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Letter From The Editor

We end 2016 and enter 2017 with optimism praying America is stronger than Trump. We at Nuestra Voz will continue to write what the mainstream media does not cover. Our mission is to inform, educate and entertain the Latino community of North Texas. This is a responsibility we take to heart.

Alfredo Sanchez points out the mistake people make in considering us Latinos to be monolithic. We are not. I learned exactly how non-monolithic we are when I started answering the question "Quienes Somos?". To most Texans the Tejano of South Texas and the Mexican American of North Texas are the same. Culturally, they have little in common. The Tejanos have their origin in Imperial Spain. Mexicano Americanos of North Texas have their origin in the coal, silver and gold mines of Mexico. To a lesser degree those that installed the railroad. There was a straight trajectory from Mexico here. Most of the original Mexicanos have long since melted into the American mainstream.

Why is it that we do not vote? There are many reasons for this but I would lay the cause on our clergy, politicians, Latino historians and the school system. There is a massive lack of education on the necessity of voting. Voting was not something that was discussed at the dinner table and no one picked up the slack. We have placed too much emphasis on registering people to vote and not enough in actually going to vote. I learned this past election cycle that the reason some people don't vote is that they do not know how to operate the equipment. This knowledge has to be disseminated at the community and neighborhood level.

Another reason is that our Latino politicians have not learned the art of diplomacy, disagreeing when it is in the best interests of the community. Take for instance naming a street after Cesar Chavez. Every politician should unequivocally support this endeavor. It is far too easier to go along to get along. If we are truly interested in reducing the school to prison pipeline, in reducing the dropout rate this would help and it would also teach a piece of Mexican American history that is not taught at school. As many Tejano politicians that South Texas has you would think that our public schools would have a thriving Tejano-Mexican American history. Given that we do not vote. It is not in anybody's interest to get us to vote. Politicians would have to take money from more competitive races to spend on our races, gerrymandering would not be as blatant anti-Latino as it is. Look at a district map of Fort Worth city council. It is intended to keep Latinos out of the city council and it works.

There are two types of recent Latino immigrants, legal and undocumented. The legal immigrant comes to partake of the land of milk and honey. The undocumented is escaping from his home country for various reasons. None of the two can empathize with the cultural and social experience of multi-generational Latinos. These two groups do not communicate at the same level. We Multi-generational Latinos have endured as much discrimination as Blacks even if we did not live in plantations.

Our community needs leaders. Our community also needs to learn to give back. If there is one thing that I have learned that is the lesson that I have learned. Too often people think that photo-ops are leadership. They are not. If I learned one thing in the military it was to distinguish leaders from followers, doers from do-nothings. I see so many people doing some many things for the community. Yet, we still lag. We have to look at our surroundings and see what we can do to improve our community. That is going to start with voting. No excuse accepted.



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JPS – Where Federal and State Laws Collide.

If you own or rent a property you are paying property taxes. That makes you part owner of John Peter Smith (JPS) Hospital of Tarrant County. The hospital was created to assist those whose financial income was not sufficient to get medical care at a private hospital.

Individuals and families qualify for services based on a sliding income scale the less that you earn the less you must pay to get medical care at JPS. The more that you earn the more that you pay. Constitutionally, under the Texas constitution every citizen of

Tarrant County can receive services at the hospital. The dilemma is that under the Affordable Care Act (ACA, AKA Obamacare) undocumented persons cannot receive medical care except for emergency services mandated by law. In Congress, Republicans agreed to support the ACA only if this requirement was added. This is one federal law that puts mandates on the state that Texas has not challenged in federal court and as it has done to other federal legislation.

Money hungry Republicans placed this limitation on the law because

"These so called fiscally conservative Republicans are practicing what is nowadays called "fake news" or in other words, lies."

according to them undocumented persons are a burden on society because they put stress on public services without contributing their share of taxes. These so called fiscally conservative Republicans are practicing what is nowadays called "fake news" or in other words, lies. Everyone pays taxes. By denying services

to persons that have no voice politicians now have more money for other pet projects. That is how governments work by creative financing and telling lies.

The significance of denying medical care is that children of undocumented workers need the medical care. Lack of medical care has an impact on a child's

performance in school. It can also be a threat to other children in the case of contagious diseases. Republicans are now talking of repealing Obamacare. This is not a time for "fake news." One third of Texas' congressional delegation surround the metroplex area. Undocumented persons may not have a voice but we do. In the case of medical care for children, we should provide medical care to all children because our own children will be protected. Politicians need to find a more creative way to raise money. It is in our best interests.

