

# La Prensa Texas

VOL. 6 • NUM 30

[www.LaPrensaTexas.com](http://www.LaPrensaTexas.com)

23 de Julio de 2023





# La PrensaTexas

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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## By Yvette Tello

*Things socially acceptable in other countries, but not in the United States of America- In the UK children under the age of 11 know how to navigate public transport around our city. It's normal for kids as young as 8 or 9 to take the public bus, or ride bikes to school without parents. I have read comments from the States where people are concerned about letting their preteen use the toilet without them. Are children gaining valuable independence and life skills in the UK, or is the cautious approach in the US warranted? Let's talk about it...*

**Lauren Berrizbeitia:** “This is a relatively new US phenomenon. I grew up in the 50’s and roamed all over the woods, by the river, rode my bike miles to the store or the Dairy Delight for ice cream, etc. The rule was we had to be home by dinner unless otherwise arranged.”

**Katrina Johnston:** “Even for kids in the 80’s everything was great too. Now it's like a Bizaro world. I'm less worried about stranger danger and more worried about CPS because my pre-teen walked unsupervised.”

**Anup Dhariwal:** “The irony is that in the past once you were out, the parents had no idea where you were. These days, even though almost everyone has a mobile phone with them at all times, people are so much more fearful and concerned about their children.”

**Chris Wood:** “As a child of the 50’s/60’s we were allowed to go wherever we wanted to go within common sense. We biked where we saw fit and where we wanted to go. Why could we do this? Because our (my) parents taught us realistic social skills, realistic danger management and trusted us to not screw it up. Some parents might object to this but it worked for us. Worked for my kids also. I suspect it will work for my grandchildren also. (Their kids).”

**Larry Willis:** “Pretty similar for me in the 60s. Sorry kids today missed out.”

**John Fenn:** “That fear is developed and managed purposefully to sell newspapers, insurance, a quasi-military police force, right wing politicians, the legal profession and the gun guys. It is a divide and conquer technique and it has gone mad in a country where personal freedoms outweigh public responsibility.”

**Katrina Johnston:** “This is so spot on, hysteria and fear sells. Many people do not read past the headlines and envision a terrible scenario based on little facts. Most kids are abducted by someone close to them, and most children that are murdered die by a close friend or family member. A child abduction by a stranger is rare, kids are more safe in the hands of a stranger than family. You won't convince people who are consumed by the 24 hour news cycle that the world is more safe now.”

**Terry Humphries:** “Good to hear some common sense. As a Brit, I am always wondering how people live in America, and who is benefiting from all this scare-mongering.”

**Andrew Chapman:** “It is the fear of actually taking Blame for anything..... People in America are quick to sue someone, which makes them paranoid.”

**Vladislav Andreev:** “Oh yeah, that’s a nationwide conspiracy. Every month they convene in the Rothschild Center and discuss how else they can instill fear in the Americans, if they fail, they lose their quarterly bonus.”

**Lauri Lokk:** “Yea, sure it’s only a right wing, gun nut thing. How could any reasonable person that lives half a day’s drive from the nearest police station want to own a gun and how dare anyone have different views!?”

**Jimmy Fondren:** “No. It is not the rightwing politicians who instill fear, but the leftwing judges who allow pervers and criminals to roam our streets. At any given time, you can find pervers living in any neighborhood near schools. Do you allow your child to walk home from school while you are at work, risking them being abducted on the 1–1/2 mile walk?”

**Alexander Lovatt:** “Not right wing politicians but left wing. It is the left that is obsessed with regulating every aspect of human behavior.”

# Let’s Talk About It

## Exploring Cultural Differences: Who is Right and Who is Wrong?

**Cooper Wardell:** “I’m American and I was very lucky to have a childhood where we were allowed to be kids. I lived in a relatively small town. We had a decent amount of property and building forts out in the woods out of branches and stuff was regular summer activity. We shot BB guns and played sports and went from one person’s house to another if it was within walking distance. I’m in my early 30’s now and my wife and I still don’t have kids. I’m sure we will some day, but my BIGGEST hesitation is this crazy culture we live in now where kids can’t do anything by themselves. In the summertime my parents took me to the beach, or let me go outside, and I basically wouldn’t come in until it was dark. What am I supposed to do with my kid? Make him/her stay inside all day? What’s the point of working hard, making some money, and living in a nice area, if you’re kids still can’t run around and play? If I did it my way and my kid got hurt or kidnapped, I would be crushed I’m sure. But how would I live with myself if I doomed my kid to a life of boredom, anxiety, obesity? Never learning to settle disputes between friends without a parent hovering around? Never learning to be self sufficient? Not having any fun in the one part of life where everything should be fun? I wouldn’t be able to. I imagine that when I have a kid, I’m going to be an unpopular parent. I am going to do my best to give my child freedom, responsibility, and fun. If my kid wants to have a lemonade stand or walk to school or whatever, and a parent gets in my face for not “taking care” of him/her, I am going to belligerently make my views about this known. You don’t get productive, enthusiastic, self-sufficient, creative, resilient young adults by hovering over them as children every second until they turn 18.”

**Sunil Shanker:** “Hi, I’m from India. And am really sad to see these comments. In growing up as a teen, Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry were absolute heroes to me. America was a dreamland where anything was possible. Even the villains of movies were kind compared to now! Yes there is a culture change but hope this culture of anxiety and phobias dies with this generation. In India, we do have genuine concerns of child abuse, rape, all of which is rotten occurrence, it was hushed up earlier due to societal norms, but is out in the open now because of social media. As cultures mesh, learning experiences, honesty, transparency and thereby trust will help the global village come together in facing challenges.”

