Volume 6 - Issue 44

October 23rd, 2026

The 830 TIMES



Friendship On Parade

Little Miss Amistad Marie Nope greets her public in the annual Fiesta De Amistad Parade on Saturday, Oct. 17. The parade was one of several events organized by the International Good Neighbor Council's Del Rio Chapter, who uses all the proceeds to support local scholarships. (Photo by Karen Gleason)

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Sheriff Clarifies Position on Abbott 'Endorsement'

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: VAL VERDE COUNTY SHERIFF JOE FRANK MARTINEZ ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WEDNESDAY MORNING.

VAL VERDE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

JOE FRANK MARTINEZ
SHERIFF

10/20/2026

In light of recent news reporting and an article published by KTSM El Paso entitled "Texas Sheriffs Endorse Greg Abbott" circulating through text messages and news outlets, I, Joe Frank Martinez, Sheriff of Val Verde County, am issuing this statement to clarify my position for the residents of our community.

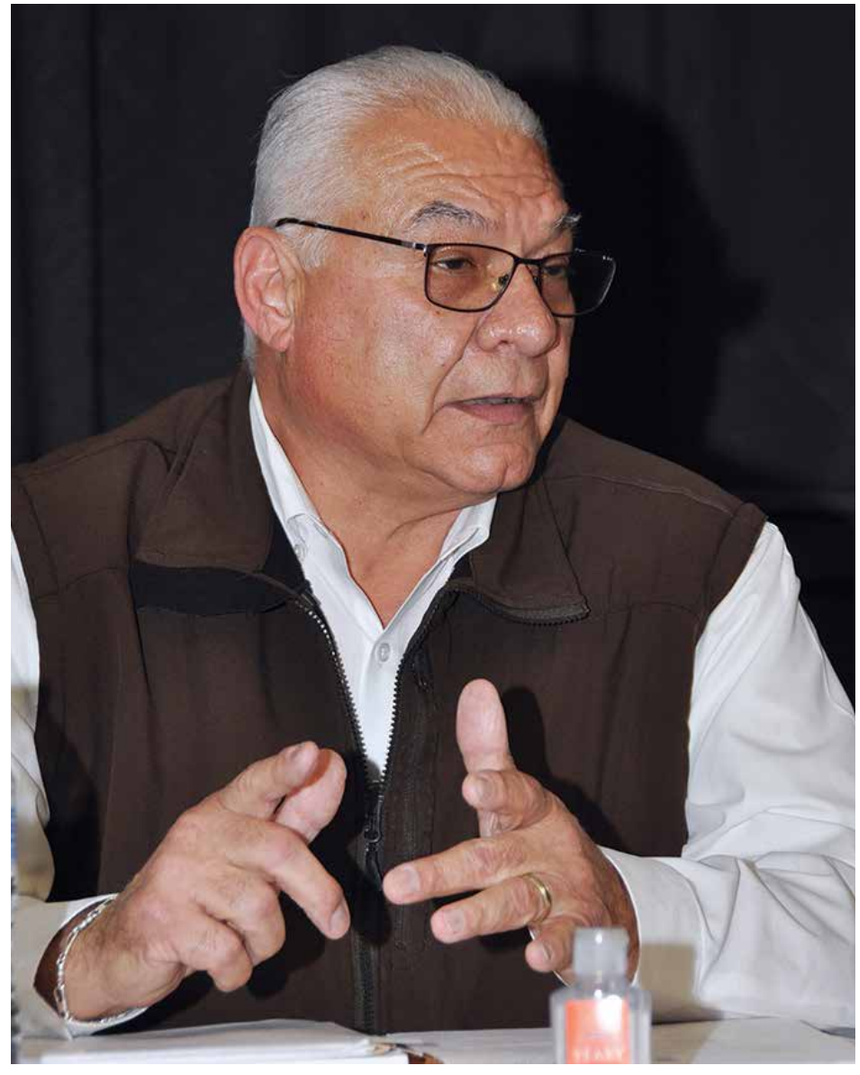
I want to make it unequivocally clear that I have not issued a political endorsement of Governor Greg Abbott, and I did not authorize anyone to use my name as an endorsement. While I do appreciate and voice support for the Governor's logistical assistance and ongoing commitment to helping Val Verde County with critical border law enforcement resources during a time of need, recognizing and appreciating state support is entirely distinct from a political endorsement. From a standpoint of serving a politically diverse constituency of both Democrats and Republicans, I made it clear to the Sheriff who submitted the endorsement that I could not endorse Governor Abbott. I also made it clear that no one from the Governor's office ever contacted me regarding an endorsement, and that I do not need anyone speaking on my behalf.

My primary duty and sole commitment as Sheriff are the safety, security, and well-being of every resident in Val Verde County. The law enforcement challenges we face along the Texas-Mexico border require strong partnerships across all levels of government, regardless of political party, and I will continue to work closely with state officials to ensure our deputies have the tools they need to keep our community safe. As an elected law enforcement official, my job is to uphold the law, protect all citizens fairly and without bias, and focus on public safety.

I remain dedicated to serving all residents with integrity, transparency, and independence, and I encourage every citizen to exercise their right to vote in the upcoming election.