Opening Doors International

By Dorothy Kuhn

Milpa worked hard and was a respected member of her community. But she wasn't clear how she could qualify and become a U.S. Citizen. Every day she fought the fear of being deported, until she found Denton's **Opening Doors International**, a non-profit agency.

Opening Doors helps eligible immigrants who would make solid American citizens become the legal citizens and residents at non-profit prices. With respect and compassion, **Opening Doors** serves over 1000 people a year.

Edward had tried working with a notario. "They took my money, but after months, I still had nothing. Opening Doors really helped me, and now I'm a proud American citizen. Looking back, the notarios didn't understand enough to help me. They weren't even legally authorized. I'm so grateful for Opening Doors."

Opening Doors is a Recognized Agency authorized by the Department of Homeland Security. It is allowed by law to provide naturalization assistance. It provides bi-lingual, properly trained U.S. attorneys and staff who have years of experience. With the recent election of a new president, now more than ever you need to make sure the advice you get is correct and legal.

The trained staff at **Opening Doors** gets the newest training ahead of any changes to U.S. law.

Call Opening Doors at **940-382-0096** to see how safe and easy it is to find out if you might be eligible for U.S. Citizenship or other immigration benefits.

The good news is you may be eligible under one or more of these programs:

- 1. Family Petition – Based on qualifying U.S. relatives
- 2. TVISA – For survivor or victim of human trafficking
- 3. UVISA – For immi-

grant victims of crime who work with police to report it

- 4. DACA – For children who arrived in the US before age 15 and before June 15, 2007
- 5. Asylum – Immigrants who fear persecution in their home country.
- 6. VAWA – For immigrant who suffered domestic violence.

Why act quickly? With the new president, rules may change. Your best path is to get started and discover your options before January 20, 2017, when President Trump takes office.

Enjoy peace of mind and confidence in your future. Call Opening Doors at **940-382-0096** for an initial appointment to discover your best next move forward. Our trained staff will hold your hand with respect and compassion throughout the process.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: Opening Doors also provides awareness on the signs of modern-day slav-

ery, also called human trafficking or forced labor. Learn more www.odisinc.org

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End-of-the-Year Reflections

By Dr. Anjelita Cadena

It is that time of the year again, the end of the year. The time of the year where we reflect on 2016. To think about what we meant to accomplish and compare it to what we actually accomplished. This happens just in time for us to write our New Year Resolutions which most of us will keep for a few weeks in 2017 and then abandon only to think about them in December again. A vicious cycle.

Don't get me wrong, New Year Resolutions are a great start. The problem is that we give up on them early because they are too vague or too open-ended and we can end them at that point with very little guilt. "Eat out less often" and "Spend Less" are common resolutions. How much is "less"? When do we get to "less"? It is very easy to work on these two items, and others just as vague, and decide it is enough after a few weeks. I spent less by going out to eat less for a whole month! Yay me! But what did I accomplish? How much "less" did I spend?

How do we create resolutions, otherwise known as goals, that we can keep working on for more than a few weeks? Start with your 2016 new year resolutions, let's use the two examples "eat out less often" and "spend less." First, ask yourself why you want to do these things. Why would you want to eat out less often? For some people it is health related, or maybe to spend more time at home, less time driving. Let's assume it is to spend less since that is actually one of the other common resolutions. Why would you want to spend less? *To not have to decide whether to pay a bill or buy groceries.* Why are you facing that decision? *Because surprise expenses, such as a flat tire, make it hard to have enough money to do both.* Why do surprise expenses make this difference? *Because I do not have the money saved to pay for them.* And there it is, the underlying problem! You want to have money saved so that surprise expenses do not cause you to have to choose between groceries and paying your bills. Your goal is to create an Emergency Expense Fund. Eating out less will give you money to save toward that fund!

Asking why until you get to a major reason is an established method of quality improvement in business and your business is YOU. Keep asking yourself why until you get to the root cause, or in this case, you find your base goal. Once you know your base goals you can create your resolutions and make decisions that move you in the direction you chose for yourself.

Let's say you currently spend \$50 per paycheck going out to eat. One resolution can be "In 2017, I will start a savings account to be used as an emergency fund. I will put \$20 in this account each paycheck and spend only \$30 to go out to eat."

That resolution (goal) is easier to keep because you know exactly what you need to do, you can measure your results, and you will know when to stop, at the end of the year. Just in time for end-of-the-year reflections.

