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An Interview
With Pancho
Claus

Halloween
in Marfa E
Mas

Cinderella
Runs for
County
Judge



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For Advertising
albertogovea@amigosnbusiness.com
or Call 817-797-4015

Staff

Editor in Chief

Denise Govea Jimenez

Contributing Writers

Sylvia Rodriguez

Videographer

Albert G.

Founders

Alberto Govea & Felix Alvarado



AN INTERVIEW WITH PANCHO CLAUS EL PRIMO DE SANTA

Alberto; How are you, como estas?

Pancho; Muy Bien, I am good.

Alberto; So, is this a busy time for you, pre-Christmas?

Pancho; Si but not as much as my cousin Santo?

Alberto; Santo?

Pancho; Yes, most people call him Santa, but really it is Santo.

Alberto: Wow, I never really knew that. Is Claus his real last name?

Pancho; Not really. But I don't know if I can share more about that. With social media the way it is, I better leave it there.

Alberto: So, what kind of pre-Christmas work are you involved in?

Pancho; Oh, Pos I help with all Spanish language requests and coordinate deliveries in the Southwest.

Alberto: I know you usually come out to Fort Worth for the Tree of Hope (Arbol de la Esperanza Christmas program)

Pancho; Si I have been visiting los ninos de Fort Worth for over 20 years and I love to check in on my good friends de LULAC Council 4568

Alberto; So, will you be here this year?

Pancho; Pos Si and we are planning a special surprise this year?

Alberto: That's sounds exciting, any hints?

Pancho; I can only say that it something that all the ninos will like and can enjoy for years to come.

Alberto: Well, I guess we all will just have to wait for December 10th to find out.

Pancho; Si and if I can I want to ask your readers who want to help with the Christmas Fiesta on December 10th to contact LULAC Council 4568. I know they would appreciate the help because besides the gifts for the children they give fruit, turkeys, food bags plus pan dulce and drinks for the celebration.

Alberto: Thank you Pancho and yes If you want to help with the Tree of Hope program contact me and I will put you in touch with the good people at LULAC 4568.

Pancho; Thank you Amigo and look forward to seeing you on December 10th.

Alberto: Okay Pancho take care, the ninos will be waiting.



JAMES WEBB IS JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG IN SPACE EXPLORATION

By Jenny Manrique



The successful launch of the James Webb telescope in December reinvigorated excitement over the seemingly endless opportunities to expand our understanding of the universe. According to scientists, the next great endeavor is building a base on the moon.

That goal is part of the mission behind the Artemis 1 moon rocket, whose launch was again delayed due to Hurricane Ida now battering Florida's coast.

"The mission is to make sure that traveling to the moon for humans for many days is safe," said Alexandra de Castro, science and technology communicator at PASQAL, which designs quantum computing programs.

When it does launch Artemis 1 will carry human-size dummies fixed with detectors to determine the amount of radiation humans might be exposed to over longer periods of time on the moon. According

to de Castro, Artemis Two's launch — scheduled for May 2024 — will take four astronauts including possibly the first female astronaut to walk on the moon.

Castro spoke during a briefing organized by Ethnic Media Services looking at what lies ahead in space exploration.

"China and Russia are also collaborating on a lunar base," noted de Castro, hinting at the potential for a new space race like the one that defined much of the Cold War following the Soviet Union's launch of the Sputnik rocket in 1957.

Alexandra de Castro, science and technology communicator at PASQAL

In more recent years Russia had been collaborating with NASA on the International Space Station and was working with both NASA and the European Space Agency on the Gateway project, which aims to establish an orbital station around the moon. Food and other supplies were to be transported to the station using Russian-made modules that would ferry back and forth from Earth.



But Russia severed all cooperation immediately following its invasion of Ukraine, and has since turned to its ally in Beijing, de Castro stressed.

The last manned mission to the moon was Apollo 17 in 1972. The journey back then took 12 days and was fraught with potential danger given how little scientists understood about the risks of space travel.

“We now have a lot of information from the 20 years of experience with the International Space Station,” de Castro said, adding this next phase in humanity’s reach for the stars holds tremendous possibility in fields that extend well beyond space: from health care to communications, transportation, and climate change.

And then there is the question of extraterrestrial life.

Marcio Melendez is with the Space Telescope Science Institute (STSci) in Baltimore, Maryland and was part of the team that worked on Webb’s mirrors. “Three years ago, we only knew of one exoplanet,” planets orbiting stars outside our own solar system. “Now we have 5,000 exoplanets and many of them are earth-like.”

