

La Prensa Texas

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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 Paranormal World- Is it real?

Parapsychology is the study of alleged psychic phenomena (extrasensory perception, telepathy, precognition, clairvoyance, psychokinesis, a.k.a. telekinesis, and psychometry) and other paranormal claims, for example, those related to near-death experiences, synchronicity, apparitional experiences, etc It is considered to be pseudoscience and a vast majority of mainstream scientists reject it. Parapsychology research almost never appears in mainstream scientific journals. Most papers about parapsychology are published in a small number of niche journals I had the opportunity to interview a world renowned parapsychologist. He explained to me his job is to provide scientific proof for things that seem paranormal. He said 80% of the time, there is a scientific explanation. The other 20%... that's where the paranormal exists. Life after death, Other realms And dimensions. Do you think hauntings are real or do you think there is a scientific explanation for everything? Have you ever experienced anything you would like to share? Let's talk about it...

Rick Carter: “Yes, in Aurora, Texas, back around 1987, the temperature dropped 30 degrees in 15 minutes while we were looking for where an alien is buried who crashed into the windmill in the early 1900's..

check out the story, very creepy We left very quickly.”

Molly Jiang:

“Yes, I have experienced it.”

Carmen Madariags:

“The supernatural is very real! It is real on both sides, Good and evil. One must choose, with great caution, discernment and THE HOLY SPIRIT what experience is allowed to take root in one's spirit. A GOD experience will never contradict what is written in the HOLY BIBLE. Some are called into higher awareness. One who's nature yields to such may become mystical if seeking GOD'S SOVEREIGN WILL. That being said, a word of caution there is great danger in yielding to paranormal experience that is not of GOD. It does open the door to demon possession.

Heaven does speak to us on earth, when THE LORD GOD does vouchsafe, in a supernatural manifestation. On the flip side the devils will also try to mimic so be careful friends walk in the gift of the HOLY SPIRIT for his DIVINE most MYSTICAL MAJESTY reveals All truth unto those who seek HIM.”

Mary Svetlik Watkins: “I do. I believe in the paranormal”

Roy Cruz: “Don't know about hauntings but maybe ghost or spirits.”

Benny Del Torro: “What if we don't run when we see a ghost? Like we just stand our ground and watch them.”

John Osborne: “The best place is Sheffield Cemetery, Reading Forbury Gardens, Fort Nelson Portsmouth, walk along the beaches at South Sea where all the deaths from wars at sea took place. We have a castle there and Fort Gilkicker. I walked through there at night. I had seen a mist also.. it's quite a scary place. I have heard voices there.”

Paranormal Hauntings: “I've done Sheffield cemetery, a lady who watches us caught this screenshot of a mist above a grave which looked like a lady. I had seen a shadow of what I thought was a monk. I couldn't understand where the monk tie came in, however Gina looked into it the next day and the street that runs alongside it was where a priory once was. I was gobsmacked”

About the Cover Artist: Oscar Castillo

By Chon A. Noriega

Director

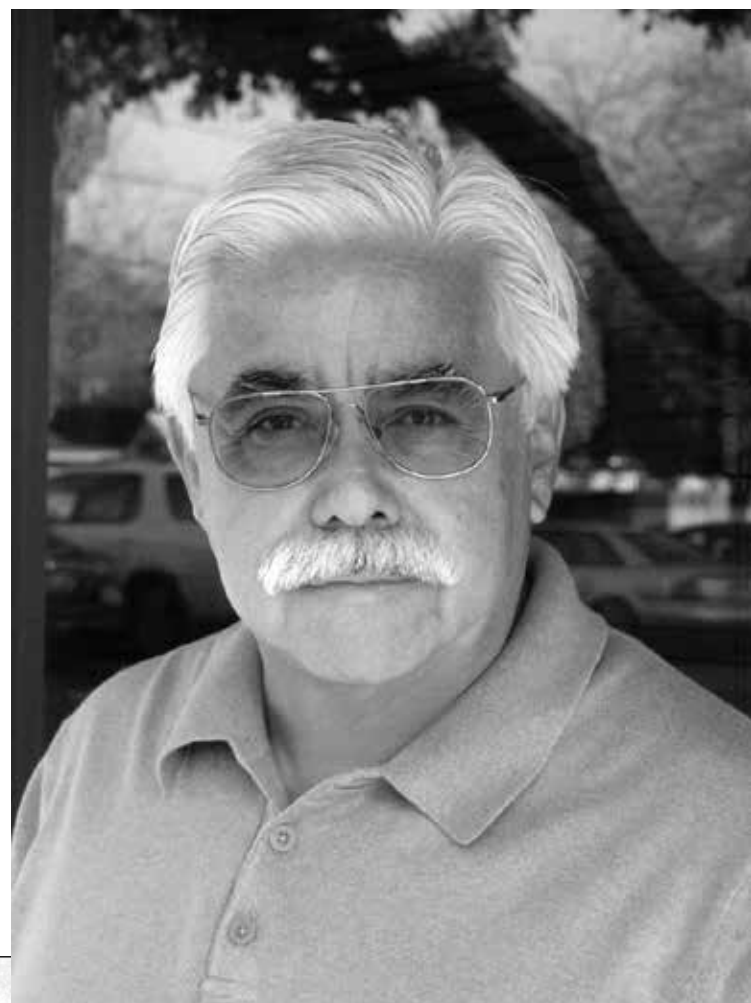
*Chicano Studies Research
Center University of
California, Los Angeles*

