

# LA PRENSA TEXAS

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29 de Diciembre de 2019



## Writing Our Own Histories

**Más Cuerpos. Sin Responsabilidad.**

Por Uchennaya Ogba

**The End of Segregation in a Southern Town**

By Dr. Ricardo Romo

**Niños recibieron juguetes en la Quinta Posada de El Corona La gerencia**

Por José I. Franco

**Can You De-escalate Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime?**

By RIGHT RESPONSE®

**PAX South 2020 Celebrates the Latinx Community and Diverse Developers**

By Kyle Prah

# 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...

## Community Resolutions

**By Yvette Tello**

*I spoke to an elderly lady who has lived in the same house or whole life on the westside of San Antonio. She shared with me that before she leaves this earth, she would love to see the potholes on her street repaired. She doesn't drive anymore but said it would be such a blessing for her neighbors to not suffer the recurring damage to their vehicles. (the potholes are bad). Her comadre chimed in and said she would like to see a park or community center closer to their homes for the kids to be able to have something to do instead of damaging property with graffiti. She said there's real talent in their work. What kind of change would you like to see in your community? What would you hope to accomplish? Let's talk about it..*

**Enrique Martin :**"Please relay to her that a simple call to 311 would start the process and her council member office should make sure it gets done in a timely manner. If they have called, her council members office should have helped. If she called 311 and it did not get fixed, then have her call her council member and request that person meet her at her home and show them the problem. If the council office doesn't help her, then you need to call troubleshooters and embar-



rass the council-member!! Because potholes are a quick easy fix by the city!!"  
**Benjamin Godina:** "I'd like to see homeowners, property managers and tenants take more responsibility for their way of living. It's a privilege to have housing. I would like to see neighbors be more neighborly and vigilant in addressing issues with other neighbors."  
**Angelica Gomez:**"I would like to see something done to help the homeless camps that are in the back of our neighborhood. They need somewhere to live and need help. There has to be somewhere they can do this at."  
**Sandra Garcia:**"I wish there were more evenings like National Night out where the whole city comes together on one night. This should be a quarterly event."  
**Jonathan Cruz:**"We need

to figure out how to fight this opioid epidemic. What can we do when this is happening in our neighborhoods? Not only is it getting a hold of our youth but its destroying our quality of living. We just look the other way. What else can we do?"  
**Anthony Diaz:** "I wish we could work together instead of tearing each other down. We are economically segregated and this is only getting worse. We need to build each other up. We need to love each other and care about what is happening to us. We have raised our children with a sense of entitlement. They have all these emotional problems that did not exist in the past. The bad stuff that happened to us, if it didn't kill us, it made us stronger. Now, our youth can't handle anything. Everyone

is offended. It used to be the norm to agree to disagree. Now, we want to force our opinions down everyone's throats and refuse to stop yelling about it. It is crazy. All this energy could be used in a positive productive way. We need to teach that bad things happen to good people sometimes. It is not right but it happens. Sometimes good people make mistakes. We need to stop judging people. These things could happen to any one of us at any time. Show love and compassion. It should be ok to share the act on social media or record yourself doing it. It may give someone else the idea to do the same. If we could get to know our neighbors and look out for one another, it would make this world a better place."



# About the Artist

## Cesar Martinez

By Ricardo Romo

Cesar Martinez grew up in Laredo, Texas and attended Texas A&M University at Kingsville. While at the Kingsville campus he formed friendships with several Latino artists who like himself, expressed in their paintings and drawings their own South Texas experience.

Together these South Texas artists constituted the early creative developers of the Chicano art movement. These artists included Carmen Lomas Garza, Santa Barraza, Amado Pena, and Jose Rivera. After graduation, Martinez moved to San Antonio, Texas where he joined San Antonio College art professor and artist Mel Casas in forming the famed Con Safos art group. Con Safos is widely considered the first Chicano art organization in Texas. Martinez' borderland environment greatly influenced his early artistic subjects. As a young teen Martinez crossed the border nearly every weekend to visit family, shop at the Gran Mercado (an open market that dated back to the 19th century), as well as attend bullfights at the Plaza de Toros. In some of



his early works, Martinez painted a jaguar, which represented Pre-Columbian Indigenous culture, in confrontation with a bull, which represented the Spanish newcomers to Mexico. Martinez considers himself a Mestizo, a blend of Indian and European cultures, an identity commonly accepted by Mexicans. In a well known self portrait, his facial features are divided: one half features a jaguar, while the opposite half is that of a bull. Martinez is probably best known for his "Bato" or "Pachuco" series. In his "El Pantalon Rosa" (1984), Martinez captures the essence of an iconic figure from his barrio in Laredo at a time when "Pachuquismo" was in vogue in many of the borderland barrios. The community

had several names for these stylish youth, including "Cholos" and "Chucos." The later term was a shortening of "Pachuco" and seemed to originate in El Paso. Looking carefully at the full range of Martinez' work, we find that not all his subjects fall into this category. As he explained to me, the source of many of his visual images of men and women come from dusty old high school yearbooks of the 1940s and 1950s and even the obituary pages of his hometown. Martinez is a prime interpreter of what it means to live in a society strongly influenced by Mexican, American, and border culture. His well known paintings include portraits of faith healer Pedro Jaramillo, bull fighters, and the Virgen de



Guadalupe.

Martinez's solo exhibition at the McNay Museum of San Antonio in 1999 was the first ever by a Latino. He has been included in CARA: Chicano Art: Resistance and Affirmation 1965-1985, organized by the Smithson-

ian Institute; and Hispanic Art in the United States, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. He has also shown at the Mexican Fine Arts Museum, Chicago; Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City; and the Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston.

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# EPA Report: Regulators Didn't Protect Community from Toxic Pollution after Harvey

**By Adrian Shelley**  
**Director, Public Citizen's Texas Office**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Inspector General released a report on agency response to air pollution concerns after Hurricane Harvey. The report noted that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), which is responsible for enforcing the state's environmental laws, did not cooperate with the EPA

inquiry.

The report shows what we all knew about Hurricane Harvey: a lack of air pollution monitoring and communication with the public put people at risk. EPA air monitoring, the Texas government and others were not deployed quickly enough to monitor when air pollution levels were likely highest. Official comments to the public stating no concern about air pollution were not supported by available air

monitoring data.

We hope that agency officials can learn from mistakes made during Hurricane Harvey and improve the response to the next big storm. But EPA's defiant response to the OIG's report suggests that the agency does not want to make necessary improvements.

TCEQ's refusal to cooperate with the report's authors leaves little hope that the state's response to the next storm will be any better.



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# THIS DAY IN LA PRENSA HISTORY

## Mexican Colonized History 1821-1993 A Brief and Partial Chronology of Texas

1859- 1901

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

**-1859.** the Cortina War in South Texas. Juan Cortina's crusade began as a personal vendetta in Brownsville, Texas against an Anglo sheriff who used unnecessary force that resulted in the death of one of his former ranch hands. Not receiving any justice, Cortina and his men protected and raided Texas towns exacting justice for Mexicans late into the 1870's.