American astronomer Edwin Hubble’s discovery of the Andromeda Galaxy in 1924 dramatically reshaped our understanding of the universe, proving its expanse far beyond our own Milky Way. NASA has since placed over 90 telescopes into orbit hoping to further deepen our view of the cosmos.

Marcio Melendez is with the Space Telescope Science Institute (STSci) in Baltimore, Maryland.

That effort has led to the discovery of billions of stars and galaxies and has

brought humanity closer than at any other point in history to answering some of our most perplexing and profound questions: where do we come from, how was the universe formed, and is there life outside our solar system?

“We need to think big and there is nothing bigger than the James Webb,” said Melendez. “Think about a telescope that is so sensitive that you can see the heat signature of a bumblebee on the moon.”

That sensitivity is due in part to Webb’s infrared optical technology, which must remain at an otherworldly temperature of below 7 kelvin, or roughly negative 500° Fahrenheit. Maintaining such frigid conditions — even in the vacuum of deep space — requires a massive, origami like sun visor that shields the telescope from the warming rays of the sun.

“Virtually every single image that we take with James Webb is a deep field,” meaning an image that peers into the blackness of space, explained Melendez. Each image, he adds, contains “hundreds of galaxies in the background,” making Webb something akin to a “time machine,” able to see light that has traveled billions of years stretching to the origins of the universe.

The telescope is also able to detect how planets and stars form and how galaxies interact.

“Webb is able to characterize the abundance of different molecules in the atmospheres of exoplanets,” which can help determine the presence of life, said STSci’s Nicole Arulanantham. “Now whether that life is intelligent, we don’t know.”

Arulanantham’s main area of research is the formation of stars and planets. With the Hubble Space Telescope, she and her team have been looking at how young stars use ultraviolet light in the process of planet formation. “This tells us how quickly the stars are growing,” she said.

With Webb, she and her team will now be able to determine the role that water plays in that process, explaining that molecules like hydrogen cyanide, an important carrier of hydrogen, carbon, and nitrogen, essential to forming life on earth, can be seen with the telescope.

For de Castro, one of the greatest achievements in space exploration is right here on earth. The Artemis Accords are a series of bi-lateral agreements between nations participating in the Artemis program, bringing together scientists from around the globe as part of an effort to return humans to the moon.

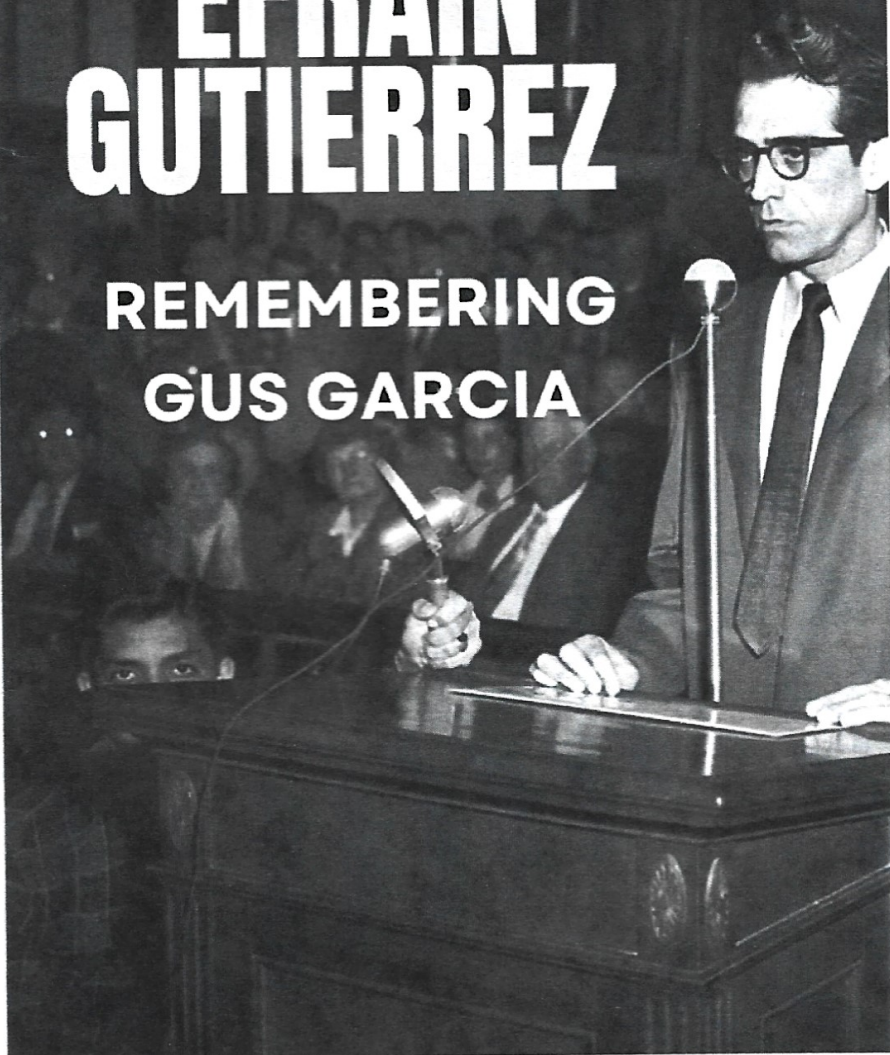
“This is how science is done today,” she said. “It teaches us how to deal with one another.”