Respectfully,

Joe Frank Martinez
Sheriff, Val Verde County



Val Verde County Sheriff Joe Frank Martinez (Photo by Karen Gleason)

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Candidates state positions on county zoning, other topics

BY KAREN GLEASON
THE 830 TIMES

First of two parts

Five candidates for county judge and two county commissioner seats stated their positions on issues ranging from expanding county zoning authority to creating a groundwater district during a roundtable session hosted by The Border Organization on Saturday, Oct. 17.

About 45 persons attended the event, held in the Casa De La Cultura meeting room, 302 Cantu St.

Mario Arreola, a TBO leader in Del Rio, served as moderator and welcomed the candidates and audience.

Attending were both candidates for the office of Val Verde County judge: County Judge Lewis G. Owens Jr., Democrat, and Robert "Beau" Nettleton, Republican; both candidates for Val Verde County commissioner Precinct 2: Commissioner Juan Carlos Vazquez, Democrat, and Rey Robles, Republican; and John I. Wardlaw, Republican, who is seeking the Val Verde County commissioner Precinct 4 seat.

County Commissioner Precinct 4 Gustavo "Gus" Flores, Democrat, was invited but did not attend, according to TBO community organizer Gage Brown.

Arreola laid out the format for the roundtable, saying TBO leaders would read a series of questions on various issues of concern to TBO, and the candidates would get a minute to answer each question. Candidates would be given a "score" of "yes," "no" or "wishy-washy."

Arreola said, "We have phrased the questions tonight to warrant a clear yes or no answer. We do this because our work isn't just about sharing opinions, it is about getting things done, and we are seeking your commitment as future representatives to work with us on resolving the issues we face."

Following the explanation of the roundtable's rules of engagement, the candidates introduced themselves.

COUNTY ZONING QUESTION

Myles Jakubowski, TBO leader, asked the first question, which dealt with county zoning.

Jakubowski said, "To all candidates, if elected, will you support (state) legislation that expands county zoning authority beyond the Laughlin and Amistad areas and support zoning policies that keep unwanted development out of Val Verde County?"

Nettleton said yes, adding he would propose expanding the Amistad Land Use and Zoned Area around the Amistad National Recreation Area and the Joint Land Use Study Area around Laughlin Air Force Base "so we would have the authority to decide (the) types of developments."

Nettleton said he would also like to see state legislation to protect the San Felipe Springs.

He did say, however, "You can't stop all development, because that is completely anti-economic development. We have to make sure we put the right things in the right places."

Owens answered yes, adding he would favor expanding the Amistad Land Use and Zoned Area to include the Devils River.

Owens said, "I think we need to be careful that we don't encompass too much with zoning, that we take people's rights away."

He said he and other county officials are already in discussions with the city to expand the JLUS by at least a half-mile, including the San Felipe Springs and Escondido Estates.

Vazquez said yes, saying he sits

SEE TBO ROUNDTABLE- PAGE 6



Mario Arreola, left, a leader with The Border Organization, serves as moderator in TBO's roundtable session for local candidates held Saturday, Oct. 17, at the Casa De La Cultura. Candidates who participated included, from left, Robert "Beau" Nettleton, County Judge Lewis. G. Owens Jr., County Commissioner Pct. 2 Juan Carlos Vazquez, Rey Robles and John I. Wardlaw. (Photo by Karen Gleason)



Pictured from left to right: Dr. Carlos H. Rios, SFDRCISD Superintendent of Schools; Chris Cardenas, Region 15 Teacher of the Year and Alma Cavazos, Lamar Elementary School Principal. (Courtesy Photo)

SFDRCISD educator Chris Cardenas honored at Texas Teacher of the Year Celebration

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE SAN FELIPE DEL RIO CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District proudly recognizes Chris Cardenas of Lamar Elementary School for being honored as the Region 15 Teacher of the Year at the Texas Teacher of the Year Celebration held in Round Rock.

