



Immigration Concerns in Comstock ... Page 3

Del Rio's 830 TIMES



Search Begins for New AD ... Page 10

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Lake Lightning



Del Rioan Palo Ponce shot this beautiful natural light show Friday, April 28, at the Diablo East Cliffs at Lake Amistad. Val Verde County was hit by a series of storms this past week, bringing much-needed rain and some unwanted hail. (Photo by Palo Ponce)

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Photo by Karen Gleason

Wisconsin State Rep. Jim Steineke, center, who serves as the majority leader of the Wisconsin State Assembly and represents the state's 5th District in the Wisconsin State Assembly, speaks to a group of Val Verde County landowners and concerned citizens in the Comstock Community Center April 28. Steineke was joined on his trip to the border by fellow Wisconsin State Rep. Tyler August, left, and Texas conservative Carrie Isaac, right.

Wisconsin assemblymen visit the border, Comstock

BY KAREN GLEASON

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COMSTOCK – Two state assemblymen from Wisconsin called on residents here to get more vocal with their own elected leaders about the nation's ongoing immigration crisis.

Wisconsin State Rep. Jim Steineke, Wisconsin State Assembly majority leader, who represents Wisconsin's 5th Assembly District, and Wisconsin State Rep. Tyler August, Wisconsin State Assembly speaker pro-tem, who represents Wisconsin's 32nd District, both Republicans, visited the border

earlier this past week.

After their tour, Steineke and August met with about 70 Val Verde County residents, many of who ranch in this area, in the Comstock Community Center Wednesday afternoon.

"We want to hear from you. The reason we came down here to Texas and came to the border to begin with is because of the crisis that's going on. Back home, we see snippets in the news and as we all know, the media only focuses on it for a day or two before something else comes along, so the rest of the

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Ranchers report fear, property damage from immigrant surge

BY KAREN GLEASON

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COMSTOCK

Ranchers gathered in the Community Center here April 28 to share stories of property damage and fear being caused by waves of immigrants trespassing on their lands.

Local landowners and ranchers were asked to share their stories with two Wisconsin elected leaders and other visitors.

Rancher Dell Dickinson said no one objects to legal

immigration, adding legal immigration is one of the things that made the United States great.

"But we're losing the sovereignty of our country, and . . . I have no faith in our elected officials," Dickinson said.

Rancher Jim Perry, who is also the current president of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association, said, "I'm hearing from a lot of our members that there are high-speed chases that are ending up in Uvalde, Ozona and Sonora, and that's 100 miles away from the border

. . . We ranch in Val Verde, Kinney and Edwards counties, and we've had fences run through three different times in high-speed chases."

Perry also said someone – likely an immigrant – burned down a \$30,000 barn on his property.

"It wasn't a malicious act. Someone stopped over in there to cook and spend the night, and the fire got away from them or they didn't put it out," he said.

"These are the issues you can see. What about the issues we don't see,

the humanitarian issues? What happens to those people who come up through Mexico? Those women, those young girls? What happens to the kids when they leave those detention centers? Half the country does not know what's going on, I guarantee you," Perry said.

He also offered the elected Republican leaders some advice.

"Do not say, 'Just go back to Trump's policies.' That is a non-starter. That man is hated so much by the people that pull the strings for Biden. They're going to have



Photo by Karen Gleason

Val Verde County rancher Jim Perry, current president of the Texas Sheep and Goat Ranchers Association, speaks about the many problems local landowners are having with waves of immigrants crossing their properties.

to re-think things," Perry added. lives on a 20,000-acre ranch off U.S.

Rancher Missi Baird, who said she

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Immigrant numbers edging up in Val Verde County

BY KAREN GLEASON

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The number of illegal immigrants coming into the county is edging ever higher, but so far encounters between the immigrants and area residents have remained peaceful, Val Verde County Sheriff Joe Frank Martinez said.

"The situation related to the immigrants is just escalating. There's more and more coming. On Tuesday (April 20), before 11 o'clock in the morning, they'd already rounded up 100 between the deputies and the Border Patrol. Then on Wednesday, they had another group of 89," Martinez told the 830 Times Friday.

Martinez said so far in the month of April, deputies have come into contact with 324 immigrants in Val Verde County.

"And that's just us," the sheriff added.

He said in March, deputies came into contact with about 450 immigrants.

Martinez said sheriff's office deputies don't transport the immigrants, but stay with them until Border Patrol transport vehicles arrive.

"The deputies are still just holding the



Photo by Karen Gleason

This small portion of the Rio Grande has become a popular crossing point for groups of immigrants entering the United States from Mexico. The area is littered with clumps of shoes and clothing the immigrants leave behind as they walk out of the river.

immigrants until the Border Patrol comes to transport them," he said.

Martinez said on April 21, he waited for about two hours with the group of four immigrants he personally encountered while patrolling Vega Verde Road along the Rio Grande.

"The Border Patrol agents are so busy, but they're doing a good job keeping the immigrants off our streets. That's really the goal, keeping them out of the neighborhoods, out of our streets," Martinez said.

Despite the rising

numbers, the sheriff said so far, neither the immigrants nor county residents have created real problems for law enforcement.

"We haven't had any incidents of immigrants interacting negatively with members of the community, even along the river," Martinez said.

The sheriff said he understands residents' worries about the rising numbers of immigrants.

"I get calls, people telling me, 'They broke in our house,' and when they say 'they,' they're referring to the immigrants, but there's

nothing to indicate 'they' did it. Nothing," Martinez said.

Martinez reiterated that face-to-face encounters between immigrants and residents have, so far, been peaceful.

"The immigrants that are more aggressive are the Cubans. They're a little bit more bold than the Venezuelans," the sheriff said.

Martinez said most of the immigrants coming across now are Venezuelans.

"I don't know why they're coming. They're fleeing their country because of their government," he said.

Country music legend Foster to perform here Friday

BY BRIAN
ARGABRIGHT

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Just call him home, again!

