramirez of South Texas Safety Alliance (STSA) wants to help build your credentials to obtain the best career out there for you by offering classes and certifications in safety.

“Why not go back to work, you know, with the credentials that you could use that’s going to help you get the job as opposed to somebody who does not have these credentials,” states Ramirez.

Ramirez, who has over 22 years of experience in the construction industry, dove into safety programs about ten years ago, where he eventually became an On-Site Safety Coordinator in Yoakum, Texas. Now, aqui en San Antonio, he is working to help others in the community with the expertise, knowledge, and skills he has gained.

STSA offers online classes, as well as in-person classes at your convenience, for the following:



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“We’re educating people, helping people better their resumes, and helping them get to work, and leading them into that direction,” Ramirez, who is a trainer himself, understands the need for this important work.

Their trainers are some of the best, according to Ramirez, who are also bilingual in English and Spanish.

“We’re here to help you guys to get an education

and get the training that you need so that way you can go find a better job... If you can spend \$150 on them Jordans, then you can spend \$150 on this class and get more Jordans,” Ramirez concludes.


So, gente, if you are looking for a career change or would like to add to your resume, give South Texas Safety Alliance a try and register for a class.

For more information, follow their Instagram and Facebook @southtxsafetyalliance

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# El Caminante con jonrón le dió el Primero a Águilas vs. Cardenales

## Por Sendero Deportivo

En serie de postemporada del circuito Dominical Abierto 2021 que se está jugando en el popular estadio Potranco Baseball Field, el ejemplar beisbolista dominicano Víctor Mercedes apodado “El Caminante”, en su primer turno al plato con su compañero Andrew Pérez, le conectó pavoroso jonrón al espigado abridor derecho cubano Carlos Sierra, para ubicar en la pizarra 2-0 ante Cardenales, qué vinieron anotando carrera en el mismo capítulo en los ganchos de Javier Silva.

La pizarra así se fue hasta la apertura del noveno episodio cerrado herméticamente por el serpentiner cubano derecho Juan Serrano, quién recibió su buena dotación de salud deportivos.

Un gran partido que los aficionados aplaudieron por ambos lados en las tribunas.

Serrano tuvo labor de una carrera

y siete hits. Sierra, aceptó seis imparables, recetó 14 ponches y aceptó las dos carreras.

“Todavía faltan dos partidos”, dijo Nacho García manager del campeón de temporada Cardenales quién agradeció el apoyo de su coach Efraín Cruz Franco.

“Nos faltan tres partidos para conseguir nuestra meta. Vendrán jugadores qué estuvieron ausentes por la celebración del Día del Padre”, apuntó Luis Cerros de Águilas que recientemente ganó dos campeonatos en la extinta y legendaria Liga Colt 45 ante el poderoso club Indios de Nava del timonel internacional Juan “Pachin” Martínez.

En resultado del mismo playoff los Charros Potosinos dirigido por Saúl Puente y el coach Catarino Obregón, dieron cuenta del rival Astros del manager Luis Ávila, con pizarra de 9-3 carreras y victoria para el derecho Jonathan Vaquera

quien lanzó exitosamente siete capítulos dejándole la lomita al relevista Fidel Cantú quien se agenció el salvamento.

Rol de juegos domingo 27 de junio estadio Potranco Baseball Field.

11am Águilas vs Cardenales. 2pm Charros vs Astros.

Liga Veteranos resultados: Misiones SA de Mike Tabhan quien comenzó el partido ante Cachorros de Nava actual campeón, dejó el montículo al relevista Juan Martínez para doblegar al rival con pizarra de 9-4 carreras con derrota para René Rodríguez y el relevista Freddy Rodríguez. Los directivos Rábano Becerra, El Venado Benito Martínez y Alacrán Galindo, de Nava, felicitaron deportivamente a los misioneros porqué despidieron la temporada ganando sus tres últimos partidos.

Red Sox con el ex lanzador profesional el fronterizo derecho

Raúl Originales, blanqueó 4-0 a Mineros. Originales entró en relevo en el cuarto episodio por el abridor izquierdo Alan Mow, por Mineros la derrota fue para el estelar Juan Pedro Reza.

Red Sox dirigido por Pedro Espinoza y Catarino Obregón este sábado 26 de junio despiden la temporada ante el líder Sultanes de Gabriel Ruiz en el horario de las 11am. A las 2pm el clásico entre Mineros y Cachorros.