**Chris Jones:** “I think it's part of a big conspiracy to dumb future generations down and make the population too stupid to question the actions of their leaders(masters).”

**Beth Goldowitz:** “This has changed a great deal over the past 40 years. When I was growing up, I was riding the subway by myself at age 12, in New York City. My mom would make sure I knew where I was going, and that I had a chance to make a phone call in an emergency, then send me out the door to art classes, music lessons, and special trips to museums with my friends. The next few generations of parents became progressively more protective, because they are constantly bombarded with scary messages from the media.”

**Hannah Watson:** “I was able to ride my bike around my neighborhood when I was seven or eight. I remember some grumpy old lady yelling at me for making skid marks on the road but no one asked where my parents were. Our playgrounds here are so boring. There’s almost no way to get hurt on them, which makes them no fun at all. However, if we happen to find an older playground that was built 40 or 50 years ago, I still find it fun to join my little sister. (I’m 16 and from the US).”

**Craig Hoyle:** “I heard something on the news the other week about a little black girl in the USA selling lemonade or something from the end of her garden to save money for a trip to Disney, she was reported to the authorities for selling food or drink without a permit. Seriously, how bad the USA has got that someone can't sell lemonade to help get a holiday to Disney! Social media went crazy and a go fund me page was set up by someone who raised more than enough to send this girl to Disney. In the UK if a child is out selling something so they can save up to buy whatever it's praised. I bought three rocks for £1 each off a couple of boys the other week so they could get a stunt scooter to ride at the skatepark.”

**Lisa Hall:** “The things you love about the UK - you’re describing the US of my childhood. The way we live today would have been considered “mentally disturbed” just half a century ago. I ran around on my own, got into adventures, talked to strangers and \*gasp\* even drank from the hose to no ill effect. Had someone pulled my mother aside because I was walking to school it’s likely I would have been warned against whoever said something - avoid them, they’re clearly a hysteric and troublemaker. Oddly enough, though, my mother sees things differently. She told me just the other day that she’s grateful she isn’t raising kids today, with all the danger lurking everywhere! I had to gently explain that nothing has changed except perception. Kids today are just as safe as they ever were, but now hysteria is the default. I’m not sure she believed me, and it broke my heart.”

**Simon Pearce:** “I was in Switzerland the other day, just outside Zürich. Looking out of the window, I saw two kids holding hands, heading to school. No, wait, they weren’t heading to school, they were heading to kindergarten. One of them might have been subsequently heading to school after dropping her brother, but she couldn’t have been much older. In the USA they would have been swooped upon and the parents charged, I suspect. Here in Australia, in Sydney I walked my kids to primary school up until they were about ten, I think. In high school they got given bus passes and told to get on with it. It’s gone fine so far. One of my kids spent five months in Italy on exchange, (her idea), she was 15, turning 16. Whilst there, she went on trips, including to see friends in Switzerland. Kids are capable and can be trusted. You should give them freedom and teach responsibility, they’ll be fine. Whatever happened to the American ideals of freedom? The world is not more dangerous than it was, probably safer, perhaps excepting the excessive car traffic we have subjected ourselves to.”

**Antoinette Bell:** “Here in the UK we all know that there are no more child abductions than when we were children in the 70s, and that it is media sensationalism that is the problem. If anything, children today are more aware of pedophile behavior.”

**Vytautas Juršėnas:** “What is even stranger, that now there are actually more remote safety measures, such as smartphones, where parents technically can call a child anytime, as well as (together with police or without them) track them if such a need arises. The same is with criminals: due to technological development, it’s harder to hide after committing a crime.”

**Gee Fishel:** “This is something I struggle with as a parent. When I was growing up in the 70s I was riding my bike around town with my friends when I was 6 years old. I was climbing trees in the woods by my house, by myself, earlier than that. We would have looked and felt ridiculous wearing a helmet on our bicycle. Today I feel bad for my 6 year old who has to spend 15 minutes putting on his helmet and elbow and knee pads before I go out with him to ride his bike in a restricted area. The other side of that coin is that I spent a lot of time in the hospital. I had 5 concussions that I can remember, and stitches easily a dozen times. When I was 7 I was riding my bike on some railroad tracks and I fell down knocking myself unconscious on the railroad tracks. One of the neighbors found me and got me off the tracks about 30 seconds before I would have been run over by a train. That same year I was swinging on some vines on a tree while my parents were canoeing. The vines broke and I fell in the canoe, smashing my face on one of the crossbars and my nose was almost ripped off my face. When I was a teenager I had 2 friends on 2 separate occasions die from head injuries from falling while urban surfing. When I was in third grade I was walking to/from my house to school. Some guy befriended me and I would go to his house after school, he would tell me stories and give me a massage, which I thought was cool at the time. Then suddenly I never saw him again. Years later I found out he was arrested for raping a third grader. Could have easily been me. I was walking to the pool with my son a few months ago, and some guy drove his car right into a dumpster a few feet from us, because he was looking at his phone instead of the road. I have nightmares of my son being run down by somebody texting and driving. I feel bad not letting my son take some of the risks that I did. I also know I will feel much worse if something really bad happens to him that I could have prevented. It’s hard to trust statistics when it’s your child at stake.”

