



City Manager, City Attorney Out ... Page 3

# The 830 TIMES



Parade Saturday ... Page 16

Volume 6 - Issue 9

[www.830times.com](http://www.830times.com)

February 27, 2026

## Keep 'Em Flying



As the San Felipe Del Rio CISD celebrates National Career and Technical Education Month, the Aircraft Mechanics pathway is giving students the opportunity to train in a high-skill, high-demand industry through real-world, hands-on experience. Through a partnership with Laughlin Air Force Base, students step beyond the classroom and into active aviation environments. (San Felipe Del Rio CISD photo)





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*"In the last 7 years, Judge Lewis Owens has been instrumental in the continued support of the Little League fields on Frontera Road. The Del Rio Little League, along with the over 700 local youth who participate annually, has greatly benefited from these improvements. The quality of the fields has improved dramatically and has even been lauded by visiting teams participating in our district and sectional tournaments. That is something we have rarely experienced. These improvements have increased not only the aesthetic look of the fields but have dramatically raised the level of skill in our local youth. He also continues to strive for additional facilities that are crucially needed with the ever-expanding participation in youth sports. Judge Owens and his staff are to be lauded for their continued backing of the youth in this community. In his eyes, the children of this community should always come first. I look forward to the continued success of all youth sports programs in Del Rio and Val Verde County with his persistent support."*

**Pat Rodriguez, Little League Texas District 35 Administrator**

*"Lewis Owens has ALWAYS prioritized the pressing needs of Val Verde County, from the beginning of his judgeship term to the present date. I appreciate that he speaks honestly and moves forward with the courage of conviction, sparing nothing less."*

**Dr. Veronica Cadena**

*"As President of DRLYSA, I proudly support Judge Owens for reelection. When our children needed improved facilities and long-term commitment to youth development, he delivered. His leadership directly impacted hundreds of families across Val Verde County. I stand with him because he stands with our kids."*

**Sovi Villalobos, President, Del Rio Laughlin Youth Soccer Association**

*"We need proven effective leadership in these trying times. We need leaders willing to make the tough decisions to best serve the interests of Val Verde County and all of its citizens."*

**Dr. Tony Cadena**

*"What our community needs most is leadership that will provide measurable results. I have seen Judge Owens prioritize our youth, utilize resources responsibly, and navigate many challenges with integrity. He has the experience and determination to make continued progress, and he has the trust of many valued leaders in our community which is a hallmark of authentic leadership."*

**Jamie Jewell Hutchinson DRLL//DRLYSA//Parent//Coach**



# City council fires city attorney; city manager to leave position

BY KAREN GLEASON  
The 830 Times

A majority of Del Rio City Council members fired City Attorney Ana Markowski Smtih and approved a “mutual separation agreement” with City Manager Shawna Burkhart during their regular meeting Tuesday.

Council members acted on the two positions following an executive session.

After the council returned to open session, Mayor Al Arreola announced the time and noted no action was taken while the council was behind closed doors.

Arreola then said, “I think we have a motion for Item A on the (executive



Photos by Karen Gleason

The Del Rio City Council Tuesday voted unanimously to terminate the employment of city attorney Ana Markowski-Smith, left, and reached a “mutual separation agreement” with city manager Shawna Burkhart.

session) agenda. Carmen? Councilwoman Gutierrez?” Gutierrez then asked City Secretary Maria “Mari” Acosta to read the heading

of the agenda item: “Executive Session on matters covered by Sec. 551.072 of the Texas Government Code

– deliberations regarding the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the deliberations in an open session would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person. The items that were discussed were valuation of city property, lease of the Chihuahua Center and county swap.”

Gutierrez said, “Mayor, I move to convey 3.0 acres located on Lewis and Rodriguez to Val Verde County as part of a former agreement and to give the city manager the authority to execute the deed.”

Councilman J.P. Sanchez gave the second, and the

council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

The mayor then called for the council to take up Item 11B on the executive session agenda: “Executive session on matters covered by Sec. 551.071(1)(A) of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code – consultation with city attorney regarding contemplated litigation – insurance claim denied by carrier and employee claim against the city.”

Mayor Pro-tem Jim DeReus said, “I’d like to direct Ms. Lorinda from our claims department to get with the claimant and work with TML (Texas

**SEE COUNCIL - PAGE 28**

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# Commissioners argue to see the light in new subdivisions

BY KAREN GLEASON  
The 830 Times

All five members of Val Verde County Commissioners Court were present.

Here's what happened at the meeting:

## Court approves policy for organizations seeking hotel occupancy tax money

Commissioners court members voted 5-0 to approve a policy on the expenditure of the county's hotel occupancy tax (HOT) funds. County Judge Lewis G. Owens Jr. handed out copies of the new policy to commissioners, then went over highlights of the policy. Owens said the first portion of the new policy echoes state statutes on how the county may and may not use HOT monies. Owens said the policy also contains provisions for "pre-funding" for organizations, noting if the court approves a dollar amount of funding for the organization, there are now forms attached to the policy and if the organization is a 501(c)(3) or a 501(c) organization and is a non-profit, it could receive funds



Photo by Karen Gleason

Val Verde County Commissioners Court members pose with Jessica Hester, center, of Brooke's Blossoming Hope for Cancer Foundation, and her children, Julianna, left, and Benjamin, right. From left, Commissioner Pct. 1 Kerr Wardlaw, Commissioner Pct. 2 Juan Carlos Vazquez, Hester, County Judge Lewis G. Owens Jr., Commissioner Pct. 3 Fernando Garcia and Commissioner Pct. 4 Gustavo "Gus" Flores. The court on Wednesday approved the expenditure of \$10,000 in hotel occupancy tax funds for the foundation's Devils River Run & Ride for Hope, which raises money for childhood cancer research.

once the organization submits a form outlining how it will use those funds. Conversely, if an organization is for profit and not a 501(c)(3) or a 501(c) organization, those organizations now will have to present receipts and invoices for reimbursement, Owens said.

## Court approves HOT funding for three organizations

After approving a new county policy for the disbursement of hotel occupancy tax (HOT) funds to three organizations requesting them for upcoming events. The court voted 5-0 to approve \$10,000 in HOT funds for Brooke's Blossoming Hope for Childhood Cancer Foundation, which each year hosts the Devils River Run & Ride for Hope. The

court also voted 5-0 to approve the expenditure of \$4,800 in HOT funds for the annual George Paul Memorial Bull Riding. Finally, the court voted 5-0 to approve \$1,000 for the 3rd Annual Border Classic Team Roping and Cook-Off. Court takes action to clarify, modify order for outdoor lighting in new subdivisions

Commissioners

court voted 5-0 to clarify procedure for who should pay for street lighting in new subdivisions. County Judge Lewis G. Owens Jr. said he believed that if a developer creates a new street as part of his subdivision, the developer should be required to pay for the installation of mailboxes, street signs and streetlights. He said if a property owner is re-platting a piece of property to sell lots or smaller tracts, and the subdivision is adjacent to a street that already has lights, then the developer "shouldn't have to put up lights." After some discussion, Owens made a motion that a developer who subdivides a piece of property and the replat of the subdivision is next to an existing road and there are no lights on that road, the county will send the developer a bill for those lights.

## Court denies commissioner's request to place lights near his subdivision

Commissioners court members voted 2-3 on a motion to approve agreements with

**SEE LIGHT - PAGE 27**

**The 830  
TIMES**  
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- PROTEGER LOS PROGRAMAS DE ALIMENTOS Y SERVICIOS DEL CONDADO PARA NUESTRA COMUNIDAD
- MEJORAR LA SEGURIDAD PUBLICA Y SERVICIOS DE EMERGENCIA

PCT. 40 & 41

### ELECTION DAY:

PCT. 42 & 43

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VVRMC hosted heart health events focused on promoting wellness and early detection, featuring educational sessions, invigorating workouts, and free blood pressure checks. The events also included a "Cook and Learn" segment, healthy refreshments, and door prizes, creating an engaging day dedicated to improving cardiovascular health and community well-being. Events were hosted in all Val Verde precincts, including Precinct 3 located in Comstock, Tx.



### CATH LAB RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY

VVRMC celebrated the ribbon cutting of our new, state-of-the-art Cath Lab, enhancing cardiac care for our community. This advanced facility allows our team to perform life-saving procedures efficiently, bringing vital heart health services closer to home. We thank everyone who contributed to making this possible.