**-1861-1865.** The Civil War. It is estimated that 9,900 Mexican Americans served in the Civil War. A large number of which from Texas served in both the Confederate and Union ranks. Author Jerry D. Thompson researched and wrote the only historical account of the Mexican American soldiers and officers who fought and died in various battles and conflicts along the Rio Grande River and frontier. The book contains appendices of both Confederate and Union soldiers. VAQUEROS in Boss Ony

**--1863.** President Abraham Lincoln delivers the Emancipation Proclamation.

--On Friday, November 13, 1863 in San Patricio, Texas, ninety-year old Chipita Rodriguez is hanged for murder. Her case is a classic example of Anglo racism. Chipita is convicted based on race and circumstantial evidence. Even though the town's citizens recanted the decision, the town's sheriff moved quickly to carry out the hanging.

**--1878.** El Paso Salt War. Mexicans in the El Paso area revolt and take up arms against the Anglo Texans who want to control the rich salt deposits used by the area population. However, the Anglos gained legal and political control of the salt deposits through legalized violence and bribery.

**--1901.** The Legend of Gregorio Cortez is founded. Cortez is mistakenly accused of horse stealing by a Karnes County Sheriff and pressured into a fight. In the process Cortez kills the sheriff in self-defense. He eludes capture for ten days and fights off posse's totaling hundreds of men. He is finally captured and sentenced to life imprisonment. After twelve years, Governor O.B. Colquitt reviewed the charges and issued a pardon to set him free.



LA ULTIMA PINCELADA

Esta notable reproducción en colores, formó parte del contingente de los Talleres Gráficos de México a la Exposición Iberoamericana de Sevilla, donde fué muy aplaudida por su tema original.



MEDIANOCHE

En la lejana bahía medioeval todo parece dormir. A la luz de la luna, los amantes se han dado cita en una desierta plazoleta donde sólo las frondas son testigos de sus juramentos de amor.



# PAX South 2020 Celebrates the Latinx Community and Diverse Developers

## Full 3-day Schedule and Exhibitor List Revealed

By Kyle Prah

For the first time in PAX history, PAX South 2020 will host initiatives celebrating the Latinx community and a range of diverse developers at the annual celebration of gaming culture taking place Jan. 17 – 19, 2020 at The Henry B. González Convention Center in San Antonio.

Elevating all creators and fans by promoting diversity and inclusion, PAX Together will offer a space for advocacy groups and marginalized game developers from a wide range of backgrounds to stand out from the crowd and share their

games with attendees. Developers featured on the show floor include Kitfox Games, Strange Scaffold, Rose City Games, and more. PAX Together is supported by Houston Gaymers and Red Bull.

In another first for PAX, Latinx in Gaming will host the Latinx Lounge, an inclusive space featuring 3 days of panels (some in Spanish), workshops, tournaments, networking opportunities, and 8 showcased international games. The initiative is supported by Red Bull, Unity, Twitch, and Microsoft.

Participating Latinx developers include Mecha Studio,

Level 99 Games, Navegante, Broadstrokes, Seashell Studio, The Stonebot Studio, Hyper-Beard Games, and Streamline Games. Panelists from BioWare, Microsoft, Gearbox Publishing, Ready at Dawn, and more will cover personal and professional topics central to the Latinx community.

The complete PAX South 2020 schedule and exhibitor list is now available via Guidebook through the PAX Mobile App for iOS and Android and the official PAX website. The Henry B. González Convention Center will host the hottest games from the likes of Larian Studios, Tiny Build, 3D Realms, Annapurna Interactive, Ysbryd Games, Inti Creates and tons of other renowned indie game developers.

Three-day badges for PAX South 2020 are available now for \$95, with single-day badges available for \$45.

For travel info, event schedules, FAQs, and more, check out the official website of PAX South and follow PAX on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. A Spanish version of the Latinx Lounge and PAX Together announcement is also available.

PAX, or Penny Arcade Expo, is a festival for gamers to celebrate gaming culture. First held in Seattle in 2004, PAX has nearly doubled in size each successive year, with PAX Prime 2014 selling out of tickets in a matter of minutes. Connecting the world's leading game publishers with their most avid and influential fans, PAX expanded with a second show

in Boston in 2010, and a third in San Antonio in 2015, making it the three largest gaming shows in North America. The first international PAX was

held in Melbourne, Australia in 2013. In 2017, Penny Arcade established PAX Unplugged, its first tabletop focused show, held in Philadelphia.

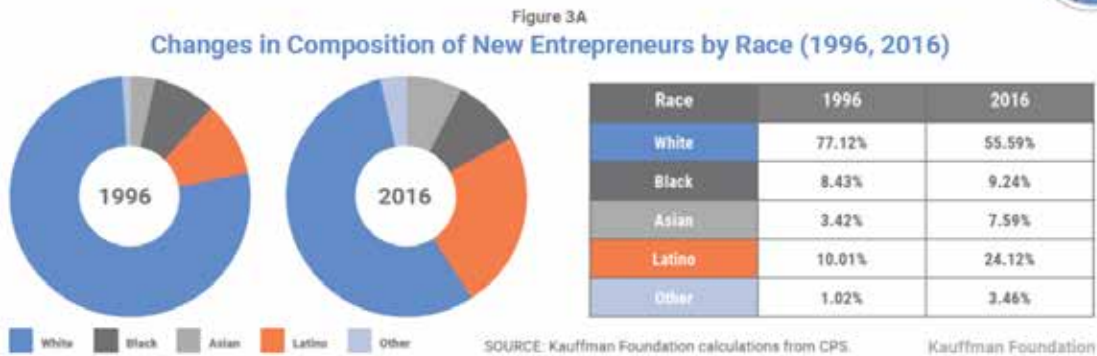
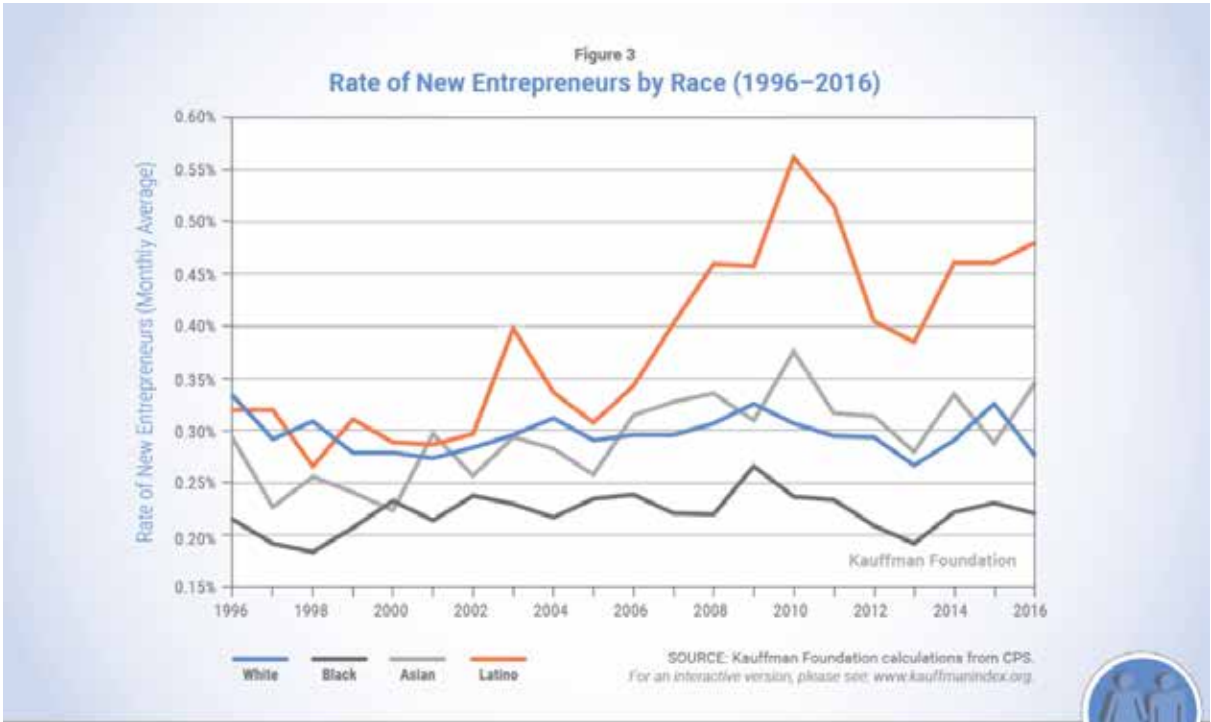