Oscar Castillo's extensive photographic work documenting the Chicano community over the past forty years offers a distinctive visual challenge to the stereotypical representation of East Los Angeles as violent or exotic. It does so by maintaining a calm, almost matter-of-fact gaze on everyday barrio life, the post-urban renewal landscape, and the cultural practices and political events that re-define public space. Castillo was born in El Paso, Texas, in 1945 and developed an

interest in photography at a young age. His parents always encouraged him to pursue the arts, but it wasn't until Castillo arrived at San Fernando Valley State College (now California State University, Northridge) in 1969 that he received formal training in the medium. Yet, it was the activity emanating from the school's newly formed Chicano Studies Department—one of the first in the nation—that got him shooting. Motivated artistically and identifying politically, Castillo photographed Chicano protests, parades, and ordinary public life in what proved a period of profound social and political upheaval. The result is one of the richest photographic

collections available of the Chicano civil rights movement.

Castillo's images reflect his keen awareness of the relationship between a subject and its environment. It is this texture, combined with his masterful sense of timing and composition, that makes Castillo's photographs examples of both photojournalism and art photography. Whether the subject is people on the street, political figures giving speeches, or emerging media figures, Castillo's extensive documentation reveals contrasting views of a multigenerational community becoming more visible





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Obituary for Charles J. Cervantes



Provided by Mission Park

Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge

A loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend, Charles Joseph “Chazz” Cervantes, went home to be with our Lord & Savior, with his family by his side, on 27 January 2022 at the age of 59. He is preceded in death by his parents Pauline Lucio Horn, Raul Cervantes Sr., and brother Paul Cervantes. His legacy of love and kindness continues within the love of his life, his best friend of 33 years, Priscilla, his daughters Crystal Subrene Trevino, and Kimberly Dawn Cruz (Jerry). His legacy also lives within his grandchildren Kingston, Jett, Jace, Jade, and Gavin. He is also survived by role model and father - Chuck Horn, siblings - Raul Cervantes and Cora Dietzman (Travis), many nephews, nieces, and extended family.

Charlie was a man who believed in family values and lived a joyous life with humility. He was a man of faith, despite life’s challenges. His life began on 08 May 1962 in San Antonio, Texas. His dedication to making a difference and being a positive influence in the community started with the Bexar County Constables Office; he then became a Deputy with the Bexar County Sheriffs Office. After 30 years of dedicated service and faithful loyalty to the people, Charles retired and devoted himself to the needs of society’s future. His commitment to change grew him to be a pillar and voice of the community. His love for the people and helping those in need drove him.

In 1999, Charles and Priscilla founded the Texas Riders 4H club in San Antonio, TX. Their passion was to help young kids learn horseback riding and life lessons.

Those who knew him best will remember Charlie first and foremost for the kind-big-hearted man with a big smile, his unique sense of humor, his infamous stories, and his love for horses.

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Single Parent Transitional Living Program

Provided by Mari Molina, LPC

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portive, transitional housing that will allow them to focus on healing and accessing the resources and tools needed to build a self-sufficient life.

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Our hope is that the children we serve will successfully complete their education, find gainful employment, move into their own homes and live successful, independent and productive lives.

We are now accepting applications for both programs for our location here in San Antonio. Applicants can visit

our website to learn more about our programs and complete an application for our programs.

Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services is a non-profit organization established in 1903. For more information please visit <https://www.pchas.org>



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- ✓ Voted for the largest middle class tax cut in history, putting money into the pocket of working families.

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JESSICA CISNEROS
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- ✗ **SO EXTREME** she supports the "Defund the Police" movement that would turn our neighborhoods over to criminals.¹
- ✗ **SO INEXPERIENCED** she wants to defund the border patrol and immigration courts, eliminating good-paying jobs and putting even more families in danger.²
- ✗ **SO UNCOMPROMISING** she would eliminate oil and gas drilling in South Texas, costing us thousands of high-paying jobs and even more cash at the pump.³

CHECK THE FACTS: 1) JusticeDemocrats.com; 2) Mother Jones, 1/1/2020; 350action.org, Jessica Cisneros Candidate Questionnaire, 11/2019; 3) 350action.org, Jessica Cisneros Candidate Questionnaire, 11/2019

SAY NO TO EXTREME JESSICA CISNEROS.

Los Spurs vs. Warriors honraron Con éxito la Black Heritage Night

Por Franco

El pentacampeón Los Spurs de San Antonio bajó la dirección del timonel en jefe Gregg Popovich, celebraron en grande el tradicional evento especial anual denominado Black Heritage Night. Qué tuvo audiencia local por el canal KENS5.