# About the Cover Artist: Jaylen Pigford

## Solo Exhibition, Apt. A104 On View at Presa House Gallery Now Through August 19

Courtesy of  
Presa House Gallery  
Photos by  
Dr. Ricardo Romo

Jaylen Pigford (B. 1996) is an Afro-Latino painter born and raised in Corpus Christi, Texas, currently based in Houston, Texas. Pigford is a self-taught artist who has honed his craft since childhood. His work fuses vibrant colors and symbolic imagery to explore the balance between light and dark. His paintings are deeply personal, reflecting his experiences of adversity and growth. Through his uplifting art, Pigford reminds us there is always hope, even in the toughest times. We all face challenges and setbacks, but how we respond to them defines us. Pigford has had solo exhibitions at Talento Bilingüe de Houston (2019); Presa House Gallery, San Antonio, TX (2021); Ivester Contemporary, Austin, TX (2022 & 2023). He has been included in group exhibitions, including Soy de Tejas at Centro de Artes, San An-

tonio, TX (2023); Son de Allá y Son de Acá at South Broadway Cultural Center, Albuquerque, NM (2022); Creative Distancing at The Museum of South Texas, Corpus Christi, TX (2020); and Third Coast Biennial at K Space Contemporary, Corpus Christi, TX (2020) where he was awarded Best in Show.

Presa House Gallery kicks off the summer with the return of Houston-based artist Jaylen Pigford. In his second solo exhibition, in April of 2021 at Presa House, Pigford wowed viewers with his nearly sold-out show titled See What I See. The exhibit featured thirteen unique original artworks and marked his debut in San Antonio. Pigford's newest solo exhibition Apt. A104 will remain on view by appointment through August 19, 2023 at Presa House Gallery (725 S. Presa, St.).

Apt. A104 represents Pigford's childhood home, where he grew from a young boy in 1st grade to a high school teenager, ul-

timately shaping him into the person he is today. He attempts to capture a period of time through twelve recent paintings of personal and family moments, deaths, stress, dreams, and his surroundings at Castle Manor Apartments in Flour Bluff, Corpus Christi, Texas. Despite being a shy kid who lacked confidence, Pigford was comfortable with close friends, which would sometimes get them into trouble. Raised by a hardworking single mother with his older brother and sister, Pigford witnessed the ups and downs of life in A104. Despite the difficulties, he fondly reflects on his formative years through a loving and complex lens.

Catch the Apt. A104 Closing Reception August 19 from 7 PM – 10 PM.

Event Link: <https://presa-house.com/portfolio/july-2023/>

Contact: (210)913-5842 or [info@presahouse.com](mailto:info@presahouse.com)



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# Ladies of Valor Back to School

By Ramon Chapa, Jr.

La Prensa Texas was honored to participate at the Ladies of Valor Back to School Event at Elmendorf Park. Community Liaison Ramon Chapa Jr had the privilege of being the Honorary Master of Ceremony! Great job to Martha Torres and Ladies of Valor, the Edgewood Veterans and all participating agencies! So many happy children and parents received back to school supplies!



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“Thank you St. Jude and Virgin de San Juan,  
 for prayers answered.” from BJC.

# Jesús (Chuy) Carmona Festejó Cumpleaños Beisbolero Estilo Rieleros

**Por Franco**

El buen amigo Jesús (Chuy) Carmona, originario de la bella ciudad de Nueva Rosita estado de Coahuila.

Con las bendiciones del Creador Divino, arribó a la dorada edad de 55 años, para convertirse en Senior Citizen, edad que le garantiza obtener beneficios en el sector comercial con diversos descuentos que la comunidad empresarial ofrecen a personas que han llegado a los 55 veranos.

Chuy, con anticipación se pre-

paró para tan magna celebración, optando por celebrar su cumpleaños primeramente con su gentil familia y posteriormente con su "segunda familia" El club de béisbol Rieleros.

Su Fiesta familiar fue excelente y compartió delicioso pastel además de otras indulgencias de su preferencia (Guiso de res en el caso),

con Rieleros equipo Campeón 2022 categoría Masters 50+ en Liga Potranco Baseball League, recibió emotivos buenos deseos tanto

de los directivos Juan Sánchez y el coach Servando Hernández. Así como de JP Reza, manager de Rieleros categoría Abierta dominical. Y Su legión de seguidores y copatrocinadores.

El ambiente musical fue amenizado por prestigiado Mariachi local de San Antonio, que le dedicaron sus melodías favoritas.

Dando paso a la vez para que tanto él como sus invitados bailaran alegremente.

Los brindis se repitieron hasta ya entrada la noche en el recinto

que ocupa Rieleros en el popular complejo deportivo Potranco Baseball Field.

Chuy además celebró la victoria de Rieleros ante Broncos con blanqueada de 2-0 y victoria para su paisano Amado "La Sorpresa" Gutiérrez, quien lo felicitó y deseo todo lo mejor.

Chuy durante su inolvidable festejó, vistió Jersey de Rieleros Campeón con su apellido y el número 18. "Bien contento porque mis amigos Rieleros me acompañaron en mi cumpleaños", así se

expresó el feliz cumpleaños Jesús [Chuy] Carmona.

Las altas temperaturas registradas en la región de San Antonio, no fueron factor para este evento. Sino todo lo contrario el cumpleaños y sus invitados dieron rienda suelta a sus tradiciones de la región carbonífera del gran estado de Coahuila. En las fotos aparecen Chuy Carmona y sus invitados ha quienes agradeció sus finas atenciones.

(Fotos de Franco).