Country music legend, and Del Rio native, Radney Foster is making his return to the stage in his hometown Friday, May 7 as part of a fundraiser for St. James Episcopal School. The show will be held at the Paul Poag Theatre for the Performing Arts beginning at 7 p.m. Fellow Del Rioan Peter the 3rd will open for Foster.

Tickets are on sale through Eventbrite and cost \$50 each.

You will be able to pick your seats with the purchase of your ticket. And while the theater is making all seats available, masks will be required throughout the performance.

Tickets can be purchased at the following link: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/radney-foster-an-acoustic-evening-tickets-149911644765?aff=ebsoporgprofile&fbclid=IwAR0ARozrUhDzi3SxQM576ZZlBg1YeHYa2n9h_LzQ-4-VCDrzTEybhOEFx-Y

"All the proceeds from the concert go to the school directly," Sarah West Sigmon, a member of the St.

James School Board, said. "Radney is a St. James alum himself and has always been a generous supporter of the school. His mother was founding teacher at St. James."

Sigmon explained that the concert was supposed to be a part of a much bigger celebration related to the school's 65th anniversary. She said they were hoping to bring back former teachers, staff and students for the celebratory weekend, but that COVID made it difficult to plan and get approval for

SEE CONCERT - PAGE 11



RADNEY FOSTER
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Courtesy photo

Country music legend, and Del Rio native, Radney Foster will perform in concert for the first time in 14 months at a benefit for St. James Episcopal School Friday, May 7, at the Paul Poag Theatre for the Performing Arts.

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Two former Rams team up for 'Dollar Ride' at Laughlin

FROM LAUGHLIN AFB PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LAUGHLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Tx. — The T-6 Texan II launches more than 150 times per day at Laughlin, but one April 20 launch was pretty special, as more than 25 maintainers stopped what they were doing to watch a lieutenant take to the skies in a military aircraft for the first time.

That morning, 2nd Lt. Mark Gonzalez, a student pilot and Del Rio native, completed his dollar ride. A dollar ride is the first ride in a military aircraft a student pilot takes when beginning Undergraduate Student Pilot Training. Gonzalez



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. JT May III

2nd Lt. Mark Gonzalez, 47th Student Training Squadron student pilot, holds up his hands to signal all clear while Capt. Jesus Beltran, 434th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot, gives a thumbs-up before Gonzalez's first T-6A Texan II ride April 20 at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

completed his first flight and fellow Del Rio native. The tandem's crew chief was Benjamin Gonzalez, a Laughlin instructor pilot

T-6 Phase Dock Supervisor in the 47th Maintenance Directorate and Mark's own father at home.

When Lt. Gonzalez pulled from under the sun shade and turned left, all the family and friends waved as he pulled out. Lt. Gonzalez's eyes stayed glued to the instruments, never looking away, oblivious to the love being sent his way.

Long journey

It had been a long journey to this point for him, and didn't want to take his eye off the targets: first goal is pilot's wing and then eventually space as an astronaut.

"When he was 4-years-old,

he told me he wanted to be an astronaut," said Mr. Benjamin Gonzalez. Before taking to space, Lt. Gonzalez will compete for his pilot wings.

"My dad always took us out to the lake to look at the stars," Lt Gonzalez said. "I just wanted to be in the sky."

He zipped through school and was accepted into Texas A&M. After a year, Lt. Gonzalez thought it might be best to forget the sky and space, and enlist.

He went to basic military training school, then was placed in the Command and Control Battle Manager

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RIDE - FROM PAGE 8

career field and was sent to Barksdale AFB, La.

For six years, Lt Gonzalez grinded away, winning awards, and knocking out more college credits. He built an impressive resume that regularly included briefing 4-star generals, often as the most junior person in the room.

When a Global Strike commander had one slot for the Senior Leaders Commissioning Program, he thought about that young sharp staff sergeant who always briefed him about the B-52 fleet. The general helped put Mark's dream back on track and he was headed back to college at his old stomping grounds.

He knocked an

engineering degree out in three years and was off to Officer Training School. Ten weeks later, the staff sergeant was now a lieutenant and headed back home to Del Rio, host of Laughlin, the Air Force's largest pilot training base.

"Trying to come back to Del Rio there was no question, I wanted to come back here," Lt Gonzalez said.

Proud friends

The crowd of onlookers contained Laughlin Airmen, employees, and maintainers, some of whom had gone to high school with him, watched their friend and buddy's kid, who they'd watched Lt Gonzalez grow up, head out in one of the

aircraft.

"It's awesome, so cool," shouted David Gomez, a 47th MX Directorate fuels technician who'd gone to high school with Lt. Gonzalez.

Benjamin watched from the flightline, waiting for his boy to come rolling down the runway and slip the surly bonds. "Everything he's done, he's done on his own," he said. "It's a great feeling when you try to help your son and he says, I can handle it."

As he said that, his son's T-6 that he was flying with fellow Del Rio High School graduate neared the 100-mph mark and slowly lifted off the ground, a young 4-year-old's first dream had just been accomplished.



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. JT May III

2nd Lt. Mark Gonzalez, 47th Student Training Squadron student pilot, and his father Benjamin Gonzalez, 47th Maintenance Directorate maintainer, embrace before Lt Gonzalez's first T-6A Texan II ride commonly referred to as the "Dollar Ride" April 20 at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas. Gonzalez is a Del Rio Native, and both parents work on base supporting flying operations.



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Search begins for new athletic director

BY BRIAN
ARGABRIGHT

drnhsports@gmail.com

An era in Del Rio athletics will soon be coming to an end.

The San Felipe Del Rio CISD posted its job requirements for athletic director, which is currently held by Ric Smith. Smith, who has served in the position since 2014, said his official retirement date would not be until 2022, but he expected to be out of the position in June.

The job posting was made April 20 and will

remain open until it is filled.

According to the posting, the school district is seeking someone with a master's degree from an accredited college or university and a valid Texas teaching certificate with physical education endorsement.