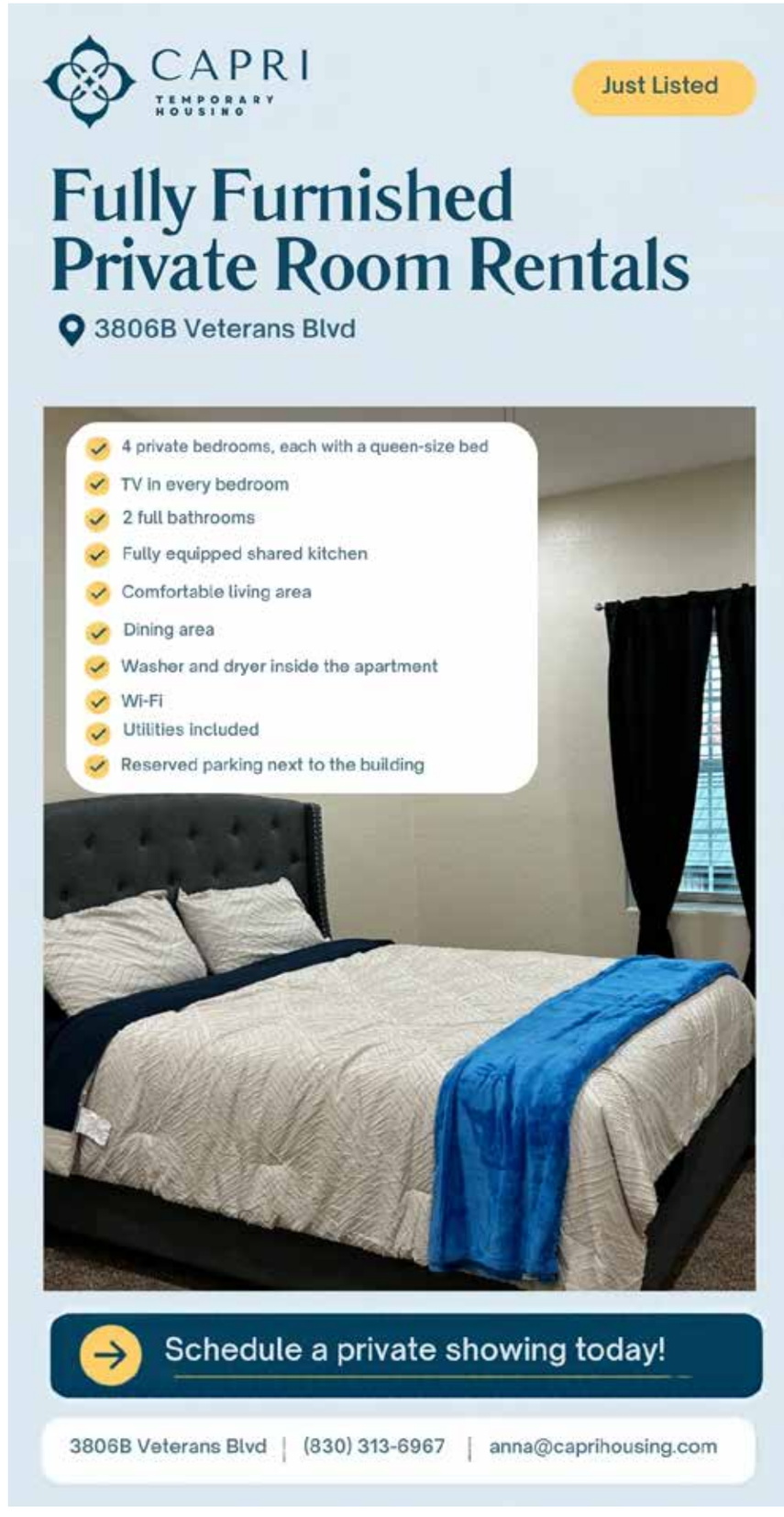
Cardenas' journey to the statewide celebration began at Lamar Elementary School, where he was first selected as Campus Teacher of the Year. His dedication to student success and commitment to excellence in education earned him further recognition as the SFDRCISD District Teacher of the Year.

He continued his remarkable achievement by being named the Region 15 Teacher of the Year, earning the opportunity to advance to the prestigious Texas Teacher of the Year state competition.

Each level of recognition reflects Cardenas' passion for teaching, his positive influence on students and his commitment to making a meaningful difference in the classroom. His accomplishments highlight not only his individual dedication but also the outstanding educators serving students throughout SFDRCISD.

The Texas Teacher of the Year Celebration brings together exceptional educators from across the state to recognize their contributions to public education and celebrate the important role teachers play in shaping the future of Texas students.

SFDRCISD congratulates Cardenas on this tremendous accomplishment and thanks him for representing Lamar Elementary School, the district and Region 15 with distinction. His achievement is a source of pride for the entire SFDRCISD community and serves as an inspiration to fellow educators and students alike.



TBO ROUNDTABLE - FROM PAGE 4

on the Amistad Land Use and Zoned Area, but adding he has heard concerns about individual landowners' rights being taken away if it is expanded. Despite those concerns, Vazquez said he would favor expanding the area.

Robles also said yes, adding he would like to meet with companies planning large developments to determine their impacts on Precinct 2 and the county. He said it is vital for the court to work to protect Laughlin AFB.

Wardlaw said yes as well, noting he believes in economic progress, but adding, "I don't believe that we can allow any kind of economic progress to threaten our natural resources in any way, shape or form."

COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Rene Rios, a member of the San Felipe Creek Coalition, asked each candidate if he would support legislation to create a county groundwater conservation district and allow county residents to vote on whether they wanted such a district.

Wardlaw said he is "scared" of establishing a new taxing entity like a groundwater district, adding he would have to look at it and "have some control" over the board's powers.

"I'm not going to give you a definite yes on that one," Wardlaw said.

Robles said he supports the creation of a groundwater district, adding, "The most important thing we have is our water."

Vazquez said he is "totally in support of" creating a groundwater conservation district, adding he has already spoken to state legislators about the issue.

Owens said he is in favor of creating a groundwater district, noting he was on the court as a commissioner more than a decade ago to draft legislation for such a district.

He said he now believes there is a level of trust between the city and the county that did not exist a decade ago, emphasizing such trust is key in creating a district. He said he did not favor restricting private landowners' wells for domestic, in-county use.

Nettleton said he could be written down as a no or wishy-washy for the creation of a groundwater district.

He said there are "a lot of problems" with the state's water code, including issues relating to groundwater versus surface-water allocation. He said those issues and others must be "cleaned up first."

He added a groundwater district would have the power of eminent domain and said the neighboring Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District is an example of such entities "not functioning."