Questions or comments ... write to me: prof@acadena.com

Why Latinos don't vote in a Bloc: by Alfredo Sanchez

So why don't Latinos/Latinas vote as a bloc? During the 2016 election cycle the media was fixated on portraying the Latino Community as a monolithic voting bloc very similar to the Black Community. It turned out that they were not this monolithic voting group. So why don't Latinos/Latinas vote as a bloc like the Black Community is said to? The Black American Community has a unique history that is unique to them which binds them much closer together as a voting bloc. The Black American Community is made up of individuals who can trace their ancestry to those Africans brought to the United States as slaves. These descendants of slaves comprised the majority of the Black Community. The Black Community shares a common history and therefore a common interest. The Black Community knows their history and it has not been white washed like the history of the Latino community. The reason for the civil war is taught in school so new generations are familiar with their history. The Black Community, those that are descendants of the civil war, is still the majority in the Black Community. Their history has not been diluted by new black immigrants. This community has a very intense history and that is why no other group can ever be convinced to vote as a voting bloc like the Black Community. The Black Community knows who Martin Luther King is. Most Latinos could not tell you who Cesar Chavez or Reis Trijerina were and what they fought for. Latino history is not taught in school so no history is passed on to our children. Many recent Latino immigrants have no clue about discrimination against Hispanics prior to the 1960s. Or the impact Martin Luther King had on Latino's civil rights.

After Trump's attacks on the Mexican Community, the media assumed that the Latino Community would be outraged and vote Democrat. What the media discovered was that many in the Latino Community were not offended and were not voting Democrat. As a result, the media ignored the impact of the Latino vote and stopped reporting on the influence of the Latino vote. The media had no clue why the Latino response did not include abandoning Trump for his comments. Why were many of the Latinos not offended by Trump's comments? What the media and many non-Latinos and even many Latinos don't understand is that today's Latinos are a very diverse community. The Latino community of today mirrors the American White community. While the White community is primarily made up of people of European decent, the Latino Community is primarily composed of people of American indigenous

decent but are separated based on: economic status, time in history when they immigrated, some never immigrated because they were here before the United States existed; country from where they immigrated, status of immigration, reason for immigration (Cubans fleeing Castro), people from the Caribbean etc. The Latino community is made up of Native Americans, Mestizos, people who can trace their ancestry to the Spanish conquistadores, Mexicans that arrived here prior to and after the American border was established after the Mexican American war, Mexicans who arrived in this country to work the railroads and coal mines in the late 1800's, Mexicans who arrived in the 1950's to work agriculture, those who arrived here as a result of the Cuban Revolution, those who became citizens as a result of President Reagan's amnesty, and -more recently, those large numbers of immigrants who have arrived after President Reagan's Amnesty that have included immigrants from Mexico and Central and South America. So, in the United States if our common history does not bring Latinos together, what is it then that brings Latinos together? What brings Latinos together is our common ties with Spain and the blood of the indigenous Americans that first called the Americas their home.

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Tonantzin: Our Precious and Compassionate Mother

By Franco

Our histories and stories have been hijacked by colonizers, media monopolies, and corrupt governments; they have twisted our histories into farcical lies and then fed them back to us in degraded forms through propaganda books, degrading television, and indignant films. Food for the dogs. One of our most beloved icons, Tonantzin, is a blatant example of how colonizers attempted to silence our voices.

The first fiction had the intent to make us forget her real name, and therefore her origin. Her name was changed from Tonantzin to Guadalupe. Guadalupe is a name in Extremadura, Spain, nothing to do with Tonantzin. Usually the meaning of Guadalupe is thought to be -river of wolfs- although not everyone agrees. Tonantzin has nothing to do with this name of Guadalupe. Tonantzin instead refers to a title of great honor, tzin basically means -precious-referring to a noble or exceptional status. Tonan is a word with rich meaning, it refers to life. It is associated with light, you could say it is the essence of life, the life force. It can be translated as referring to a lady who is -our Precious Life. She is the female aspect of the life giver, the mother of life. The name also refers to warmth, which implies compassion. Therefore, she could also be called -our precious and compassionate mother.

The second fiction is how the now Virgin of Guadalupe appeared in the hill of Tepeyac. The fact is that Tonantzin's image was engraved on stone at the foot of the hill called

Tepeyac before the catholic clergy ever existed in Mexico. The Italian historian Lorenzo Boturini visited this location back in 1740 and made a copy of this image. This hill (Tepeyac) was a place where Mexicans invoked Tonantzin's protection to sustain human life. They made pilgrimages to sacred mountains and hills that surrounded Mexico City to perform sacred rituals. When Spain invaded Mexico, biological means were used to exterminate millions of Mexicans (Mexica). Small pox spread throughout the land, threatening to exterminate the Mexican people. Facing total extermination, Mexicans no longer feared the death threats of the Spanish authorities and clergy about not practicing their original spiritual traditions. Mexicans invoked the protection of Tonantzin, the compassionate mother, the precious mother, to deliver them from total genocidal extermination. Tonantzin's cult quickly spread in Mexico defying the catholic clergy's domination of religious practice. Faced with this defiance the catholic clergy had no other option but to accept Tonantzin into the church by trying to transform her into the Virgin Mary, hoping that eventually the devotion would transfer from Tonantzin to the Virgin Mary. To do this, they changed her name to Guadalupe and created a narrative that sought to make the clergy, the rightful administrators of the devotion. Essentially to take away the true story from the Mexicans.