Con el qué fueron anfitriones del equipo visitante Warriors comandados por el ex Spur, Steve Kerr.

La ceremonia de apertura del esperado partido en el estadio AT&T Center, fue engalanada por la escolta Taft High School Air Force JROTC, qué presentó banderas y el coro Resurrection Baptist Church Frontline Team.

Durante el cerrado partido los de casa, estuvieron adelante durante los tres primeros cuartos de acción. Sucumbiendo en el cuarto con marcador de 120-124.

Spurs sé destacó con marcadores de 36-30, 69-61 y 104-89. Finalizando 120-124. Warriors no decepcionó a sus seguidores qué en buen número los apoyaron desde el primer silbataso.

Spurs tras haber ganado gran partido contra el trabuco Bulls de Chicago en el cuál honraron al delantero DeMar De Rozan, por sus temporadas en las que vistió el uniforme Silver and Black. DeRozan, agradeció el homenaje destacando en 36:37 minutos de juego en los que puso 32 unidades en la pizarra qué fue a favor de San Antonio 131-122.

Cabe anotar, qué los Spurs y su noble afición, en la pantalla central del estadio AT&T Center, reconocieron labor de líderes y al activista Andrew Young, quién fuera embajador ante la ONU durante la administración del presidente Carter y posteriormente fue electo alcalde de la ciudad de Atlanta, Georgia. Young, de 89 años de edad estuvo presente acompañado en la cancha por The Coyote, emocionado recibió ovación y agradeció el homenaje.

El entretenimiento de medio tiempo fue a cargo del cantante y activista Deon Jones.

Spurs a la vez, felicitaron a Jeff Traylor, entrenador del equipo UTSA Roadrunners, qué guió a la conquista de Conferencia Oeste en C-USA. Traylor aceptó playera con el número 210 alterna por Fiesta San Antonio.

La fanática aplaudieron a la vez las coloridas promociones denominadas: "HEB Fan Cam", Takis Face the Intensity entre dos fans. Human Bowling Cinemas EVO.

Popovich, tuvo excelentes comentarios de la positiva experiencia qué su cuadro ha venido obteniendo durante los 52 partidos ya jugados el rol regular (qué

consiste de 82 encuentros), en el circuito NBA, dónde está reconocido su talento al lado de su cuerpo técnico.

En las fotos aparecen Los

Spurs. Acción contra Warriors y el Ambassador Andrew Young durante su presentación en la cancha del AT&T Center. (Fotos de Franco).



Let Me Call You Sweetheart

By Sonny Melendrez

If there is one term of endearment that will always bring a rush of warm memories of my mom, it is what she called my brother Rick and me all our lives: sweetheart.

This will be our third Valentine's Day without her, but certainly not without her spirit.

As a little boy, I would say "Balentine" instead of Valentine and from then on, we'd laugh when she asked, "Will you be my Baaalentine?!"

For as long as we can remember, Rick and I would receive an anonymous card in the mail each year, postmarked "Valentine, Texas."

It would be decades before we realized they were sent by the one who loved us most!

When I was 10 years old, I entered my first radio contest, with Mom's help.

Every afternoon, the host on WOAI Radio would chat with a listener, (an adult listener) asking them to talk about themselves and then awarding a prize, usually movie passes.

I wanted those tickets.

It seemed like every time I tried to dial in, the line was busy.

Until, one day, it rang.



I quickly handed the phone to my mom.

She looked at me and said, "Sweetheart, I don't know what to say!"

"Don't worry mom, just answer the questions."

And so, my mom made her radio debut as her sweet voice filled the airwaves across South Texas. As the conversation ended, Mom was asked to share her favorite song.

"Stardust by Nat King Cole," she softly replied.

She was given the passes, said goodbye and the song began to play.

"Thanks Mom! You were great!"

"You're welcome, sweetheart."

Little did she know that this would be the first of many future broadcast appearances, on my radio shows, both here in San Antonio and in Los Angeles, as I would often share, with listeners, our conversations on special occasions, including her birthday, Mother's Day, Christmas and yes, Valentine's Day.

Each of those calls would end the same way.

"I love you mom."

"I love you, too, sweetheart!"

Sonny Melendrez is an award-winning motivational speaker, Hall of Fame radio/TV host and author, based in San Antonio. For more of his enthusiastic brand of inspiration and speaking information, visit official site: Sonny-Melendrez.com or email: sonny@sonnymelendrez.com.

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Dated Jan 24, 2022

Ella Austin Dog/Cat Shots and Food

By Ramon Chapa. Jr.

Under the direction of Clyde Foster, the Ella Austin Community Center continues to host events that uplift our community! This past Saturday, owners brought their dogs and cats for free shots, micro chips and food! La Prensa Texas was honored to be the exclusive media for the event.



My Chicano Art Journey: Part One

By Dr. Ricardo Romo

Chicano Art is coming of age. The Smithsonian American Art Museum "Printing the Revolution!" exhibit is coming to the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth, Texas

in March 2022. Later in the Spring, the Romo collection "Estampas de La Raza" will open in Sacramento, California. The opening of the new Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture in Riverside, California is anticipated in the fall of 2022. Additionally, several museums in the United States and Mexico are planning similar openings of Chicano art.