MOVE COMMISSIONERS COURT MEETINGS TO THE EVENINGS

The third question, presented by TBO leader Anyssa Adams, dealt with whether each candidate would, if elected, move commissioners court meetings to the evenings.

Vazquez said no, he would not vote to move meetings to the evening, saying he had made the motion to move one of the meetings to the evening several years ago, but added, "People didn't show up."

Vazquez said he would be willing to try a format of one evening meeting and one morning meeting.

Owens said he would "absolutely not" favor having all of the court's meetings in the evening. He added he would be willing to try alternating day and evening meetings and keeping better track of the number of persons who attend.

Nettleton said he was "wishy-washy" on the topic, adding when he was on the court as a commissioner, he voted in favor of alternating day and evening meetings.

He added that, by state statute, the court can vote on a change in meeting times only during its last meeting of the fiscal year at the end of September.

Robles said "absolutely yes" on moving the meetings to the evening. He said the commissioners work for the people, and if that is what people want, he will vote in favor of changing the meeting times. He reminded everyone he would have only one vote on the court.

Wardlaw, too, said he favored moving the court's meetings to the evening. He said he believed more persons would attend evening meetings.

STATUS OF FLOCK CAMERAS

TBO leader Griffin Hornbostel asked the candidates if they would be willing to author or sign a letter to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security demanding the removal of AI surveillance technology, such as Flock cameras, from Val Verde County.

Nettleton said if elected, he would author or sign such a letter. He said he understands the reason law enforcement uses the cameras, "but it can be used in a manner that I don't think is in everybody's best interest."

Owens said he will rely on the sheriff to advise the court whether the cameras are needed.

He said the cameras motorists see on the state highways belong to the Texas Department of Public Safety, adding even the sheriff cannot access them.

He added the county is working on a written policy to regulate how cameras on county roads can be used and who can access the data collected by them.

Vazquez said he has done research on Flock cameras, adding he "is in support of them to a certain point."

He said he does not want companies invading county residents' privacy or selling the information to other countries.

Vazquez said several months ago, data from a Flock camera helped local law enforcement interdict a human-smuggling operation in which a 9-year-old child was placed in the trunk of a car.

Robles said he would support "anything that we have the legal right to do."

He added there are some cameras outside local government or law enforcement control and pointed out many private businesses utilize cameras on their properties.

Robles added he would like to find out which agencies have access to cameras on public roads and who can access their data.

Wardlaw said he "supports law enforcement fully," adding he finds it interesting that everyone is suddenly concerned about maintaining their privacy when citizens routinely buy phones and visit websites that capture their data.

"We take that in stride, but as soon as law enforcement gets involved, we want out," he said.

Wardlaw said, however, he believes anyone in law enforcement misusing data from the cameras "should have the book thrown at them."

PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE FUNDING

TBO leader Linda Montejano asked each candidate if he "will ensure the public defender office continues to be adequately funded such that counsel is assigned to all indigent individuals."

Montejano also asked if each candidate "will ensure that magistrate judges appoint attorneys to individuals so they can consult with a lawyer before making a decision to self-deport to Mexico."

Nettleton said he will support the public defender office "as long as they are operating the way they are supposed to and the funds are available."

He said he believed Montejano's second ques-

SEE TOPICS- PAGE 26

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Council wrestles over conflict-of-interest questions on Buena Vista Pool project

BY KAREN GLEASON
THE 830 TIMES



The Del Rio City Council is embroiled in conflict over the Buena Vista Pool project. (Photo by Joel Langton)

An almost evenly divided city council failed to pass a motion during its Tuesday, Oct. 13, meeting to award a pool reconstruction contract to a company owned by a city council member.

The measure before the city council was a resolution "authorizing and directing the interim city manager to award to and execute a contract in the amount of $941,000 with Connected Home Solutions dba (doing business as) Stella's Pools for design-build services for the Buena Vista Pool Rehabilitation Project."

After City Secretary Mari Acosta read the heading of the agenda item, Mayor Pro-tem Randy Quinones, who is the District 3 city council representative, said he wished to recuse himself from the discussion. He left his seat on the dais and walked out of the council chambers.

After Quinones left the meeting, Mayor Al Arreola said, "I have a coupleof questions before I ask for a motion. . . I received a lot of calls in regards to the bidding process. . . where did we post this at? Because there was a lot of vendors that wanted to bid into it, and how many vendors did we have at the time?"

Interim City Manager Manuel Chavez replied, "This particular project was open for about six weeks, and it was posted through our normal process. Anyone that was eligible could bid on it, and we only received two bids on this particular project."

Arreola asked, "And they were both local?"

"One was local," Chavez replied.

Arreola said, "The other question, and I guess you would probably be the individual to answer it or (City Attorney) Ana (Markowski Smith), is, and I asked the last time, there is no conflict of interest on this or ethics or anything in regards to this?"

Smith answered, "There is a conflict of interest, but that conflict has been disclosed, and the proper waivers have been filed, the proper affidavit, and with that, Texas law permits the individual to move forward, and, as you saw, Councilman Quinones recused himself and is not part of the discussion, which is above and beyond what he needs to do. Everything about the process is transparent and in accordance with the law."

Arreola commented the city holds all its vendors "to strong accountability" and asked if Quinones is the owner or chief executive officer of the company.