### VVRMC HOSTS PINK MOVEMENT

VVRMC, in partnership with Precinct 4 County Commissioner Gustavo Flores and Physical Therapy, hosted the Pink Movement to raise breast cancer awareness. The event promoted early detection, support for survivors, and community education through activities and informational sessions encouraging screenings and healthy habits.



### COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS EVENT

VVRMC hosted a Colorectal Cancer Awareness event in conjunction with Precinct 2 County Commissioner Juan Carlos Vasquez. Dr. Antonio Castaneda and Dr. Wyn Nguyen shared their invaluable knowledge and expertise. It was a day filled with essential colorectal health information, a refreshing workout session, free blood pressure checks, and an interactive "Cook and Learn" experience.



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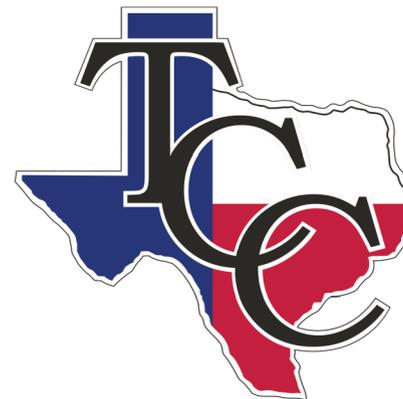
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# Citizens discuss variety of concerns at DeReus town hall meeting

**BY KAREN GLEASON**  
The 830 Times

Citizens discuss variety of concerns at DeReus town hall meeting

By Karen Gleason  
The 830 Times

Del Rioans who attended Mayor Pro-tem Jim DeReus' town hall meeting on Thursday discussed a wide range of topics, from an unusually large water bill to a shortage of police officers, from vehicles speeding on a residential street to protecting Laughlin Air Force Base.

About a dozen persons attended the town hall meeting, held in the Cottonwood

Room at the Del Rio Civic Center. Among those attending the meeting were DeReus' mother, Sandy Bannan, and DeReus' stepfather, Bob Bannan.

DeReus welcomed everyone, then began going around the room, person by person, inviting each one to share his or her particular concerns or comments or to ask questions.

DeReus told those attending the meeting, "The whole point of doing these (town hall meetings) is to hear what's going on, what concerns you have. I will be taking notes, and I send those to the city manager to let her know, 'Hey, I need to get this settled,' and to let her know this is what

people are talking about so she can start to develop some plans or we can put in on the agenda (of a city council meeting)."

Del Rioan Ken Hoehn spoke about two concerns.

Hoehn said the city has installed a second water meter at his home in north Del Rio.

"The bill, after one month and no water running through the meter, came in at over \$3,000," Hoehn said.

DeReus asked several follow-up questions, including whether Hoehn had spoken to the city utility billing department,



Photo by Karen Gleason

Mayor Pro-tem Jim DeReus gestures as he welcomes Del Rioans to his town hall meeting Feb. 19. About a dozen Del Rioans attended the meeting, and they voiced a variety of concerns. DeReus, who earlier this year announced he will run for mayor, will host another town hall meeting in April.

**SEE DEREUS - PAGE 24**

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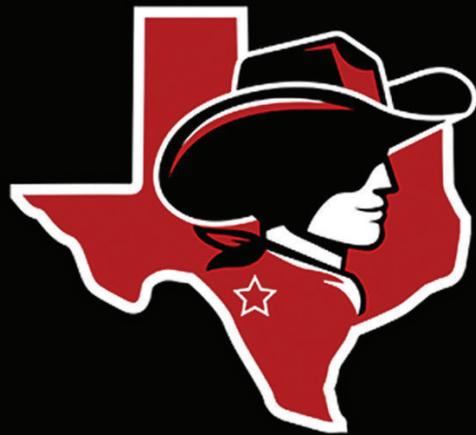
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**TOP THINGS  
TO DO  
IN THE  
QUEEN CITY**

See Page 15

# *¿Qué pasa?* **830 Entertainment**



See Page 17



## **Chinese New Year Parade Saturday**

See page 16

*Your guide to unforgettable entertainment in Del Rio*

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Independence Day

Sunday March 01

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## POETRY READING AT CASA DE LA CULTURA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH

EXPERIENCE BORDERLAND LITERATURE FROM AUTHOR BIANCA GONZALEZ PEREZ AT THE CASA DE LA CULTURA, 302 CANTU ST., ON SATURDAY, FEB. 28, AT 6 P.M.

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6:00 pm

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20, 21  
y 22 MARCH 2026

# 2026 Chinese New Year Parade set for Saturday

BY KAREN GLEASON  
THE 830 TIMES

Del Rioans will have a chance to glimpse the rich, colorful and ancient culture of China on Saturday during the 2026 Chinese New Year Parade on South Main Street.

This year's parade will be a "reverse parade," beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday at South Main and Canal Streets and ending at South Main Street and Garfield Avenue. Performances by local groups will take place immediately after the parade in the Student Performance Center, 315 S. Griner St., at 11 a.m. Saturday.

Initially envisioned and brought to life by Diana Stern, wife of Del Rio attorney Jack Stern, the Chinese New Year Parade has been an annual fixture of the city's historic downtown for many years. Diana Stern is still involved in its planning, and she and her husband bought most of the authentic costumes and props used in the parade, including the huge, vibrantly colored dragon puppets that are its centerpiece.

This year's parade is being coordinated by Esme Esparza, with support from Diana Stern, Nancy Khan, Linda Webb and Claudia Lopez.



(Photo by Karen Gleason)

Members of the Queen City Belles and other teen volunteers give life to two large dragon puppets that are one the highlights of Del Rio's annual Chinese New Year parade in this photo taken in 2024.

Esparza told The 830 Times this is the 22nd year that Chinese New Year has been celebrated in Del Rio.

Esparaza said, "We are happy to have expanded participation from new groups that will be participating in the parade and performances at the Student Performance Center, otherwise known as SPC.

"New participants include Heritage Academy, Garfield Middle School Dance Team, Dance Company, and STUCCO. Returning participants include Chinese Dynasty Costumes through History, Cardwell Head Start, Queen City



(Photo by Karen Gleason)

Diana Stern, right, puts the finishing touches on the Chinese nobleman costume worn by Michael Garcia, left, in the 2024 Chinese New Year Parade.

**SEE PARADE - PAGE 17**

# Running With the Bulls returns to Ciudad Acuña

BY JOEL LANGTON  
THE 830 TIMES

Del Rio and Ciudad Acuña officials are looking forward to the 2026 Running With the Bulls event March 20-22.

“We know Del Rio and Acuña are the safest on the border,” Del Rio Mayor Al Arreola said, at a joint news conference held at IBC Conference & Event Center on Pecan Street. “This is an event we expect to attract people from throughout the region, and it’s going to be a joint effort because both cities are going to benefit.”

This press conference was held several days before a wave of violence spread across Mexico, but the State of Coahuila was left relatively unscathed, proving Arreola right.

Centered around Plaza Benjamín Canales just a few blocks from the international bridge, the three-day celebration combines music, parades, food and cultural activities with its signature Running With the Bulls event.

José Santos Gómez Arizpe, president of the Ciudad Acuña Chamber of Commerce, who owns ShipZo and is CEO and co-



(Photo by Joel Langton)

Acuña and Del Rio officials announced the upcoming Running With the Bulls in Acuña March 20 through 22.

owner of Del Rio’s Frontline Ambulance, said the festival is designed as a shared community celebration.

“This is a family event in downtown Acuña’s historic plaza, about three blocks from the international bridge,” Gómez Arizpe said. “We have a parade, music, food, activities for children and adults, and

the running of the bulls.” Inspired by Spain’s San Fermín tradition, the event features multiple races in which registered participants run ahead of young bulls while spectators watch from designated areas.

“Anyone 18 or older can register, and there are four races throughout the day

with activities in between,” he said.

He added there will be family-centric activities in the area approximately every seven minutes.

#### CROSS-BORDER ACCESS

Organizers say access for U.S. visitors is part of the event’s design, with transportation provided from the U.S. side.

“Visitors can park on

the U.S. side and take passenger vans across,” Gómez Arizpe said. “They receive a bracelet that gives access to the event and reserved seating.”

Shuttles will operate late into the evening.

“The shuttles will run until about 3 a.m., so people can spend the day enjoying the restaurants, bars and activities,” he said.