Resultados en Men's Baseball League Potranco 2021 que interinamente coordina Roberto Garza dueño del equipo Broncos de Reynosa SA.

Broncos 3 Piratas de Sabinas 1. Ganó el abridor Felipe Rodríguez con derrota para el abridor derecho venezolano Goyo Quintero.

Bobcats 12 Diablos 5. El líder Highsox del Marine, Eddy Rodríguez ante Indios de Nava de Juan

“Pachin” Martínez, por límite de tiempo quedó en la pizarra a favor de 7 carreras por 5, encuentro qué se jugó bajo protesta por jugador de Rodríguez, no registrado por los calchetines. Decisión que será aclarada en la segunda vuelta.

Rol de juegos campo tres: 10am Broncos vs Highsox. 1 pm Indios vs Diablos. 4pm Piratas de Nava vs Desperados. Bobcats descansa.

En las fotografías aparecen: Raúl Originales de Red Sox. Nacho García de Cardenales. Henry Pichardo de Indios. Jorge Álvarez ex profesional. Valerio De Los Santos quién jugó en el gran circo con Toronto, Colorado. Cerveceros y Marlins, El Caminante, Luis Cerros timonel bicampeón de Águilas captados festejando triunfo dado por El caminante Víctor Mercedes ante Cardenales. El Caminante con su pavoroso swing. (Fotos por Franco).





# June 27th is PTSD Awareness Day and This is One Soldiers Experience

By Joseph Reagan

June 27th is National Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Injury Awareness Day. It is a day dedicated to raising awareness around the signs, symptoms, and stigma, associated with PTSD. As a former Infantry Officer with two deployments to Afghanistan this issue is deeply personal to me. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has reported that somewhere between 10-15 percent of Veterans have a clinical diagnosis for post-traumatic stress. That number is likely far greater. A recent survey suggests at over a quarter of our population believes PTSD is incurable and those who have it are dangerous and mentally unstable – it is for this reason that so many Veterans refuse to seek help. 22 Veterans will take their own life today, two thirds of them will have never stepped foot inside a VA facility – 15 Veterans will die today without ever asking for help.

The redeployment process was like an assembly line, 2,600 soldiers going from office to office getting their checklist signed off by each office (dental, vision, finance, etc.). The mental health station was no different, walk in, answer a few questions, get your sheet stamped and leave. It was June of 2006, I had returned a week earlier from a 16-month deployment to Afghanistan. I walked into the mental health office and without looking up a man asked, “what was the worst thing you experienced while you were deployed?” I proceeded to tell him, in detail, about the suicide bomber attack on my platoon that resulted in every member of the platoon being awarded the Purple Heart. He looked up

at me and said “Lieutenant, that is the worst story I’ve heard all day.” He left me with one question “am I still me?” I said yes, partially because I thought it was true, but partially because if I knew if I said no it would mean an early end to my career. Over 30 soldiers would recount the same attack that day, 30 soldiers would answer “Yes, I’m good” and walk out of the office with their paper stamped “cleared MENTAL HEALTH” and start preparing for the next deployment.

Fast forward a few years, I left the military, used my GI bill to get a master’s degree, and had started a new career in management consulting. The guidance most people gave to Veterans starting civilian careers was to not talk about being a Veteran, so I did not. During a conversation with a colleague, I happened to mention my service because it was related to the topic at hand. My colleague stopped and said, “I didn’t know you were in the Military, you’re remarkably well adjusted.” Not exactly a compliment but also not far from the truth – from the outside I was a normal businessman, from the outside you could never tell that had it not been for an Afghan guard who grabbed the suicide bomber at the last minute I probably wouldn’t have seen my 26th birthday, from the outside I was still me. On the inside, these memories are defining moments, “you can’t unsee a suicide bomber attack” or all the other memories associated with combat. Again, from the outside for the most part you can’t tell what another person has experienced but these memories tend to pop up at the unexpected times. A

child’s nosebleed triggers a memory you’re not equipped to deal with as you comfort the child in the middle of the night. That’s PTSD. It’s your past fighting with your present and no one on the outside can see that battle.

I cannot describe the weight of command, especially in a combat environment. As a junior officer I was given the responsibility of leading an amazing team of men and women. The mantra of “mission first, people always” was a heavy reminder that it was my job to maintain a balance of keeping my soldiers safe and accomplishing our mission. I wasn’t always successful at either, but we all came home alive.