OCTOBER 22, 2022

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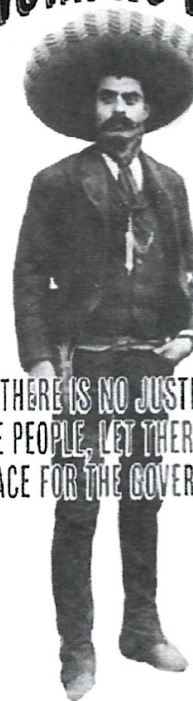
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CINDERELLA RUNS FOR COUNTY JUDGE E MAS

By A. Govea

Her full name is Cinderella Guevara, and the county is Presidio, more on her race later.

My five days so far, in Marfa Texas population 2100, was full of little everyday occurrences that we don't experience in the D/FW metro area. Por Ejemplo (for example) have you ever bought a Frito pie at the cemetery? I had not, but I have now (see flier below). Dia de los Muertos is celebrated with, well, los Muertos at the cemetery. And as the flier reads below, the funds collected are for the actual upkeep of the cemetery.

Little Joe music played in the background, while people visited their loved ones and enjoyed menudo and corn in a cup. I could not help but notice a large plot with Dallas Cowboys swag along with more traditional cemetery stuff flowers etc.(picture below) Initially I was kinda reluctant to venture too close as I did not want to be disrespectful especially since I am not familiar with cemetery festival etiquette. However, I was soon made to feel welcome and told to take as many pictures as I wanted. Courtesy of MS Portillo the family matriarch and wife of Richard Portillio that was laid to rest in 2021. Ms. Portillo shared that her husband died of Lou Gehrig's disease after a nine-year battle. And said that she cared for him herself until the end. I asked about the Cowboy swag, and she said her husband was a lifelong Cowboy fan. And so, to that end, why not in death.

I could not help but feel her sense of

pride in the upkeep of her husband of 43 years final resting place. And untimely what would be her final resting place and for their children. This would be a final resting place for the whole family where they would be together.... forever. Pero she laughingly said no pets allowed as one of her kids had suggested. At night, the cemetery is lit up with luminaries that the family brought or bought at the festival. It is truly a celebration of life and the promise that it does not end in death.

Before we attended the celebration, we attended mass in Alpine population 5,815 which is thirty miles west of Marfa. Our Lady of Peace is a small church but bigger than the church in Marfa but tiny compared to my home church in Keller. Both my wife and the atmosphere were like a step back in time. We felt that it was like the churches we attended back in the 1960s in Lubbock. And it is not just because of the building, but also the people. There was no fancy attire, no fancy jewelry or in fact no fancy cars. However, there were smiles everywhere of families gathered in prayer and thankfulness. The priest was young maybe thirty and of Mexican heritage with an accent to match.

His sermon was about Zacchaeus the tax collector and his awakening to Christ and his sinfulness. Zacchaeus was a wealthy man but isolated from the company of the people in his village. His pride and love of money kept him separated from what he thought were people lesser than him. We all need to be mindful of ourselves, the priest preached. He confessed that as

a newly minted priest he expected to be assigned to a large Cathedral church. He reasoned his command of the English was better than most of his peers. And he was after all top of his class, surely the Bishop would see that and assign him accordingly.

So, when he was told he was coming to Alpine he had to hide his disappointment. Why couldn't the Bishop not see what everyone else saw in him. Especially since it was clear as day. Well long story short after two years in Alpine he knows that he is where he exactly needed to be. So, the moral to this story is we don't know it all and a little humility is good for all of us.

(Story continues in Halloween in Marfa article)



HALLOWEEN, CHURCH, AND ELECTIONS IN A SMALL TOWN

By A. Govea



Before I get to Halloween and the election, just one more church observation. At the Alpine mass most, people shook hands during the 'Peace be with you part' And in Marfa no hand shaking as I am now accustomed to at my Keller church. I wondered why? Was told that Alpine is largely Republican, and Marfa is more Democrat.