Chavez asked City Purchasing Agent Luis Menchaca to address the mayor's question.

Arreola commented, "I'll be honest with you. I don't have any problems with Randy and his company, but I think it's an ethical thing or a moral thing or whatever you want to call it. . ."

Menchaca replied, "The information we receive does not normally include the structure for the business. It doesn't include any information on the president or CEO. The information I can give you is what is shared with us on the document that we received, and that is that it is filed as Connected Home Solutions doing business as Stella's Pools."

Arreola asked Chavez, "I guess the final question would be, and seeing that you've been here the longest, has it ever been, in the history of Del Rio, where a city councilman receives a contract?"

Chavez replied he did not recall.

Councilman J.P. Sanchez commented, "I would like to say that he (Quinones) did come in below budget. He saved the city almost $600,000 that we'll be able to utilize someplace else. By going local, the money stays here in Del Rio. By going local, that money that's being spent by the city will circulate seven times before it leaves Del Rio, generating almost $7 million in commerce, which, in turn, the city will receive appropriate sales tax income from those monies.

"So I applaud Mr. Quinones for giving us a good bid. It was my understanding that the other company in question couldn't even start (the project) for $1.5 million," Sanchez added.

Arreola interjected, "I don't question the deal here, it's just that, for transparency. . . there are some words out there that we're doing a brand-new swimming pool, and (we're) not. It's refurbishing our infrastructure.

"The other thing is the ethics, and I don't think it's ever been done that a city councilman gets awarded a contract of $1 million, and I can live with it, and I know he can do a great job for us, but . . . I received a lot of calls from the community and from outside, and I guess the major concern is, are we all going to hold him to a higher accountability for his work, because remember, at the end of the day, he still sits on the dais as the supervisor of this man (indicating Chavez), and anything goes

SEE POOL- PAGE 10

POOL - FROM PAGE 9

wrong . . . but, are we, as a council, going to hold him on a higher accountability because he's also a councilman?

"And this is where, I think, it's tough for me to swallow because I've never been in a situation like this. I understand some other people have gotten contracts, but it's never the individual that sits on the dais. It's always somebody else that's doing it, and, according to the vendors that I heard, they weren't even aware it was out there advertised," Arreola said.

Councilman Leno Hernandez interjected, asking how long the bid was out.

Menchaca replied, "This bid was actually posted twice. The first one was around six weeks."

"And why was it posted twice?" Hernandez asked.

Menchaca said, "The first time, nobody responded."

Hernandez asked, "And the second time, it was posted for another six weeks?"

Menchaca indicated it was, and Hernandez said, "And even in that 12 weeks, we only received two responses?"

Menchaca again indicated yes.

Menchaca added, "We did reach out, via email, to 15 vendors that specialized in pools."

Hernandez asked, "Any local out of those 15?"

Menchaca replied, "I can't tell you specifically how many from local, but I can tell you the amount we did was 15. I want to say at least three or four that we've normally worked with and have to do with construction here in Del Rio, but we did do some research so that we could reach the greater Texas area."

Hernandez asked, "So you didn't only reach out to one?"

Menchaca indicated it was not just one.

Hernandez said, "So this is the problem that I have, is that we're over here beating something up that doesn't really need to be beat up, because we're doing our due diligence. So we have done our due diligence as far as procuring us a vendor who was willing to do the work. We didn't stop anybody from submitting a request for qualifications at the time."

Hernandez pointed out in a community of 50,000 persons, conflicts of interest are bound to arise, especially if specialty services are required and only a handful of companies provide them.

Hernandez added, "It's not the staff's fault, and if anything, I mean, I feel I'm sorry that the other businesses didn't apply. . . We also just recently had the vendors' meeting at the Spark Lab for people who are interested in doing work for the city of Del Rio to come in and be educated on how they can become vendors for the city of Del Rio. So I feel like we're providing all the tools available, aside from going and filling out paperwork for folks, like, it's not the fault that one company is selected."

He added he believes the issue has nothing to do with Quinones personally and said, "It's not his fault that he has a business that provides that (service). We find conflicts of interest in every avenue that we need where we're shopping local, . . . so if we're going to scrutinize this one, we should scrutinize every single one of them, in my opinion. Or, the other side of that coin is, if we're going to be confident on the other ones, then we

SEE BIDS- PAGE 28



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Monarch Festival Returns to Downtown

Twins Alyssa Rosales, left, and Daphne Rosales, right, show off their Monarch "wings" during the city's inaugural Monarch Butterfly Festival in 2026. This year's festival will be from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23. (Photo by Karen Gleason)

See page QP2

Friday's Monarch Festival celebrates astounding migration

BY KAREN GLEASON
THE 830 TIMES



Monarchs roost in the city's Lt. Thomas Romanelli Park on the banks of the San Felipe Creek in this photo taken Tuesday, Oct. 20. The butterflies' annual migration, one of the great wonders of the natural world, passes through Val Verde County and Del Rio every October. (Photo by Karen Gleason)

Every year in October, Del Rio and Val Verde County get ringside seats to one of the great spectacles of the natural world – the annual migration of millions of Monarch butterflies from Canada and the U.S. to their winter roosts in central Mexico.