That twisted story created by the clergy has been perpetrated in more devious ways in recent

times by corrupt media monopolies in Mexico in collusion with the government, to keep Mexicans from remembering their true history, erasing from their memory Tonantzin and her story. Normally these media will portray a mentally challenged Mexican to who a European looking Virgin Mary appears. Then the mentally challenged Mexican begs the clergy to believe him that Guadalupe appeared to him. The clergy ask for a sign and he presents the Tilma (a cape made of agave fabric) on which the image of Guadalupe is manifest. The clergy then accept that she is the Virgin Mary and accept the devotion as catholic. The problem is that the image on the Tilma is full of Aztec iconography, which the clergy were not able to detect, they thought it was just stylistic decorations. The Tilma is an Aztec book of symbols that speaks of Tonantzin's message of hope for her Mexican people, of her promise to protect them from the genocide perpetrated by Europeans. It is the image of Tonantzin.

No force could obligate Mexicans to abandon the devotion to Tonantzin because they believed she had protected them from total genocidal extermination. She became the protector of the Mexican people and eventually of the Mexican nation. Under her image the Mexican liberators fought against Spain. Revolutionaries raised her image to combat dictators who oppressed the people. Cesar Chavez marched under her shadow when he defied the agricultural cartels.

Mexican-American historian Felix Alvarado

teaches that we should not become cemeteries of our history, we need to bring our history to life, recover our stories, we are the rightful owners, we need to tell our story. For too long a time we have let others tell us what our story is, what our history is. We no longer tolerate the forced silence; we tell our story. Tonantzin is our precious compassionate mother, and we should feel proud to call her by her true name **Tonantzin**, she is our story, our history.



The Feast of “Our Lady of Guadalupe”

The history on the apparition of the Virgin Mary in Mexico to Juan Diego in 1531 is a story that needs to be repeated many times so that everyone may understand the significance of why she came. I would like to give everyone my views about her that I hope will help some get to know her.

First, we must understand why Mary deserves to be honored by all as our Mother.

When Jesus was dying on the cross he said to John, “this is your Mother”. He said to Mary “this is your Son”. Right there and then he established Mary as the Mother of all mankind, the new Eve.

Mary was like no other person. God filled her with grace and created her without original sin. Mary had to be a very holy person to carry baby Jesus within her womb. After all it was God being born in the flesh.

We do not know very much about Jesus’s childhood but we can assume that He grew up like all children do, including parental guidance.

When Mary accepted the honor of being God’s Mother she became one the most important persons in history. She had to protect and raise Jesus until he came of age. As soon as Jesus was born King Herod tried to have him killed. Jesus’s parents had to do whatever was necessary so make sure Jesus would make it to his destination. Mary along with Joseph her husband was given the most important and wonderful task of raising Jesus. What a task it must be to raise a God-man. Although Jesus was God he was also a new person to this planet whose brain needed to be given information. Mary and Joseph had to teach Jesus about what was in the Bible until Jesus would be able to interpret it himself. We now know from the New Testament’s teachings that he would refine it but more important he would fulfill it.

Mary knew all along that Jesus was the Messiah. Mary had to bring Jesus through all the childhood stages of growth. Mary as his Mother had to guide him through those stages. Eventually she gave him a little nudge that started his destined journey. That happened when they were at the wedding in Cana and Jesus performed his first miracle when he turned water into wine. Any human would want to prolong a journey which was to end with much suffering and a terrible death. I am sure Jesus knew that was to come. After the miracle at Cana Jesus started getting busy. All those documented stories are in the Bible’s New Testament.

So, you see Mary our Mother loves us. She witnesses Jesus life and eventually horrible death on the Cross for us. It hurts her when she sees people rejecting Jesus. It hurts her as well when people do not know about our Lord and savior Jesus. That is why she appeared in Mexico.

There in Mexico the Aztec were a very, very religious people whose God was being taken away from them by the Catholic Spaniards. The God that was being preached to them were just words coming out from the priest. You see they could not read the Bible for themselves. Their written language was small pictures of different colors, called glyphs. The colors all would mean something. For example, the picture of the name of a ruler would be turquoise. So when Mary appeared to Juan Diego her mission was to bring these truly religious people to the one true God. She did that by leaving a miraculous color printed picture of herself on Juan Diego’s tilma, (his cape). She is shown in front of the sun. The sun was worshiped by the Aztecs as their main God. Her standing in front of it meant it was being superseded. Mary was wearing a turquoise cape, the color of royalty. The picture also contained many symbols (Glyphs), which informed the Indians about the true God the woman, Mary, wanted them to know. Once the Aztec Indians read the message on the tilma they got it! They started converting to Christianity by the millions.