Today, my office is built for our “zoom world” behind me hang the awards and pictures that represent the proverbial “T-shirt” as in been there, done that, I’ve got the T-shirt to prove it. In front of me, out of view of the camera, a collection of bracelets, each inscribed with the name of a friend or colleague I’ve lost, either to our enemies abroad, or the demons within. So, while the world sees all my accomplishments I am confronted with my why – the friends I’ve lost. There is one in particular that inspires me to do more every day – the one I couldn’t save.

Every loss is painful. As I mentioned I was lucky, I had amazing NCO’s and soldiers, they are truly exceptional and many continue to serve our great nation. During our deployment in 2006 I honestly lost count of how many times we came into contact with the enemy, the suicide bomber was the worst, but not the only attack. We were lucky, we lost

friends while we were out on mission, but when those wheels touched U.S. soil, we had all made it back.

June 16, 2019, it was Father’s Day, and I was up early, partially because I don’t sleep well, and partially because I enjoy the peace of the early morning. I learned through Facebook that I had failed. That night one of my soldiers had taken his own life. This was not my first, second, or 10th time dealing with suicide, but it was by far the most personal.

There is a certain power and resolve that comes with acceptance of a great loss. After that day it became clear that while I couldn’t change the past we could do more moving forward. We have a running Facebook message – which is mostly filled with the type of dark and profane humor that only an Infantry Soldier would understand but it connects us, a constant reminder that there’s always someone there who “gets it.” In the Ranger’s Creed there is a line “I will always shoulder more than my fair share of the task, whatever it may be,” with every loss, whether by combat or suicide, it’s our responsibility to shoulder their load and to carry the memory of them forward.

On any given day there are around 19 million Veterans, living and thriving in communities across the country. Approximately 22 Veterans take their own life, every day. This is nothing less than a national tragedy and we’ve dedicated an enormous amount of resource to trying to solve this issue. A recent survey found that almost 70 percent of Americans believe that most Veterans struggle with PTSD, while 25

percent of Americans believe PTSD is untreatable, and those with PTSD are violent and dangerous. The truth: PTSD is treatable, and many of those who carry a PTSD diagnosis are able to thrive in their post service life with minimal, if any, clinical intervention. The biggest threat to our Veterans is the stigma we attach to mental health issues like PTSD as it prevents us from seeking help.

As a society, and as Veterans we must do better, this same survey showed the misperceptions about PTSD were even more prevalent among the Veteran community than our civilian counterparts. Steven Ambrose once said that Veterans gave the best years of their lives in the defense of our country, when they leave the service there is a strong desire to make up for lost time. Veterans thrive in civilian life when they are able to find their why, their new purpose. By having these candid conversations, we can break the stigma associated with mental health and make it easier for a Veteran to seek help when they stop being themselves.

*Joseph Reagan is the Director of Military and Veterans Outreach for Wreaths Across America. He has over 10 years’ experience working with leaders within Government, non-profit, and Fortune 500 companies to develop sustainable strategies supporting National Security, and Veterans Health. He served 8 years on active duty as an officer in the U.S. Army including two tours to Afghanistan with the 10th Mountain Division. He is a graduate of Norwich University, the oldest private military college in the country.*



# Blessed Angels Community Center Fiesta Celebration

By Ramon Chapa Jr

La Prensa Texas very own Ramon Chapa Jr was the Honorary Celebrity Bingo Number Caller at Blessed Angels Fiesta Celebration! CEO Marion Thomas ended the festivities by Crown-ing Greg Chavez and Gloria Garcia, Blessed Angels King and Queen! What a party!





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# Jose Arpa: America's First Latino Impressionist

By Dr. Ricardo Romo

The San Antonio Museum of Art opened the exhibit America's Impressionism: Echoes of a Revolution June 12, and the inclusion of a large painting by Latino artist Jose Arpa, [En el Jardin] who painted in San Antonio during the years 1899-1930, pleased me greatly. I was familiar with a few American Impressionists-- John Singer Sargent, Mary Cassatt, Julian Onderdonk, and Clide Hassam. Now I can add a fifth--Arpa.

I first became familiar with Jose Arpa twenty years ago when I walked into the San Antonio Express News Building on Houston Street and saw the entire upper walls covered with beautiful mural panels. Curious, I asked about the paintings and discovered that the mural had been completed in 1930 by a Latino artist, Jose Arpa, who lived in San Antonio on and off from 1899 to 1931.