# Latino Entrepreneurship Growth

By Rogelio Sáenz, Ph.D. for National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders <https://nalcab.org/>

Over the last two decades, Latino new entrepreneurship activity has risen significantly, ahead of the level of growth of all other racial groups. This according to a report titled 2017 Kauffman Index of Startup Activity. Figure 3 above (from the report) shows the rate of new entrepreneurs by race between 1996 and 2016.2 The Latino rate of new business start-ups rose approximately 50 percent over this twenty-year period, outpacing the growth of the other three racial groups. Indeed, Latino rates of new business startups have been higher than those of the other groups every single year since 2002. In 2016, the new entrepreneurship rate of Latinos stood at 480 per 100,000 Latino adults, compared to 340 per 100,000 Asian adults, 280 per 100,000 White adults, and 220 per



100,000 Black adults.3 Given these trends, Latinos have expanded their share of the nation’s new entrepreneurs over the last two decades, rising from 10% in 1996 to 24% in 2016 (see Figure 3a above). Asians, Blacks, and the group designated as “Other” also increased their share among the country’s new business owners, although more modestly than Latinos. In contrast, the percent-

age share of Whites dropped from 77% in 1996 to 56% in 2016. It is important to realize that the Kauffman report focused exclusively on new business startups that took place in a given month during a particular year. The report clearly shows that Latinos are starting new businesses at a higher rate than other racial groups. Nonetheless, according to the 2016 Survey of Entrepreneurs, based on the

all firms (regardless of when they were started) with paid employees, Latinos accounted for 6.4% of all entrepreneurs in the country (compared to 80.1% for Whites, 10.4% for Asians, 2.2% for Blacks, and 0.9% for all other groups).4 We need to make sure that new Latino startups have the financial support to survive and to enhance further entrepreneurship activity in our Latino community.



By Leonard Rodriguez  
*This column highlights inspiring stories of Latino leaders. For more than 500 years, Latino men and women have positively influenced the face of United States society. Let us celebrate these outstanding hispanics.*



## Jellybean Benitez

Raised in the South Bronx in a poor. Broken family, Jellybean Benitez beat the odds. Dropping out of school, Benitez worked as a DJ where he met record producers who brought him demos to play. Accompanying them to the studios, he learned the industry. He became known as a record producer even though he had never cut a record. With the help of his mom who acted as his manager, he made his first record for \$400 and, more importantly, got his name on the label. Today, Benitez is the CEO and chairman of Jellybean Productions, Inc., a company that has produced records that have sold 1 billion copies worldwide for artists such as Michael Jackson, Billy Joel, Whitney Houston and Madonna. (Photo Courtesy of <https://mn2s.com/booking-agency/dj-roster/jellybean-benitez/>)

# African American Fund

## Grows Support of Small Business Ownership

By Bobby Blount

The San Antonio Area African American Community Fund (SAAAACF) is contributing an additional \$35,000 to LiftFund to promote and fund loans to African American small business owners and entrepreneurs in the San Antonio area.

The current gift adds to the \$25,000 that the SAAAACF provided in 2017 as the inaugural gift to the Dream Makers Fund, a LiftFund initiative to close the capital lending gap in the African American community. The fund is intended to self-renew as entrepreneurs pay back the loan, creating a perpetual method of support for other small businesses in the community.

"Black-owned businesses struggle to get loans from traditional financial institutions," said Bobby Blount, chair of the San Antonio Area African American Fund, a charitable fund hosted by the San Antonio Area Foundation. "Our fund intends to increase its support for the Dream Makers Fund year-over-year so that local entrepreneurs can remain financially stable and grow their businesses."

The African American Fund's funding partnership with LiftFund, a community small business lender, is part of a growing trend in philanthropy called impact investing where charitable institutions are investing in companies, organizations and funds to generate a social impact and financial return for

the private sector borrower, the nonprofit lender, and the broader community.

Here is how it works. LiftFund raises the capital through donors such as the San Antonio Area African American Fund. An African American small business owner applies for and receives a loan from LiftFund at an affordable interest rate. The loan is repaid, and interest revenue covers loan administration expenses and is also reinvested in the permanent revolving loan program, the Dream Makers Fund.

In addition to the financial contribution, SAAAACF's partnership with LiftFund will strengthen Black-owned businesses through education opportunities and capacity building programs.

"Through the Dream Makers Fund, our donors like the SAAAACF, are able to see how their money is impacting our local economy by creating and retaining jobs in and for underserved communities," said Janie Barrera, chief executive officer of LiftFund. "It is a win-win for everybody and a powerful marriage of economic empowerment and philanthropy."

The results indicate the fund is making a difference, reporting that in just one quarter of 2019, 15 small business owners were provided coaching services, and another 47 with consultation and business services from LiftFund and its partners. Nearly a half-dozen businesses have been funded since the inception of the

program, prompting the expansion to reach more entrepreneurs and continue the march toward equitable opportunities for business ownership.

In addition to creating jobs, entrepreneurs donate 50 percent more to charity than non-business owners, according to a report by Fidelity Charitable.

"If we want to sustain nonprofit organizations in the future, then we should be expanding opportunities for small businesses today," said Marjie M. French, president and CEO of the San Antonio Area Foundation. "We are proud to support the SAAAACF's innovative and long-term approach to growing philanthropy in and for the African American community."

Funding for the Dream Makers Fund, which has raised \$1.5 million to date in San Antonio, Dallas and Houston, is provided to underserved small business

owners in those target communities. Interested applicants can apply through LiftFund at [www.liftfund.com](http://www.liftfund.com).