I am often asked about my interest in Chicano art, and usually, the questions revolve around the why, when, and how. The why is a more complicated question than the when and how. Since my wife Harriett and I both became interested in art at the same time, I will add that neither of us grew up with art in our homes. I don't recall seeing any art in my Mexican barrio in the Westside of San Antonio. Like most of my school friends, I never visited a museum before attending college, and I read little about artists and their lives.

Art has universal appeal, and one does not have to be educated on the topic to enjoy art or to engage in it. My artist friend Jesse Trevino grew up near my home in the Westside, and we both went to the same high school. He developed an early love for drawing and painting. By the time he had finished high school, he had won enough regional art competitions to earn a scholarship



Centro Cultural de La Raza building in Balboa Park, San Diego, California.

Photo by Ricardo Romo. 1980.

to the prestigious Art Student League in New York. His art is now in the Smithsonian and other major museums. Trevino was one of many Latino artists in Texas and beyond who took art seriously enough to build a successful art career.

Collecting art and appreciating art is different from making art. My first interest in art emerged as a result of my graduate classes in Mexican history in the late 1960s. However, I credit the decision to buy our first pieces of Mexican art to my wife Harriett who, during that same

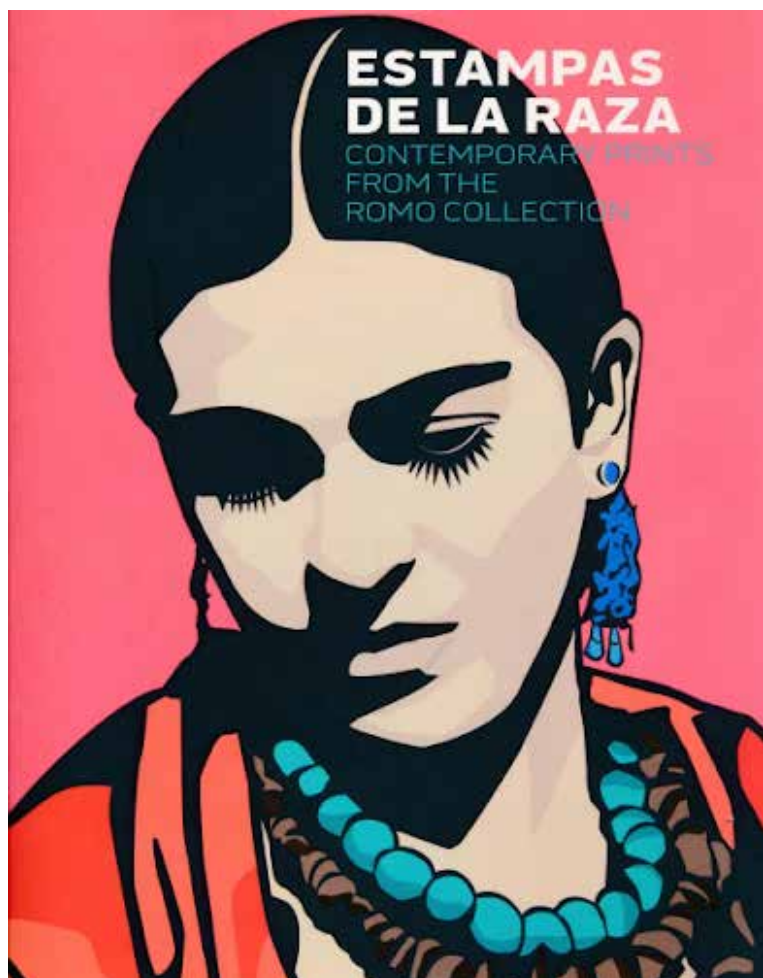
period, fell in love with the drawings of Mexican artist and sculpturer Francisco Zuniga. She had seen Zuniga's drawings in the home of a friend who taught at the same Los Angeles elementary school. When we decided to add Mexican art to our home, we had a modest income. As teachers, we each earned \$180.00 per week or \$45 per day. We literally had no savings when we decided to buy a Zuniga lithograph.

The art gallery our friend recommended no longer carried Zuniga's prints. Nonetheless,

we patiently returned to the gallery regularly in hopes of locating Zuniga's work. After a half dozen unsuccessful visits, the gallery owner, Bernard Lewin, convinced us to consider other Mexican artists, including David A. Siqueiros and Rufino Tamayo. At the time, the Lewin Gallery had several original works by Siqueiros and limited print editions by Tamayo. Lewin's Gallery was located in the middle of Beverly Hills on Rodeo Drive. Lewin liked us and allowed us to buy a Tamayo print on what I described as a "lay-a-away plan" at \$25 per

month. The purchase price of \$300 was three times our monthly rent. We had become art collectors!