Jose Arpa [1859-1952] was a young, but very talented Spanish artist when his country sent four of his paintings to the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. His participation in this Exposition opened the door for Arpa to relocate to Mexico in 1895. Over the next twenty years, especially after relocating to Texas, Arpa established himself as one of America's best known Latino artists.

Although Arpa's paintings are in dozens of museums in Spain, Mexico, and the United States, his story is not well known. Arpa was born in 1858 in Carmona, a small town in Andalusia, Spain. His father, a clobber, recognized his son's artistic talents and arranged for an apprenticeship to a painter and decorator in Seville. By his mid teens, Arpa was enrolled in the School of Fine Arts in Seville where he received three successive scholarships to study in Rome.

Arpa's life took a new direction when he decided to leave Spain in 1895 for a post as an art instructor in Mexico City. Shortly after the Chicago Exposition, Mexican government cultural officials invited Arpa to teach at



the famed Academy of San Carlos in Mexico City. Although Arpa came to Mexico City, he never accepted the job. While in Mexico City, he encountered two Spanish artists he had studied with in Seville. The artists invited Arpa to join them in Puebla. They established a strong friendship, and his friends included Arpa in all family affairs. When his friend's children prepared to leave for private schooling in San Antonio, Texas, Arpa committed to traveling with them as a chaperone.

Arpa made his living as a painter and art teacher in San Antonio, but also spent time in Mexico and Spain. While in San Antonio he established friendships with the leading artists of the city. The San Antonio Light reported on October 23, 1899 that "Prof. Jose Arpa, a talented artist now in the city, has painted a splendid portrait of Master Paul Lovelace, a cash boy for Joske Bros., which is now in exhibition in Joske's display window."\*

Photographer Ernest Raba was one of the first in San Antonio to discover the art of Jose Arpa. Perhaps seeing the work of Arpa at the Joske department store, Raba inquired about him and soon met him. Raba came to San Antonio in 1891 from Bohemia. Several years later he established an Art Club which included famed Texas artists

Robert and Robert Julian Onderdonk, as well as author O'Henry. Raba invited his new friend Arpa to all their social gatherings.

In 1900 Arpa entered his painting, "Funeral Mexicano" [Entierro en Jalapa] at the International Fair of San Antonio. The painting was bought by the Boston Museum for \$12,000, making Arpa's painting perhaps the first Latino art to be acquired by a major American museum. With the funds to acquire a studio and purchase art supplies, Arpa selected San Antonio as his U.S. residence. With a new studio space downtown, Arpa explored the surrounding rural areas of San Antonio for his plein air landscape paintings.

Various sources note that Arpa's studio was adjacent to Raba's studio in the Clifford Building, a one of a kind exquisite structure facing the San Antonio River on Commerce Street.\* An early account of the Raba and Arpa friendship, that I found at the Witte Museum library, noted that "Mr. Raba's attractive studio now houses sixty-six of Mr. Arpa's splendid paintings."

By the 1920s, many of Arpa's works were sold in Europe, Mexico, and Argentina. In an essay, "A History of Texas Artists and Sculptors," published in the late 1920s, the authors noted that Arpa was well represented



in Central Europe's National Galleries where he was referred to as "The Brilliant Spanish Colorist." The essay mentioned above referred to Arpa as a "versatile and facile painter, doing portraits, landscapes, and still life with equal ease." \*

In the early 1920s Arpa invited his talented nephew Xavier Gonzales to join him in San Antonio. Gonzales had studied at the San Carlos Academy of Mexico City and continued his studies with his uncle. Gonzalez also earned recognition as one, if not the first, Latino to graduate from the prestigious Art Institute of Chicago.