About the San Antonio Area African American Community Fund (SAAAACF): The mission of the SAAAACF is to promote and advocate for financial philanthropy to enhance the quality of living of the African American community in the San Antonio Area. SAAAACF provides annual grants to nonprofits that serve African Americans in arts/culture, community development, education, health and social/human services. In addition, SAAAACF supports African American-owned businesses through a partnership with LiftFund. SAAAACF is a charitable fund hosted at the San Antonio Area Foundation and led by volunteer steering committee of civic, nonprofit and business leaders. Learn more at

[saaaacf.org](http://saaaacf.org).

LiftFund, a community small business lender, transforms lives by opening doors and leveling the financial playing field in entrepreneurship. We provide responsible capital and education to business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs. Since inception, LiftFund has supported over 4,500 San Antonio small business owners with over \$65.6 million in capital. Founded in 1994 in San Antonio, Texas, LiftFund has grown from serving a single community to 13 states today, including some of the most economically segregated communities in our country. To learn more about LiftFund, visit [www.liftfund.com](http://www.liftfund.com).

About the San Antonio Area Foundation: The San Antonio Area Foundation has served as the sole, designated community foundation for the San Antonio area for over half a century, growing to become one of the top 20 foundations in the nation based on asset size. The Area Foundation helps donors achieve their charitable goals, managing more than 500 charitable funds approaching \$1 billion in assets. Coordinating efforts with numerous area nonprofits, the Area Foundation serves as a collaborative leader, connecting donors to address key community issues and investing in our future. Since 1964, over \$400 million in scholarships and grants have been awarded to enhance the quality of life in our region. Learn more at [saafdn.org](http://saafdn.org).



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# Niños recibieron juguetes en la Quinta Posada de El Corona

## La gerencia ofreció cena, rezó del Rosario y Matachines del Tepeyac

Por José I. Franco

Con el éxito deseado la gentil dama Manuela “Mely” López, propietaria y gerente general del centro de diversión El Corona Nite Club, ofreció su Quinta Posada Navideña. La admisión fue gratis, por lo que una vez más familias de escasos recursos económicos aprovecharon para disfrutar de todos los eventos programados.

Por primera ocasión Mely López, decidió ofrecer bocadillos a los asistentes, los pequeños obtuvieron hot-dogs, con una bolsa de papas fritas y refresco. Los adultos, se deleitaron con sabrosos tamales y frijoles charros, lo cual les dio energía para aguantar

la variada programación que tuvo duración de cinco horas.

“Durante el transcurso del año, fui comprando poco a poco, los mil juguetes que está noche se entregaron. Lo mismo se logró obtener patrocinio de la tienda Botas 2 Potrillos (hizo donativo de varios pares de botas), y de la compañía CTR Construction LLC, del señor Juan Manny Castor (donó bicicletas para adultos y menores)”, a ellos les damos las gracias, dijo la señora López.

De igual manera la señora López, reconoció el trabajo voluntario del personal que labora en el mencionado centro de diversión, así como de personalidades

de la radio local, entre ellos el popular locutor Juan Martínez de Radio Norteño (quien ayudó en la coordinación de los eventos), con especial reconocimiento para su hermana Gloria González, los DJ's, Ángel y Mona Show Robot. Los payasos Papayito Show, “Rubin”, Mascotin, Mony y Claudia.

Los pequeños y adultos, estuvieron recibiendo sus respectivos juguetes (en su entrada al recinto), y boletos para cena, rifas de las botas y bicicletas. Por Botas 2 Potrillos, estuvieron activos como voluntarios los representantes Nancy y Micho. Los payasitos Papayito y Rubin, organizaron

entre niños y niñas la competencia de jalar la cuerda, misma que fue ganada por las princesitas. Además de actos de magia, lo cual les redituó emotivas ovaciones.

En el intermedio del programa, se estuvieron rifando botas y bicicletas, y a la vez se rezó Rosario en honor de la Virgen de Guadalupe. Posteriormente hizo su colorida entrada el grupo cultural Matachines del Tepeyac Gruta de Lourdes. Los asistentes con fervor siguieron estos dos eventos.

“Con nuestra posada navideña, le estamos retribuyendo al público su patrocinio que durante el año nos da, asistiendo a las espectaculares present-

aciones de famosos grupos musicales (también música de DJ), que se disfrutaban bailando y escuchando durante los días viernes, sábados y domingos. Seguiremos adelante complaciendo a nuestra clientela, y participando en actividades de beneficio aquí en el sector del Westside”, dijo la gerente general Mely López.

“La señora Mely López, se ha distinguido por ser una persona que gusta ayudar a la comunidad del Westside. Ella, es una persona de fe y trabajadora, quien se merece nuestro respaldo, respeto y admiración, tanto por su incansable labor de crear empleos y brindar oportunidades en la rama del espectáculo local e internacional”, indicó la señora Pauline Franco, promotora y presidenta de Franco & Franco Entertainment Inc. (Fotos por Franco).





# The End of Segregation

By Ricardo Romo

A story that is not well known is how San Antonio Tech High School was a prime model of racial harmony and ethnic tolerance in the city during the years 1955-1965.

In these years many southern cities experienced racial strife associated with the struggle by Black Americans to gain equality with other Americans. Conflict was the norm rather than the exception in the civil rights struggle made famous by Martin Luther King and thousands of his followers.

We are familiar with images of police suppressing peaceful demonstrations with tear gas, at times sending vicious dogs to attack Black protesters in cities like Selma and Birmingham

Alabama.

Tech High School is well known because it was the first high school in the city. Tech opened its doors in 1882 under the name San Antonio High School. When my dad graduated from Tech in 1940, it was called San Antonio Vocational and Technical School.

After World War II Tech began to change demographically. As white families moved to the suburbs and the northside in the late 1940s and 1950s, few Anglo students attended Tech.

While the Brown vs. Board of Education U.S. Supreme Court decision in 1954 outlawed racial segregation in the U.S. public schools, Jim Crow laws which denied Blacks the rights to eat in restaurants and sit with Latinos

and Whites at football games and movie theaters, persisted until the passage of the 1965 Civil Rights Act.

San Antonio Tech High School opened its doors to Black students in 1954, nearly a decade before most Southern school districts had permitted such a practice. At Tech, Black students sat with Latino and White students in the classrooms, in the cafeteria, and in football and basketball arenas.

The peaceful integration of Tech High School was consistent with the efforts of Black religious leaders, city officials, and the military to

make San Antonio a model city for racial harmony.

Many San Antonio schools, including Tech were among the first in the American South to fully integrate. Sometime after 1955 African Americans began to enroll at Tech. Tech students proved to the state and nation that Black, Latino, and White students could learn side by side in the same classroom. The Tech classes of 1955--1965 did their part in erasing the city's racial divide. Tech H.S. taught me much about racial harmony. Growing up in the Westside I had limited opportunities to interact

with African Americans. My elementary school was 100 percent Mexican American. Lanier H.S., which was in my neighborhood, was also 100 percent Mexican American. Thankfully, my parents taught me to respect others and made it clear that they considered racial bias and prejudice wrong.

Tech in the 1955-1965 era was unique in that Tech High School was one of the few schools that Blacks choose to enroll in. I was fortunate to witness a successful social experiment--that of racial integration. This experiment served as an important lesson



MARTINEZ, THEODORE--D. E.; D. E. Club; ROTC.