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# Domingo Garcia, LULAC National President On the Frontline of the Battle for 66-Million Latinos



Domingo Garcia is a fierce, passionate, take-no-prisoners type of champion for Hispanics in the United States and Puerto Rico. Since his election to the top post of LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) in Phoenix, Arizona, in July 2018, he has led the nation's largest and oldest Latino civil rights organization with unparalleled determination and dedication. Under his leadership, LULAC has achieved significant milestones and impacted the lives of millions of Latinos across the country.

"My job is to make sure that Latinos are being taken into account on every major issue that we're dealing with in state houses and all the way up to the White House," says Garcia. "It is said that if you're not at the table, you're going to be on the menu, and I'm going to make very sure that the millions of Jose and Marias in the United States and Puerto Rico are not taken for granted and being served up for others to enjoy. LULAC is determined and relentless in its fight for justice from day one. This goal was my commitment, and I will see it through until the very last day of my administration," he adds.

One of the most remarkable achievements of LULAC under Domingo Garcia's leadership has been the organization's work during the darkest days of the pandemic. Despite the risks involved, LULAC entered America's meatpacking facilities to fight for the rights and protections of essential workers. These workers, who toiled in the harvest fields, packing warehouses, and food stores, were the backbone of the nation's food supply chain. LULAC fought tirelessly and succeeded in winning historical protection for these workers, ensuring their safety and well-being in the workplace.

In addition to protecting essential workers, LULAC, under Domingo Garcia's guidance, has advocated for the rights of servicemen and women in the U.S. military. The organization played a pivotal role in the passage of two critical acts—the Brandon Act and the Vanessa Guillen Act—to help save the lives of military personnel. These acts address the urgent need for mental health support and protection against sexual harassment and assault within the military ranks. LULAC's relentless efforts to challenge the status quo and speak truth to power have resulted in significant victories for the brave men and women serving in the armed forces.

Garcia states, "These past five years, I have repeatedly traveled from border to border and coast to coast when major events affect Latinos. LULAC has been on the front line from California to Washington, the Mexico border to Canada. Elected leaders must know that when we are on the scene, it's serious business, and we are looking after our community's interest to ensure they're protected and that their rights are being respected."

Domingo Garcia's indomitable spirit extends beyond the realm of worker's rights and military advocacy. He has been a vocal advocate for individuals facing injustices within the criminal justice system. LULAC, under his leadership, spoke truth to power in the case of a truck driver in Colorado who was facing a 110-year prison sentence for a traffic accident. Through their relentless advocacy, LULAC successfully persuaded the Governor of Colorado to commute the sentence, allowing the truck driver to reunite with his family in just five years. This remarkable achievement highlights Domingo Garcia's unwavering commitment to fighting for justice and fairness, regardless of the circumstances.

"LULAC is working hard to make sure that we're disrupting the so-called pipeline to prison that takes our youths into the criminal justice system, and that instead we're helping them get into colleges and universities, trades and professions so that they can sustain themselves and their families," says Garcia. "Our young people are bright, and they're eager to learn and to work, and we're not asking for handouts; we're simply wanting to make sure that barriers are removed out of our way and that the path to opportunity for them is the same as it is for every other community in America," he adds.

Furthermore, LULAC, under Domingo Garcia's leadership, has taken a stand against voter suppression in states across the country. Recognizing the importance of protecting the voices and rights of Latinos, LULAC has been actively involved in legal battles to ensure that every citizen's vote counts. By engaging in court battles and challenging discriminatory practices, LULAC has played a crucial role in the fight against voter suppression, amplifying the voices of the Latino community and working towards a more inclusive democracy.

"Numerically, we are growing faster than many other communities, but we must also grow proportionately in political power, which is why LULAC is fighting against gerrymandering and other types of voter suppression that are intended to slow or crush our political voice," says Garcia. "We are determined not to be shut out through a changing of the election rules in the middle of the game to favor people who do not wish to accept the changing face of our country. Conditions for us made me different, but in many ways, we are seeing a repeat of the same type of discrimination tactics that our parents and grandparents faced," he adds.

Domingo Garcia has also made significant strides in strengthening LULAC's presence and influence in Washington, D.C. The organization now has a new and more assertive presence in the nation's capital, with an office closer to Capitol Hill. This state-of-the-art office serves as a hub for LULAC's daily activities and allows them to keep a

sharper eye on legislation. With an open invitation to visit the office, LULAC is actively engaging with lawmakers, making their voices heard, and advocating for bipartisan action on the civil rights issues that matter to the Latino community.

One area of legislation that LULAC prioritizes is the defense of Latinos at their workplaces. They are staunch advocates against illegal working conditions, such as child labor crimes in some meatpacking plants. More than a hundred Latino children, as young as 13, were found to be illegally working at night cleaning in several states, suffering burns due to hazardous chemicals. LULAC uncovered these injustices and called for an investigation by the Department of Justice and the FBI to end the exploitation of young workers in the meatpacking industry.

Immigration is another critical issue that LULAC, under Domingo Garcia's leadership, is deeply committed to addressing. They have been actively involved in efforts to support arriving refugees and have worked to halt the illegal shipping of people to distant places under the pretenses of job opportunities and housing. By standing up against the exploitation and mistreatment of Latino refugees, LULAC sends a powerful message that their lives and dignity matter.

Safety and security in Latino communities are also at the forefront of LULAC's agenda. The organization has spoken out against bad cops who use excessive force under the color of law. In response to the tragic mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas, where 19 children and two teachers lost their lives, LULAC raised a million dollars in donations for the victims. They stand in solidarity with the affected families, providing support and actively working towards preventing such tragedies in the future.