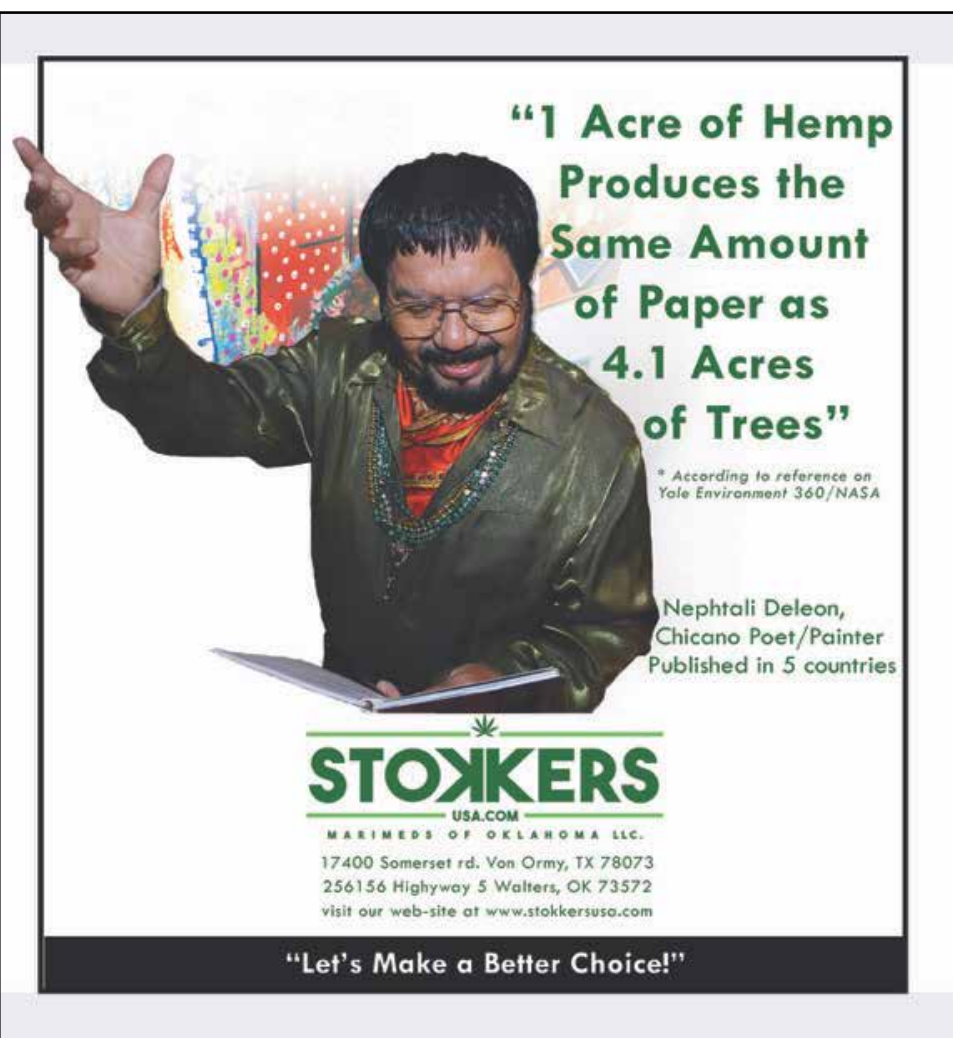
Arpa and his nephew Gonzales shared a home and studio and opened their own art school near Brackenridge Park. In 1930 Arpa received a life pension from the Spanish government and

decided to move back to his birthplace in Spain. He passed away at age 90, but his many artistic contributions live on in the Americas.

\*Witte Museum, San Antonio, Texas. Vertical files.

(Photo Captions: José Arpa y Perea, Spanish, active Spain, Mexico, and the United States, 1860-1952, *In the Garden (En el jardin)*, ca. 1931, Oil on canvas, h. 52 3/4 in, w. 59 1/2 in. San Antonio Museum of Art. Photography by Peggy Tenison; Jose Arpa "Picking Cotton." Courtesy of The San Antonio Art League. This painting won a \$2,000 first prize for Arpa in 1928; Jose Arpa, "Rural Scene in Texas." Courtesy of the Witte Museum. San Antonio, Texas.)





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\* According to reference on Yale Environment 360/NASA

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# Prospect Hill Iglesia de Dios Pastors

## Excerpts of writings by Annie Tafolla

One Saturday morning, my father, M.F. Tafolla, was sitting on the porch reading his Spanish Bible when a man stopped at the gate and inquired the way to the station. My father, Bible in hand, went to the gate and pointed out the railroad station to the stranger.

"Well, praise the Lord," said the man, with a decided German accent.