This was also great news for all the virgins getting ready to be sacrificed. I am sure one of my ancestors went,” whew that was close” or “Oh Mother what took you so long”.

Once again Mary brought Jesus to millions of people. That is what she does. She helps us to get closer to God. We honor her because of who she is what she has done and continues to do. We ask her to pray for us because we know she is on our side and wants to help us.

Do you want to see a miracle to help you believe, then go to the Basilica in Mexico City. There behind the altar enclosed in a glass frame and hanging real high for all to see is Juan Diego’s tilma that has exceeded its eleven year life span by over 500 years. Yep it really happened.

We celebrate this grand occasion on December 12. It is called the feast of our Lady of Guadalupe.

Your Friend in Christ,

Joe M. Govea,

A devout Catholic whose duty is to evangelize

We do not know very much about Jesus’s childhood but we can assume that He grew up like all children do, including parental guidance.



For Whom the Bell Tolls

It sounded like a fairy tale. When the Mexican coal miners left Mexico, they left behind the comfort, safety and security of their small town. The first group of coal miners to arrive in Bridgeport were from Zaragoza, Coahuila Mexico. They brought personal belongings, family and their values. The Catholic Church was a big part of whom they were and left behind.

The Mexican community of Bridgeport missed their Catholic religion and wanted to build a church but lacked the resources. In this unknown land of North Texas, they sought the comfort and security of the “Virgencita.” A yearning

for this part of Old Mexico was inside the soul of the Mexicans.

Unlike nearby Thurber, there was not a large European Catholic population to build one. They asked for donations from the Bridgeport community to build the church. The community responded and the Mexicans had their church. The miner operators contributed their share towards building the church and the Mexican cemetery. They knew that satisfied Mexicans would be more productive and less likely to return to Mexico.

When the church was demolished the bell went somewhere. What every-

body knew was that the bell was inscribed with “Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe” on the inside. No one could tell me where the bell was located. The story would be incomplete without the bell. If the story was true, the bell had to be somewhere.

As I approached Saint John the Baptizer Catholic Church I noticed a bell on top of a metal frame to the left of the entrance of the church. I went inside and asked questions. A parishioner told me he had climbed to the top of the metal frame to see if the bell was inscribed. It was. On the outside of the bell is inscribed, “Our Lady of Guadalupe 1929”.

Mexican Americans have a long

proud history in North Texas.

Editor’s note.

Bridgeport is located about 50 miles northwest of Fort Worth. The first coal mine in North Texas opened in Bridgeport in 1882. This created an immediate demand for experienced coal miners. Zaragoza, Coahuila has the largest coal mine in Mexico. Coal owners flocked to Mexico to recruit first coal miners then any miner. To make the move more appealing there were higher wages and the families could come with the miners. This was the first Mexican-American community of North Texas. The church would have been built in 1889.



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NV Nuestra Voz En Español

JPS: donde chocan las leyes estatales y federales.

Si usted tiene o alquila una propiedad está pagando impuestos de propiedad. Eso te hace dueño parcial del Hospital John Peter Smith (JPS) del Condado de Tarrant. El hospital fue creado para ayudar a aquellos cuyos ingresos financieros no son suficiente para recibir atención médica en un hospital privado.

Individuos y familias califican para servicios basados en una escala de ingresos donde entre menos ganas menos pagas para recibir atención médica en JPS. Cuanto más ganas más pagas. Según la Constitución de Texas todos los ciudadanos del Condado de Tarrant debían de poder recibir servicios en el hospital. El dilema es que bajo la ley federal de asistencia asequible (ACA "Affordable Care Act", también conocido como Obamacare) personas indocumentadas no pueden recibir atención médica salvo servicios de emergencia establecidos por ley. En el Congreso, los republicanos acordaron apoyar la ACA solamente si se ha agregado este requisito. Esta es una ley federal que pone mandatos sobre el estado que Texas que no ha desafiado en la corte federal como lo ha hecho al resto de la legislación federal.

Los republicanos hambrientos de dinero han puesto esta limitación a la ley porque según ellos personas indocumentadas son una carga financiera para la sociedad porque ponen estrés en los servicios públicos sin contribuir su parte de impuestos. Estos llamados fiscalmente conservadores republicanos están practicando lo que hoy en día se llama "falsas noticias" o en otras palabras, son mentirosos. Todo el mundo paga impuestos. Niegan servicios a personas que no tienen voz política para que les sobre dinero para otros proyectos. Así es como los gobiernos funcionan mediante el financiamiento creativo y diciendo mentiras.