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Yncian,  
Lupe

Wells,  
Esther  
Zamora,  
Edward

Wells,  
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Woodard,  
Robert  
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Mary

Wright,  
Geraldine  
Zepeda,  
Connie

Ybarra,  
George  
Zertuche,  
Lupe





# on in a Southern Town

for my education and for my coming of age. At Tech I learned that diversity made us better.

Tech's central location in downtown San Antonio also contributed to our better understanding of the world around us. The Anglo, Latino, Black, and Asian shops and restaurants downtown gave us an appreciation and taste of the city's rich diversity. Almost none of the Tech students lived near the school, therefore there were a dozen residential corridors represented at Tech High.

Most students who attended Tech used public bus transportation. I took the Buena Vista bus in the mornings and left in the afternoons via the Guadalupe bus. The morning bus left us downtown and it was there that we returned after school to catch our bus home.

In the 1950s and 1960s downtown was where all the action was. It was also the place where much of the commercial segregation occurred and where the majority of desegregation protests took place. All of the downtown theaters practiced segregation. For example, Blacks were not allowed to sit with White patrons on the first floor of the Majestic and Aztec theaters. They were required to enter both theaters through a back door in the alley and sit in their own separated section in the balcony.

In 1960 several Tech students, including my friend

Joley Mason, a member of our basketball team, stood

with others in front of the Aztec Theater to protest segregation. I worked after

school, so I only joined them on a few occasions, but the experience made me more aware of the inequities that persisted in our U.S. society.

Segregation became unlawful with the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1965. I truly believe that we are a better city because of the ear-

lier efforts of students from Tech High who did their part to promote equality and fairness.

*(Photo by Ricardo Romo)*





# Can You De-escalate Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime?

By **RIGHT RESPONSE**  
®

## Principle-Based De-escalation

### Home De-escalation Safety Training

Elderly often get upset and have crisis which needs de-escalation. When more family members gather for the holidays, de escalation is something to remember when family drama ensues. Save that drama for the movies and de normalize family conflict because we all deserve peace. Is it really possible to de-escalate anyone, anywhere, anytime? Yes!

Imagine yourself dealing with any scenario with anyone, anywhere, with confidence and long-term foresight. This is possible with a Principle-Based approach to de-escalation.

Firstly, What is Not De-escalation?

Always remember that someone who is escalated is under stress and not likely to think clearly. Trying to force the situation to resolve as to how and when you want it is not likely to de-escalate that situation. This is not a good time to expect the escalated person to easily engage in learning, problem solving discussions or debriefing the situation.

De-escalation is all about helping and improving a situation. It is not about making it worse so avoid any actions which will escalate the situation. What that might be really de-

pends on the circumstances and the people involved.

Well, could just about any action make the situation better or make it worse? The fact is that something that works for one person or in one setting may not help all others.

What, Then, is De-escalation?

De-escalate [ dee-es-kə-leyt ]: reduce the intensity of (a conflict or potentially violent situation).

When you de-escalate someone or some situation, you act to improve the situation (and not make it worse.) Your intervention might be something you do, something you say or even choosing to do or say nothing. Just about anything could be the right response. You definitely want to avoid the wrong response. The wrong response can make the situation worse! "One Response Does Not Fit All"

This is where you come in. De-escalation Skills involve the expertise to assess a situation, determine a supportive approach and the ability to implement the solution which successfully de-escalates the situation. The following process is particularly important:

Assess - the situation to determine the level of escalation, risks and source of conflict

Adapt - develop a specific approach to addressing the assessed problem

Attend - implement the plan with your selected de-escalation techniques

Note: This is a continual process. Continue to re-assess the situation in order to respond effectively. Whether you improve or worsen the situation or make no impact at all, you will only be able to have the right response when you continually assess and respond accordingly.

A common misconception of de-escalation skills is that you can learn a specific technique and it will always de-escalate the person in front of you. It is not uncommon to hear people say, "I usually do \_\_\_\_\_, but this one time it didn't work."

The same technique will not always work because different people have different needs. You can even take the same two people and the same issue and the situation may resolve differently on a different day. You will be most effective when you can adapt in the moment to the needs of the person you're trying to support. The only response that works every time is the right response for that specific situation.

What is Principle-Based De-escalation?

Good question! There is no "little black book" of phrases that you can just conjure that will make people de-escalate. If everyone is so different that all have different needs, how is it even possible to de-escalate anyone?!?

What you need are Universal Principles which apply to any age person,

any level of ability or disability, and any setting. A Principle-Based approach to de-escalation is effective because it guides you in any situation, no matter who you deal with.

#### De-escalation Tips

##### Self-Care

You have to take care of yourself in order to help anyone else. Learn more about the importance of Self-Care.

##### Self Assessment

Am I in control of my Stress Level?

Is this situation something that I can deal with at this time?

Am I the right person to intervene?

##### Adapt Yourself

What have you noticed about your stress level during a conflict?

How would you adapt your paralanguage to the situation?

How might you use the 3 Guiding Principles in your response?

How would you see the situation from their perspective or experience?

##### Supporting Others

So what if the person is upset?

When is it okay, or is it ever okay to be upset?

Do I need to respond?

Do I recognize if the person is able to manage the demands of the environment?

##### Maintain Safety

Assess Level of Escalation  
Avoid Unnecessary Triggers

Basic Principles of De-escalation

Only Use Physical Inter-

vention to Maintain Safety  
Manage the Environment  
Safety

Identify Escape Route

Identify Unsafe areas

Teamwork

Who takes the lead?

What if I am by myself?

How is the team's communication?

Does the team know the plan?

Do we recognize when there is a power struggle?

Check out the free de-escalation eBook at <https://rightresponse.org/de-escalation-skills>.

If you are new to de-escalation, this book will introduce the guiding principles that form the basis for today's professional behavioral interventions and emergency response protocols. If you are experienced, this book will serve as a valuable affirmation or even help you fuse together varied, previous trainings into a consistent and potent practice.

De-escalation-ebook-coverDownloads:

34,317 in 121 countries

Remain in control at all times.

Support anyone, anywhere, with any issue.

Avoid the wrong response which can make the situation worse.

Imagine dealing with any situation. Learn 5 surprises and 3 Guiding Principles, that will allow you to remain in control at all times, support anyone, anywhere, with any issue, and avoid the wrong response which can make the situation worse.



# Más Cuerpos. Sin Responsabilidad. Toque la declaración de la nación Pilam Coahuiltecan sobre el descubrimiento de más cuerpos en el Álamo

**Por Uchennaya Ogba**  
**Traducido por LPT**

La Nación Tap Pilam Coahuiltecan, a través de una solicitud de registros abiertos presentada el lunes, obligó a la Oficina General de Tierras de Texas y a Alamo Trust Inc. a publicar una declaración anunciando el descubrimiento de restos humanos esqueléticos completos descubiertos por los trabajadores durante la semana de Acción de Gracias en el Álamo cementerio. Los restos encontrados parecen ser indicativos de un adolescente o un adulto joven, un bebé y un adulto grande. Esta información no se habría divulgado si no se hubiera presentado la Solicitud de registros abierta.