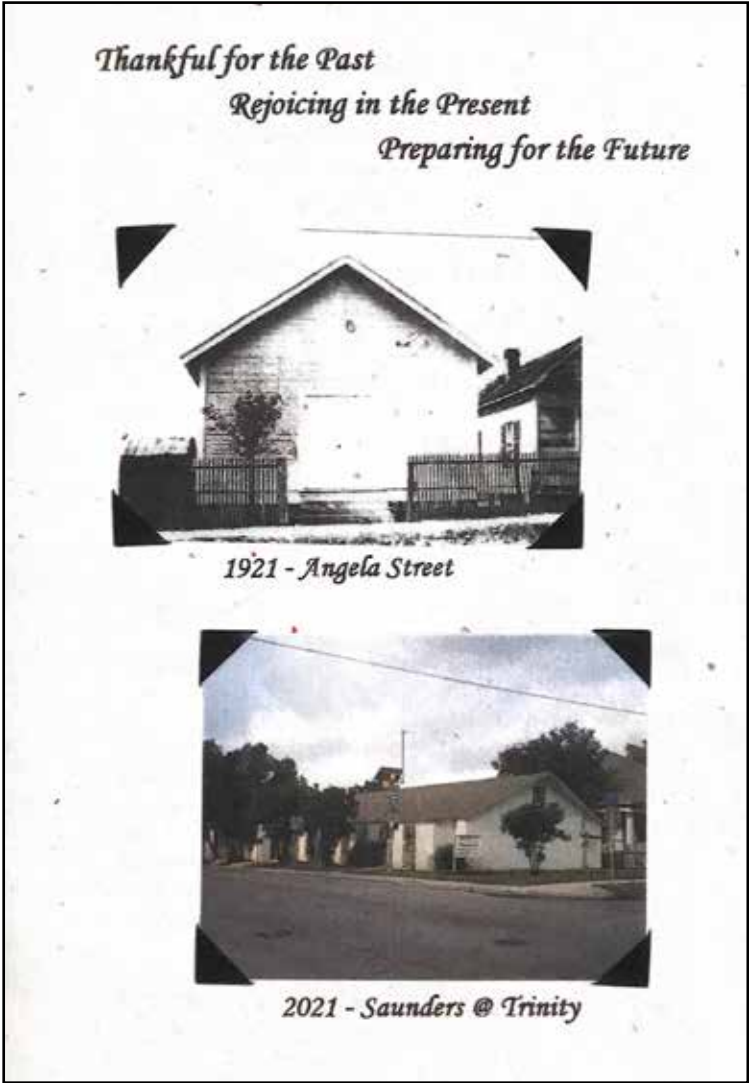
"Amen," father chimed in. "Are you a Christian brother?" asked the man. "Yes, by the grace of God," answered father.

"What church are you affiliated with?" the stranger questioned further.

"I don't belong to any particular church at present; I just belong to God."....."

Well, then, brother, you belong to the same church I belong to. There is but one church, and everybody who is saved belongs to that church," said the man, who then introduced himself as L. Ball of Buda, Texas. Buda was just six miles from the school where father was teaching. Before Ball left he invited my father to come to his home and hold meetings for the many Mexican farm workers living there.....

The rest as they say is HISTORY.



1921 - 1946 Mariano Tafolla (Eloise)

12/1946 - 3/1950 Ellsworth Palmer (Hilaria)

1950 – (6 mos.) A. T. Maciel (Ruby)

1950 - 1957 Gregorio Castaneda (Fina) 1st Term

1957 – 1964 George W. Geiwitz (Marie)

1965 – 1968 Keith Plank. (Gloria)

1968 – 1971 Gregorio Castaneda (Fina) 2nd Term

1971 – 1975 Rafael Campos

1976 – 1998 Ernest R. Lopez (Jolene)

Assoc. Pastor, Jose Alfredo Garcia (Alma)

1998 – 2013 Jesse Ortiz (Martha)

Assoc. Pastor, Jose Alfredo Garcia (Alma)

2014 – 1/2019 Jose Alfredo Garcia (Alma)

2/2019 - Present - Elias Torres  
Assoc. Pastor, Jose Alfredo Garcia (Alma)

Dios Restaura, Iglesia de Dios Pastors Somerset, Texas  
1948 – 1951 Services began in individual homes;  
Some Founding Members-Colunga's, De Los Santos, Eloise Tafolla, Quisenberry and the Macias, Valles and Hernandez Families; Church Dedicated 1951

1953 - 1957 Albert Bentley (Irene)  
Educational Wing Fellowship area added

1957 - 1965 Warren Kinion (Devie)  
Parsonage added

1965 -1970 Marciano Yates (Elizabeth)

6/1970 - 7/1973 Ernest Lopez (Jolene)

1973 – 1980 Samuel De La Cruz (Wilda)  
Remodel Educational Wing; Sanctuary enlarged; Hosted 1975 Concilio Convention

1980 – 6/1981 Daniel Perez (Gloria)

7/1981 - 1983 Rafael Flores (Alma)

2003 - Present  
Minga Rangel (Fidel)  
Thankful for the Past  
Rejoicing in the Present  
Preparing for the future  
1921 - Angela Street  
2021 - Saunders @ Trinity  
Centennial Commemorative Bulletin  
Prospect Hill Iglesia de Dios 1806 Saunders Ave @ Trinity St.  
San Antonio, Texas 78207  
Jul 16 C 17, 2021



# Venture Out To San Antonio's Urban River with Texas River Company



Kayak lovers, if you're looking to venture out to the waters but don't want to leave the city, paddle up to The Texas River Company, and check out their wonderful events.