La importancia de negar la atención médica a niños de los trabajadores indocumentados es que los niños necesitan la atención médica. Falta de atención médica tiene un impacto en el rendimiento del niño en la escuela. También puede ser una amenaza para otros niños en el caso de enfermedades contagiosas. Los republicanos están hablando ahora de derogar Obamacare. Este no es un momento para "noticias falsas".

Una tercera parte de la delegación del Congreso de Texas rodean la zona del metroplex. Las personas indocumentadas no tienen voz política pero nosotros votantes si. Es nuestra responsabilidad votar para prevenir esta injusticia. En el caso de atención médica para los niños, debemos brindar atención médica a todos los niños porque nuestros hijos esten protegidos. Los políticos tienen que encontrar una manera más creativa para recaudar fondos. Es en nuestros mejor interés.

Felix Alvarado

"Estos llamados fiscalmente conservadores republicanos están practicando lo que hoy en día se llama "falsas noticias" o en otras palabras, son mentirosos. Todo el mundo paga impuestos. Niegan servicios a personas que no tienen voz política para que les sobre dinero para otros proyectos. Así es como los gobiernos funcionan mediante el financiamiento creativo y diciendo mentiras."


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Para quien suenan las campanas

Sonaba como un cuento de hadas.

Cuando los mineros Mexicanos de carbón salieron de México, dejaron atrás la comodidad y la seguridad de su pequeña ciudad. El primer grupo de mineros de carbón en Bridgeport era de Zaragoza, Coahuila México. Trajeron sus pertenencias personales, familia y sus valores. La iglesia católica fue una parte importante de lo cual eran y dejaron atrás.

La comunidad Mexicana de Bridgeport echaba de menos su religión católica y quería construir una iglesia pero carecía de recursos. En esta desconocida tierra del norte de Texas, buscaban la comodidad y seguridad de la "Virgencita". Un anhelo de esta parte de México estaba en el alma de los mexicanos.

No era como Thurber que podía tener una iglesia dado a su grande población católica Europea y Mexicana. Pidieron donaciones de la comunidad de Bridgeport para construir la iglesia. La comunidad respondió y los mexicanos tenían su iglesia. Los operadores mineros contribuyeron su parte hacia la construcción de la iglesia y el cementerio mexicano. Sabían que los mexicanos satisfechos serían más productivos y había menos probabilidad que regresaran a México.

Cuando la iglesia fue demolida la campana fue en algún lugar pero no me podían decir dónde. Lo que todo el mundo sabía era que la campana estaba inscrita con "Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe" en el interior. Nadie me podría decir donde se encuentra la campana. La historia estaría incompleta sin la campana. Si la historia era cierta, la campana tenía que estar en algún lugar.

Cuando me acerqué a iglesia de San Juan el Bautista noté una campana en la parte superior un marco de metal a la izquierda de la entrada de la iglesia. Fui adentro y hice preguntas. Un parroquiano me dijo que había subido a la cima de la estructura metálica para ver si la campana estaba inscrita. La campana estaba inscrita por la parte exterior, "Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe de 1929".

La campana es parte de nuestra historia. Estadounidenses de origen mexicano tienen una historia larga y orgullosa en el norte de Texas.

Editor Nota.

Bridgeport está situado cerca de 50 millas al noroeste de Fort Worth. La primera mina de carbón en el norte de Texas abrió en Bridgeport en 1882. Esto creó una demanda inmediata de mineros experimentados. Zaragoza. Coahuila tiene la más grande mina de carbón en México. Los propietarios de carbón acudieron a México para reclutar a los primeros mineros de carbón primero y después mineros de cualquier parte de Mexico. Para hacer el movimiento más atractivo los salarios eran más altos y las familias pudieran venir con los mineros. Esta fue la primera comunidad Mexico-Americana del norte de Texas. La iglesia habría sido construida en 1889.

Visite a Bridgeport y pare en Paradise a comer en Jorge's.



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Revenge of the Poor and Downtrodden Whites

It happened in Venezuela. It happened in Britain. Now it has happened in the US. The poor and downtrodden got their day in court and won. We know what happened in Venezuela the government and economy are a mess. Government expenditures to improve the lot of the working class were transitory. When the money stopped, so did social welfare programs. But the poor and downtrodden had a leader they wanted Hugo Chavez. They got the President they wanted and the cost to the country did not matter.