"The battle is far from over, and racism is not something you cure," says Garcia. "It is a form of hate that pops up or continues every generation until perhaps one day, the full promise of our country will be here for every person. LULAC will continue to speak out until that day and beyond because we are, and will continue to be, an important part of what America represents," he says.

Indeed, Domingo Garcia's leadership is propelling LULAC to new heights, amplifying the organization's influence and impact on the lives of Latinos in the United States and Puerto Rico. With unwavering determination, LULAC continues to fight for justice, equality, and the civil rights of the millions of Latinos they represent. Domingo Garcia's approach of perseverance and laser focus has positioned him as a most visible national warrior for the Latino community, and his legacy will undoubtedly leave an indelible mark on the fight for equality in America.



# Feliz Cumpleaños Elíseo González

Elíseo González, cumplió 4 años de feliz existencia. Sus padres Christina Portillo y Juan Jaime González (portero de fútbol soccer y jugador del equipo Rangers SA), le ofrecieron colorida fiesta, dónde recibió felicitaciones de familiares y amistades. Elíseo gusta del fútbol y béisbol. Por lo qué su papá lo seguirá entrenando.

Feliz es el mundo de los niños. [ Foto cortesía].



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## Larry Portillo: A Latino Artist Celebrates Texas and San Antonio

By Dr. Ricardo Romo

Larry Portillo, a talented San Antonio artist, has worked as an art framer for most of his life. Like many Latino artists, Portillo has never been able to earn enough money as a full-time artist, but he considers himself fortunate to work in an art supply and framing store where he is around art materials and interacts with art folks who bring paintings, prints, and photographs to be framed. "Day Jobs," a Blanton Museum exhibit at The University of Texas at Austin, examines how many famous American artists relied on work related to art to earn a living. The Blanton "Day Jobs" curators noted, "Other employment, however, isn't always an obstacle to an artist's career. It can provide artists with unexpected materials and methods, working knowledge of an industry, or a predictable structure that enables unpredictable ideas."

Portillo had connections to Texas early in life but grew up in New Mexico. His father Simon Portillo, a New Mexico native, served in the U.S. Army and met his wife Isabel in El Paso while stationed at Fort Bliss. After Larry Portillo's birth, the family moved to Chamberino, a small agricultural community in the Upper Valley of New Mexico. As a young boy, Portillo spent his summers picking crops, principally onions and chiles. Portillo always liked to draw and paint. His second-grade teacher recognized his creative talents and entered him in a school art contest

where his painting of the Harlem Globetrotters won first place.

During Portillo's senior year at his high school in Gadsden,



*Larry Portillo, "Blue Star Brewing Company." Photo by Ricardo Romo.*

New Mexico, his art teacher invited El Paso artist Luis Jimenez to speak to the class. Jimenez was

well-known locally, but not yet famous. A Texas native, Jimenez had been living in New York earning a living as an art teacher in the Bronx.

Jimenez left his "day job" after receiving a commission for his construction of "Sod Buster," a gigantic fiberglass structure for the Main Plaza of Fargo, North Dakota. Portillo was inspired by the work of Jimenez as he learned more about the artist and his sculptures.

Following graduation from high school, Portillo considered enrolling in art programs in California or New York. His father's death that year led him to pass up those dreams and remain in New Mexico to be close to his grieving mother. In place of formal art education, Portillo

took evening classes to learn to paint with an airbrush. He later enrolled in evening classes at El Paso Tech, a vocational school, that taught students how to paint automobiles. He considered working in commercial art but instead applied his expertise in art framing. However, his former high school teacher continued to look after Portillo's artistic interests and arranged for the young man to visit Luis Jimenez at the Jimenez Sign shop in El Paso where he saw the skilled way the Jimenez family blended art and commercial ventures.

Portillo's first art break came in 1991 when Leo Tanguma, a Colorado artist, hired him to help paint a mural in the New Mexico Art Museum in Santa Fe. The mural project gave Portillo added confidence in his artistic ability, and he learned from Tanguma, a seasoned muralist, how to paint larger-than-life portraits.

Over the next five years, Portillo received invitations to exhibit in numerous El Paso art galleries. He earned a commission to paint a mural in his hometown's San Luis Church in Chamberino, New Mexico. At the end of 1997, Portillo and his wife Maria Elena began making plans to move to San Antonio, a larger city that offered expanded art opportunities. San Antonio had dozens of art framing stores where he might find work, and his wife, with a teaching certificate, knew that many school districts in the city had job openings.

Two decades ago, my wife Harriett and I first met Portillo when he exhibited at Joe Lopez's Gallista Gallery. We bought a delightful painting of his titled "Red Rooster Cafe" portraying a favorite eating





Larry Portillo, *Portrait of Willie Nelson.* Photo by Ricardo Romo.



Larry Portillo, *"South Alamo Street."* Photo by Ricardo Romo.

place in Southtown San Antonio. In the painting, Portillo placed two low-rider vehicles in front of a night diner that hosted a lively social scene.

We were drawn to Portillo's work by his excellent layering of basic colors. His paintings glow with reds, blues, and yellows. His paintings are all the more remarkable because he is largely self-taught. It is obvious though that he has studied great paintings. In a conversation

with Portillo about which artists inspired him, I learned that we shared a common favorite artist, Vincent

Van Gogh. Portillo agreed that in several of his paintings, including the "Red Rooster Cafe," he painted a Southwestern version of what could be considered the famed sky of Van Gogh's stunning "Starry Night," and he often applies thick swirls of paint similar to Van Gogh's style.