#### FULL WEEKEND CELEBRATION

Festivities begin Friday with a coronation ceremony, followed Saturday by the main running events and concluding Sunday with a cook-off near the international bridge.

Organizers and officials have promoted the festival as a regional attraction drawing visitors from both Texas and northern Mexico, benefiting businesses on both sides of the border.

“This event helps both Acuña and Del Rio. It brings the communities together,” Arreola said.

The Las Vacas festival will take place throughout the downtown plaza district within walking distance of the international bridge

## PARADE - FROM PAGE 16

Belles, Umbrella Girls, Ladies Fan Dance and Roberto “Bobby” Barrera Elementary STEM School,” Esparza added.

Mayor Al Arreola, who has participated in the parade alongside his wife

Myrella for several years, recently issued a proclamation designating Feb. 17, 2026, through Feb. 28, 2026, as “Chinese New Year – Year of the Horse Celebration Days” in Del Rio.

In the proclamation, Arreola noted, “This celebration (of the Chinese New Year) honors centuries of rich heritage, customs and values that emphasize family, community and harmony, while sharing

vibrant traditions such as the lion dance, lantern festivals and cultural performances rooted in ancient history.”

Arreola also noted Del Rio “recognizes the importance of cultural diversity

and inclusion and values the contributions of all communities that enrich the social and cultural fabric of our city.”

The writer can be reached at delriomagnoliafan@gmail.com

# Movie Review: Goat

BY LOUIS ZYLKA  
THE 830 TIMES

Over a year ago, it was an Sony Animations has had a huge turnaround in creating unique films in the animation industry as of late. The studio went from releasing one of the worst animated movies (The Emoji Movie in 2017) to critically-acclaimed films such as Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse, Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse, The Mitchells vs The Machines and KPop Demon Hunters. Goat, directed by Adam Rosette and Tyree Dillihay, is Sony Animations' most recent feature, and it shows the creativity and energy the studio will hopefully deliver for many

films to come.

In a world filled with animals talking and living like regular people, Will Harris (Caleb McLaughlin) is a small goat who wants to play for his favorite team, the Vineland Thorns, in a high stakes and exaggerated version of basketball called "roarball." Although he is excited and upbeat about proving himself a worthy athlete, Will also has to find his way to win the approval of his larger teammates who look down on him (figuratively and literally) as they try to maintain a winning streak as a popular basketball team.

The strongest part of Goat is it shows how Sony Animations is a force to be reckoned with when it



Will Harris (Caleb McLaughlin) is a small goat with the opportunity of a lifetime to join his favorite basketball team in Sony Animations' Goat. (Courtesy photo)

comes to showing high-quality and impressive animation worthy of seeing on a big screen.

Although it has a simple premise which does get convoluted at times, Goat is an hour and 40 minutes of Looney Tunes-inspired insanity wrapped with plen-

ty of jokes every couple of minutes. While some jokes are well written, others are forgettable and leave very little impression.

While Goat may not be the greatest animated movie of all time, or at least most recently, it does offer a lot for many to enjoy. The

animation is the strongest part of the film, even if it will drive others away from the craziness it unfolds. While it is predictable and full of uneven jokes, Goat will still have you cheering and roaring with joy by the end.

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# 830 Entertainment: Events at a glance!

## **POKEMON DAY**

FEB. 27 - Celebrate 30 years of Pokémon and play TCG card games with friends at Draculina's, 225 S. Main St., on Friday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m.

## **FIVE POINTS MARKET NEW HOURS**

FEB. 27 & FEB. 28 - Five Points Market, 300 Margaret Ln, is changing their business hours Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and cooking hours from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Five Points Market is closed on Sundays.

## **VVRMC INAUGURAL GALA**

Feb. 27 - The Val Verde Regional Medical Center (VVRMC) Legacy Foundation will host its Inaugural Gala at 801 N. Bedell Ave on Friday, Feb. 27, at 6 p.m. A silent auction and live action will occur at the gala.

## **ADULT DRIVER EDUCATION COURSE**

FEB. 28 - Soto's Driving School, located between Veterans Blvd. Between Pizza Hut and Subway, will have six-hour adult driving classes. Classes will be on Saturday, Feb. 28, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. with lunch from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

## **POETRY READING AT CASA**

FEB. 28 - Author Bianca Gonzalez will hold a poetry reading from her poetry collection Bloodlines at the Casa de la Cultura, 302 Cantu St., on Saturday, Feb. 28, at 6 p.m.

## **SIP & SHOP WITH 3 SISTERSTX AND FRIENDS**

FEB. 28 - Friends and families are invited to enjoy food and beverages and shop for new products at SIP & SHOP at the Howdy House, 911 Griner St, on Saturday, Feb 28., at 10 a.m.

## **SECOND CHANCES THRIFT STORE OPENING**

FEB. 28 - Attend the grand opening of the Second Chances Thrift Store at 5334 US-90 W on Saturday, Feb. 28, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Amazing deals will be provided, and local food

vendors will be in attendance.

## **LOTERIA BRUNCH**

FEB. 28 - The community is invited to the Kitty Katz Novice Fundraiser at 1307 E. 1st St. on Saturday, Feb. 28, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Win prizes and support of the KittyKatz Novice cheerleaders.

## **FREE ADMISSION AT WHITEHEAD**

MARCH. 1 - The Whitehead Memorial Museum, 1308 S. Main St., will have free admission to its facilities on Sunday, March 1, in celebration of Texas Independence Day.

## **POOL TOURNAMENT AT DOC HOLLIDAY'S**

MARCH. 1 - Doc Holliday's, 202 E. Gibbs St., calls all billiard enthusiasts to play at their pool tournaments on Sunday, March 1, at 8 p.m. First and second place winners will receive prizes.

## **MEXICAN FOLKLORICO CLASSES**

MARCH 3 - Del Rio Council for the Arts at the Firehouse, 120 E. Garfield St., will hold Mexican Folklorico classes every Tuesday from 3 p.m to 4 p.m. Classes, which are designed for seniors 55 and older, will continue all the way to Tuesday, May 12. Information about registration can be asked at the Firehouse's main office.

## **MUSIC AT RUDY'S**

MARCH 4 - Local band Rudy's Los De Oro will perform at Rudy's BBQ Del Rio, 330 Braddie Dr, on Wednesday, March 4, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

## **KARAOKE NIGHT WEDNESDAY**

MARCH. 4 - Sing to your heart's content during karaoke night every Wednesday at 9 p.m. at Doc Holliday's, 202 E. Gibbs St.

## **BCFS FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE**

March 6 - Celebrate family connections between fathers and daughters at the Father

Daughter Dance event, hosted by BCFS Health and Human Resources, on Friday, March 6, at the Enchanted Jardin, 4934 US-90.

## **FIRST FRIDAY ARTWALK**

MARCH 6 - Local art galleries, including Del Rio Council for the Arts at the Firehouse and the Falcon Art Gallery, will have their venues open for the First Friday Artwalk on Friday, March 6. Stay tuned with The 830 Times to know more about the details on the galleries in the next issue.

## **CARD GAME MAGIC THE GATHERING MEETUP**

MARCH 6 - The local GameStop, 2415 Veterans Blvd. STE G, will hold a card game meet-up even for Magic the Gathering on Friday, March 6.

## **BETHEL CENTER FOOD DRIVE**

MARCH 9 - Home2 Suites, 122 Lowe Dr, will be accepting items for a food drive from Monday, March 9, to Monday, March 23. All proceeds will benefit Del Rio's Bethel Center located at 900 E. 13th St.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**FORT CLARK DAYS - MARCH 7**

**CHAMBER MEMBER LUNCHEON - MARCH 11**

**SPRING BREAK CLEANUP - MARCH 14**

**BORDER BASS BATTLE FISHING TOURNAMENT - MARCH 14**

**ONE PLACE MARKET - MARCH 21**

**SHS COLOR ME RUN - MARCH 21**

**RUNNING LAS VACAS - MARCH 20**

**THROUGH MARCH 22**

**FIESTA OF FLIGHT AIRSHOW - MARCH 28**

**COLUMBIA DE LA FLOR FEST - APRIL 3**

**CON TANTO AMOR EXHIBIT - APRIL 3**

**WHITEHEAD'S CAJUN FEST - TBA**

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## BOXING



CONTENDERS OF THE FAITH BOXING IS A REGISTERED USA BOXING GYM FOR AGES 8 AND UP. CLASSES ARE HELD ON MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, AND FRIDAY FROM 5:30 TO 7:15 PM, FOCUSING ON CHRIST-CENTERED RELATIONSHIPS AND STUDENT EMPOWERMENT.