A pesar de las innumerables solicitudes de divulgación completa por parte de la nación Tap Pilam Coahuiltecan, Texas GLO y Alamo Trust Inc. han ocultado intencionalmente los descubrimientos de cuerpos en el cementerio de Alamo. Confiamos en que cuando los documentos de solicitud de registros abiertos estén oficialmente disponibles, habrá múltiples casos de restos humanos descubiertos en el sitio.

“Como residentes de la ciudad de San Antonio, no

podemos estar de acuerdo con las acciones de Texas GLO y Alamo Trust Inc para perturbar los cementerios sagrados de nuestros parientes y antepasados”, dice Ramón Vásquez, portavoz de la Nación Tap Pilam Coahuiltecan, “Esto es una desgracia y no podemos continuar permitiendo la profanación de nuestro cementerio sagrado”.

La solicitud de registros abiertos es la segunda iniciada el 9 de diciembre de 2019 por Tap Nationa Coahuiltecan Tap, como parte de una demanda federal presentada a principios de septiembre que abordó directamente El concejal de la ciudad de San Antonio, Roberto Trevino, y el CEO de Alamo Trust, Douglas McDonald, como promotores de la información errónea, instan a los funcionarios de la ciudad a seguir adelante con los planes de desarrollo del Complejo Alamo propuesto.

La Comisión de Revisión de Diseño Histórico expresó recientemente sus problemas con los planes de desarrollo al presentar una votación sobre el diseño para la primera fase del plan de reurbanización de Alamo. La razón: quieren saber el resultado de la demanda antes de seguir adelante.

La nación Tap Pilam Coahuiltecan exige que la construcción cese de inmediato hasta que el Protocolo de Restos Humanos se ejecute adecuadamente y se honre a los muertos enterrados en el terreno sagrado.

**ACERCA DE LA NACIÓN TAP PILAM COAHUILTECAN**

La Nación Tāp Pīlam Coahuiltecan es una comunidad tribal de bandas y clanes afiliados de Payaya, Pacoa, Borrado, Pakawan, Paguame, Papanac, Hierbiame, Xarame, Pajalat, naciones Tilijae y otros, modernamente conocidos como Coa. Nuestra patria tradicional consiste en los límites políticos de hoy en día como Texas, Coahuila, Tamaulipas, Nuevo León y el norte de Potosí. Somos personas de dos países y hemos sido considerados por ambos como extranjeros en nuestra propia patria. Obtenga más información en [tappilam.org](http://tappilam.org). Done a nuestro GoFundMe - [bit.ly/2Mk9ciF](http://bit.ly/2Mk9ciF) y firme nuestra petición - [bit.ly/2YiFVey](http://bit.ly/2YiFVey)

Si desea obtener más información sobre este tema, comuníquese con Uchennaya Ogba al 210-978-4637 o envíe un correo electrónico a [uche@ehcupr.com](mailto:uche@ehcupr.com).

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Questions? Email [makerfaresat@gmail.com](mailto:makerfaresat@gmail.com)

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**ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT**  
**Purchasing & Contract Administration**  
Office: (210) 485-0100 Fax: (210) 486-9022

**ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT BID/PROPOSAL INVITATION**

The Alamo Colleges District is receiving sealed bids/proposals prior to 2:00 PM (CST), unless otherwise indicated, on the dates shown.

CSP# 20A-007 PURCHASE OF ANALYTICS ADVISORY, DATA ASSESSMENT AND TABLEAU DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
Deadline: January 21, 2020

Specifications are available by visiting Alamo College's District website: [www.alamo.edu/district/purchasing/bids](http://www.alamo.edu/district/purchasing/bids). For more information, contact Purchasing and Contract Administration (210) 485-0100.





Precinct 2 Commissioner  
Justin Rodriguez

Wishing everyone a  
Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year!

Pol. Adv. Pd. for by Justin Rodriguez Campaign

# LA PRENSA TEXAS

The staff at La Prensa Texas wishes you and yours a Happy New Year! We are so thankful for our community and family. This is our paper and we are all doing our part to keep this iconic publication alive and a strong platform for the voices of our communities. Let's make 2020 the best year yet, as we begin production on Volume 3 of this non profit publication. Please share your stories with our editor at [r.eguia@laprensatexas.com](mailto:r.eguia@laprensatexas.com)  
We want to hear from you <3

**Museo**  
DEL WESTSIDE

CALL FOR STORIES & PHOTOS

## Women & Activism in the Westside

One hundred years ago, on June 4, 1919, Congress passed the 19th Amendment, prohibiting the states and the federal government from denying the right to vote to citizens of the United States on the basis of sex. A year later it was ratified on August 18, 1920 and became official law on August 26, 1920. However, voting rights continued to be denied to people on the basis of racial and ethnic origin for years to come, making this a bittersweet victory for the many women of color who fought for women's suffrage.

In Summer 2020, to mark the centennial of the 19th Amendment, the Museo del Westside will present a new exhibit on Women & Activism in the Westside - our way of telling the fuller story of women's political engagement despite the obstacles. If you have a story of a Westside woman activist you'd like to share for this project, please contact [museo@esperanzacenter.org](mailto:museo@esperanzacenter.org) or 210-228-0201.

OPENING SUMMER 2020

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# San Antonio All-Stars, con éxito celebró gira navideña internacional

## En doble partido vs. Selección Palaú, donaron juguetes a pequeños aficionados

--Por Sendero Deportivo

Una vez más el trahuco San Antonio All-Stars, realizó exitosa gira internacional con motivos de los tradicionales festejos navideños, visitando la comunidad de la entidad Palaú, estado de Coahuila, México.

“Las Estrellas de San Antonio”, bajo la dirección del triunfador timonel Rodrigo (Lolo) Rodríguez, con el aval de los jugadores Johnny López y Antonio (El Morris) Ramírez, hicieron la visita al estadio Cupsa de Mimosa, donde en el doble partido “Clásico Navideño 2019”, se enfrentaron al seleccionado municipal de Palaú.

De acuerdo a Johnny López, San Antonio fue bien representado con peloteros de gran calibre en su alineación contó con jugadores de experiencia y novatos, quienes a la par participaron en la repartición de juguetes, mismos que fueron donados por diversas personas y los directivos de San Antonio All-Stars contándose entre ellos a López, Ramírez y el manager Lolo Rodríguez.

All-Stars, gusta de estrechar lazos amistosos y deportivos, por lo que cada temporada navideña, visitan diferentes regiones del vecino estado (Coahuila), para a la vez jugar partidos amistosos y entregar juguetes (empacados), a pequeños aficionados que acuden acompañados de personas mayores.

“Agradecemos el respaldo que una vez más nos dio la gente de San Antonio (Liga de Béisbol Potranco), y beisbolistas que nos acompañaron en la gira. Ver caritas felices es lo que más nos motiva para continuar adelante en este programa deportivo”, indico Johnny López.