The posting also seeks a person with five years of successful teaching and head coaching experience. There are also a list of special knowledge and skills that would also be recommended or required.

Smith was a long-time coach within the school district before being hired as the new athletic director, replacing the retiring Dan Hurley.

Smith's last position prior to being named athletic director was as head cross-country coach. Under his leadership, members of the Rams and Queens cross-country teams began a tradition of qualifying for the state meet.

A full-length interview with Smith will be published in the coming weeks.



Contributed photo,
KWMC 1490

Local business owner Eddie Amezcua, right, presents a lifetime achievement award during the recent KWMC Soccer Awards to San Felipe Del Rio CISD Athletic Director Ric Smith. The school district has posted the athletic director position as Smith plans on leaving the position at the end of the 2020-21 school year.

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Del Rio's Mayfield acquired by the Seattle Mariners

BY BRIAN

ARGABRIGHT

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Del Rio's Jack Mayfield is on the move again.

For the third time this season, Mayfield has a new home in the major leagues as he was claimed off waivers by the Seattle Mariners. Mayfield was designated for assignment by the Los Angeles Angels April 24. Prior to that he was acquired by the Angels from the Atlanta Braves for cash.

According to Ryan Davish of the Seattle Times, Mayfield is projected to report to Seattle's Triple-A affiliate, the Tacoma Rainiers, as they begin play May 6.

"We saw him a little bit," Seattle manager Scott Servais said in Davish's story. "He's been with Houston the last couple years and he was with



AP Photo, Richard Griffin

Del Rio's Jack Mayfield, seen here warming up before a Spring Training game with the Los Angeles Angels, was acquired by the Seattle Mariners Tuesday after being designated for assignment by the Angels. Mayfield is a 2009 Del Rio High graduate.

Anaheim this year. So we've seen the player a little bit ... That's something that's from our scouting department, our analytical group and certainly front office. They're making the

calls on that and trying to make sure that we get as many quality players and just create depth throughout the organization."

Mayfield's acquisition by the Mariners gives the M's

some depth in the infield. Shed Long Jr., who was a starter in the infield for Seattle last season before giving way due to injury, was placed on the 60-day injured list.

Mayfield's stay with the Angels wasn't a lengthy one. He was acquired Feb. 25 and appeared in 13 Spring Training games with the Halos, batting .250 in 16 at-bats. When third baseman Anthony Rendon went to the injured list due to a strained groin, Mayfield was recalled to the major league roster. He appeared in two games with the Angels, starting one of them and going 0-for-3 with a pair of strikeouts.

Mayfield began his professional career with the Houston Astros, signing as an undrafted free agent in 2013. He toiled through the Astros' organization before making his major

league debut on Memorial Day in 2019. He smacked a double off the left field well at Minute Maid Park in his first at-bat as an Astro.

Mayfield would appear in 47 games for the Astros in 2019 and 2020, amassing 18 hits including two home runs. In 2019, Mayfield became the first Astros rookie to hit three doubles in one game in 42 years. He became the third rookie to achieve the feat for Houston.

Mayfield is a 2009 graduate of Del Rio High School. He played four years for the Rams baseball team, earning all-district honors each season including three first team all-district selections. He signed with the University of Oklahoma and played four years with the Sooners, earning all-conference honors and pitched in the College World Series as a freshman.

CONCERT - FROM PAGE 7

the activities.

"We're still grateful to have Radney perform. This will be his first concert in 14 months," Sigmon, who added that the performance would be acoustic, said.

Foster burst onto the country music scene initially as part of the duo Foster & Lloyd along with Bill Lloyd. Debuting in 1986, they released three albums and saw nine

of their singles chart including "Crazy Over You," which reached No. 4 on the Billboard country charts.

In 1992 Foster released his first solo album, "Del Rio, TX 1959." That debut featured two of the songs that Foster is best known for, "Just Call Me Lonesome," which reached No. 10 on the country charts and "Nobody Wins," which reached No. 2. In total,

Foster has released 11 solo albums and one EP.

Foster has also been a published author and television host. He's also helped guide the careers of newer country acts such as the Randy Rogers Band and fellow Del Rioan William Beckmann.

"I approached him over a year ago, pre-pandemic. He and I had talked multiple

times about performing at the Paul Poag. The last time he did a benefit concert was the school's 60th anniversary, but he's been doing things like this a long time for the school," Sigmon said.

This will be the biggest fundraiser of the year for the school. Sigmon explained the school relies on its fundraisers to help make budget each year. She said the school tries

different fundraisers throughout the year, but this one will be the biggest for 2021.

"We've sold half of the tickets roughly. The fact that we were able to throw it together at the last minute has made it difficult to keep track of all ticket sales, but we will have limited tickets on sale that night," Sigmon said. "There are lots of great seats available!" As an added

bonus, Mesquite Creek Outfitters, which Sigmon and her husband own, will stay open late and continue to serve until midnight but only for concertgoers.

"If you have a ticket, you will be able to enjoy a beverage a little later than normal at the after party. And we will donate \$1 from every beverage sold to the school, as well," Sigmon said.

Queens fall by one run in play-in thriller

BY BRIAN
ARGABRIGHT

drnhsports@gmail.com

With one more win necessary to advance to the playoffs, the Queens softball team had the tying run sitting on third with two outs.

But the runner would advance no further as Laredo Alexander got Alexis Salinas to ground out to end an instant classic between the Queens and Lady Bulldogs and give Alexander the 13-12 win to claim the fourth seed in District 30-6A April 26 in a play-in game in San Antonio.

It was fitting that the two teams that split the regular season series and ended the regular season tied in district went down to the wire in their third meeting of the year.

The loss spoiled what was a career day for Del Rio freshman Hope Martinez. Martinez went 4-for-5, driving in seven runs and missing just the home run for the cycle. But the fact she did not score despite reaching base four times was one of the problems the Queens faced on the day.