My interest in Chicano art coincided with an academic position I took in 1970 as an assistant professor in the newly created Chicano Studies Department at San Fernando Valley State College [SFVSC] in Los Angeles. In the years after numerous student strikes protesting the Vietnam War occurred at several California universities, students of color began asking for classes that



*The Harriett and Ricardo Romo collection
was exhibited at the McNay Museum.
Publication by the University of Texas Press.*

explored their experiences, told their history, and explored their literature and culture. These students wrote poetry and literature and performed their own plays dealing with Chicano themes. They also began to create their own art.

I started doctoral studies at UCLA in American History that same fall of 1970. I had taught Mexican American history and American history at a Los Angeles high school, and my introduction to college teaching at SFSVC was a baptism of fire. While teaching at Franklin High School in East Los Angeles I met Ruben Salazar, a journalist with The Los Angeles Times. Salazar wrote one of the best definitions of what it means to be a Chicano: "A Chicano is a Mexican American with a non-Anglo image of himself... What then, is a Chicano? Chicanos say that if you have to ask, you'll never

understand, much less become a Chicano."

Dr. Rodolfo Acuna started the SFSVC Chicano Studies Department in 1969, and the Chicano history classes were among the most popular in the program. At SFSVC I met several emerging Chicano artists and photographers. Oscar Castillo, whose photography has since been collected by the Smithsonian, was instrumental in introducing me to other Latino artists, including Sergio Hernandez and William Bejerano.

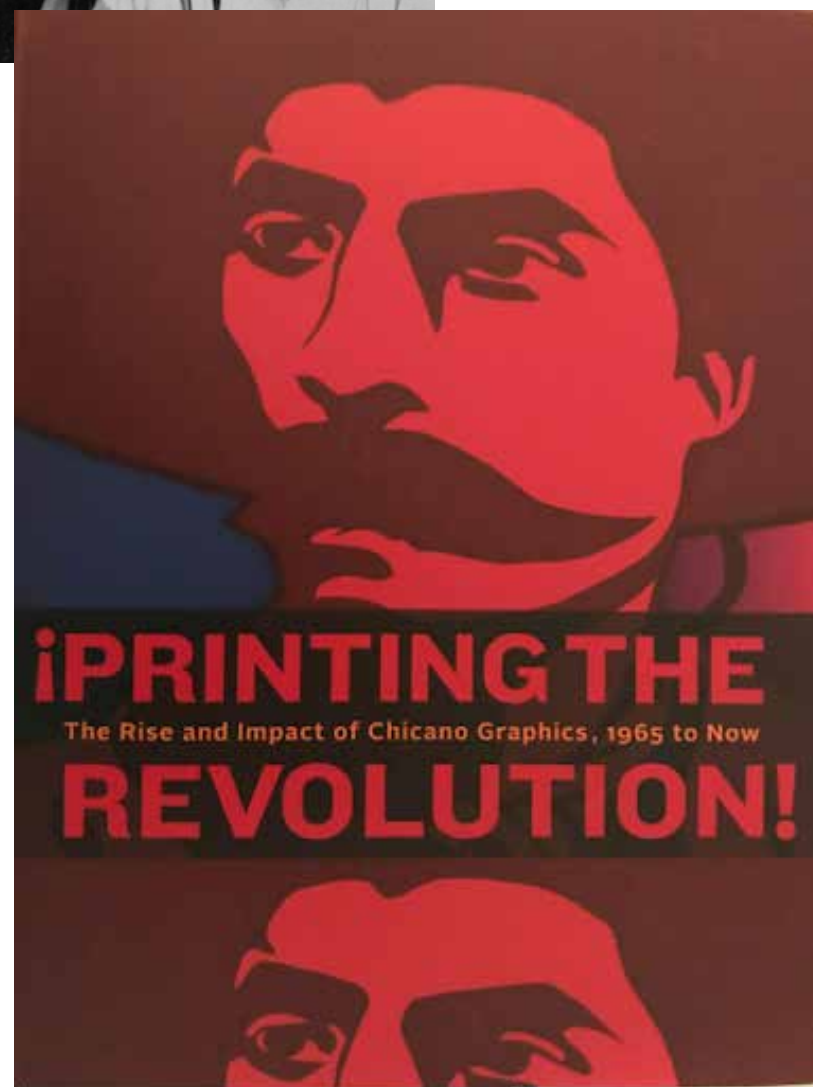
I recently spoke to Oscar Castillo about those early days. He reminded me that Sergio Hernandez had helped paint the well-known Chicano mural at UCLA in 1970. The mural was commissioned by the Chicano Studies program at UCLA and was one of the first murals by Chicano artists in any major university.



Chicano muralist, Sergio Hernandez, at the UCLA Chicano Studies library. 1970.

*Photo courtesy
of Oscar Castillo.*

My Chicano art journey received a major boost in 1975 when I accepted the Board Chairmanship of the Centro Cultural de La Raza in San Diego. We had moved to San Diego in 1974 when I took a position in the history department of UC San Diego. During the five years I served as Chair of the Centro Cultural Board, I met and interacted with dozens of Chicano artists and hundreds of community activists. I had the good fortune of meeting the Chicano artists and activists who secured Chicano Park for the Logan community in San Diego. My Chicano art education evolved daily, and I enjoyed the learning process as I interacted with the many talented Chicano and Chicana artists in Southern California who were documenting the Chicano experience through their creative works.