So, which is loosely translated to mean in Alpine "What Covid" in Marfa "We still need to be COVID safe" Oh Pos Si (Yes) makes sense in what has become the new reality for the Elephant and the Donkey. Which proves that at least in some cases Religion and Politics do mix.

Ahora, (Now) Halloween most years for me the only thing I do is pass out candy to local kids and worry I will run out. This year was different as we were in Marfa with our young grandkids. There is not much better than to experience any holiday through the eyes of a child. In Marfa a Halloween must is going to the courthouse parking lot for trunk or treat. There you have local politicians, border patrol a few church folk passing out candy. And if you child is brave enough across the street the volunteer fire department has a free scary house for the kiddoes.

Once you visit all the trunks for candy which numbered about maybe 10 and an old Firebird with a skeleton driving you are done there. At this point I thought guess we are done; Pero I was wrong. Next a little door to door trick or treating where the grandkids joined up with some schoolmates. Nothing new here but then I realize the other kids are all riding together in a trailer pulled by a pickup with a few parents. Immediately they invite our grandkids to join and off they go and are job now was to follow. First time for me to see that and you know what I like it. And for sure I will agree that as the saying goes 'The more the merrier'

Before I get into the Cinderella for County Judge election, I have a couple of school related observations that I must share with you. On Thursday after Halloween all schools were let out early at 1.00pm. And by the way the there is only two school buildings for the whole city 1 to 5 and 6 to 12. The reason they had to shut done early the High School Volleyball team had an out-town tournament. So, that meant parents would be picking up their kids early to head to the tournament, can't teach if they aren't there. One last thing of note that same week I and my wife

got to enjoy a Thanksgiving lunch with the grandkids. Which was an unexpected treat, Pero I wondered why so early? Reason the freezer went out and it was now or never, so unlucky for them but lucky for us.

Tuesday November 8th was filled with big elections on the National stage and Statewide. Pero, in Presidio County there was an election that had something no other election had, Cinderella. Well folks Cinderella the incumbent candidate for County Judge has lost. New challenger and Democrat Jose Portillo is now the Judge elect. Ca Paso (What happened) don't' people there know that Cinderella is supposed to live happily ever after?



Well yes in a fairy tale but the truth is I mentioned a little earlier in this article Marfa the county seat leans more Democrat. And Cinderella had always ran as a Democrat but not this year she let Abbott convince to switch parties. She took the money and the signs that came with it and now she is out for the first time since 2014. The official reason she gave for switching parties was that (paraphrasing) the Democratic party's' stand on abortion did not line up with her beliefs as a devote Catholic. If that is true, then you can't' fault anyone for standing up for their beliefs. However, some believe it was just the money, either way she is out, it will be interesting to see if she decides to return the D party next election cycle. I have more to share, Pero I was stop here. Adios until next time.



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LA VIOLENCIA DOMÉSTICA ES 'CURABLE Y EVITABLE'



Y mientras que ha habido avances alentadores, defensores dicen que se tiene que hacer mucho más para evitar el abuso.

By Peter White

Para Deborah Tucker, en su primer año en la Universidad de Texas en Austin, la vida universitaria no le pareció una extensión del hogar seguro y cariñoso al que estaba acostumbrada.

Un tipo siniestro acosaba a Tucker y a sus dos compañeras de cuarto. Las acechaba e intentaba irrumpir en su departamento, así que lo denunciaron. La policía no lo pudo atrapar pero vigilaron su casa durante una semana. El acosador estaba observando.

“En cuanto los policías fueron retirados, el tipo irrumpió en su departamento otra vez. Y lamentablemente, tuvimos una visita que pasó ese fin de semana con nosotras y la agredió sexualmente”, dijo Tucker durante una sesión informativa para los medios el 28 de octubre que organizó Ethnic Media Services.

Desde entonces Tucker ha estado abogando en contra del uso de la violencia contra las mujeres. Fundó el Rape Crisis Center de Austin, el Center for Battered Women de Austin y es la actual presidenta del National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence (NCDSV).

“Más o menos, me he ganado cada una de estas brillantes canas haciendo este trabajo”, dice Tucker.

Arriba: (En sentido de las agujas del reloj: Jenna Lane, directora de Comunicaciones, Blue Shield Foundation of California; Pallavi Dhawan, directora de política de Violencia Doméstica Oficina del Fiscal Municipal de Los Ángeles;

Sunita Sohrabji, Redactora de Salud de EMS; Deborah Tucker, presidenta de la Junta Directiva, del Centro Nacional de Violencia Doméstica y Sexual; y Eria Olsen, directora del programa Safety Net, de la Red Nacional para acabar con la violencia doméstica.)