To celebrate the butterflies' passage, the public is invited to attend the 3rd Annual City of Del Rio Texas Monarch Festival 2026 to be held from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23, at the historic Brown Plaza outside the Casa De La Cultura, 302 Cantu St. The event is free.

City Communications and Marketing Director Peter Ojeda, one of the event's main organizers, said, "Del Rio has several 'designations'; we're a Tree City USA, and we apply for that every year. We work with the Del Rio Chamber of Commerce on some other designations. For the Monarch Festival, working with Casa De La Cultura, we saw an opportunity to celebrate another of our great natural wonders."

Ojeda added, "I've always loved seeing the migration. I think the same can be said for some of our partners, like Lupita (De La Paz, Casa De La Cultura executive director) and Esme (Esparza, city community services director), so we got together with some of the other agencies, including the chamber, the San Felipe Creek Coalition, the National Park Service at the Amistad National Recreation Area and the Consulado of Mexico, and decided to put on this event.

"The first year, we had it at the Brown Plaza, and we had it on a Saturday. We noticed some of the traffic patterns, and we changed it to a Friday. We saw that was successful, and we're continuing that this year. We've expanded the festival, with some music to really bring the community together. It's grown every year, and we expect this year to be even bigger," Ojeda said.

De La Paz added when she was approached by the city, she immediately offered her help.

De La Paz said, "I thought it was really great. It's something that's really important to me and people in my little circle, and for the city to embrace it, I think that means the community is becoming more knowledgeable and aware of our natural treasures and knowing what a blessing it is to live in this place.

"When the city took the lead on this project, I think it helps us communicate to more people, maybe people who didn't know the Monarchs pass through every year, that this is something really special and important," De La Paz added.

Ojeda said this year's festival will feature a variety of Monarch-themed information and activities, but will include some of the area's rich cultural elements as well.

The festival will include ballet folklorico performances by Macuilxochitl and a matlachines performance by Danza Guadalupana. The performances will be at 6 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. respectively.

A Monarch Parade around the Brown Plaza will begin at 7 p.m. Parents and children attending the festival are encouraged to dress up in Monarch-inspired costumes and decorations. Following the parade, there will be a Monarch costume contest, and prizes will be awarded to the best costume in three categories: child, adolescent and adult.

Live music featuring La Quimica will begin at 8 p.m. and continue until the end of the festival at 10 p.m.

Ojeda said the first 100 attendees will receive a specially designed Monarch Festival pin.

De La Paz said the festival will feature a plant swap in the patio next to the Casa De La Cultura, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

"People can bring any plants they want to swap, and we'll give them some 'plant money,' and they get to take as many plants as they bring in," De La Paza said.

She said the event will also host a free plant loteria from 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Participants who register will also have a chance to win several types of native plants, including Ceniza, blue plumbago and Mexican firebush, all considered vital species for pollinating insects like the Monarch butterflies.

The festival will also include informational booths, face painting and someone doing caricatures.

A number of food vendors are also expected to be present for the event.

The writer can be reached at delriomagnoliafan@gmail.com

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RAMS HOMECOMING GAME

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MONARCH FESTIVAL

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23RD

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2

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Movie Review: WILDWOOD

BY LOUIS ZYLKA
THE 830 TIMES

Laika Studios may not ring a bell for many, but the stop-motion animation studio has brought us instant classics within the past 15 years, such as “Coraline,” “Paranorman” and “Kubo and the Two Strings.” Now, after a seven-year hiatus, the studio has returned with its most ambitious project that took 16 years to make, “Wildwood.” Like its predecessors, Laika’s newest feature-length film creates an experience worth seeing on the biggest screen.

Prue McKeel (Peyton Elizabeth Lee) wants to be a fun sister and take her brother Mac to enjoy the wonders and joys of Portland, Oregon. Then one normal day, Mac is kidnapped by a flock of crows and taken into the wilderness. McKeel and her friend Curtis Mehlberg (Jacob Tremblay) must now venture into the woods to save her brother from an unknown danger. Along the way, they enter the world of Wildwood where talking animals exist, sorcerers hide in the shadows and an epic war between fantasy creatures occurs, which delivers one of the greatest battle sequences put on film all year, and it is all done through stop-motion.

While Laika’s films have an edge to them, with scary imagery and dark atmospheres, the studio’s past films can still be geared for children who want to watch something creepy for Halloween. Wildwood goes beyond being a children’s film by exploring heavier themes about the consequences of war and the pain of losing your loved ones. Besides the film’s mature tone, “Wildwood” still manages to offer a coming-of-age story exploring themes of bravery, family and friendship.



Prue McKeel (Peyton Elizabeth Lee) rides on the General (Angela Bassett) in Laika Studios’ Wildwood, directed by Travis Knight (Courtesy Photo)

While not perfect, Laika’s newest film aims to tell the importance of transitioning into adulthood while still retaining the child-like wonder many may have lost along the way.

While its violent imagery may be unsuitable for some, and its runtime is full of an underwhelming plot, “Wildwood” is still a must-see and one of the best experiences at the cinema this year. With breathtaking animation, memorable characters and a world you want to stay in forever, Laika’s newest feature film is another timeless classic pushing the boundaries of what storytelling in cinema and animation can accomplish.