Cover of Printing the Revolution! Edited by E. Carmen Ramos. Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C., in association with Princeton University Press. 2020.

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Tecos empataron serie de playoffs vs. Astros

Campeón de Campeones Tigres vs. Broncos

Por Sendero Deportivo

El tricampeón Tecos en Liga Masters 50+, con victoria de 5-3 carreras igualó ante Astros la serie del playoffs final.

Por Tecos ganó el abridor derecho Beto Ubaldo, quién superó al abridor Chris Hux y al relevista Chris Lee.

El tercer partido se jugará este domingo 6 de febrero en el campo 2 del Potranco Baseball Field.

"El partido lo dedicamos en memoria del señor José Ángel Castillo, padre de nuestro compañero Mario Castillo. Entramos al terreno de juego con mentalidad de ganar. Ahora estamos mayormente motivados para el tercer partido", dijo el manager Jorge Damian quién tiene cómo segundo de abordo al ex lanzador derecho

profesional Chorejas Velázquez. Cabe anotar que al final del partido Tecos tras felicitar deportivamente a su rival, a un lado de la tercera base se unieron incados en oración por el eterno descanso del buen amigo don José Ángel Castillo (QEPD). "En Tecos todos somos hermanos", dijo Luis Alfonso Velázquez (Chorejas).

Astros dirigidos por Pedro Espinoza y Catarino Obregón, indicaron que fue un gran partido ya que en la primera entrada marcaron tres carreras, que los puso en la pelea por ganar el campeonato. Sin embargo el pitcheo de Tecos logró contener su artillería y a la vez errores durante el resto del cotejo les impidió avanzar en la pizarra lo cual Tecos aprovecho. "Para el tercer partido vendremos

con todo y optimistas de ganar", apuntó Espinoza.

En liga Veteranos se jugó partido amistoso entre Broncos de Reynosa SA y el campeón Red Sox que perdieron con pizarra de 6-4 carreras.

De acuerdo al presidente Simón Sánchez este sábado 5 de febrero arranca la temporada invernal Veteranos 2022 con partidos en los horarios 11am Red Sox vs Broncos. 2:30 pm Flying Chancas vs Cachorros de Nava.

En partido amistoso este domingo 6 de febrero inter ligas denominado Campeón de Campeones entre Los Tigres de Luis Cerros recientemente coronado en Liga Abierta dominical Potranco y Broncos de Reynosa SA de Roberto Garza, primer campeón

de temporada Liga Semi-Pro Potranco 2021, se medirán en el campo 1 del estadio Potranco en el horario de las 2pm.

Cerros tendrá de coach al ex ligamayor Esequiel Pérez y Garza al valioso jugador Freddy García. La invitación es para toda la afición de San Antonio ya que ambos equipos son de gran calibre, lo cual tiene el aval del artista Eloy Rocha gerente general y el presidente Simón Sánchez.

En partidos amistosos en Liga Abierta dominical Potranco, los aficionados se deleitaron viendo los partidos de Rookies vs. Mets y Charros Potosinos vs. Rieleros.

Así como en el circuito Semi-Pro entre Tuzos de Palaú y el novato Mount Olympus. Logrando imponerse Tuzos dirigidos por

José Cruz quién es todo un experto en el rey de los deportes, quién alternó con el coach Roberto Villarreal "La Yerba" de renombre internacional.

Garza, convoca a los aficionados para que apoyen torneo "Amor y Amistad" a jugarse el fin de semana 26 y 27 de febrero entre los equipos registrados Broncos, Mineros. Piratas de Sabinas y Tuzos. Todo bajo la coordinación del Chicharito organizadores principal.

En las fotos aparecen: Tecos haciendo oración en memoria del señor José Ángel Castillo.

Astros y Tecos en saludo Deportivo. El campeón Broncos y el monarca Tigres.

(Fotos de Franco)



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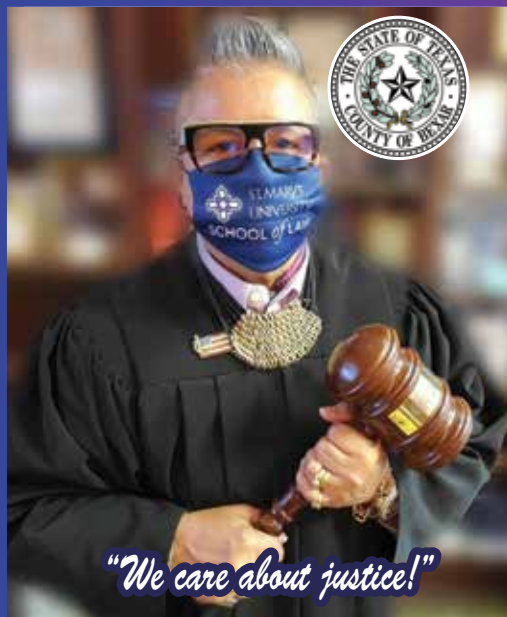
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FREEDOM FROM PARENTAL CUSTODY AND CONTROL

THE MATTER OF PETITION OF:

Pedro Joaquin Rodriguez Mora

CASE NUMBER:

FFCVS2000010

Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino

To Donald Alexandro Preciado-Lett and to all persons claiming to be the father or mother of minor persons named Joshua Donald Zendejas Lett and Abbiegail Merie Zendejas Lett. By order of this Court you are hereby cited and advised that you may appear before the Judge Presiding in Department B, Barstow Court, 235 East Mountain View St., Barstow, CA 92311 of the above-entitled court on April 1, 2022 at 1:30pm of that day, then and there to show cause, if any you have, why said person should not be declared free from the control of (his/her) (their) parents according to the petition on file herein.