Portillo's new exhibit at the Blue Star Brewing Company is breathtaking and colorful. Curated by Jane Bishop of Mockingbird Handprints, the paintings feature San Antonio's iconic locations, including the Alamo, the

Riverwalk, Southtown, an evening walk downtown facing the Tower Life Building, and a taco truck. The painting "Los Flying Tacos" includes a truck the color of a bright green nopal parked under a brilliant blue starry sky.

A painting not to miss in the Blue Star Brewing Company exhibit is his vibrant San Antonio "Riverwalk" where the reds of the restaurant buildings and sidewalk

umbrellas appear adjacent to a majestic blue river. Portillo paints a grey-blue sky with no stars in this night Riverwalk painting, but the artist manages to add several tall trees that have twisted branches common to Van Gogh's cypress paintings.

A favorite among customers at Blue Star Brewing Company is Portillo's downtown scene with the Transit Life Tower Building in the background. Vivid green trees are lined up on both sides of what appears to be St. Mary's Street identifiable with the Greyhound Bus sign on the left. Portillo includes a night sky in this painting devoid of stars since the bright lights of the city prevent downtown evening visitors from seeing stars.

In the Blue Star Brewing Company exhibit, Portillo includes a striking portrait of Willie Nelson featured on a light yellow background. Nelson wears his trademark bandana headband. In a painting titled "Blue Star Brewing Company," Portillo presents a yellow sky with a yellow sidewalk leading to the entrance of the restaurant. The sky's bright glow suggests a hot Texas summer day. The artist blends green plants and tree branches in front



Larry Portillo, *"Los Flying Tacos."* Photo by Ricardo Romo.



Larry Portillo, *"Night Out in San Antonio."*

of the red brick wall that serves as the entryway to the brewery. There are few blue colors, but the white-grey railings give the painting a geometric form and 3-D appearance.

Joey and Maggie Villarreal, owners of the Blue Star Brewing Company, are to be commended for including the work of Larry Portillo on the

walls in the dining areas of their Southtown bar and restaurant. Portillo is a highly talented artist with creative ideas and an imagination inspired by borderland culture. His paintings in this exhibit capture and celebrate the many sparkling sites of San Antonio.





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# Astros Blanqueo A Rangers SA

## Por Sendero Deportivo

Ha pesar de todo el campeón y subcampeón Astros de Pedro Espinoza, ha seguido su trayectoria triunfadora ante su acerrimo rival Rangers de El Venado Benito Martínez, equipo que en las dos últimas campañas logró quitarle lo invicto.

Astros en calidad de súper líder anteriormente cayó ante Rangers que evitó se fueran invictos en 15 partidos del rol regular en 2022 y 2023 categoría Masters 50+ Liga Potranco.

El domingo 16 de julio en el campo 2 del estadio Potranco Baseball Field,

Astros ganó ha Rangers con blanqueada de 4-0 carreras derrotando al pitcher Eleazar Bocanegra quien es subcampeón del pasado torneo.

Por Astros ganó Alfredo Obregón, quien sumó su cuarta victoria consecutiva.

"Disciplina deportiva siempre jugamos con buena mentalidad", dijo Benito Martínez.

"Todos nuestros jugadores hicieron buen trabajo en la defensiva y ofensiva. Alfredo Obregón, sé adjudicó la blanqueada y lo felicitamos", apuntó Espinoza.

En otros resultados pro-

porcionados por Linda Garza, Rieleros actual campeón con Amado Gutiérrez en el montículo ganaron 2-0 ha Broncos con derrota para Jorge Morales. Destacó en el bateó el campo cortó Jaime Rodríguez (La Crema), quien sigue caliente en departamento de bateó.

El líder Yankees apalearon 24-5 a Reds con pitcheo de Joey Farias quien superó a Liga Mexicana José Luis Gómez, Luis Ríos y Abdon Orozco.

Rol de juegos domingo 23 de julio campo 2.

Reds vs Rieleros. Astros vs Yankees y el clásico dominical Rangers vs Broncos de Roberto Garza.

En postemporada Liga Potranco categoría Abierta dominical, Carde-

nales campeón grupo 2, enfrentaran a Texas Jay's campeón del grupo 1, que eliminaron a duro rival Charros, Josh Gill, con ayuda de Andrew Pérez y Derek Vázquez, superaron a lanzadores Charros. Gaspar Beltran, Saúl Puente, Rodrigo Salas y Alfredo Obregón. La serie denominada Campeón de Campeones 2023 se disputara a ganar 2 de 3 partidos domingo 23 de julio campo 1 del estadio Potranco en el horario de las 11am. En partido amistoso combinado Tomateros del manager y jugador Javier Zapata, cayó ante Águilas de Veracruz de Nicho Jacome con pizarra de 11-9 carreras.

En el béisbol independiente juvenil ha venido destacando el equipo via-

jero New Era Broncos que en categoría U16, ha obtenido excelentes resultados bajo la dirección del manager José Pérez Jr., los coaches José Pérez, Isaac Pérez y Ulyses Arriaga, jugador del club Broncos de Reynosa SA de Roberto Garza y Linda Garza.

El head coach José Pérez Jr. agradece el apoyo de sus patrocinadores Linda y Roberto Garza, Sergio Torres, ex futbolista y jugador de Broncos. Así como de Rick Treviño.

En las fotos aparecen jugadores y equipo de New Era Broncos U16 que son de cortesía y el pitcher derecho Alfredo Obregón de Astros quien tiene marca se 4-0. (Foto de Franco).