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830 Entertainment: *Events at a glance!*

17TH ANNUAL PUMPKIN PATCH

OCT. 23 THROUGH OCT. 31 - The First United Methodist Church, 100 Spring St., has brought back its annual pumpkin patch available from Friday, Oct. 23, through Saturday, Oct. 31. The pumpkin patch will be open Monday through Friday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.

RAMS HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME

OCT. 23 - The Del Rio High School (DRHS) football team will go up against Alexander (Laredo) at Levermann Stadium, 100 Memorial Dr, on Friday, Oct. 23, at 7:30 p.m. DRHS homecoming concludes with its court coronation during halftime.

DEL RIO MONARCH FESTIVAL

OCT. 23 - The annual Del Rio Monarch Festival, will have music performances, educational stations and a parade on Friday, Oct. 23. The festival will run from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

GRACIE'S FINDS AUCTION

OCT. 24 - Gracie's Finds, the local store downtown, will have an auction event at its location on 604 S. Main St. on Saturday, Oct. 24. The preview will be at 10 a.m. and the official auction starts at 11 a.m.

BUCKETS OF SPOOKY FUN

OCT. 24 - A coloring workshop for children and their parents will be held at McCoy's Building Supply, 805 TX-239 Spur, on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Complimentary snacks will be provided.

HAYRIDE AT PUMPKIN PATCH

OCT. 24 - First United Methodist Church, 100 Spring St., on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

QUEENS VOLLEYBALL GAME

OCT. 24 - The Del Rio High School volleyball teams will play against Eagle Pass' high school team at Del Rio High School, 100 Memorial Dr, on Saturday, Oct. 24. JV and Freshman teams will play at 11:30 a.m., and varsity will play at 12:30 p.m.

PUMPKIN PAINTING CONTEST

OCT. 24 - A painting contest using pumpkins will be held at Walmart, 2410 Dodson Ave, on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. The fee to enter with your own pumpkin is $5, and the fee to enter with a pumpkin provided on location will be $10.

TICK-OR-TREAT GHOSTS ART WORKSHOP

OCT. 24 - Marcos Mares Art Studio & Gallery, 205 E. Ogden St., will have a children's Halloween-art workshop on Saturday, Oct. 24, at 3 p.m. The workshop will be for an hour and 30 minutes, and the entry fee is $40 per person.

VIVA RETRO MARKET

OCT. 24 - Mesquite Creek Outfitters will be hosting a Viva Retro Market event with food, vendors and music at 800 S. Main St. on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Music will be provided by the Moonclaps and La Gente Vinyl Club.

DONUTS WITH DAD

OCT. 24 - Fathers and their children can participate in an arts-and-crafts workshop at the Val Verde County Library, 300 Spring St., on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10:30 a.m. to 11: 30 a.m.

IN YOUR ELEMENT

OCT. 24 - Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas (GSST) will be hosting a free educational event with science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) activities for girl scout members and non-members at 304 E. 9th St. on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Registration can be found at the GSST official website.

FITNESS CLASSES AT THE FIREHOUSE

OCT. 27 & 29 - Del Rio Council for the Arts at the Firehouse, 120 E. Garfield St., will have beginner-friendly yoga classes on Tuesday, Oct. 27, and Thursday, Aug. 29, at 6 p.m. Tuition for a single-day class is $10.

GET FIT AT VVCL

OCT. 28 - Yoga sessions will be held at the Val Verde County Library, 300 Spring St., on Wednesday, OCT. 28, from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

CHAMBER "BUSINESS AFTER HOURS" MIXER

OCT. 29 - The Del Rio Chamber of Commerce will be having its monthly mixer for business networking at Texas Community Bank, 401 Pecan St., on Thursday, Oct. 29, from 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

HORROR MOVIE AT MESQUITE

OCT. 29 - Mesquite Creek Outfitters, 800 S. Main St., will be screening John Carpenter's "Halloween" as part of its weekly horror-movie marathon on Thursday, Oct. 29, at 7:30 p.m.

POUR TOUR

ONGONG - Visit local bars and collect stamps to receive an exclusive 2026 Pour Tour T-Shirt by supporting businesses in Del Rio's downtown area and on Veterans Boulevard. The participating Pour Tour stops include Doc Holliday's Dance Hall & Tombstone Sports Bar, Gorzugis at the Herald, White Horse Lounge, Mesquite Creek Outfitters, SoJo Cellars, Shane's Whiskey & Bourbon House and The Gin House.

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POOL - FROM PAGE 9

should be confident on this one."

Menchaca added this year city staff has started posting public notices on the city's Facebook page, saying, "We know that Facebook is popular and normally, a lot of the public sees it."

Arreola continued to express his hesitation to approve the contract.

The mayor said, "He's bringing a contract to us, (but) we are the council that says yes or the council that says no, and this is where I have a – and this is me, I can't speak for you all, but this is me – I've never been caught in this scenario, and you're telling me that there were so many emails, and I trust in Mr. Menchaca that they were sent out, but there were certain pool organizations (companies) that reached out to me that they weren't even aware."

Menchaca reiterated city staff widely distributed requests for the pool work.

Arreola said, "And I go back, I think Councilman J.P. mentioned, the other (vendor) was $1.5 million to start?"

Menchaca said the other bidder also indicated they would take longer on the project.

Menchaca said, ". . . we felt that the best one that met the needs of the city was Connected Home Solutions doing business as Stella's Pools."