If the Court finds that the interest of the minor(s) requires his or her protection, the Court shall appoint counsel to represent the minor(s). Such counsel shall be appointed whether or not the minor(s) is able to afford counsel. If you appear without counsel and are unable to afford counsel, the Court shall appoint counsel for you if you request appointed counsel.

The purpose of this action, to free the minor(s) from the custody of (his/her) (their) parent(s), is to permit the adoption of said minor(s) to a suitable adopting parent. The Court may continue these proceedings, not to exceed thirty (30) days, as necessary to appoint counsel and enable counsel to become familiar with these proceedings.



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The Westside Creeks Project is Moving from Vision to Reality

By Lourdes Galvan, San Antonio River Authority Board of Directors, District 2

As a long-time resident of the west side of San Antonio, and as someone who has dedicated much of my life to being a passionate advocate for positive change for the community I serve, I am excited by the recent announcement from the San Antonio River Authority (River Authority) regarding the Westside Creeks Ecosystem Restoration Project (Westside Creeks). On January 20th, the River Authority announced that the Westside Creeks has received the full federal share of the project funding through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Work Plan (Work Plan). This is a major announcement that holds significant promise for our community!

The \$75 million allocated in the USACE Work Plan will fund the federal share of the remaining design and the subsequent construction of the project. As local project sponsor, the River Authority will continue to work closely with the USACE to jointly lead the Westside Creeks through design and construction along with Bexar County, which will provide most of the local funding for the project, and the City of San Antonio, which has already invested in hike and bike trails along the Westside Creeks.

The recent funding announcement came as the result of years of hard work, and there is now much more work ahead as the Westside Creeks is moving from a vision to a reality. The Westside Creeks is a community-based ecosystem restoration effort started in 2008 by the River Authority. At that time, Roberto Rodriguez represented the west side on the River Authority Board of Directors, and his initial leadership should be credited with advocating for this transformative project.

I have kept the Westside Creeks as my top priority since being elected to the River Authority Board of Directors in 2013. So, I am particularly pleased with the progress that has occurred over the past year. This recent \$75 million announcement of USACE Work Plan funds to design and construct the Westside Creeks follows the June 2021 announcement where the President's Budget included the initial tranche of Preconstruction Engineering Design

funding for the project. President Biden's support of the Westside Creeks last year was a significant milestone for the project, and it clearly paved the way for the recent federal funding announcement which is undoubtedly tied to the Administration's plan to invest in environmental justice and equitable economic opportunities across the country. This project is in the heart of our west side community, which is predominantly made up of Hispanic residents who have, for far too long, been overlooked economically and environmentally. Once this ecosystem restoration project is completed, the west side will finally have access to the health, recreational, and economic benefits of local waterways, which will vastly improve the quality of life for our community.

If you are unaware of the project details, the Westside Creeks aims to restore the tributaries to the San Antonio River that were previously channelized for flood risk mitigation purposes. This project is of great significance to the west side community, as it will transform 11 miles of Alazán, Apache, Martinez, and San Pedro creeks by restoring the aquatic and riparian ecosystems of creeks, including 222 acres of native aquatic and riparian vegetation that will be replanted with native grasses, wildflowers, and trees. While reconstructing the creeks into more natural channels, the Westside Creeks will also maintain the present level of flood mitigation protection. The ecosystem restoration components of the project will also include additional recreation benefits that will be incorporated into the existing hike and bike trails that the River Authority constructed in cooperation with the City of San Antonio's linear creekway trail system.

The Westside Creeks is very similar to the wonderful ecosystem restoration work that was completed nearly ten years ago on the south side along the Mission Reach of the San Antonio River Walk. In fact, the Westside Creeks will complete the restorative connection between the San Antonio River and the west side tributary creeks.

When completed, the Westside Creeks will provide significant environmental justice and community benefits, which are of greatest importance to me and the community I serve. These benefits will include improving envi-



ronmental and water quality conditions; promoting comprehensive watershed management; advancing neighborhood transportation safety; providing access to outdoor, environmental recreation activities in the heart of San Antonio's west side community; and reconnecting west side residents to these historically important creekway systems through an outdoor living classroom for students of all ages to explore and learn about a restored ecosystem.