En nota escrita por Juan Carlos Sandoval, del diario Zócalo, proporcionada a Sendero Deportivo por Johnny López, se incluye la siguiente información. El encuentro deportivo se hizo en memoria



de las grandes leyendas del barrio Las Milas (ciudad de Palaú). Mundo Ramírez, Maleño Ramírez y Chevo Ramírez, lo que gracias a ellos han salido destacados beisbolistas de este mineral (Palaú se ubica en la zona carbonífera del norte de Coahuila). Y por ello en su memoria permanecerá inalterable por los grandes amantes del “rey de los deportes”.

En lo que se refiere el encuentro las Estrellas de San Antonio Texas, se llevaron los dos juegos ante el selectivo local de Palaú. En el primer juego se lució en el montículo Junior Novoa, el cual en salida permitió ninguna carrera recetando 13 ponches, para ser relevado en la séptima entrada en la loma de los trallazos por Edgar Rincón. Por lo que las Estrellas de San Antonio Blanquearon feamente al selectivo local, por foja de 10-0.



El pitcher perdedor, Gustavo Gómez, tuvo que aguantar las dos carreras que le anotaron en la primera entrada el equipo de Estrellas. Aunque no por ello se dejó de reconocer los mejores bateadores de Palaú, entre ellos: Carlos Iglesias Jr. que pegó de 2-2, José Ruiz de 1-1 y Carlos Sánchez de 1-1.

Por San Antonio los más sobresalientes al bat, fueron: Javier Ramírez y Ratón Nájera (4-2 ambos), Juan Luis Pérez y José Ramírez (de 5-2).

En la parte complementaria de este partido, las Estrellas

llevaban ventaja de 4-0 en la quinta entrada, pero en el cierre de ésta, los de Palaú hicieron dos carreras, y luego en la sexta empataban dramáticamente el encuentro.

La emoción por dividir el encuentro acabó en la novena entrada los de San Antonio anotaron dos carreras más (6-4), cerrando el pitcher Junio Novoa toda la esperanza para los locales, no permitiéndoles que sacaran ninguna carrera, culminando por pizarra de 6-5 carreras el segundo episodio de esta novela.



Cabe mencionar que en este segundo capítulo, iniciaron los pitchers Juan Serrano y Toño León, los cuales tuvieron un juego muy cerrado y que fueron admirados grandemente por la afición, aunque después de todo el pitcher ganador fue Junior Novoa-en relevo-, en tanto el lanzador derrotado fue Efrén Flores. En las fotos aparecen Johnny López y Morris Ramírez, entregando regalos navideños a pequeños aficionados y el equipo All-Stars San Antonio con su manager Lolo Rodríguez. (Fotos cortesía).



# New Year's Resolutions – A Healthier 2020



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

The new year (and decade) are here! A new year provides a fresh start and an opportunity for people to assess what they'd like to do better in the coming months. A blog that conducted a survey in 2017 of 400 people in the U.S. and the U.K. found exercising more and eating healthier were the most common New Year's resolutions, respectively. 45% set their resolutions with the hope of improving their quality of life, and 23% wanted to lose weight.

Becoming healthier is often one of the most popular resolutions each year, and there are many ways of accomplishing this. The American Psychological Association (APA) says unaccomplished resolutions can quickly bring anxiety and suggests starting small

and asking for support.

Better Business Bureau (BBB) has a few tips to support you on your 2020 journey:

Get fit with the right gym. New gym memberships increase at the beginning of January, when consumers decide to invest in a gym and their health. There can be many benefits to working out at a public gym: classes, equipment, accountability and more. However, you want to be sure you're at the place that's right for you. Knowing your fitness goals and setting priorities can help you determine where to start looking. Always take a tour of facilities and read the contract closely to determine how much a membership costs each month. You can also check the gym's business profile on bbb.org.

Watch for free trial scams. Some health and fitness goals, like quitting smoking or losing weight, can be a slow process. You may even feel like you aren't making much progress, which is when turning to "miracle" products seems like a good idea. First and foremost, you should always be careful when taking products for your health and should consult with your doctor first. Second, products using big claims and celebrity endorsements may be attempting to lure



you into a free trial scam. This is when a company claims it'll send you a sample of its product for free, you just need to give your credit card information to pay shipping and handling. Later, you find a charge for the full cost of the product. Always read the terms and conditions carefully before placing your order and use your credit card for extra protections.

Care for your mental health, too. Caring for your health extends beyond your physical health. Helpguide.org emphasizes the importance of social connection when caring for your mental health. In fact, a report released by BBB at the end of September showed social isolation to be a factor in increasing scam risk. Those with fewer people in their lives to discuss potential scam offers with were more likely to become victims of fraud and lose money. Take time this year to connect with old friends and meet new ones too.

Have a happy and healthy New Year, from Better Business Bureau!

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**Wishing Everyone a Merry Christmas,  
Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year!**

**Albert & Elsie Uresti  
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Pol. Adv. Pd. for by Albert Uresti Campaign

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# NON-PROFIT HIGHLIGHT

## CITY EDUCATION PARTNERS LANZA SCHOOL FINDER EN SAN ANTONIO

Por Emily Price

La organización sin fines de lucro City Education Partners de San Antonio lanzó SanAntonioSchoolFinder.org, un nuevo recurso educativo para familias locales. El sitio facilita a los padres y cuidadores la búsqueda e identificación de escuelas públicas y programas de cuidados después de la escuela. Proporciona datos de responsabilidad estatal de la Agencia de Educación de Texas (TEA) y permite que las escuelas y los programas sobresalgan al compartir información que los hace únicos, así como sus propias historias de éxito.

“Los niños y las familias tienen más opciones que nunca en la educación pública, y creemos que los padres y los cuidadores están en la mejor posición para tomar decisiones sobre cada uno de sus hijos”, dijo Mark Larson, Director Ejecutivo de City Education Partners. “San Antonio School Finder les ayudará a filtrar fácilmente los factores más importantes en su búsqueda, ya sean datos estatales, modelos escolares particulares o actividades extracurriculares. Nuestro objetivo es poner toda la información en manos de los padres de la manera más sencilla”.

San Antonio School Finder



incluye todas las opciones de escuelas públicas. Alojara información sobre casi 600 escuelas públicas de San Antonio, incluyendo escuelas por distrito, chárter y escuelas especializadas. Además de la información de TEA, el sitio permitirá a las escuelas subir fotos, videos e información no reportada por TEA que muestran su cultura y ambiente. San Antonio School Finder esta basado en los factores de importancia comunicado por las familias de San Antonio con respecto a la educación de sus hijos. El sitio incluye información valiosa sobre transporte, inscripción, programas académicos, horarios de inicio / término y oportunidades de cuidados después de la escuela (programas

extracurriculares). El sitio contiene información académica de todas las escuelas públicas de San Antonio, con historias que se actualizan diariamente. Las opciones para los programas extracurriculares se agregarán en enero.

City Education Partners, que alberga el sitio, se ha asociado con los distritos de escuelas públicas de San Antonio, muchas organizaciones chárter locales y varios otros socios comunitarios para hacer de este recurso una realidad para las familias de San Antonio. Se recomienda a los padres, cuidadores y todos los socios de la comunidad que visiten SanAntonioSchoolFinder.org para obtener más información sobre este recurso.