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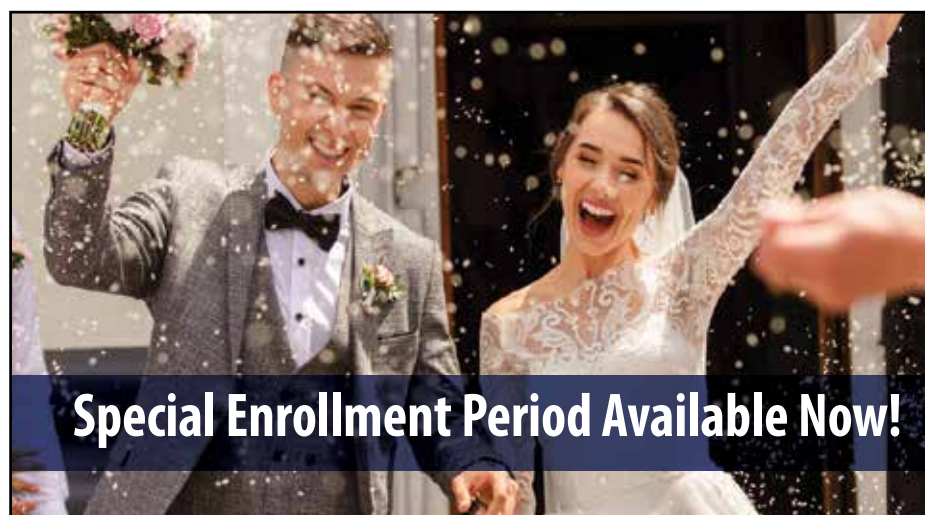
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# Macondo Writers Workshop Returns to San Antonio In Person July 25-29



By Imane Saliba

Macondo Writers Workshop triumphantly returns to San Antonio for in-person convenings from July 25–29, 2023. The Workshop, founded by the award-winning Sandra Cisneros, includes 5 days of readings, events and workshops led by award-winning faculty. Sandra Cisneros teams up with Ruth Behar to teach the fiction workshop, Rigoberto González leads poetry, Ishmael Reed supported by John Phillip Santos lead non-fiction and Sharon Bridgforth leads the cross-genre workshop. The weeklong convening includes the writers workshops, public readings of the workshop participants, and seminars led by Inaugural Poet Richard Blanco and publishing editor Nicole Counts. All events will take place in Trinity University in San Antonio, with the exception of the closing night Reading and Pachanga event on Saturday, July 29 at 6:30pm which will be held at the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. For more information visit [www.macondowriters.com](http://www.macondowriters.com).

Macondo Writers Workshop was founded in 1995 by writer and poet Sandra Cisneros, who gathered a group of writers, artists, scholars, and activists in her San Antonio home for informal writing workshops around her kitchen table. Since then it has grown into a master's level workshop for professional writers in all genres, with a formal, blind, peer-review application process. Once a writer

has been accepted into Macondo they become Macondistas and are welcome to return annually. The workshop currently counts over two hundred lifetime members from across the United States, Mexico, Central America and the United Kingdom. And many Macondistas have become national poet laureates, MacArthur fellows, and Guggenheim award recipients in addition to many other accolades, and hundreds of publications.

Named after the town in Gabriel García Márquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, the Macondo Writers Workshop convenes writers who work on geographic, cultural, economic, gender, and spiritual borders. Participants recognize their place as writers in our society and the world, and engage in a dynamic conversation on the many ways the literary arts can be a catalyst for transformation in our contemporary American society.

The following events are open to the public:

**Macondo Writers Workshop Participants Open Mic Reading I**  
Thursday July 27, 7-8:30 p.m. CST  
Free and open to the public

Trinity University (1 Trinity Pl, San Antonio, TX 78212), Dicke Hall, Room 104

**Macondo Writers Workshop Participants Open Mic Reading II**  
Friday, July 28, 7-9 p.m. CST  
Free and open to the public  
Trinity University (1 Trinity Pl, San Antonio, TX 78212), Dicke Hall, Room 104

**Macondo Writers Workshop Guest/Faculty Reading and Pachanga**  
Featuring: Sandra Cisneros, Ruth Behar, Rigoberto González, Sharon Bridgforth, John Phillip Santos reading work by Ishmael Reed and Richard Blanco. The MC will be Nely Galan, with music by DJ Despeinada.  
Saturday July 29, (doors open at 6:30pm) event begins at 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. CST  
Free and Open to the Public  
The Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, 922 San Pedro Ave, San Antonio.

For further details please visit [www.macondowriters.com](http://www.macondowriters.com).



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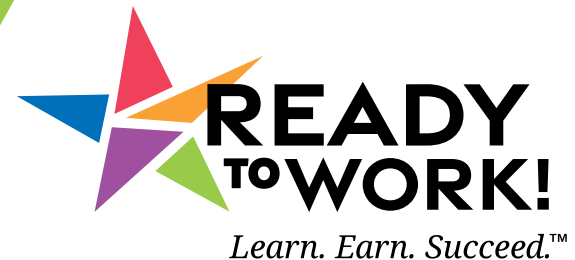
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# Edward Flores III

Edward H Flores III, a devoted Marine and beloved family member, passed away on July 9, 2023, at the age of 53. Born on May 18, 1970, Edward was the son of the late Edward C. Flores and Feliz Flores. He was a remarkable individual who touched the lives of those around him and will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Edward's journey began on that memorable day in May when he entered this world, bringing joy and happiness to his family. Growing up, he exhibited a strong sense of duty and honor, which would later lead him to serve his country in the United States Marine Corps. Edward's commitment to his military career was unwavering, and he served with distinction for several years.