La violencia doméstica y sexual ocurre en todo el mundo, en todas las culturas, incluyendo California, donde “más de la mitad la ha experimentado de forma personal y de primera mano”, dice Jenna Lane, directora de Comunicaciones en la fundación Blue Shield de California. “Está verdaderamente en todas parte, lo que es preocupante”.

Cuando se piensa en mujeres maltratadas se piensa en sus heridas físicas. Pero la violencia doméstica (VD) incluye muchos comportamientos abusivos que causan otras heridas.

“También puede ser emocional. Puede ser económica, como el control del dinero de una persona o conseguir que la echen de su trabajo... Puede ser legal, como amenazar con denunciarla a inmigración”, dice Lane. La gran pregunta es “¿Qué se puede hacer al respeto?”

El mes de octubre es el Mes de la Sensibilización de la Violencia Doméstica, y la fundación acaba de lanzar un nuevo sitio web, Let's End Domestic Violence , que ofrece información sobre la prevención y la curación, y otros recursos.

“La VD está en todas partes; es evitable”, dice Lane.

Tucker, co-fundadora de la National Domestic Violence Hotline en 1996, fue a Washington en 1974 para ayudar al entonces senador Joe Biden a trabajar en la primera versión de la Ley de Violencia Contra las Mujeres (VAWA, por sus siglas



en inglés). Ha sido reautorizada varias veces, la más reciente fue en marzo de 2022.

La ley autoriza una gama de servicios de apoyo, que incluyen la financiación de varios programas de VD, la opción a las víctimas de ir a juicio en vez del arbitraje obligatorio, y el aumento de servicios y apoyo a sobrevivientes de las comunidades desatendidas y marginalizadas – incluyendo sobrevivientes LGBTQ+ de la violencia doméstica.

Es difícil encontrar buenas estadísticas sobre la VD. Mucha de la VD ocurre entre parejas íntimas y a menudo no se denuncia.

Los estados también definen a la VD de diferentes formas, un tema que incluso existe entre varias agencias a nivel estatal dentro de un mismo estado. Por ejemplo, en California, las cortes tienen un código penal para casos criminales, un código familiar que controla la corte familiar, y un código civil para el juzgado civil.

“La violencia doméstica ni siquiera está definida uniformemente entre esos códigos en el mismo estado”, dice Pallavi Dhawan.

Dhawan era procuradora en la Unidad de la Violencia Familiar de la oficina del fiscal del distrito de Los Ángeles. “Pasé 13 años encargada de casos realmente horribles de asesinatos y violaciones e intentos de asesinatos”, dice. Y a Dhawan se le daba bien. En 2019 fue galardonada con el premio de la Procuradora del Año por el Colegio de Abogados del Condado de Los Ángeles.

Dhawan trabaja ahora en la oficina del Fiscal Municipal, que patrocinó la propuesta de ley 1141 del Senado de California, legislación que agrega el control coercitivo a la definición de la violencia doméstica en el Código Familiar.

La propuesta de ley se basaba en la investigación que calculó que entre el 60% y el 80% de mujeres sobrevivientes del abuso doméstico ha experimentado

el control coercitivo.

“Me cansé de oír a la gente decir que la violencia doméstica requiere abuso físico y moretones. Y lo oí mucho en la corte, y lo oí del jurado y los jueces”, dice Dhawan.

Las víctimas de este tipo de abuso pueden ahora pedir una orden de alejamiento que prohíbe el control coercitivo y requiere a las cortes tomar en cuenta la evidencia del control coercitivo en la determinación de la custodia de menores.

Las formas comunes de control coercitivo incluyen el aislamiento, la privación de recursos, el control de los movimientos y comportamientos de la persona. Son todas esas cosas que despojan a la persona de su autonomía y la reducen a una sombra de su ser anterior, dice Dhawan.

Erica Olsen es la directora del Safety Net Project en la National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV, por sus siglas en inglés), una organización paraguas para casi 2,000 programas locales de violencia doméstica en todo el país. Se centra en el papel de la tecnología en los casos de VD.

“Los maltratadores harán un mal uso de cualquier tipo de tecnología como herramienta de abuso”, dice Olsen. “Puede que algunos maltratadores instalen una aplicación oculta o software de vigilancia en el dispositivo de la pareja sin su conocimiento. Algunos puede que hagan un mal uso de los sitios de las redes sociales o dispositivos smart en la casa como forma de acoso o acecho”.