Del Rio opened the game with a run in the first inning as Ithalia Ozuna, who hadn't been on a lineup card

since early March, tripled to right field and eventually scored on Martinez's first single of the day.

After Alexander tied the game in the bottom of the first, the Queens exploded for four runs in the second to grab a 5-1 lead.

Kayla Mendoza led off with a single. After a sacrifice bunt moved her to second, she would score on a triple off the bat of Syann Casillas, who would score on Ari Alcaraz's double to right centerfield.

Ozuna walked and Desi Rodriguez singled to load the bases for Giselle Valdez, whose sacrifice fly was deep enough to plate two runs and give the Queens a four-run lead.

Alexander stormed back in the bottom of the second, scoring five runs on two hits and three Del Rio errors, to take its first lead of the game, 6-5.

Despite putting runners on base in the third and fourth innings, the Queens failed to add to their total and by the time the fifth inning came around, Del Rio found itself down 8-5.

The Queens cut the deficit to two runs as Valdez doubled and scored on Martinez's second single.

But the Lady Bulldogs tacked on two more runs to its lead in the fifth and carried a 10-6 lead into the sixth inning.

Del Rio answered the bell in the sixth, tying the game at 10-10.

With one out, Alcaraz singled to right field. Ozuna was able to reach base on an error by Alexander's third baseman, and Rodriguez loaded the bases when she was hit by an Alexander pitch.

Up stepped Valdez, but Alexander learned its lesson from the last time the two teams played when she smashed three triples

in a 19-13 Queens win. Laredo intentionally walked Valdez for the second time in the game, bringing home Alcaraz to make the score 10-7.

Martinez was next up and she ripped a double just inside the left field line. Ozuna, Rodriguez and Valdez came around to score and tie the game at 10-10. After Salinas was hit by a pitch, Mendoza hit a line drive that hit the right fielder and bounced away. However a slight hesitation by the Queens on the line drive slowed Martinez down enough that she was thrown out at home on a relay throw from the second baseman.

Jada Bishop was intentionally walked to load the bases. Queens head coach Nufie Rodriguez sent up Ashley Salinas to pinch hit and she delivered a ball to right field, but she was thrown out at first base for the third

out before Del Rio could score the go-ahead run.

Alexander would again reclaim the lead in the bottom of the sixth, scoring three runs on two hits and one big error to take a 13-10 lead into Del Rio's final at-bat.

Del Rio would not go quietly.

Alcaraz led off the seventh with a single. After Ozuna's sacrifice bunt moved Alcaraz to second, and Rodriguez was retired on strikes, Valdez moved to first after she was hit by a pitch. Again Martinez stepped in and again the freshman took

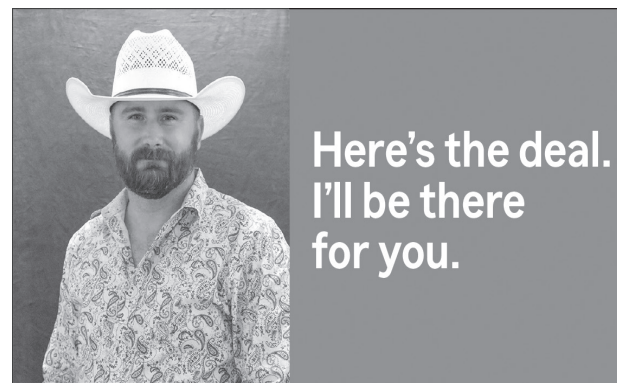
advantage of the moment, ripping a triple to right field to score two runs and make it a 13-12 game.

But that was as close as the Queens would get as Ashley Salinas grounded out to end the game. Alexander will now face the San Antonio Warren Lady Warriors, who are undefeated on the season and ranked as the No. 1 team in the state in Class 6A at 22-0.

The loss was the final high school softball game for seniors Alcaraz, Valdez, Rodriguez and Alexis Salinas.

PUBLIC NOTICE

An application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit and a Mixed Beverage Late Hours Permit by Gorzugis LLC dba Gorzugis at The Herald, to be located at 325B S. Main St, Del Rio, Val Verde County, Texas. Officers of said corporation are Jesus E. Perez, managing member, and Hector A. Rodriguez, managing member.



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Rams shutout in baseball finale by Eagle Pass

BY BRIAN
ARGABRIGHT

drnhsports@gmail.com

It was a rough way to wrap up a season.

The Del Rio Rams baseball team was held to one hit and committed six errors in the season finale for the squad as they suffered an 8-0 loss at the hands of the Eagle Pass Eagles April 28 in Eagle Pass.

Del Rio ends the season 7-14 overall and 4-8 in District 30-6A.

Eagle Pass scored twice in the second inning to open up the



Courtesy photo

The Del Rio Rams baseball team finished the 2021 campaign 7-14 overall.

scoring in the game. The big blow came in the fourth inning as the Eagles struck for five runs to blow the game wide open.

Eagle Pass starter

Edward Mendoza pitched a gem for the Eagles. He allowed only one hit and struck out 11 in seven innings of work. He retired the first 19 batters he faced

in order before giving up a one-out single to Matt Mendez in the top of the seventh. He then retired the next two batters he faced to close out of the game.

The game was initially set for April 27, but the threat of inclement weather forced its postponement for one day.

Laredo United South

ends the regular season as the district champions with a 10-2 record. They also won the title in 2019. No title was awarded in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Alexander and Eagle Pass each finished the regular season 9-3 and will play each other to determine the district's No. 2 seed. In their previous two meetings, each team beat the other at home. The Eagles won in Eagle Pass, 9-1, but the Bulldogs got the win in Laredo, 6-5.

Laredo United is the district's fourth seed at 6-6.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be conducted by the City of Del Rio City Council in a meeting in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 109 West Broadway on **Tuesday, the 25th of May 2021 at 6:30 p.m.**, for the purpose of hearing comments on the following requests:

O&M Halyard, Inc., 14 Finegan Rd., Del Rio, TX 78840 seeking the designation from the Texas Enterprise Zone Program Application through an ordinance pursuant to the Texas Enterprise Zone Act, Chapter 2303, Texas Government Code (Act), Providing Tax Incentives, Designating a Liaison for Communication with Interested Parties, and Nominating O&M Halyard, Inc. to the Office of the Governor Economic Development & Tourism (EDT) through the Economic Development Bank (Bank) as an Enterprise Project (Project).