Throughout his time in the Marines, Edward showcased his bravery and selflessness, earning the respect and admiration of his fellow soldiers. He demonstrated an un-

wavering dedication to protecting and serving his country, and his contributions will forever be remembered.

Beyond his military achievements, he was also heavily involved in his church, St Jude's Catholic Church.

Edward leaves behind his sisters, Priscilla Flores Williams and Jennifer Flores Cortes, brother Eric Flores, and nieces and nephews. Edward's passing has left a void in their lives that can never be filled, but his spirit will continue to guide and protect them.

As we bid farewell to Edward H Flores III, we take solace in knowing that his legacy will live on through the memories we shared with him. His unwavering courage, dedication, and love for his country will continue to inspire us all. May his soul find eternal peace, and may his family find comfort in the knowledge that Edward's spirit will forever be with them.



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# The 2023 Jeep Renegade Latitude: A Perfect Blend of Safety, Style, and Versatility



## Automotive Review by Albert Flores



### By Albert Flores

When I hear the word Jeep, I think of fun, adventure, off-road, safety, and family. The 2023 Jeep Renegade Latitude is a remarkable addition to the Jeep family, known for its rugged yet stylish design, powerful performance, and exceptional safety features. This compact SUV is designed to cater to the needs of adventurous individuals and families alike, offering many features that make it stand out in this competitive market.

Stepping inside the 2023 Jeep Renegade Latitude, one is greeted with a built and comfortable interior. The materials used in the cabin are nothing but quality, and the attention to detail is evident, everywhere you look. The dashboard layout is easy to understand and user-friendly, featuring intuitive controls for the various infotainment and climate systems. The seats are upholstered in premium fabric, providing ample support during long journeys. The cabin is roomy enough to comfortably seat five passengers, and the rear seats can be folded to create additional cargo space for those who need it. On the outside, the Jeep Renegade Latitude boasts a unique and distinctive design that stays true to Jeep's iconic styling. Its rugged and muscular exterior is enhanced by modern accents

and sharp lines, creating an eye-catching appearance that turns heads on the road. The Latitude trim features body-colored exterior mirrors, door handles, and roof rails, adding a touch of sophistication to its overall appeal, making it a family favorite. The Renegade is available in various vibrant colors, offering many personalization options to match any taste.

The 2023 Jeep Renegade Latitude is available in two engine options, catering to different driving preferences. The standard 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine delivers a peppy 180 horsepower, providing adequate power for city commutes and weekend getaways. For those seeking an even more spirited driving experience, the optional 1.3-liter turbocharged engine offers 177 horsepower with improved fuel efficiency, ensuring long-distance journeys are both enjoyable and economical. In terms of mileage capabilities, the 2023 Jeep Renegade Latitude achieves competitive fuel efficiency figures, especially with the 1.3-liter turbocharged engine. Drivers can expect approximately 24-27 mpg in the city and 30-32 mpg on the highway, making it an ideal companion for both daily commuting and extended road trips. Of course, Jeep has always prioritized safety, and the 2023

Renegade Latitude is no exception. This model comes equipped with a comprehensive suite of advanced safety features, including but not limited to adaptive cruise control, which maintains a safe following distance from vehicles ahead, enhancing highway driving safety. Sometimes we get distracted with the beauty outside, so Jeep has a lane departure warning which will alert the driver if the vehicle unintentionally drifts out of its lane, reducing the risk of collisions, with another car or a bear! There is also blind-spot Monitoring: Detects vehicles in the blind spots and alerts the driver to avoid potential accidents during lane changes. Rear Cross Path Detection: Warns the driver of approaching vehicles while backing up, improving parking lot safety, and not driving off a cliff. Just kidding. The 2023 Jeep Renegade Latitude also features a strong and sturdy chassis, multiple airbags, electronic stability control, and anti-lock brakes, ensuring optimal safety for all occupants in various driving conditions. I have always felt safe in a Jeep because I know the company has always put safety first.

One of the most impressive and unique features of the 2023 Jeep Renegade Latitude is its off-road prowess. Jeep's re-

nowned 4x4 capability allows the Renegade Latitude to tackle challenging terrains with ease. The available Selec-Terrain® Traction Management System allows drivers to choose from different modes (Auto, Snow, Sand, Mud, and Rock) to optimize traction and stability, enhancing the vehicle's versatility for any adventure. And I mean any adventure. Additionally, the My Sky® Removable Panel Sunroof is an optional feature that sets the Renegade Latitude apart from its competitors. With two removable roof panels, drivers and passengers can enjoy open-air driving, making the journey even more enjoyable.

Believe me, the 2023 Jeep Renegade Latitude is a well-rounded

compact SUV that excels in various aspects, including interior finishes, exterior design, engine options, mileage capabilities, and safety features. Its spacious interior can comfortably accommodate five passengers, making it an excellent choice for families and outdoor enthusiasts. With its off-road capabilities and distinctive styling, the Renegade Latitude truly embodies Jeep's reputation for manufacturing safe, fun, and adventurous vehicles. As for the price, 2023 Jeep Renegade Pricing starts at \$27,805 for the Renegade Latitude. All the way to \$32,845 for a Renegade Limited. Run by your local Jeep dealer and tell them It's time to go off-roading!



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