## MUSIC



ESPERANZA'S MUSIC SCHOOL PROVIDES TRAINING IN DRUMS, PIANO, GUITAR, BASS, AND UKULELE, EMPHASIZING SKILLS FOR SOLO AND BAND PERFORMANCES, PARTICULARLY FOR WORSHIP. PRIVATE LESSONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR INTERESTED STUDENTS.

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# Council approves advertisement for RFOs for Buena Vista Pool rehab

BY KAREN GLEASON  
The 830 Times

City council members have taken the next step in a planned reconstruction of Buena Vista Pool on the city's north side.

The council during its Feb. 10 meeting unanimously approved a resolution authorizing City Manager Shawna Burkhart to advertise and give notice of a request for qualifications (RFQs) for the evaluation, design and build services for the Buena Vista Pool Rehabilitation Project.

After the heading of the agenda item was read during the Feb. 10 meeting, Mayor Al Arreola called for a motion on the resolution. Councilwoman Carmen



Photo by Karen Gleason

The city of Del Rio's Buena Vista Pool, located off Kings Way on the north side of town, is scheduled for reconstruction this year. City council members voted Feb. 10 to authorize the city manager to advertise for requests for qualification on a design/build package for the pool. The Buena Vista Pool is one of two municipal pools. The other is the Moore Park Pool.

Gutierrez made the motion to approve the resolution, with Mayor Pro-tem Jim DeReus giving the second.

When Arreola asked if council members had any questions, Gutierrez asked Burkhart if she had any

idea "when work might begin" on the reconstruction of the pool.

Burkhart replied, "No,

not at this time. We are simply trying to get those bids and trying to get that started this summer, early in the summer."

"That it would be ready early in the summer?" Gutierrez asked.

"No," Burkhart replied.

"I didn't think so," Gutierrez said.

"We will have one pool open this summer," Burkhart said.

Arreola then recognized Scot Carcasi, the city's operations and compliance manager, who walked to the podium to field any additional questions from council members.

Carcasi told the council,

**SEE POOL - PAGE 23**



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## POOL - FROM PAGE 22

“Like Ms. Burkhart said, this is the bid process, so it takes a little bit of time. One of our concerns is, is the construction will be starting during the busiest season for pool companies, so we’re going to hopefully try to get somebody as quickly as possible, but a lot of it will depend on their availability.”

Gutierrez asked Carcasi, “It (the Buena Vista Pool) would not be safe to use?”

Carcasi replied, “No, our current plan is the pool will be open until construction starts. Lazaro (Castro, the city’s parks superintendent) and I just discussed this the other day. We bought enough chemicals for both pools, in the event that construction can’t start until after pool season. The Buena Vista Pool will be open. Both pools will be open.”

“That’s great news. Thank you,” Gutierrez replied.

Councilman J.P. Sanchez commented, “This is just a request for

qualifications.”

“Yes, sir,” Carcasi replied.

Sanchez added, “We’re not deciding on anything right now. We’re just asking for qualifications, to see who out there is qualified to do such work, and not the actual work, as far as construction of the pool, but the design of the pool.”

“Correct. It will be a design/build. We’re hoping the pool company will design it and build it,” Carcasi added.

Councilman Jesus Lopez Jr. asked if there were any local companies that might be able to do the work or if the advertisements would only go statewide.

Carcasi said the advertisements will go out, and “we would be happy” if a local pool company elected to submit an RFQ.

“We prefer using local vendors as much as possible, but that will just depend on who answers the request for qualifications,” Carcasi replied.

When the mayor called for the vote, six members of the council voted in favor of the motion, none voted against, and Councilman Randy Quinones abstained.

Quinones told The 830 Times after the meeting he abstained because he is the part owner of a local pool company that could possibly submit an RFQ for the work.

According to information included in the council’s agenda packet, the city has allocated \$1.5 million “for the demolition and renovation of the Buena Vista Pool.”

The information included in the council packet also describes the work to be done on the pool: construction of “reinforced pneumatically applied concrete, with slip-resistant concrete decks, playscapes, interactive water features and/or slides.”

--

Contact the author at [delriomag-noliafan@gmail.com](mailto:delriomag-noliafan@gmail.com)

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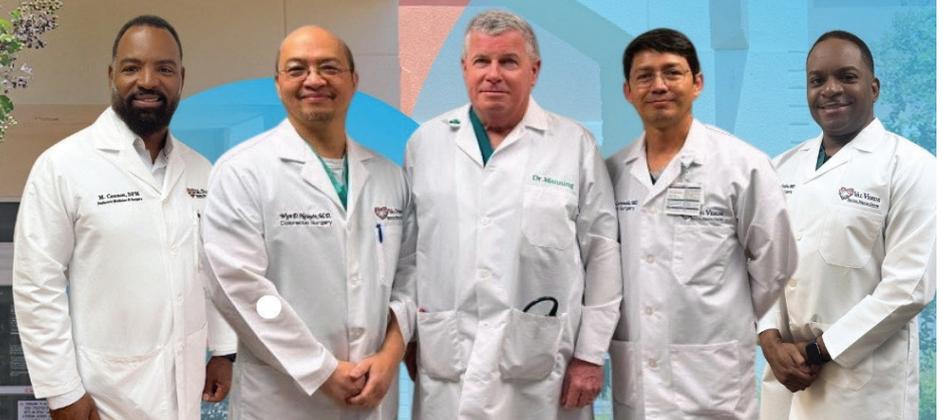
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## DEREUS - FROM PAGE 9

which he said he has.

Hoehn also brought up a chronic problem in his neighborhood. He said he lives on North Broadview Street and told DeReus there are several drivers who “race” on the street, especially early on weekend mornings.

Hoehn’s wife next asked if there were any new restaurants coming to town.

“None that we can talk about yet,” DeReus replied.

“Restaurants and shopping outlets, retail stores, are not, by themselves, going to give us this big economic boom. They’re not. . . For every dollar we keep

in town, from the economic analyses I’ve read, you get the effect of \$1.60, because it goes from business to

business. . . but we’re going to get the biggest bang for our buck with more industry, but to get that, we really need to work on job skills,” DeReus said.

DeReus spoke further about cost of living and quality of life issues.

DeReus noted the overall cost of living is slightly higher in Del Rio than in San Antonio when one factors in the cost of having to take time off from work and travel out of town for specialty medical care.

DeReus then discussed remarks he had made last week at a chamber of commerce event.

“No one wants to talk about a BRACC (base realignment and closure commission), and I don’t

want to talk about it. If they announced one today, I would sleep like a baby, because there’s nothing I can do about it, because they give you a date – say, 1 March – and they want to know what you did in the year to 18 months prior to that. There’s nothing I can do about that.

“If Congress comes out and says they’re going to have a BRACC, they will set a date and ask you all these questions about what you have done for the 18 months prior to that date, and there’s really nothing you can do. So, what is going to get the base closed?” DeReus asked.

“Not doing the mission,” he answered himself.

Lee Weathersbee,

another citizen attending the meeting, said he believed the biggest threat to Laughlin Air Force Base is encroachment, adding he believes it is a mistake for the city to continue allowing water line extensions to properties east of the base, such as in the Escondido Estates and Rancho Del Rio colonias south of U.S. Highway 90.

“Laughlin is as naked as a brand-new baby,” Weathersbee warned.

DeReus said Laughlin has the “best airspace” of any undergraduate pilot training base, despite the fact that much of the airspace near the base lies over a sovereign foreign nation – Mexico.

“So what is going to

close a base first is if you are doing the mission or not,” DeReus said, adding he does not believe the Air Force will close any undergraduate pilot training base because the Air Force is behind on training pilots.

DeReus said, “And what is going to prevent us from accomplishing the assigned mission? Manning. Personnel. Because right now, for sim instructors, we’re about 55 percent manned, and that’s the best I’ve seen in the 10 years that I’ve been a sim instructor.

“The average age of sim instructors right now is 65 or 66. Why do we have people either just getting

**SEE CONCERNS - PAGE 25**



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# CONCERNS - FROM PAGE 24

out or retiring from the Air Force and not just coming over and becoming a sim instructor? Because the amount of money they can make flying for an airline is about three times as much then what they'll make as a sim instructor.