In accordance with the Guidelines from the President, the CDC and the Governor of Texas, seating is extremely limited for the meetings and we are encouraging citizens to view the meeting through TV Channel 1300 or on the city website (www.cityofdelrio.com)

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

The Housing Authority of the City of Del Rio, Texas is soliciting proposals for its banking services from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023 with an option to renew for another year.

Specifications are available at the Administration office at 207 Bedell Avenue, Mondays through Fridays from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm - 4:45 pm; or by contacting Jorge Cuellar, Director of Finance at (830) 774-6506. You can also email upon request at drhousing@gmail.com.

Proposals will be accepted through June 4, 2021 until 4:45 p.m. at which time all proposals will be evaluated. The Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any informality in the proposal process.

Del Rio tennis bows out at Regional tourney

**BY BRIAN
ARGABRIGHT**

drnhsports@gmail.com

Despite coming up short of a trip to state, the future looks bright for the Del Rio High School tennis team.

Freshman Andrea Favela and juniors Kennedy and Reagan Treviño represented the Queen City at the Class 6A, Region IV Tennis Tournament April 27-28 at the Northside Tennis Center in Helotes.

Favela won her first singles match over Sophia DeLeon

of Hanna in straight sets, 6-4, 6-1. She won her third straight set by taking the first set from Lauren Tin of Austin Vandegrift, 7-5. However, Tin stormed back and took the next two sets, 6-0, 6-2, to knock Favela out of the tournament.

The Treviño sisters matched up against the duo of Sofia Ruiz and Samantha Medina of San Antonio Warren. Del Rio's duo couldn't stop Ruiz and Medina, falling in straight sets, 6-4, 6-3.

Favela and the Treviño sisters aren't

the only weapons Del Rio has coming back next year. William Proffit, who finished fourth in the district in boys singles, returns as well, as does Alejandra Solar, who finished third overall in girls singles in District 30-6A.

**Courtesy photos,
Nolan Pritchard**

Del Rio High School was represented at the Class 6A, Region IV Tennis Tournament by freshman Andrea Favela, left, and juniors Kennedy and Reagan Treviño.



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RANCHERS - FROM PAGE 4

Highway 163 north of Comstock, said, "I've got a little goat and sheep operation, and normally I'm real comfortable out there by myself. But lately at night, I'm seeing flashlights, and I go down in the creek beds, and I'm finding where somebody lit a fire."

"It's not a comfortable position to be in. I'm supposed to be retired and really enjoying my life. What is it that I've got going on out here? It's just not right . . . They've caught Chinese people on my property,

and that was a little bit freaky," Baird said.

P a t r i c k Zuberbueler, whose family ranches in Val Verde County, told a story of encountering a young immigrant man in Comstock who needed help.

"I learned that, as in many of these situations, they come over in groups and if you can't keep up, you're going to be left behind," he said, noting he had called the Border Patrol to come help the young man and adding that all lives are precious.

Bill Zuberbueler,

who has ranched in Val Verde County all his life and who is an elected board member of the Comstock Independent School District, called the current immigrant surge "an invasion."

A woman whose family ranches in the Comstock area along the Rio Grande said she and a relative usually go to the river several times a week.

"We had to quit going. Both of us carry (firearms). Both of us are licensed to carry, but we don't go anymore. Luckily, they (immigrants) haven't

burned our barn, but they've tagged the barn. We've caught them on cameras . . . What's going to happen to our family ranch?" she said.

Susan Goble, another resident, asked, "What about our lives, our liberty, our pursuit of happiness? What about that? It seems like it's always all about everybody else, but what about when our lives are in danger? We're American citizens. I thought the government was about the security of the American people.

We're hard-working people paying our taxes, and what are we getting from it? We can't even enjoy our place anymore. We have to carry guns now and be in fear of our lives. That's what I'm frustrated with. I feel helpless."

Another Comstock community member said he was "really concerned" about the number of high-speed chases, adding he wasn't sure of the benefit of those chases.

Crockett County Sheriff Antonio Alejandro told the

group his deputies try to stop high-speed chases before they go into the community.

Val Verde County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Waylon Bullard said it was the policy of the sheriff's office not to engage in high-speed chases in most instances. He said, however, the sheriff's office cannot control the policies of other law enforcement agencies.

Bullard also emphasized that state, county and local law enforcement officers can't enforce federal laws.



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VISIT - FROM PAGE 3

country really has no idea what you're going through. We didn't know," Steineke told the group.

"Rep. August and I went to Israel a few years ago, and if Israel ran their borders the way we run ours, they wouldn't have a country anymore, and that's one of the things that concerns us," he added.

Steineke said he and August wanted to hear landowners' and ranchers' stories and carry those stories to their colleagues throughout the country.

"After just being here for 36 hours, we're shocked. It's scary for all of us, seeing this firsthand. And the country doesn't know," Steineke said.

He insisted the

immigration crisis is a federal issue and should not be left to the states along the border to handle.

August, after hearing a half-dozen residents speak about their concerns regarding immigrants trespassing on their ranches, causing property damage and inciting fear, urged Val Verde County residents to contact their state and federal elected leaders and demand they come to the border to see the problem firsthand.

"If this affected the ruling class in Washington, D.C., the problem would be fixed overnight. You've got to bring it to their front doorstep," August said.

"Part of why we're here is to bring your stories back

to Wisconsin to get our constituents and our federal delegation more engaged on this topic. We know that while all of you are affected much more by these issues because of your location, talking to some of the Border Patrol guys, the vast majority of the people coming over don't stay here. They're passing through, which causes all kinds of issues, but some of them are going to end up in our districts in Wisconsin," August added.