### Sobre City Education Partners

City Education Partners (CEP) trabaja en conjunto con líderes educativos, filántropos, empresas locales y nuestra comunidad, para crear subvenciones y ofrecer programas que creen escuelas de alta calidad y apoyen el desarrollo del educador. San Antonio School Finder, un programa de CEP, es un recurso educativo no partidista y sin fines de lucro para ayudar y capacitar a las familias de San Antonio para que naveguen fácilmente por el panorama educativo de sus hijos. Visite [CityEducationPartners.org](http://CityEducationPartners.org) para obtener más información.

Building San Antonio's Education Ecosystem,  
Together.

City Education Partners exists to develop groundbreaking schools for all children through powerful partnerships.

San Antonio's future depends on great public schools.  
We are focused on the future.

City Education Partners works together with education leaders, philanthropists, local businesses and our community, to make grants and deliver programs that create strong schools and support educator development.

A Supporting Organization of the San Antonio Area  
Foundation  
303 Pearl Pkwy, Suite 114, San Antonio, TX 78215  
[www.cityeducationpartners.org](http://www.cityeducationpartners.org)  
210.872.4437



# Bexar County Tax Assessor-Collector Albert Uresti Receives Endorsement of the San Antonio Police Officers Association

By Lisa Anderson

Albert Uresti, Bexar County Tax Assessor-Collector, has received the endorsement of the San Antonio Police Officers Association in his re-election campaign.

"I am honored to have received the endorsement of the San Antonio Police Officers Association. Because I am concerned about the safety of our citizens, the endorsement of our police department is very important to me," said Albert Uresti, Bexar County Tax Assessor-Collector.

Whether it's property tax payment plans or public safety, Albert Uresti fights for our citizens.

"The mission of the Bexar County Tax Assessor-Collector's Office is



"Working to Help Keep Families in their Homes, with an emphasis on helping our Senior Citizens, our Disabled, our Veter-

ans, and ultimately our Children," said Albert Uresti.



**San Antonio Council on Alcohol & Drug Awareness**

SACADA was established in November 1957 by a group of influential citizens whose lives had been affected by the disease of alcoholism. Since then, SACADA has been the leader in Bexar County providing prevention, intervention, and recovery support services to children and adults for substance use and related consequences.

The San Antonio Council on Alcohol and Drug Awareness (SACADA) is a 501(c)(3) organization with the moto "PREVENTING problems with alcohol and other drugs before they occur, INTERVENING when they do, and PROMOTING RECOVERY for those who are addicted."

According to the Surgeon General's Report: Facing Addiction in America (2016), 1 in 7 people in the United States is expected to develop a substance use disorder at some point in their lives and only 1 in 10 people will receive treatment. Prevention works, treatment is effective, and recovery is possible for everyone – it's all about AWARENESS. The Principal Deputy Administrator for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration stated, "Substance misuse is one of the critical public health problems of our time. The most recent data on substance use, misuse, and substance

use disorders reveal that the problem is deepening, and the consequences are becoming deadlier than ever. There is an urgent need to raise awareness about the issue."

Our recovery support services programs help with:

- ID Recovery (Birth Certificates/Driver's License/Social Security Card)
- Job Prep and Search
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Anger Management / Batters Intervention
- Provide services at flexible hours
- Traffic Tickets/ Municipal Court Warrants
- Family Violence Prevention Course
- GED Courses and Testing
- Link to medical and dental care
- Other Educational Training Programs
- Transportation
- HIV Testing/Counseling
- Family Counseling
- DWI Classes & Drug Offender Program requirements
- Community Service Hours
- Support with Probation Requirements

Individuals can call directly to SACADA and request this service or you can log-on to [www.RecoveryTexas.org](http://www.RecoveryTexas.org) and request to chat with a coach online.

## Seeking Volunteer Executive Director

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# Just a Thought "Feliz Navidad" memories



By Steve Walker

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

Three days ago we once again celebrated "Feliz Navidad" that brought back many vivid memories for me of by gone years, opening presents and listening to carollers at our door singing festive tunes. Who could forget songs like "Silent Night," "Oh Come All Ye Faithful" and the classic, "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer?"

Decorating the tree with tinsel, lights, and ornaments is etched in my mind as I grew up from child to young adult and finally grandpa status.

Back as a kid I recall being really excited, waking up early Christmas morning and rushing down the stairs from my bedroom that I shared with all my brothers. (1 brother deceased of 6 boysmy) I tried to be the first one under the tree. It was my goal to get my hands on the wrapped presents before anyone else. Sometimes it worked and sometimes I came in a close second.

Let's fast forward to Christmas in the 90s. By then I acquired two granddaughters and two grandsons who now are in their 20's. Spending Christmas with young grandchildren became a

whole new experience watching their eyes light up as mine did many decades earlier.

For a number of my teenage years my mother and father decided for whatever reason, to buy an artificial tree in place of a real tree. Needless to say it just didn't quite generate the same excitement with me as the real tree. We were used to religiously changing or adding water in the pan every few days to ensure that it did not dry out and cause the needles to fall off or break.

Later when I graduated high school in New York and returned to Texas for college, I did not come home every year. After graduation from college it was off to Vietnam where I spent one not so exciting Christmas before coming back to San Antonio.

During the nineties I rekindled the sheer joy of celebrating Christmas with the grand kids. One year, Grandma, the grandkids and I spent a lot of time searching for a real tree and buying ornaments, tinsel and lights to decorate. The two oldest girls, Jesse and Nikki, made the final pick on a Douglas fir that nearly touched the ceiling. During that particular Christmas we strolled down the Riverwalk. The Riverwalk was lit up for weeks ahead of time with lights and decorations along the banks with boats ferrying tourists and natives up and down the river. The boat captains pointed out to the tourists the various attractions. We also watched the Las Posadas procession making its way through the path along the Riverwalk. It is not uncommon to see a number of downtown businesses decorated and

lighting up the skyline as well. Like every other year the Alamo Plaza hosted a giant Christmas tree that was completely decorated and lit up with bright lights for the public to enjoy. As part of that general public, Jess, Nikki, Jimmy and Sammy, and I ecstatically admired the tree. Texas

Remembering conversations about Christmas at St. Gregory's Catholic School in Balcones Heights in the 50s, I learned from the nuns that Christmas Day, celebrated on December 25, is credited to Pope Julius who instituted the celebration in 352 AD.

I also learned that the Christmas season in Mexico for example runs from December 12 to January 6, with one last related celebration on February 2. These various traditions incorporate remnants of indigenous practice, customs from Spain, and novel Mexican inventions from the colonial period.

In 2009, Mexico hosted the world's largest Christmas tree according to Guinness at 110.35 meters (approximately 362 feet) high and weighing 330 tons on Glorieta de la Palma on Paseo de la Reforma.

With the bands of Christmas carollers strolling along the RiverWalk and elsewhere around town singing songs of good cheer, the hope of a joyous new year is always foremost in many people's thoughts to include mine.

To the readers of La Prensa Texas and all the families of San Antonio, I hope you enjoyed Christmas 2019. Happy New Year!

And as always, I write just a thought.

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