"So what is the number one reason why people stop

being a sim instructor or working for aircraft maintenance at Laughlin? Lack of specialty medical care. I've been talking with the hospital people for years, working with both state and federal delegations, working with the VA, to try and get more (medical) care down here, because that's

going to cause us to lose the base first, and if we lose the base, the town's going to wither away," DeReus said.

DeReus segued from speaking about the base to the city's ongoing efforts to restore commercial air service at Del Rio International Airport.

"Some members of the hospital board think that if the city can get an airline service back in here, they could help us pay for it because they have doctors that come in on Monday and leave on Friday, but (the hospital) has to pay for all their travel costs. Well, if they can fly into Del Rio

on Monday, versus flying to San Antonio and driving to Del Rio; one, they could see more patients at the hospital and two, the hospital won't need to pay as much," DeReus said.

DeReus said although it isn't official, some hospital

**SEE CITIZENS - PAGE 26**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### CITATION BY PUBLICATION

**NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT:** "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you."

THE STATE OF TEXAS

To: **AZENETH ILEANA MORA**, Respondent, Greeting:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable Roland Andrade 63<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District, Val Verde County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County, 100 Broadway St, 2nd Floor in Del Rio, Texas, at or before ten o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after the expiration of forty two days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION of LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, Plaintiff, filed in said court on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2025, against AZENETH ILEANA MORA, AN INDIVIDUAL; ALBERTO MORA, AN INDIVIDUAL; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, A GOVERNMENT AGENCY; DOES 1 THROUGH 10 AND ROES BUSINESS ENTITIES 1 THROUGH 10, INCLUSIVE, Defendants in said suit being numbered 2025-0105-CIV on the docket of said court, and entitled,

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY TO WIT: SITUATED IN VAL VERDE COUNTY, TEXAS AND BEING LOT EIGHT (8), BLOCK TWELVE (12), BUENA VISTA HILLS UNIT 8 SUBDIVISION TO THE CITY OF DEL RIO, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT OF RECORD IN SLIDE 398, SIDE A, MAP RECORDS, VAL VERDE COUNTY, TEXAS APN:6064-0012-0008 BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED TO ALBERTO MORA AND AZENETH ILEANA MORA, HUSBAND AND WITH BY DEED FROM STEPAN M. EDMISTON AND SAMANTHA RIO EDMISTON RECORDED 11/22/2021 IN INSTRUMENT 00331295, IN THE REGISTER'S OFFICE OF VAL VERDE COUNTY, TEXAS

ALSO KNOWN AS:102 RUNNING BEAR TRL, DEL RIO, TEXAS 78840

The nature of which suit is as follows, to wit: Plaintiff seeks to exercise his right of title and possession to the property as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Original Petition on file in this suit.

The name and address of the attorney for the Plaintiff is:  
NICOLAS MATAYRON, 2112 Business Center Drive, Irvine, CA 92612.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree which will be binding on you.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Del Rio, Texas, this the 12th day of February A.D. 2026.



*Jo Ann Cervantes*  
JO ANN CERVANTES  
Clerk of the 63rd & 83rd District Courts  
Val Verde County, Texas  
P. O. Box 1544  
Del Rio, Texas 78841

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### CITATION BY PUBLICATION

**NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT:** "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you."

THE STATE OF TEXAS

To: **ALBERTO MORA**, Respondent, Greeting:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable Roland Andrade 63<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District, Val Verde County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County, 100 Broadway St, 2nd Floor in Del Rio, Texas, at or before ten o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after the expiration of forty two days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION of LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, Plaintiff, filed in said court on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026, against AZENETH ILEANA MORA, AN INDIVIDUAL; ALBERTO MORA, AN INDIVIDUAL; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, A GOVERNMENT AGENCY; DOES 1 THROUGH 10 AND ROES BUSINESS ENTITIES 1 THROUGH 10, INCLUSIVE, Defendants in said suit being numbered 2025-0105-CIV on the docket of said court, and entitled,

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY TO WIT: SITUATED IN VAL VERDE COUNTY, TEXAS AND BEING LOT EIGHT (8), BLOCK TWELVE (12), BUENA VISTA HILLS UNIT 8 SUBDIVISION TO THE CITY OF DEL RIO, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT OF RECORD IN SLIDE 398, SIDE A, MAP RECORDS, VAL VERDE COUNTY, TEXAS APN:6064-0012-0008 BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED TO ALBERTO MORA AND AZENETH ILEANA MORA, HUSBAND AND WITH BY DEED FROM STEPAN M. EDMISTON AND SAMANTHA RIO EDMISTON RECORDED 11/22/2021 IN INSTRUMENT 00331295, IN THE REGISTER'S OFFICE OF VAL VERDE COUNTY, TEXAS

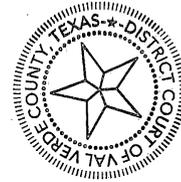
ALSO KNOWN AS:102 RUNNING BEAR TRL, DEL RIO, TEXAS 78840

The nature of which suit is as follows, to wit: Plaintiff seeks to exercise his right of title and possession to the property as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Original Petition on file in this suit.

The name and address of the attorney for the Plaintiff is:  
Nicolas Matayron, 2112 Business Center Drive, Irvine, CA 92612.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree which will be binding on you.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Del Rio, Texas, this the 12th day of February A.D. 2026.



*Jo Ann Cervantes*  
JO ANN CERVANTES  
Clerk of the 63rd & 83rd District Courts  
Val Verde County, Texas  
P. O. Box 1544  
Del Rio, Texas 78841

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Docket No. 59036

## Notice for Publication

CSWR-TEXAS UTILITY OPERATING COMPANY, LLC, CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY (CCN) NO. 13290, NOTICE OF INTENT TO AMEND UNCERTIFICATED AREA TO CCN NO. 13290, FOR DUAL CERTIFICATION WITH A PORTION OF SAN PEDRO ESTATES WATER, LLC'S CCN NO. 11089, TO PURCHASE WATER FACILITIES AND TO TRANSFER CERTIFICATED WATER SERVICE AREA UNDER CCN NO. 11088 FROM BLUE CERREUS, LLC IN VAL VERDE COUNTY, TEXAS

CSWR-Texas Utility Operating Company, LLC 1630 Des Peres Rd, Suite 140  
(Purchaser's Name) (Address)

St. Louis, MO 63131  
(City, State) (Zip Code)

has submitted an application to the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) to add uncertificated area to its water CCN No. 13290, to obtain dual certification with a portion of San Pedro Estates Water, LLC under water CCN No. 11089, to acquire water facilities and to transfer all of the water certificated service area under CCN No. 11088 in Val Verde County, TX from:

Blue Cerreus, LLC 401 Green Acres Drive  
(Seller's Name) (Address)

Wimberly, TX 78676  
(City, State) (Zip Code)

The sale is scheduled to take place if approved by the Commission (Texas Water Code § 13.301). The transaction and the transfer of the CCN includes the following:

**Requested Area 1 – La Caleta Estates:**

The **requested area 1** is located approximately 8.7 miles northwest of downtown Del Rio, Texas, and is generally bounded on the north by Amistad Reservoir; on the east by Prairie Flower Path; on the south by United States Highway 90; and on the west by Black Brush Point Road.

The **requested area 1** includes 72 customer connections and approximately 93.3 acres, comprised of:

88.2 acres to transfer from CCN No. 11088 to CCN No. 13290; and  
5.1 acres of uncertificated area to amend (add) to CCN No. 13290.

The application proposes the subtraction of approximately 88.2 acres from CCN No. 11088 and the addition of approximately 93.3 acres to CCN No. 13290.

**Requested Area 2 – San Pedro Village:**

The **requested area 2** is located approximately 7 miles northwest of downtown Del Rio, Texas, and is generally bounded on the north by Amistad Reservoir; on the east by San Pedro Drive; on the south by Texas Spur 454; and on the west by Amistad Reservoir.

The **requested area 2** includes 39 customer connections and approximately 336.9 acres, comprised of:

333.0 acres to transfer from CCN No. 11088 to CCN No. 13290; and  
3.9 acres to obtain dual certification with a portion of San Pedro Estates Water LLC (CCN No. 11089) and CCN No. 13290.