August asked those attending the meeting to indicate those who feared for their safety on their own properties. About half of those present raised their hands.

"You need to show your

elected leaders what we've seen. I don't know how anybody could go and have the meetings we've had and hear the experiences we're hearing from you and go back home and actually say, it's really not that big of a deal down there on the Texas border. That's bullshit. This is a real problem," August said.

Raul Reyes, a Del Rio native who ran unsuccessfully for election to Texas' 23rd Congressional District in 2020, spoke to the group as "an activist for the border."

He urged those present to hold elected leaders accountable.

Val Verde County Republican Party Chair Frank Lopez also attended the meeting.

"After just being here for 36 hours, we're shocked. It's scary for all of us, seeing this firsthand.

And the country doesn't know" - Wisconsin State Rep. Jim Steineke, Wisconsin State Assembly majority leader



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PROPERTY TAX PROTEST AND APPEAL PROCEDURES

Property owners have the right to protest actions concerning their property tax appraisals. You may follow these appeal procedures if you have a concern about:

- the appraised (market) value of your property;
- the unequal value of your property compared with other properties;
- the inclusion of your property on the appraisal records;
- any exemptions that may apply to you;
- the qualification for an agricultural or timber appraisal;
- the taxing units taxing your property;
- the property ownership;
- the change of use of land receiving special appraisal;
- failure of the chief appraiser or appraisal review board (ARB)

to send a required notice; or

- any action taken by the chief appraiser, county appraisal district (CAD) or ARB that applies to and adversely affects you.

Informal Review

PLEASE CALL 830-774-4602 AND ASK TO SPEAK TO ONE OF THE APPRAISERS TO HAVE AN INFORMAL REVIEW OF YOUR PROPERTY VAUE.

Review by the ARB

If you cannot resolve your problem informally with the CAD, you file a notice of protest requesting to have your case heard by the ARB.

The ARB is an independent board of citizens that hears and determines protests regarding property appraisals or other concerns listed above. It has the power to order the CAD to make the necessary changes based on evidence heard during the ARB hearing.

If you file a written request for an ARB hearing (notice of protest) before the deadline, the ARB will set your case for a hearing and send you written notice of the time, date and place of the hearing. If necessary, you may request a hearing in the evening or on a Saturday. You may use Comptroller Form 50-132, *Property Appraisal - Notice of Protest*, to file your written request for an ARB hearing.

Prior to your hearing, you may request a copy of the evidence the CAD plans to introduce at the hearing to establish any matter at issue. Before a hearing on a protest or immediately after the hearing begins, you or your agent and the CAD are required to provide each other with a copy of any materials (evidence) intended to be offered or submitted to the ARB at the hearing. Evidence may be submitted for any hearing type either in paper or on a small portable electronic device (such as a CD, USB flash drive or thumb drive) which will be kept by the ARB. Do NOT bring evidence on a smart phone. The ARB's hearing procedures regarding all the requirements to properly submit evidence on a small portable electronic device must be reviewed.

To the greatest extent practicable, the hearing will be informal. You or your designated

agent may appear in person, by telephone conference call or by submission of a written affidavit to present you evidence, facts and argument. You must indicate your request for a telephone conference call hearing on your written notice of protest filed with the ARB not later than the 10th day before the hearing date and provide your evidence and written affidavit before the ARB hearing begins. You may use Comptroller Form 50-283, Property Owner's Affidavit of Evidence to the Appraisal Review Board, to submit evidence for your telephone conference call hearing or for hearing by affidavit.

You and the CAD representative have the opportunity to present evidence about your case. In most cases, the CAD has the burden of establishing the property's value by a preponderance of the evidence presented.

In certain protests, the chief appraiser has the burden of proving the property's value by clear and convincing evidence. You should review ARB hearing procedures to learn more about evidence and related matters.

You should not try to contact ARB members outside of the hearing. ARB members are required to sign an affidavit saying that they have not talked about your case before the ARB hears it.

Review by the District Court, an Arbitrator or SOAH

After it decides your case, the ARB must send you a copy of its order by certified mail.

If you are not satisfied with the ARB's decision, you have the right to appeal to district court. As an alternative to district court, you may appeal through binding arbitration or the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) if you meet the qualifying criteria.

If you choose to go to district court, you must start the process by filing a petition with the district court within 60 days of the date you receive the ARB's order. If you chose to appeal through binding arbitration, you must file a request for binding arbitration with the CAD not later than the 60th day after you receive notice of the ARB order. If you chose to appeal to the SOAH, you must file an appeal with the CAD not later than the 30th day after you receive notice of the ARB's order. Appeals to district court, binding arbitration or SOAH all require payment of certain fees or deposits.

Tax Payment

You must pay the amount of taxes due on the portion of the taxable value not in dispute, the amount of taxes due on the property under the order from which the appeal is taken or the amount of taxes due in the previous year.

More Information

You can get more information by contacting your CAD at **VAL VERDE COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT, (830) 774-4602, WWW.VALVERDECAD.ORG**

You can get Comptroller forms and additional information on how to prepare a protest from the Comptroller's website at comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/.

DEADLINE FOR FILING PROTESTS WITH THE ARB*

Usual Deadline

Not later than May 15 (or within 30 days after a notice of appraised value was mailed to you, whichever is later).

Late protests are allowed for good cause if you miss the usual deadline. The ARB decides whether you have good cause. Late protests are not allowed after the ARB approves the appraisal records for the year.

Special Deadlines

For change of use (the CAD informed you that you are losing agricultural appraisal because you changed the use of your land), the deadline is not later than the 30th day after the notice of the determination was delivered to you.

For ARB changes (the ARB has informed you of a change that increases your tax

liability and the change did not result from a protest you filed), the deadline is not later than the 30th day after the notice of the change was delivered to you.

DEADLINE TO FILE YOUR 2021 PROTEST IS JUNE 14, 2021 BY 5:00 P.M.