Las tácticas incluyen rastrear la ubicación de una persona sin su conocimiento, o robar sus cuentas financieras o sociales para cometer fraude o suplantar la identidad, distribuir imágenes íntimas sin su consentimiento o colgar amenazas o contenidos de acoso en línea. En el caso de sobrevivientes LGBTQ, sus agresores pueden amenazarles específicamente con sacarlos del armario por Internet. “Esa es una táctica muy común”, dice Olsen.

Un artículo de la nueva VAWA incluye una disposición para la Acción civil por Divulgar una imagen sin consentimiento, dando a los sobrevivientes una opción de ir a juicio para recuperar daños monetarios y acceder a órdenes de protección.

El Departamento de Justicia dice que las detenciones por violación entre 1980 y 2015 han bajado de 26,000 a 15,000. Eso indica que los esfuerzos para combatir la VD están funcionando. Para terminar con ella, los abogados dicen que se tiene que trabajar más de manera proactiva en el campo de la prevención con las víctimas y sus abusadores.

“Aquí en Texas, realizamos un gran estudio hace unos años de todos los que estuvieron en prisión por asesinato o crimen violento grave, y surgió la regla del 80%”, dice Tucker, en referencia a esos acontecimientos que cambian la vida de una persona para predecir el comportamiento abusivo. Según sus resultados, el 80% de los presos que se incluyeron en el estudio crecieron en familias en las que se usaba la violencia doméstica.

Cuando Tucker trabaja con legisladores, les recuerda que “el 80% de las personas encarceladas por asesinato sufrieron desde muy temprana edad el uso de la violencia contra ellas o contra alguien que amaban y tuvieron que lidiar con esas experiencias.

Agrega que cuando se trata de mejorar la legislación “si queremos parar lo peor de la violencia... tenemos que parar la violencia doméstica y sexual. Todo está interconectado”, dice.

PARKLAND SCHOOL SHOOTER

By D.G. Jimenez

Parkland school shooter Nicholas Cruz received 34 consecutive life sentences for his classmate's and teachers' murder and attempted murder. This formal sentencing comes four years after the deadly valentine's day massacre and a lengthy sentencing trial. For six gruesome months, families and friends testified to the loss of their loved ones by sharing with jurors the massive impact their loss had on their lives. Surviving victims went on stand to describe the horrible scene they witnessed first-hand, the details even bringing Cruz's defense to tears. Jurors went as far as touring the freshman building, where Cruz murdered 15 students and two teachers. More like a mausoleum now, the building completely new and still had pools of dry blood on the floor and scattered valentine's cards throughout the hallways.

The verdict comes as a significant upset to victims' families and prosecutors who were seeking the death penalty. And like salt to a wound, the defense team has been accused of wildly inappropriate behavior. In one incident, a middle finger was thrown. Judge Elizabeth A. Scherer clashed with the defense team throughout the trial, and in September, the defense requested the strict Judge's removal from the case, but the request was denied. But the tension between Cruz's defense team and Judge Scherer continued to grow. During victim impact statements, it all came to blows when a defense lawyer mentioned the Judge's children, and he was promptly kicked out of the courtroom.

After the final victim impact statement was read by Joaquin Oliver's father, Manuel Oliver, where he flipped off the defense and warned Cruz of his impending demise, the proper sentence was handed down. Judge Scherer gave Cruz life in prison for his crime but ordered him to pay for damages to victims' families and court fees, further ordering his commissary to be garnished until the requested amount was paid in full.

Since the Parkland Massacre there have been hundreds of gunfire incidents at American schools. Most recently was the Uvalde Shooting that took the lives of 19 children all under the age of 11 and two teachers. The outcry for gun control have been louder than ever but to no avail. Sadly, until the necessary changes are made to protect our students and teacher's lives will continue to be lost.



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WHITE TERRORISTS POSE TOP SAFETY RISK

Focus on most violent, ex-FBI expert advises

By Mark Hedin

Ethnic Media Services

threat of deadly violence in the United States today comes not from “tree huggers” or Black Lives Matter activists, but from white supremacists and far-right extremists.

But in the eyes of the law, they’re all treated the same.

This was among the messages presented Tuesday to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on “‘Metastasizing’ Domestic Terrorism.”

To “metastasize” is to dangerously spread and grow, like a cancer.

The hearing was held in response to the May 14 attack at a Buffalo, N.Y., grocery store that killed 10 shoppers and store security, mostly black.

Among those testifying was Michael German, a 16-year veteran of the FBI who cut his teeth working undercover, infiltrating white supremacist and right-wing militant groups in Los Angeles and Seattle in the ‘90s before resigning in protest over what he deemed misguided agency policies around counterterrorism in the post-9/11 era.