The application proposes the subtraction of approximately 333.0 acres from CCN No. 11088 and the addition of approximately 336.9 acres to CCN No. 13290.  
333.0 acres will be single certification with CCN No. 13290.

3.9 acres will be dual certification between CCN No. 11089 and CCN No. 13290.

**Total Requested Areas 1-2:**

The **total requested areas** include 116 customer connections and approximately 430.2 acres, comprised of:

421.2 acres to transfer from CCN No. 11088 to CCN No. 13290; and  
5.1 acres of uncertificated area to amend (add) to CCN No. 13290; and  
3.9 acres to obtain dual certification with a portion of San Pedro Estates Water LLC (CCN No. 11089) and CCN No. 13290.

The application proposes the subtraction of approximately 421.2 acres from CCN No. 11088 and the addition of approximately 430.2 acres to CCN No. 13290.  
426.3 acres will be single certification with CCN No. 13290.

3.9 acres will be dual certification between CCN No. 11089 and CCN No. 13290.

A copy of the maps showing the requested area are available at: Spencer Fane LLP, 816 Congress Avenue, Suite 1200, Austin TX 78701

This transaction will not have an effect on the current customer's rates and services.

Persons who wish to intervene in the proceeding or comment upon action sought should contact the Public Utility Commission, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or call the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals may contact the commission through Relay Texas at 1-800-735-2989\*. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is 30 days from the mailing or publication of notice, whichever occurs later, unless otherwise provided by the presiding officer. You must send a letter requesting intervention to the commission which is received by that date.

The letter must include the person's name, address, email address, and fax number, if applicable.

\*Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may alternatively contact the commission directly at (512) 936-7136.

If a valid public hearing is requested, the Commission will refer the application to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) for a hearing. If no settlement is reached and an evidentiary hearing is held, SOAH will submit a recommendation to the Commission for a final decision. An evidentiary hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

A landowner with a tract of land at least 25 acres or more, that is partially or wholly located within the requested area, may file a written request with the Commission to be excluded from the requested area ("opt-out") within 30 days from the date that notice was provided by the Utility. All landowner opt-out requests must include the commission docket number, CCN number, the total acreage to remove from the requested area, a sealed or embossed metes and bounds description or survey of the landowner's tract of land, and the landowner's name, address, email address and fax number, if applicable.

A landowner that opts out from the requested area releases the applicant's obligation to provide retail water utility service to the removed land for any reason.

Persons who wish to request this option should file the required documents with the:

Public Utility Commission of Texas  
Central Records  
1701 N. Congress, P. O. Box 13326  
Austin, TX 78711-3326

In addition, the landowner must also send a copy of the opt out request to the Utility. Staff may request additional information regarding your request.

Si desea información en español, puede llamar al 1-888-782-8477.

## CITIZENS - FROM PAGE 25

board members have told him that the money the hospital saves paying those doctors' travel costs could be used to help the city pay any subsidy an airline might seek to serve Del Rio.

DeReus said the city council will get an update on commercial air service during Tuesday night's city council meeting.

DeReus next heard from Antonio "Tony" Becerra, a former Del Rio Police Department captain. Becerra and his wife walked into the meeting after it had started, and Becerra asked DeReus to go back over the problems with speeders on North Broadview Street.

When DeReus noted he had heard other complaints from other homeowners north of Broadview, of other drivers revving their vehicles' engines and "doing doughnuts" in the street, Becerra responded, "I have kept silent for a long time, trying to remain true to my brothers in blue over there (at the police department), but there is no traffic enforcement in Del Rio, Texas."

"I have been saying that for a long, long time," DeReus agreed.

He added, "I normally drive up Highway 90 going to work (at the base) in the morning, and I've had people doing 40 to 45 miles an hour through the active school zone (where the speed limit is 30 miles per hour), passing cops in the active school zone, and the cops don't even flash their lights to try and get them to slow down."

Becerra charged, "The Del Rio Police Department is the

lowest-paid law enforcement department in the city. In the last two months, I know they've lost eight people; one just last Thursday. We need to do something. We need to get a gentleman like Gus Pappas (a former city manager) to come in and manage the city and increase their pay."

Becerra said during the Pappas era, officers that previously went to work for other agencies returned to the DRPD.

"And it's not just a number, of bodies in positions you have to fill, but the experience you're losing, but it is unfortunate. I think they're probably running six officers per shift, and when I was there, we were running 14. . . and six people on a shift are not enough to answer all the calls and do traffic enforcement," the former police captain added.

Becerra said there are a number of programs the DRPD could be participating in if they had more officers.

After some additional discussion about strategies to increase police officers' pay and the city's budget issues, DeReus moved on to Weathersbee, a former Del Rio City Council member.

Weathersbee said his main reason for coming to the town hall was to thank DeReus, saying he believed that it was DeReus' previous town hall meetings that convinced other city leaders to hold similar meetings on the changes in city water rates late last year.

Weathersbee told DeReus, "You're willing to sit up there as long as it takes to answer

our questions. That's what's wrong with our city, in my opinion . . . is we can't get most of the council to listen to us."

Weathersbee said when he was on the council, "we didn't make a decision before talking to people."

Weathersbee commented on a number of other topics, frequently returning to his complaint that the mayor and council usually don't allow citizens to ask questions and discuss an agenda topic during council meetings.

He said he would particularly like to see the city schedule town hall meetings on the proposed second international bridge.

That led to DeReus speaking about how he has been pushing council to adopt a policy for conducting meetings, such as Roberts Rules of Order. He said the council as a whole has been reluctant to pass such a policy, most recently deciding to leave the decision to the next council.

DeReus next spoke to George Solis, who asked why the city does not have a one-, five- or 10-year plan. Solis, who discussed several other issues he had, also thanked DeReus for holding regular town hall meetings.

Ken Herrera, another citizen attending the meeting, asked DeReus if the city council could request an annual report on crime statistics from the police department, and he and DeReus discussed the issue.

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Contact the author at delriomagnoliafan@gmail.com

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COM OR JOEL LANGTON AT JOELALANGTON@GMAIL.COM

## LIGHT - FROM PAGE 4

AEP to install LED lights in seven separate locations along a stretch of Cienegas Road in Precinct 4. Commissioner Pct. 4 Gustavo "Gus" Flores made the motion to approve the AEP agreements for the lights, some of which are sited near a piece of property he owns and is in the process of re-platting. County Judge Lewis G. Owens Jr. gave the second, but the remaining three members of the court, Commissioner Pct. 1 Kerr Wardlaw, Commissioner Pct. 2 Juan Carlos Vazquez and Commissioner Pct. 3 Fernando Garcia, voted against the motion following a tense and sometimes heated discussion.

### Court postpones action on nine street light upgrades

Commissioners court members voted 5-0 to table action on a request for nine street light upgrades from 250 watts HPS to 250 watts LED at \$137.86 each for a total amount of \$1,240.74 to be paid from the Precinct 4 operating account. The light upgrades were requested for the following locations:

106 Cerezo Ave. and Cienegas Road, 2628 Cienegas Road, 2863 Cienegas Road, a pole on Cienegas Road, 2016 Cienegas Road and Howmet Aerospace, 2128 Cienegas Road and Industrial Boulevard, 2200 Cienegas Road in front of GXO, 2451 Cienegas Road in front of the Dollar General and 100 Holly Ave. and Cienegas Road.

### Court approves request for funding of outdoor warning sirens

Commissioners court members voted 5-0 to authorize a written request to be sent to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to allow the county to use some funds the TWDB has already allocated to the county for a flood infrastructure fund to be used to install emergency warning sirens at various locations throughout the county.

### Court approves change order for Comstock water tank

Commissioners court members voted 5-0 to approve an Alvin

E. Stock Contractor change order increasing the contract amount by \$16,186 for work on the Comstock water tank. The change order is to remove and replace two existing 6-inch gate valves and electrical probes. The funding for the change order will come from the current grant and is within the project budget.

Court approves change order for Vega Verde water line project

Commissioners court members voted 5-0 to approve a Core & Main change order increasing the contract in the amount by \$12,138 for the Vega Verde water line. The change order is to include the total amount for 34 additional meters. Funding will come from the current grant and is within the project budget.

Court approves date change for next commissioners court meeting

Commissioners court members voted 5-0 to approve moving the court's first regular term meeting in March from Wednesday, March

11, to Thursday, March 12. County Judge Lewis G. Owens Jr. requested the

change, saying he had to be out of town on March 11.