If you believe the CAD or ARB should have sent you a notice and did not, you may file a protest until the day before taxes become delinquent (usually Feb. 1) or no later than the 125th day after the date you claim you received a tax bill from one or more of the taxing units that tax your property. The ARB decides whether it will hear your case based on evidence about whether a required notice was mailed to you.

* The deadline is postponed to the next business day if it falls on a weekend or legal, state or national holiday.

PROCEDIMIENTOS PARA LA PROTESTA Y APELACION DE LOS IMPUESTOS DE LA PROPIEDAD

Los propietarios tienen el derecho a protestar las acciones acerca de sus tasaciones del impuesto de propiedad. Puede seguir estos procedimientos de apelación si usted tiene alguna preocupación acerca de:

- el valor (del mercado) tasado a su propiedad;
- el valor desigual de su propiedad en comparación con otras propiedades;
- la inclusión de su propiedad en la lista de tasaciones;
- cualquier exención que se puede aplicar a usted;
- la calificación para una tasación de agricultura o de trastería;
- las unidades de impuestos que están gravando su propiedad;
- la titularidad de la propiedad;
- el cambio de uso del terreno recibiendo una tasación especial;
- el fracaso del jefe de tasaciones o de la junta de revisión de tasaciones (ARB por sus siglas en inglés) para enviar una notificación requerida; o
- cualquier acción tomada por el jefe de tasaciones, distrito de tasaciones del condado (CAD por sus siglas en inglés) o ARB que se aplica y le afecta negativamente.

Revisión Informal

POR FAVOR HABLE A LA OFICINA AL 830-774-4602 Y PREGUNTE POR UNO DE NUESTROS TASADORES PARA OBTENER UN INFORME DE VALOR PARA SU PROPIEDAD.

Revisión por el ARB

Si usted no puede resolver su problema informalmente con el CAD, puede presentar una notificación de protesta solicitando que su caso sea escuchado por el ARB.

El ARB es una junta independiente de ciudadanos que escucha y determina las protestas sobre las tasaciones de propiedad y otras preocupaciones listadas arriba. Tiene el poder de ordenar al CAD a hacer los cambios necesarios sobre la base de los testimonios oídos durante la audiencia de el ARB.

Si usted presenta una solicitud por escrito para una audiencia de ARB (aviso de protesta) antes del límite de fechas el ARB establecerá su caso para una audiencia y le enviará un aviso por escrito de la hora, fecha y lugar de la audiencia. Si es necesario, puede solicitar una audiencia por la tarde un sábado. Usted puede usar el formulario del Contralor 50-132, *Property Appraisal - Notice of Protest*, para presentar su solicitud por escrito para una audiencia de ARB.

Antes de su cita con el ARB, puede pedir a revisar la evidencia que el CAD planea introducir a la audiencia para establecer cualquier asunto en cuestión. Antes de una audiencia en una protesta o inmediatamente después de que comience la cita, usted o su agente y el CAD están obligados a intercambiar copias de cualquier material (evidencia) destinada a ser ofrecido o sometido al ARB en la cita. La evidencia se puede presentar para cualquier tipo de audiencia ya sea en papel o en un pequeño dispositivo electrónico portátil (como un CD o memoria USB) que será guardado por el ARB. No traiga la evidencia en un teléfono. Los procedimientos de audiencia del ARB con respeto a todos los requisitos para presentar adecuadamente evidencia sobre un pequeño dispositivo electrónico portátil deben ser revisados.

En la mayor medida posible, la audiencia será informal. Usted o su agente designado pueden aparecer en persona, por teleconferencia o mediante la presentación de una declaración jurada

escrita para presentar su evidencia, hechos y argumentos. Debe indicar su solicitud de una audiencia de teleconferencia en su notificación por escrito de protesta presentada ante el ARB no más tarde del día 10 antes de la fecha de la audiencia y proporcionar su evidencia y declaración jurada por escrito antes de que comience la audiencia de ARB. Puede usar el formulario del Contralor 50-283, *Property Owner's Affidavit of Evidence to the Appraisal Review Board*, para presentar evidencia para su audiencia de teleconferencia o para su audiencia por declaración jurada.

Usted y el representante del CAD tienen la oportunidad de presentar evidencia sobre su caso. Puede interrogar al representante de CAD. El ARB rendirá su decisión basado en la evidencia presentada por ambas partes. En la mayoría de los casos, el CAD tiene la carga de establecer el valor de la propiedad por una preponderancia de la evidencia presentada.

En ciertas protestas, el jefe de tasaciones tiene la carga de probar el valor de la propiedad por evidencia clara y convincente. Usted debe revisar los procedimientos de audiencia de ARB para aprender más sobre la evidencia y asuntos relacionados.

No debe tratar de contactar a los miembros del ARB fuera de la audiencia. Los miembros del ARB están obligados a firmar una declaración jurada diciendo que no han hablado de su caso antes de que el ARB lo oiga.

Revisión por Corte del Distrito, Árbitro o SOAH

Después de decidir su caso, el ARB debe enviarle una copia de su orden por correo certificado. Si no está satisfecho con la decisión del ARB, tiene el derecho a apelar ante la corte de distrito. Como una alternativa a la corte de distrito, puede apelar a través del arbitraje obligatorio o a la Oficina Estatal de Audiencias Administrativas (SOAH por sus siglas en inglés) si se cumplen los criterios de calificación.

Si decide ir a la corte de distrito, debe iniciar el proceso presentando una petición ante el corte de distrito dentro de los 60 días siguiendo la fecha en que reciba el orden del ARB. Si decide apelar a través del arbitraje obligatorio, debe presentar una petición del arbitraje obligatorio con el CAD no más tarde del 60° día después de que recibe el aviso del orden de el ARB. Si decide apelar al SOAH, debe presentar una apelación con el CAD no más tarde que el 30° día después de que recibe el aviso del orden del ARB. Las apelaciones a la corte de distrito, el arbitraje obligatorio, y SOAH requieren el pago de ciertas tasas o depósitos.