He now works at the Brennan Center for Justice, after publishing a book and working for the ACLU.

White supremacists the “most violent”

A first step law enforcement should take, he said, is simply to focus on who’s most violent.

“Congress has already done the work necessary to provide federal law enforcement with all the tools it needs,” he said.

“The FBI and Justice Department use their domestic terrorism authorities most aggressively against groups that are far less violent and rarely, if ever, commit fatal attacks, such as environmentalists, animal rights activists, peace activists, anti-racism activists, anti-fascists and, most recently revealed, Concerned Women of America,” he testified.

But “white supremacists are the most violent and deadly among the perpetrators the FBI categorizes as domestic terrorists,” he said — and the deadliest to law enforcement officers themselves.

“The problem is that the Justice Department and FBI choose not to prioritize the investigation and prosecution of white supremacist and far-right violence as a matter of policy and practice.”

Also, German noted, data on both the extent of white supremacist crimes and on how it’s being addressed are lacking.

Too often, German said, violent crimes are left to state and local authorities or other agencies such as the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms or the



Drug Enforcement Agency to prosecute, according to their varied rules and appetite for justice.

For example, German said, a murder that could be considered domestic terrorism might be prosecuted instead as a hate crime, or simply a violent crime, and referred to state and local authorities, some of whom don’t have hate crime laws.

Of the 230,000 hate crimes that occur on average per year, only 25 are prosecuted at the federal level, German said, while only 14% of police agencies even acknowledge that hate crime exists within their jurisdictions.

“These crimes demand extra attention because they pose a persistent threat to vulnerable communities, particularly communities of color, immigrants, LGBTQ people, women, the disabled, and religious minorities,” German said.

“At some point we must acknowledge that white supremacy is not an ‘extremist’ belief system, but instead far too mainstream,” German testified.

The Great Replacement Theory

But when leaders adopt these positions, German said, people understand them as authorization to act on those beliefs — which have also, alarmingly, taken root in law enforcement circles.

Like the killer of 23 people in El Paso, Texas in 2019, the 2018 synagogue attack in Pittsburgh that killed 11 and the Christchurch, New Zealand, killing of 50, the Buffalo gunman justified his murderous targeting of black shoppers with the “Great Replacement Theory” that has cropped up repeatedly around the world in blaming an “other” — usually a racial or ethnic minority or religion, often immigrant — for usurping power and opportunity from a more privileged sector of the populace.

In 2022, such beliefs have been accepted by nearly a third of U.S. respondents — and 54% of Fox viewers, according to polling that German cited.

It’s not surprising, he commented. “Politicians and media pundits have long exploited racial resentments and public fears of demographic change to sway voters and build an audience.”

And too often, he continued, violent actors are portrayed and prosecuted as “lone wolves” without broader consideration of their fellow travelers.

This was the case with the Buffalo, N.Y., attacker, but closer examination turned up not only advance warnings of the

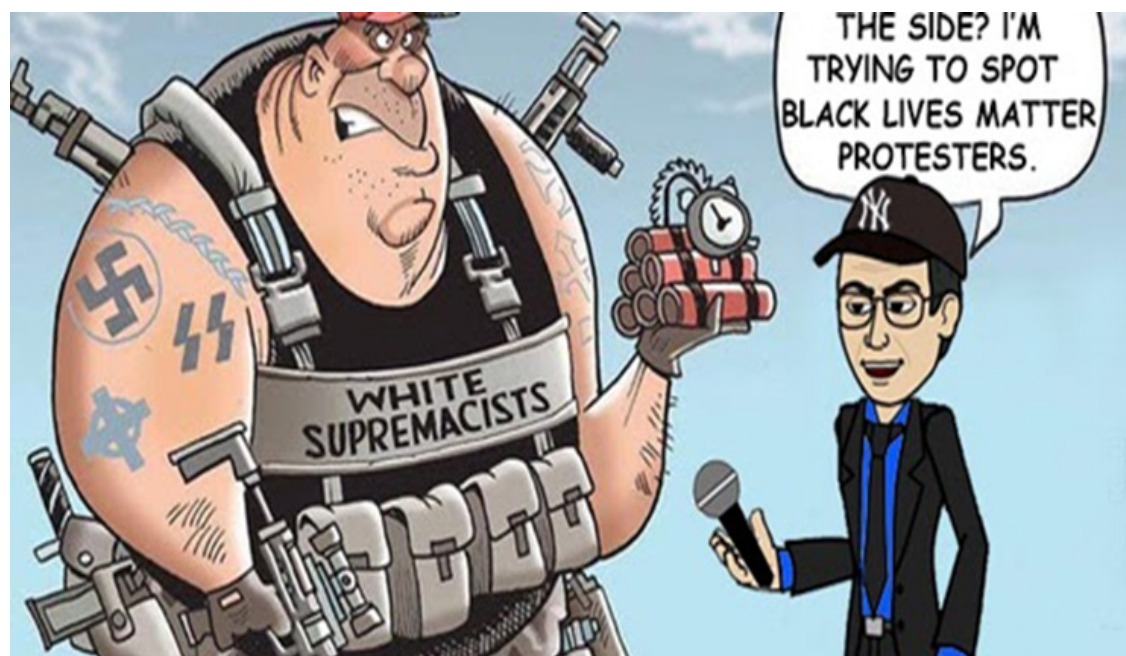
scheme posted and seen online, but also that he described his plans openly to others, including at least one federal agent, and had help in choosing his weaponry.