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Contact the author at [delriomagnolifan@gmail.com](mailto:delriomagnolifan@gmail.com)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### INVITATION FOR BID VAL VERDE COUNTY REBID 26-88 CIENEGAS ROAD PROJECT

Val Verde County is accepting sealed bids for the reconstruction of a non-freeway facility consisting of grading, structures, Asphaltic Concrete Pavement, Drainage, Signing and Pavement Markings, etc.; for Cienegas Road Project located in Del Rio, Val Verde County, Texas.

To view and/or download bid contract documents, specifications, scope of work, plans and drawings, you may visit our County website at [www.valverdecountry.texas.gov](http://www.valverdecountry.texas.gov) or [www.civ-castusa.com](http://www.civ-castusa.com). If a different format is needed to download or print the plans and specifications, you may submit a request by emailing Carlos Velarde at [cvelarde@valverdecountry.texas.gov](mailto:cvelarde@valverdecountry.texas.gov) or Jesse Ramos at [Jesse.Ramos@txidg.com](mailto:Jesse.Ramos@txidg.com)

**Sealed Bids** shall be MAILED or HAND DELIVERED to Val Verde County Purchasing, 509 E. Gibbs Street, Del Rio, Texas 78840, by **2:00 p.m. on April 2, 2026**. Bids received after 2:00 p.m. on April 2, 2026 will be disqualified and returned unopened. Bids will be publicly opened and read in the Val Verde County Purchasing Conference room at 509 E. Gibbs Street, Del Rio, Texas 78840, on April 2, 2026, no later than 2:00 p.m., unless posted otherwise for furnishing the County with the construction of the **Cienegas Road Project REBID No. 26-88**.

Bidders may submit questions about the project from February 27, 2026 through March 17, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. All questions will be received by email and shall be sent to either Carlos Velarde, at [cvelarde@valverdecountry.texas.gov](mailto:cvelarde@valverdecountry.texas.gov) or Jesse Ramos at [Jesse.Ramos@txidg.com](mailto:Jesse.Ramos@txidg.com). Questions may also be submitted in writing on CivCast's website at [www.civcastusa.com](http://www.civcastusa.com). Responses will be provided to all prospective bidders via email and posted on both Val Verde County's website and Civcast's website by March 23, 2026.

A Bid Bond in the amount of five percent (5%) of the proposal amount issued by an acceptable surety is required with each bid for those contracts that exceed \$100,000.00. A certified check or bank draft payable to Val Verde County or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of a Bid Bond. **All Bid Bonds must contain original signatures.**

The successful Bidder must furnish a Performance and Payment Bonds each in the amount of 100% of the contract price from an approved Surety Company holding a permit from the State of Texas to act as Surety and acceptable according to the latest list of companies holding certificates of authority from the Secretary of Treasury of the United States, or other Surety or Sureties acceptable to the Owner. Awarded contractor shall be required to furnish bonds within thirty (30) days from the contract date and before any commencement of work.

The County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to waive formalities. In case of ambiguity in stating the price in the bid, the County reserves the right to consider the most advantageous construction thereof or to reject any bids. Also, the County reserves the right to accept the low bid based on the tabulation of anyone, combination or all the base bid(s), alternate bid(s) and/or, optional bid(s) based on the most advantageous project bid that is desired by the County involved and that the County in their sole judgment determines is the County's best interest and benefit. Bids may be held by Val Verde County for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

Bidders must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual identity, gender identity, or national origin. Val Verde County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer. Section 3 Residents, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, Labor Surplus Area Firms and any other applicable disadvantaged businesses including HUBs are encouraged to submit proposals.

Melissa Vasquez, Purchasing Agent  
Val Verde County, Texas

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## COUNCIL - FROM PAGE 3

Municipal League) and the claimant to pay the claim that's been submitted."

Councilwoman Ernestina "Tina" Martinez gave the second.

The council then voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Arreola then asked the council to move on to Item 8B on the agenda: "R:2026-015 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Del Rio, Texas, to authorize the city manager to reclassify the position of operations and compliance manager to operations and compliance director to align with the current organizational

chart and to confirm the appointment of Scot Carcasi as operations and compliance director."

When Arreola called for a motion, Sanchez made a motion to approve the resolution, and DeReus gave the second.

Arreola asked if there were any questions or concerns, and when he heard none, he called for the vote. The council unanimously approved the motion.

Arreola then called for consideration of Item 11D: "Executive session on matters covered by Sec. 551.074(1) - deliberation regarding the

appointment, employment, evaluation, re-assignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee - Ana Markowski Smith, City Attorney."

After Acosta read the heading of the item, Arreola said, "I think this is something that we need to discuss or do we want to proceed on this? Do I have a motion on discussion of anything?"

After a long moment of silence, Arreola began to speak, but Gutierrez said, "Mayor, I move to proceed with the dismissal of public officer or employee Ana Markowski Smith,

effective tomorrow (Feb. 25)."

"Do I have a second?" Arreola asked.

After another long moment of silence, DeReus gave the second.

"Any comments, concerns?" Arreola asked.

Hearing none, Arreola called for the vote.

Gutierrez, DeReus, Arreola, Councilman Jesus Lopez Jr. and Councilwoman Ernestina "Tina" Martinez voted in favor of the motion to dismiss Smith, and Sanchez and Councilman Randy Quinones voted against it.

Arreola then said, "What was discussed in executive session, what was presented to us, do we have a motion to accept it?"

Acosta asked

Arreola to which item on the agenda he was referring.

"Item (11) F," Arreola replied.

Acosta read the heading: "Executive session on matters covered by Sec. 551.074(1) - deliberations regarding the appointment, employment, evaluation, re-assignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee - Shawna D. Burkhardt, City Manager."

Arreola said, "Do I have a motion to accept what was discussed in executive session?"

DeReus said, "I will make a motion to accept Ms. Burkhardt's letter of resignation."

When Arreola asked for an effective date, DeReus said, "Effective tomorrow (Feb. 25)."

When Arreola asked if there was "a second to accept the resignation," Burkhardt said, "It's not a resignation. It's a mutual separation agreement."

Arreola again called for a second, and Gutierrez gave the second.

The council then voted unanimously to approve the motion.

The council took no further action, and Arreola adjourned the meeting at 11:41 p.m. Tuesday.

Smith's appointment as city attorney was approved by the city council in June 2025.

The city council approved Burkhardt's appointment to the position of city manager in August 2024.

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Contact the author at [delriomagnoliafan@gmail.com](mailto:delriomagnoliafan@gmail.com)

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An Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Retailer's Permit by MRT Del Rio, LLC dba Fairfield Inn & Suites Del Rio to be located at 2217 N. Bedell Ave., Del Rio, Val Verde County Texas, 78840. Officers of corp. are: Sanjay Misra/manager and Naisha Davis/manager

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## Obituaries

### BOBBY CARL SMALLEY

July 11, 1937  
February 7, 2026

Bobby Carl Smalley, age 88, passed away on Saturday, February 7, 2026 at the Frank M. Tejada Texas State Veterans Home, located in Floresville, Texas. He was born on July 11, 1937 in Stamford, Texas.

Bobby Carl was a United States Air Force Veteran who served his country proudly from 1955 through 1959.

Preceding him in death were his siblings.

Bobby Carl leaves behind his children and many grandchildren. He is also survived by his best friend, James "Jimmy" McIntire and wife Andrea of Del Rio.

Visitation was held on Monday, February 16, 2026 from 12 noon to 1:55 p.m. in the Trinity Chapel of Faith.

A chapel service was held on Monday, February 16, 2026 at 2 p.m. in the funeral home chapel. Officiating will be Pastor Scott Fooshee.

Graveside services will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2025 at 10:15 a.m. at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, located in San Antonio, Texas.

Full military honors will be rendered by the United States Air Force Honor Guard.

Funeral arrangements are under the care and direction of Trinity Mortuary, 206 Kings Way, Del Rio, Texas (830) 775-2230. Tradition. Tribute. Trust.

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### GLORIA HERNANDEZ FLORES

December 2, 1949  
February 25, 2026

Gloria Hernandez Flores, age 76, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 while surrounded by her loving family, here in Del Rio. She was born on December 2, 1949 in Tlahualilio, Durango, Mexico.