In Britain, something similar happened. In an era of “fake news” someone concocted the idea that Brits were paying too much to belong to the European Union. These people dreamed of all that they could do with the money they were paying the EU. What they did not tell the people was that they were also getting money back. More than what they were paying. There is an advantage to having an open border when it comes to the movement of goods and people. The poor and downtrodden of Britain got their wish. Britain now hopes for the best. It is a fond hope because in a globalized economy friends are better than foes.

Enter Donald Trump. Just like Hugo Chavez promising much to the poor and downtrodden. They had a reason to vote, here was the first man that promised to make America great again. Of course, that means a return to the Jim Crow days and White superiority a time when you had the freedom to call people what you wanted. Any attempt at regressing to this time period will be met with massive street protests.

Having solidified this base, Trump needed the typical Republicans ideologues and Hillary haters. With Putin and the FBI helping Trump it was easy for the Republican base to return to camp and support their leader. Trump will always have the support of his base. This makes his presidency frightening because he has no political skill. Just like there is no White Supremacy in America there is no American Supremacy in the world. Trump thinks that Putin is his friend. Putin is America’s competitor. Russia has to feed its people too. Any thought that Putin is going to put the needs of America over the needs of Russia is pure fantasy.

Donald Trump like Hugo Chavez can claim that he was elected by the people. True. We do not know and will probably never know how the FBI and Putin influenced the electorate. But we do not know what the future holds for us just like Britain. We hope and pray that all comes out well. A generation from today, the poor and downtrodden of Venezuela, Britain and the US will still be here. Very few will have escalated the economic ladder of success. What the poor and downtrodden must do is learn an employable skill and hope that their they encourage their children to get an education or learn a trade.

We trust Congress will do its job and keep a leash on Trump. In God I Trust. In Trump I, don’t.

Felix Alvarado


Hemphill Street Brownfield

In the past twenty years I’ve noticed two once low income areas, go to what are now two of the most coveted parts of town. The current site of the Tandy headquarters and TCC Trinity Campus was once government assisted public housing. The streets running perpendicular to Magnolia, were dilapidated houses and poor roads. Now, prime real estate, with mix of condos and posh restaurants and bars. This is not to say the city is wrong for promoting development, but in these cases the residents of the areas did not have representation to either save their property, or get a more than decent buy out of their homes.

And so, on the east side of Hemphill St. between Biddison and Bolt, there is a federally designated brownfield that will have more than 10 years in clean-up. There is activity on the sites, which may be evidence of wanting to return the area to development. In fact the southern corner at Bolt and Hemphill has been cleared, presumably for commercial development. A group that could have profound influence to the development of the area, is the Hemphill Corridor Task force. They can comment on issues involving Hemphill St, from Vickery to I-20. The members of the task force are primarily from interests North of Berry Street and especially from the Mongolia St area.

East Rosemont and Worth Heights areas simply don’t vote in local elections. Voting trends for the last 10 years in city council races show 4-5% turnout for the neighborhoods south of Berry St to I-20. This will be very necessary to get city hall and developers to hear their voice. Their neighborhood associations are grossly underserving their residents, forming clicks rather than maintaining broad appeal. The neighborhoods are old and in some cases suffer from blight, yet properties that are turned around and resold are bought quickly. Unfortunately when it comes to local issues, these residents tend to either be uninformed or simply don’t care.

People of the area need to know what is going on and how the area is planned to be developed. It is right that they participate in the process. Property owners and residents need to know what to expect from development of those properties. Informed, perhaps the neighborhood could be inspired to participate in local, May, elections, and civic groups, as to get political clout with the politicians and stakeholders.



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Building A Future

Imagine being an 18-year-old that for whatever reason has dropped out of school and has no real hope for the future. Most of your friends that you started school with have since graduated and gone on to college or perhaps some tech school. And if you may be living with parents that are constantly telling you to, "Do something with your life". In fact, most adults in your life are doing the same, you are almost embarrassed with the question of "What are you doing now?"

Unfortunately, this scenario is the reality that many youths find themselves in, right here in our own community. No education, no skills and no marketable experience, all this can lead to no hope, enter Youth Build of Fort Worth. Youth Build provides area youths 16-24 an opportunity to earn a GED or High School Diploma plus also learn valuable construction skills training. Once youths complete the Mental Toughness Orientation which is expected to last 2 weeks many will be well on their way to a high school diploma/GED and a certification in carpentry and

a OSHA 10 safety certification. Besides this valuable training by people that truly care about their future they also earn a weekly stipend of up to \$100.00 a week.

I met with Tamara Gisclair a program specialist with Youth Build to ask how they can provide this opportunity and to find out a little history about the program. Ms. Gisclair explained that the program was started in the year 2012 to serve underemployed adults and two years later grew to include area youth. The main funding comes through the Dept of Labor and they also have local funding sources that they utilize when the demand rises above 70 youths per cycle. Their 3 year grant goal is to provide opportunity for 5 groups with at least 70 students per group.