The Texas River Company is a kayak outfitter located on the Southside of San Antonio, Texas over at Roosevelt Park by Lone Star Brewery.

If you don't have a kayak, don't worry, they provide kayaks to go out and enjoy the beautiful scenery around the park. You can purchase a single kayak for one hour at \$20, a double kayak for one hour at \$40, and a stand-up paddle board (SUP) for one hour at \$20.

There's a couple of nice routes to choose from at Roosevelt Park. If you prefer a fast trip around the park, you can choose the one-hour trip that goes into the back of Blue Star Arts Complex.

"There's a nice, little waterfall at the end; you get to see birds, you get to see turtles," said Texas

River Company owner Victor Rivera.

For those who are more adventurous and prefer to be out in the water for a longer period of time, there's a longer route you can take around the park. Kayakers can shoot down the river from Roosevelt Park and come out of the other end from different places. The trip is about a one to two and a half hours.

"It depends on how you feel that day," said Rivera. "If you have a lot of energy and want to do the whole thing or if you just want to do an hour, you can do that."

Texas River Company just came off the heels of their community event at Elmendorf Lake Park, courtesy of District 5 Councilwoman Gonzales and the City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation. If you missed it, don't worry, there's more events to come for the month of June.

For those who have man's best friend, you can join the fun

with Pups and Paddles. There will also be a women's network group event with brunch and kayaking. The event takes place on June 26 at 9 a.m. Texas River Company also paddles with pride with their Pride Weekend event from June 25 -27 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Roosevelt Park. Proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to the San Antonio Pride Center.

What are you waiting for, San Antonio? Bring your family. Bring your friends. Bring your pups for a fun and relaxing adventure with Texas River Company.

For more information, please visit their social media pages on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/txrivercompany/> and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/txrivercompany>

Watch the full interview here: [https://www.instagram.com/p/CQPSw\\_IntOe/](https://www.instagram.com/p/CQPSw_IntOe/)

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# Happy Birthday To Texas' Own Ramiro "El Gallo" Mendez

By Ramon Chapa Jr.

Ramiro is a hard working, kind-hearted and dedicated family man. He was born under two cultures at the border between Mexico and the U.S. Raised in Eagle Pass, his family moved to San Antonio in 1958 to pursue a better life and higher education.

He enlisted in the military right after he graduated from Fox Tech High School. After 11 months and 29 Days in Vietnam, Ramiro returned to San Antonio to live, work and raise a family. He also attended San Antonio College, U.T.S.A. and completed his career through the G.I. Bill received a Master's Degree in architecture from Roosevelt University.

Ramiro started working as a construction helper for different local home builders. He worked his way up to the position of President of Gallo Enterprises, Inc., The company he formed to give access to all types of construction people. He helped people start their own companies in the same line of work which was his purpose. As sole

owner of Aztec Builders & Associates, he developed many areas throughout the city and all of Texas.

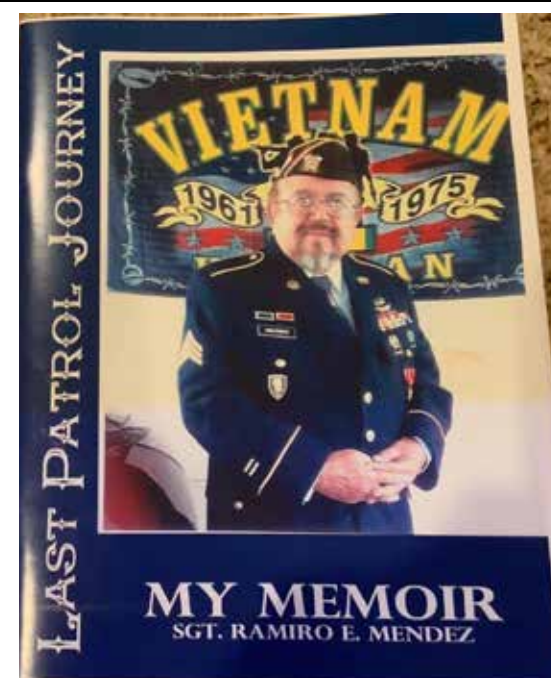
Ramiro also worked as a reporter, a promoter, a D.J. all over Texas. His hobbies are music and photography.