Preceding her in death were her husbands: Jose A. Hernandez and Jaime Flores; grandson, Jose David Hernandez; and parents, Guadalupe and Genaro Moran.

Surviving family members include her children: Lupita Dobbins and husband Bruce Hudgens of Del Rio, Jose Rafael Hernandez and wife Yolanda Hernandez of Del Rio, Juan D. Hernandez and wife Margarita Acevedo of Del Rio, Susana Hernandez and husband Albert Fragozo of San Antonio, TX, and Crystal Flores of Del Rio; sister, Concepcion Franco of San Antonio; grandchildren: Iracel Hernandez, Rachel S. Dobbins, Donavan Dobbins (Thelma Dobbins), Jose Hernandez, Angel Hernandez, and Isabel Fragozo; Gloria is also survived by many great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, other close relatives and friends.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2026 from 5 to 9 p.m. in the Trinity Chapel of Faith. A prayer service will also be held (time pending)

A chapel service is scheduled for Sunday, March 1, 2026 in the funeral home chapel (time pending).

Burial will follow at Westlawn Cemetery. Pallbearers will be: Jose Rafael Hernandez, Juan D. Hernandez, Angel Hernandez, Donavan Dobbins, Nathan Dobbins, and Josiah Hernandez.

Funeral arrangements are under the care and direction of Trinity Mortuary, 206 Kings Way, Del Rio, Texas (830) 775-2230.

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### MANUEL A. PACHECO

October 10, 1948  
February 22, 2026

Manuel A. Pacheco, age 77, entered into rest on Sunday, February 22, 2026 in Del Rio, Texas. He was born on October 10, 1948.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years Emma O. Pacheco. His parents Bacilio and Maria De La Luz Pacheco.

Left to cherish his memory are his children Victor Pacheco, Emmanuel Pacheco (Naiya), Isa Duenez (Enrique A.), and Mayra Connelly (Travis). Grandchildren and great grandchildren.

A visitation was held on Thursday, February 26, 2026 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Sunset Memorial Oaks Funeral Home, 2020 N. Bedell Ave., Del Rio, Tx.

Visitation will continue on Friday, February 27, 2026 from 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM, a chapel service will be held at 10:00 AM at Sunset Memorial Oaks Funeral Home 2020

N. Bedell Ave., Del Rio, Tx.

Gentlemen with the Honor of Pallbearers are Enrique A. Duenez, Travis Connelly, Emmanuel Pacheco, Jr., Juan Pacheco, and Victor Pacheco, Jr., and Ian M. Pacheco.

Honorary Pallbearer will be Caesar Pacheco.

The interment will follow at Sunset Memorial Oaks Cemetery, 5144 Hwy 90 East, Del Rio, Texas.

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### PAULA VIVIAN HARRIS

January 14, 1934  
February 22, 2026

After a life marked by grace, devotion, and love, Paula ran into the arms of God on February 22, 2026, where her husband of 67 years, Roy, and her daughter, Annette, were waiting to greet her in eternal peace.

Paula Vivian Harris (Lewellen), 92, was born in Crockett, Texas, to Jess and Pearl Lewellen. Growing up, she loved to sing and play the piano, and during her high school years she met a young man from a rival school who would become the love of her life, Roy Harris. Together they built a beautiful life and raised three daughters in Pleasanton, Texas. Paula and Roy spent their days blessing others and sharing God's love with everyone they met.

At the age of 46, Paula gained a new title—Grandie—a name that fit her perfectly, as she was truly a "grand" person in every sense. With her sweet, softspoken voice

and gentle spirit, she had a way of lighting up every room she entered. In her later years, she moved to New Braunfels to be closer to her daughters, where she enjoyed precious time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her devoted husband, Roy Harris; her three sisters, who shared her early years; and her cherished daughter, Annette.

She is survived by her daughters, Elaine O'Keefe (husband Terry) and Nancy Hubble (husband Darryl). Paula's legacy continues through her grandchildren—Amy (husband Zach and their four children), Crystal (and her three children), Korben, Alex (and his four children), Mathew (wife Heather and their three children), Jacob (wife Payton and their three children). Each of them carries forward the love, faith, and strength she instilled in her family.

A graveside service will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, Shelter 1 located at 1520 Harry Wurzbach Rd., San Antonio, Texas, 78209. Reception information will be shared soon.

John 14:2-3 "In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

## Obituaries

**BERTA A. SOTELO**  
December 4, 1943  
February 24, 2026

Berta A. Sotelo, age 82, entered into rest on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 in Del Rio, Texas. She was born on December 4, 1943 in Del Rio, Texas.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Gregorio and Lilia Sotelo; her sister, Cecilia Sotelo; brother, Fernando Sotelo, her sisters-in-law, Edelmira "Miri" Sotelo, and Rosalva Sotelo; and her brother-in-law, Carlos Sotomayor.

Left to cherish her memory are her brothers, Lupe Sotelo (Sonya), Mario Sotelo (Mary), Claudio Sotelo, Roberto Sotelo, and Gregorio Sotelo Jr.; and her sister, Gloria Sotomayor, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held on Friday, February 27, 2026 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM, with a recitation of the holy rosary at 6:30 PM, at Sunset Memorial Oaks Funeral Home, 2020 N. Bedell Ave., Del Rio, Texas.

Visitation will continue on Saturday, February 28, 2026 from 8:30 AM to 9:00 AM at Sunset Memorial Oaks Funeral Home, 2020 N. Bedell Ave., Del Rio, Texas, followed by the Mass of Christian Burial at 9:30 AM at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 307 E. Losoya St., Del Rio, Texas.

The interment will follow at Sunset Memorial Oaks Cemetery, 5144 Hwy 90 East, Del Rio, Texas.

Gentlemen with the honor of serving as pallbearers are Henry Sotelo, Henry Sotelo

Jr., Lupe Sotelo, Bobby Sotelo, and Claudio Sotelo Jr.

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**JESUS "CHUY" GUTIERREZ**  
November 20, 1974  
February 24, 2026

In Loving Memory of Jesus 'Chuy' Gutiérrez

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of our beloved father, Jesus Gutierrez, who passed away on February 24, 2026, at the age of 51.

Jesus was born on November 20, 1974, to Ester Gutierrez and the late Amadeo Gutierrez. From a young age, he carried the strength, determination, and work ethic that would define his life.

He was funny, hardworking, loving, strong — and in our eyes, the perfect dad. He spent most of his life working on his big trucks, always making sure everything was running right. Some of our most cherished memories are of him under the hood, asking us to hold the flashlight — and of course, telling us we weren't holding it right. Those moments, filled with laughter (and a little yelling), are memories we will treasure forever.

Jesus showed his love through action. He worked tirelessly to provide for his family and made sure we always felt protected. His strength wasn't just in his hands, but in his heart. He loved deeply, laughed loudly, and lived fully.

He is survived by his loving mother, Ester Gutierrez, and his siblings: Rosie Ramirez, Amadeo Gutierrez, and Belinda Gutierrez. He was preceded in death by his

father, Amadeo Gutierrez, and his brother, Ramiro Gutierrez.

His greatest pride and joy were his children: his oldest and only daughter, Alexandria Marie Gutierrez, and his sons, Jesus Jr Gutierrez, Dominic Gutierrez, and Aaron Xavier Gutierrez. Being their father was the role he carried most proudly.

Above all, Jesus loved his wife, Mercedes Garcia, with all his heart and soul. Their love was strong, loyal, and unwavering — a true partnership built on devotion, sacrifice, and deep affection. Together, they built a family rooted in love.

Though our hearts are broken, we find comfort in knowing his love, strength, and lessons will live on through each of us. He may be gone from our sight, but he will never be gone from our hearts.

Forever loved. Forever missed.

And like my dad always said - todo pa delante y nada para tras and NEVER give up.

A visitation will be held Thursday, March 5, 2026 from 4:00PM to 8:00PM at Sunset Memorial Oaks Funeral Home, 2020 N. Bedell Ave., Del Rio, Texas.

Visitation will continue Friday, March 6, 2026 from 8:30AM to 9:30AM, at Sunset Memorial Oaks Funeral Home, 2020 N. Bedell Ave., Del Rio, Texas.

A Funeral service will be held at 10:00AM at the Church of God of the First Born, 901 Hamilton Lane, Del Rio, Texas.

Services will conclude after the funeral service.



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