El Pago de los Impuestos

Usted debe pagar la cantidad de impuestos debido por la parte del valor imponible no disputado, la cantidad de impuestos debido sobre la propiedad bajo la orden de que se han adoptado la apelación o la cantidad de impuestos debido en el año anterior.

Información Adicional

Usted puede obtener más información poniéndose en contacto con su CAD en:

VAL VERDE COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT, (830) 774-4602, WWW.VALVERDECAD.ORG

Puede obtener formularios del Contralor e información adicional sobre cómo preparar una protesta en el sitio web del Contralor en comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/.

FECHA DE VENCIMIENTO PARA PRESENTAR PROTESTAS AL ARB*

Fecha de Vencimiento Común

No puede ser más tarde del 15 de mayo (o dentro de 30 días después de que un aviso del valor tasado fue enviado a usted, cualquier es más tarde).

Las protestas tardes son permitidas si usted falla de cumplir la fecha de vencimiento común por causa justa. El ARB decide si usted tiene una buena causa. Las protestas tardes no son permitidas después de que el ARB apruebe las evaluaciones de tasación por el año.

Fechas de Vencimiento Especiales

Para el cambio de uso (el CAD le informó que usted está perdiendo la tasación agrícola porque cambió el uso de su terreno), la fecha no es más tarde que el trigésimo día después de que el aviso de la determinación fue entregado a usted.

Para los cambios de ARB (el ARB le ha informado de un cambio que aumenta su obligación de impuestos y el cambio no resultó de una protesta que usted presentó), la fecha no es más tarde que el trigésimo día después de que el aviso del cambio fue

entregado a usted.

EL ULTIMO DIA PARA PRESENTAR UNA PROTESTA POR 2021 ES EL 14 DE JUNIO 2021 PRO 5:00 P.M.

Si cree que el CAD o ARB le deberían haber enviado un aviso y no lo hicieron, puede presentar una protesta hasta el día antes de que los impuestos se vuelvan delincuentes (usualmente el 1ero de febrero) o no más tarde del 125° día después de la fecha en que usted afirma que recibió una factura de impuestos de uno o más entidades que gravan su propiedad. El ARB decide si oigan su caso basado en la evidencia sobre si un aviso requerido fue enviado a usted.

* El límite de fecha se pospone al siguiente día laborable si cae en un fin de semana o día de festivo legal, estatal o nacional

Obituaries

Linda Lea Maple
April 23, 1943
May 1, 2021

Linda Lea Maple, age 78, entered into rest on Saturday, May 1, 2021 in Del Rio, Texas. She was born on April 13, 1943.

Services are pending.
 Services are pending.

--

Guadalupe Hernandez
December 9, 1960
April 30, 2021

Guadalupe Hernandez, age 60, entered into rest on Friday, April 30, 2021 in San Antonio, Texas. He was born on December 9, 1960.

Services are pending.

--

Isela Graciela
Gaitan Nieto
January 29, 1926
April 27, 2021

Isela Graciela Gaitan Nieto passed away peacefully at the age of 95, on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, in Del Rio, Texas. She will always be remembered as a loving daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She met the love of her life, Manuel Nieto Otamendi, while working at Ma Crosby's in Ciudad Acuna, Coahuila, Mexico.

She was preceded in death by husband Manuel Nieto Otamendi, grandson Estevan Rene Martinez, sisters Olga Gaitan Castillo and Adela Gaitan Rios.

She is survived by, Daughter's Maria Esther Nieto Martinez and husband Ernesto Martinez Jr. of Alpine, Texas, Gloria Isela Nieto Ziegler and husband John Ziegler of Del Rio,

Son Juan Manuel Nieto, and lifetime partner Gary Meyer of Houston, Texas. Grandchildren, Edgar Raymundo Ozuna, Teodoro (Ted) Ozuna, Elizabeth Ann Martinez Sanchez, Cynthia Evonne Martinez Montes, Albert Gregory Ziegler, and Cristina Marie Ziegler; 11 great-grandchildren, Mariah, Vincent, Avery, Michael, Kaleb, and Uriel Sanchez of Ft. Davis, Texas, Andes Gomez, Joseph Calderon of Del Rio, Texas, Alan Ozuna of Lubbock, Texas, Liana and Zoe Stein of Midland Texas.

Thank you to the staff of the Del Rio and Rehabilitation and Nursing Home and Dr. Aurelio Laing for all your care and compassion.

Visitation was held Monday, May 3, 2021, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

at Sunset Memorial Oaks Funeral Home.

Gentlemen with the Honor of Pallbearers are Edgar Ozuna, Ted Ozuna, Albert Ziegler, Michael Sanchez, Mark Sanchez, and Joseph Calderon.

Interment was held Monday, May 3, 2021, at 1:30 PM at Westlawn Cemetery.

--

Rodolfo Rolando
Vasquez
April 8, 1969
April 26, 2021

Rodolfo Rolando Vasquez, Jr., age 52, entered into rest Monday, April 26, 2021 in Del Rio, Texas. He was born April 8, 1969 in Del Rio. He was preceded in death by his parents, Rodolfo and Maria Vasquez, Sr., also, his sisters, Raquel and Rebecca

Vasquez.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife of 26 years, Veronica Ann Vasquez. Children, Rodolfo Rolando Vasquez III (aka mijo), Ricardo Adam Vasquez (aka kiko) and daughter Rebecca Ann Vasquez (aka nana). Brother, Ruben Alfredo Vasquez.

Rudy worked at Garfield Elementary for 18 years as a 4th grade, 3rd grade teacher and a PE coach for Garfield Elementary. He also started coaching varsity tennis. Rudy also joined Guerra Bros painting and remodeling.

Visitation was held Saturday, May 1, 2021, 10:00am-1:00pm with a Chapel Service at 12:00pm at Sunset Memorial Oaks Funeral Home.

Services conclude after the visitation.



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