Youths will learn carpentry and safety skills both in the classroom and in the field, all while working towards a High School or GED diploma. As for the hands-on training that comes through the Habitat for Humanity Program where you go out and work on actual homes that are being built for low income people. This provides



the youths with not only real hands on experience but also the opportunity to serve others and have pride in their work. In fact, Ms. Gisclair shared with me that past students sometimes will call and mention to her about going past a home they once worked on and feeling a sense of accomplishment. In addition to all this training they also learn Leadership and Team building skills from an ex-Marine and 20-year veteran of the construction business Mr. Jason Barnard. These skills will be valuable not only for the construction business but in their life in general.

There is even more to this program that space does not allow for me to share in this article so I urge you to contact Edwin Bell by



calling or texting to 817-822-2328, you may also see Youth Build announcement in this issue for more information. New classes start in January and have limited space, please share this information with a young person you may know and help them start building a future.

By A. Govea

When Opportunity Knocks

If I was to give advice to anyone today it would be brief, Milton Berle once said "If opportunity doesn't knock build a door."

When I was growing up a high school diploma was all that you needed to get a good job. In the cotton fields of West Texas I would hear, "you do not need an education to pick cotton." Or "an education is not going to make you a better cotton picker." All these people were right. By the time I turned 12 there was no more cotton to pick. That meant, no income. Even in the early 1950's, a

skill was valuable.

In today's complex world a skill is even more valuable. A high school diploma is important if you intend to pursue a higher education. For those that have no intention of pursuing a higher education a practical skill is a must have. Fortunately, there are ways to learn a lifelong skill. There are community colleges and technical schools. The first question student face is financing. Many students must balance career training and personal employment.

Imagine enrolling in a program to

learn a skill where the employer is going to pay for all the costs associated with learning a specific skill. Such is program in the Job Corps run by the Department of Labor. The Job Corps is open to individuals age 16 to 24. The local office and training center is in McKinney.

The obtain more information about the Job Corps go to www.jobcorps.gov or call 800 733 5627. Locally you can call 817-625-3993. The Job Corps is a door. All you have to do is knock. If you contact them please refer to our article.

Felix Alvarado
Editor

Dak is Back

Dak walked into Cowboy history again, with another rushing touchdown, he passed Dandy Don Meredith for the most Cowboy QB rushing touchdowns. But, perhaps more important he reestablished himself as this teams Quarterback now and likely for years to come. There had been rumblings of maybe we need to put Tony back after Dak's last couple of games where both he and the offense struggled. Maybe one more game or just a half more of mediocre play might cause a QB change.

Then to paraphrase a line in the 1994 movie Dumb and Dumber, he goes out and totally redeems himself, he was 32 of 36 that gives you a 88.9 completion percentage rating. And that will answer the question of do we keep or do we pull him. Dak looked poised all night despite a good Buccaneer D. line that was determined to rattle him. He made the right decisions on his targets and had a couple of good runs to extend drives. Yes, Dak is back and as for El Tony stick around you never know things can change in a hurry. As for the other Mexican on the team, Mark Sanchez, the broadcast team reported last night that he not Tony was the other QB on the team that Dak relied on for advice on game day. We will investigate that further and report back with that information soon.

As for the other Cowboy star rookie Zeke, he had another standout performance running for well over 100 yards. Many like to point out that any half way decent running back could do this behind the Cowboy O-Line, to them I say "No!" Zeke is special.

And I am certainly not the only one to recognize that, another special guy was at the game last night that knows what special is all about, Emmitt Smith. Emmitt seemed to really be enjoying the game and must be flattered to hear the Zeke's comparisons to him. Perhaps for Zeke last night though the play of the game came after a TD run that had him jumping into a Salvation Army red kettle. That move is what will be trending on social media, hopefully it will lead to more donations going in the red kettles that we see everywhere this time of the year.

How bout that Defense, if they keep playing the way they have been playing especially in the 4th quarter we will be forced to give them a nickname. Doomsday Jr., maybe, maybe not, but if you ask the Buc O. Line and their QB they are Doomsday! David Irving at 6.7, 230 pounds must have seemed like the Doomsday messenger on Sunday night. He had 2 sacks a deflected pass a bunch of hurries, in general he caused mayhem behind the Buc. Line. There were some concerns about whether the Cowboys would be able to keep with the Buc hurry up offense. That question was answered resoundly late in the fourth quarter when the Bucs had two chances to take the lead with a TD The answer to them was "No Senior not in my house."

By A. Govea

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