He does not have a Monday to Friday, 9 to 5 job. He is known for putting in an 18 hour work day to accomplish his goals. Ramiro was a Public Relations Director at Radio Festival and Radio KBUC.

In his life Ramiro has been involved with sports, charity cases, immigration, schools, clubs, government, churches, radio, special events of all kinds and making San Antonio better.

Ramiro was active in the Alamo Area Vietnam Association and was instrumental in building the statue that now stands in front of the Municipal Auditorium. He was President of the Club Deportivo Aguilas.

Mustang Convertible courtesy of Joe DeLeon, Blue Bonnet Motors.





# From Immigrant to Successful Business Owner: The Story of David Lara and Southtown Barbers

Interview by  
Angel Contero

Article by Jeremiah Sosa

Immigrating from Mexico to the United States in 1985 as a young child, David Lara experienced many hardships. Not knowing any English, Lara was bullied at school and felt alienated. There was one thing that Lara enjoyed growing up that helped him escape his hardships: art.

“As the time went by, art was my thing,” said Lara. “Everything was art, photography, dancing, and I fell in love with the art of cutting hair.”

The now owner of South-

town Barbers is able to express his love of cutting hair, serving the people of San Antonio.

After graduating high school a year early, Lara attended a beauty school, and later worked at Great Clips.

It was at Great Clips where Lara met the Robin to his Batman, Veronica Najera. Najera was the general manager at Great Clips and built an instant connection with Lara.

The two were very good friends, but Lara decided to move on from Great Clips in hopes of opening his own barber shop.

After opening his shop, Lara

realized that he was missing something, his Robin. Lara convinced Najera to leave her role as general manager at Great Clips and join him at Southtown Barbers.

One day, after closing his shop for the day, Lara invited Najera for ice cream. They stopped by a place called Eagle's Corner, an old ice cream shop. As they were sitting outside the shop with their ice cream, they both had the same idea, “barbershop.”

They fell in love with the location, and after having some troubles at their previous locations, they were finally able to land at their dream



location, where Southtown Barbers is currently located.

If you would like more information or want to set up an appointment with Southtown Barbers (210) 462-3532

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# Social Media Day With The Social Butterfly Gal

Interview by  
Julia Aguillon

Article by Jackie Velez

Social Media Day is June 30, and La Prensa Texas has you covered with the Social Butterfly Gal, Christina Olivarez, Founder and CEO of Christina SBG, LLC.

What exactly does Social Media Day mean to the award-winning social media strategist, Christina Olivarez?

"I help business owners elevate their social media strategy," said Olivarez of her role in social media.

Olivarez has a degree in Mass Communications and Electronic Media and is at the top of her social media game. Simply put, she was made for the social media world! But what made her start her business years ago?

"I was noticing that social media was really starting to come about," said Olivarez.

Olivarez was in Public Relations at the time and realized that local businesses were not utilizing their social media to the best of their ability. She eventually created the blog, The Social Butterfly Gal, and started attending events to see what social media platforms she could discuss to local businesses. Soon after, she pivoted her business towards education and providing social media tips and strategies, which led to her strategy and consulting business.

"I've been able to work with many different businesses nationwide," said Olivarez.

Olivarez trains profit and non-profit businesses in the art of social media. One of



the services she offers is called VIP Strategy Day, an entire day dedicated to local businesses and their Instagram strategies. She even did a talk on TEDx Palo Alto during Covid-19! In her TEDx talk, she discussed reimagining the way everyone uses their social media platforms and why it's so important to have a social media strategy. The impact of that TEDx was huge!

"Because of Covid, we saw so many businesses gravitate to social media," said Olivarez. "It's just amazing to see the power of social media."

You can find Olivarez's

TEDx Palo Alto on YouTube.

To help local businesses more, Olivarez is launching a digital shop, which will entail resources, courses, and templates, so that business owners can utilize the information to further their businesses.

"Trust in yourself, have faith in yourself, feel the fear and do it anyway," Olivarez said.

Wise words from The Social Butterfly Gal.

For more information, please visit: website <https://www.the-socialbutterflygal.net/>

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