When he was working undercover with white supremacists, German testified, “lone wolf tactics” were recommended by its leaders for those “committing criminal acts, as part of a broader ‘leaderless resistance’ strategy” to keep the group as a whole out of trouble.

Ever since 9/11, German said, too much emphasis has been placed on surveillance for terrorist recruiting and radicalization efforts — to little effect beyond the detriment of people’s privacy — and “see something, say something” campaigns that have been similarly ineffective and divisive.

More effective strategies, he testified, would be to focus on how the violent element operates within the white supremacist movement, focusing on the tactics used, and amassing data and successfully prosecuting all violent crime across the board.

German is the author of the 2008 book, “Thinking Like a Terrorist: Insights of a Former FBI Undercover Agent” and his reports on white supremacist groups and far-right militancy can be accessed online: “Fighting Far-Right Violence and Hate Crimes,” (2019), “Hidden in Plain Sight: Racism, White Supremacy and Far-Right Militancy in Law Enforcement,” (2020) and “How to Combat White Supremacist Violence? Avoid Flawed Post-9/11 Tactics” (2020).



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ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU

By Sylvia Rodriguez

On January 20, 1961, a clerk of the US Supreme Court held the Fitzgerald family Bible as John F. Kennedy took the oath of office to become the nation's 35th president. John F. Kennedy's inaugural address inspired children and adults to see the importance of civic action and public service.

His historic words, *"Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country,"* challenged every American to contribute in some way to the public good.

What do those words mean to you?

As a product of a non-political family, I did not understand the sheer magnitude of what the new president was asking of our country in 1961.

Fast forward to 2022, 61 years later and now I understand the depth that our 35th president what doing as he pleaded with the country. For each citizen to have a personal stake in the country he fought so hard to be President of.

A long-standing theme within all sorts of volunteer organizations and political organizations alike. There are a need and people who are the movers and shakers step up. They selflessly give of themselves for the greater good. We all know them team moms and dads, snack or room parents, coaches, administration, that mom who is the head of everything, to the dad who gets of work to run an organization. All so that he may ensure everyone is represented and no one or nothing falls thru the cracks. These people are the ones who impact is day to day life in many ways these are the overlooked heroes.

If we are lucky these heroes take their dream and drive one step further and run for office. Where the impact is felt on a greater level, that passion cannot be matched or duplicated. There are one term politicians who fake it but when the honeymoon phase is over, and the

constituents can see the truth.

One of these heroes I would like to highlight is Roxanne Martinez, a mom that is unapologetically "that mom." Per her Facebook she is a cancer survivor, booster club president, community advocate etc. etc.

Her latest accolade is now the District 9 Trustee for Fort Worth ISD, a mover and shaker within her community long before her title became official with Fort Worth ISD. We are all able to have influence in people's lives. The only difference with politicians is that they actually pay and raise money to voice their opinions and make a change.

Today is a day of change, Election Day.

Do you remember your first brush with politics?

Do you remember the first time you voted?

Do you remember how you felt in that moment?

Have you voted?

Do you know where?

Are you "That Mom or Dad?"

Do you feel a pull to run for office?

Are you the change we need to see?

If any of these questions tugged on your heart or you have always had an inkling to run for office, I urge you to do so.

We need you. Our country needs you. We need the movers and shakers on the ballot for next election. Take that leap of faith.

Remember even John F Kennedy had to give himself a pep talk to become and even run for President. The je ne sais quoi is not something that cannot be duplicated you either have the passion or you do not.

The movers and shakers in my life some of which I have highlighted in my "Community Organizations "series all have the passion. Now friends which of you will continue your plight and be the change in a larger sector? What difference can you make for the public good?



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Cody and Christina Dickerson

214-718-0751



christinadickersonrealtor.com
christinadickerson06@gmail.com

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