I would like to thank my fellow River Authority board members for their continuing support of this project along with Derek Boese and Brian Mast of the River Authority staff for their tireless efforts to move this project forward. Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff, Precinct 2 Bexar County Commissioner Justin Rodriguez, and Precinct 1 Bexar County Commissioner Rebeca Clay-Flores have been long-time champions of the Westside Creeks and the financial support for the project from the Commissioners Court must be commended. The City's leadership must also be recognized for their support of the project, including Mayor Ron Nirenberg, District 5 Councilwoman Teri Castillo, District 1 Councilman Mario Bravo, and District 3 Councilwoman Phyllis Viagran. The Bexar County federal delegation has also strongly advocated for the project given four Congressional districts will benefit from the Westside Creeks, including Congressmen Henry Cuellar (TX-28), Lloyd Doggett (TX-35), Joaquin Castro (TX-20), and Tony Gonzales (TX-23).

While there is a moment to give thanks and congratulations to all who helped secure this critically important federal funding for the Westside Creeks, this moment is brief, because, as I've said, there is much more work ahead



to ensure the project is designed and constructed in a way that best benefits the residents of the west side of San Antonio. The next step in the process to move the Westside Creeks from vision to reality will be for the River Authority, as local sponsor of the project, to enter a contractual agreement with the USACE. It will likely take several months for the project contract to be agreed upon and signed. The design and construction timelines will be developed after the contracting work is completed. The River Authority will assist the USACE in the design and construction of the project together with local partners Bexar County and the City of San Antonio. This effort will also include a series of public meetings to engage the community in the design and construction of the project, which will be led by the River Authority, in collaboration with the USACE, local governmental partners, and the Westside Creeks Oversight Committee.

This is where you, the citizens, can join the two co-chairs, Robert Ramirez and Skye Curd, and the representatives of 20 local community organizations that comprise the Westside Creeks Oversight Committee. In the months and years ahead, the engineering and environmental experts at the River Authority and USACE will design and construct the project, and your input during the public meeting process will be encouraged. While the River Authority and USACE will be responsible for the ecosystem restoration aspects of the project that will result in environmental justice benefits to the community, the economic equity aspects that may be associated with this project, such as housing, job support, and small business

development, are outside the jurisdiction of the River Authority and USACE. This is where you can use your voice and share your equity ideas and solutions with Bexar County and the City of San Antonio, which are the governmental project partners that have the jurisdiction to tackle these important economic equity issues.

As an elected official, I know the representatives of Bexar County, the City of San Antonio, the River Authority, the federal delegation, and USACE want to hear from you and are seeking your continued support of this vital community project. The River Authority is in the process of updating the Westside Creeks Ecosystem Restoration Project website to include information in English and Spanish. Please visit westsidecreeks.com for more information about the project, project updates, and future public meeting announcements. I firmly believe the Westside Creeks is an incredibly important project that will be transformational for our west side community. I am inviting all west side residents to become informed and engaged in the ecosystem restoration design process and accompanying economic equity discussions.

Lourdes Galvan is a businesswoman and former San Antonio District 5 councilperson. She brings a wealth of experience in community service to the San Antonio River Authority. Ms. Galvan works as a business development specialist with Dependable Business Solutions. Galvan is excited about her role and has been a major supporter of the Westside Creeks Ecosystem Restoration Project for many years.

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Rick Davila

30 Years of Service

By Ramon Chapa, Jr.

As a U.S. Army Veteran, it was a tremendous honor representing La Prensa Texas at the 30 Year Voluntary Service of Rick Davila to the Fort Sam Houston Memorial Service Detachment. These distinguished volunteers ensure that no Military Veteran is ever buried alone. God Bless You Rick Davila for 30 great years! Thank You MSD Manny Mendoza for inviting La Prensa Texas. Among some of the dignitaries in attendance were State Senator Jose Menendez and Joseph Bray.

Rick Davila was born in La Vega, Dominican Republic. He graduated from Chandler High School and attended the University of Puerto Rico. Rick has fulfilled his life through many meaningful and worthwhile endeavors, especially those that benefit military veterans and activities.

Answering his Nation's call to duty, Rick joined the United States Army in 1955 and served faithfully and honorably in the areas of military police, field artillery, and military intelligence in a number of military posts in

the United States and Puerto Rico, various locations in South American countries and fourteen years in the Canal Zone. After his extensive and distinguished service, Rick retired as a Sergeant Major in 1988.

Rick continued his interest and desire to be involved in military activities, joined and became a life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1059 in San Antonio, and joined the Memorial Services Detachment in February 1992, just months after the MSD was chartered on December 17, 1991. During these 30 years, Rick has served in positions as Squad Leader, Vice Commander in 2001 and Commander in 2002.

Rick, in fulfilling his responsibilities in a distinguished manner with the MSD for 30 years, has participated in thousands of committal services. The Memorial Services Detachment, since its inception in December 1991 to the present time, has participated in rendering the final military salute to nearly 42,000 veterans being laid to



rest at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Each veteran's committal service is given the dignity, highest respect and solemnity it merits.

Tribute is being paid to Rick Davila for his thirty years of distinguished service. Members of the Memorial Services Detachment extend their sincere appreciation and hearty thanks for his distinguished service, his leadership and friendship.



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