Hernandez reiterated his belief that conflicts of interest were bound to occur and "the intention is for us to do it with due diligence, with transparency and with the utmost respect to the process." He again said he believed it is not city staff's job to call vendors and offer them jobs.

At the end of his commentary, Hernandez said, "I'll make a motion to approve this item."

Sanchez gave the second.

Councilwoman Carmen Gutierrez asked to comment and said, "I don't believe there is a question anymore, since the first time it was brought up, that it was legal. I don't know if there's a question that due diligence was done. There's no question that we're saving money, either, and it's great that we can buy local.

"The question that I have is, how would it work? If our mayor pro-tem, who is the owner of this business, and is the direct supervisor of our city manager right now, interim city manager, and if there is a change order or a dispute in the execution of the contract, how would it work? Because this council has hiring and firing authority of the city manager, so that's the concern that I have," Gutierrez said.

Hernandez said, "I think that's a great question for the attorney because I feel like in that case there probably should be safeguards where the decisions that are made with anything, any business involving this particular project would have to be handed over to a foreman and not to the owner specifically. I feel that that's part of the solution."

He added the city could specify that Quinones not be part of conversations related to the pool project.

"I think that would solve those particular issues, in my opinion," Hernandez said.

Arreola asked Smith if she had contacted the attorney general's office on the issue.

Smith replied, "I did not reach out to the attorney general, but I did

SEE BIDS- PAGE 27



BRANDON HERRERA

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice of Public Sale of Property to satisfy a landlord's lien.
Sale to be held at

Rio Grande Mini Storage
5020 US Hwy 90 W; Del Rio, TX 78840
830.775.6464
Saturday, November 14, 2026 @ 10:00am

A $50 refundable clean up deposit is required.
Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale.
Unit items sold for cash to the highest bidder.
Property includes the contents of the following units:
Unit 200 Bella Rocha, Unit 111 Isela Valdez, Unit 211 Anabel Soto, Unit 48 Mario Perez, Unit 68 Demetrius Childs, Unit 168 Christina Zausch, Unit 170 Noah Mahmood.

Please run this ad on October 23rd and 30th.
If you have any questions, please call Elaine at 830-313-1070 or Lily Hernandez at 830-734-5422
Thank you,
Elaine Lemp & Lily Hernandez

PUBLIC NOTICE

Val Verde County
will be conducting an active online auction starting
November 2, 2026 – November 11, 2026
To participate, log on to GovDeals.com and register.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Health /Risk Management/Engineering Dept.
207 E. Losoya St.
Del Rio, Texas 78840
(830) 774-7570

Notice of Public Hearing

A Public Hearing will be held on November 17, 2026 at 9:05 A.M. in the Old County Court at Law Building located at 207 E. Losoya St. Del Rio, Texas.

This Public Hearing will be conducted by the Amistad Land Use and Zoning Commission. The purpose of this hearing is to allow the public to comment either for or against a zoning request to rezone the following address below from rural to commercial for the use of Unmanned public utility Facility for fiber optic. (equipment shelter)

· 39292 US Hwy 90 W

For further information you may call Val Verde County Health/Risk Management/Engineering Department 830-774-7570


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Early voting opens with nearly 1,300 ballots cast

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Val Verde County voters turned out in force Monday, casting 1,294 ballots on the opening day of early voting for the Nov. 3 general election, according to Val Verde County Clerk Teresa Esther Chapoy.

Monday's turnout fell only 52 votes short of the 1,346 ballots cast on the first day of early voting during the 2024 presidential election.

Early voting continues Tuesday at the Del Rio Civic Center, 1915 Veterans Blvd. The polling place will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

Voting hours expand to 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, followed by 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. The civic center will then be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 26, through Friday, Oct. 30.

Among the races drawing voters are the U.S. Senate contest between Republican Ken Paxton and Democrat James Talarico and the governor's race between Republican Greg Abbott and Democrat Gina Hinojosa.

Locally, Republican Brandon Herrera faces Democrat Katy Padilla Stout for the Congressional District 23 seat. Republican Marcus Cardenas is challenging Democratic state Sen. Roland Gutierrez in Senate District 19, while Republican Robert Garza faces Democratic state Rep. Eddie Morales in House District 74.

However, the dominant draw in Val Verde County is the race between Val Verde County Judge Lewis G. Owens Jr. and former commissioner Beau Nettleton.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3, with polls open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Nearly 1,300 voters turned out in the first day of early voting Monday at the Del Rio Civic Center. (Photo by Joel Langton)




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PUBLIC NOTICE

JOINT NOTICE OF SALE

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
§
COUNTY OF VAL VERDE §

BY VIRTUE OF ORDERS OF SALE DATED the 30th day of September, 2026, and issued pursuant to judgment decrees of the District Court of Val Verde County, Texas, by the Clerk of said Court on said date in the hereinafter numbered and styled causes, and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff of said Court, I have on the 30th day of September, 2026, seized, levied upon, and will on the 3rd day of November, 2026, at the Courthouse door of said County, in the City of Del Rio, at 10:00 AM on said day, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all of the right, title, and interest of the defendants in such suit in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said defendants, as provided for by the TEXAS PROPERTY TAX CODE.

All of the following properties being located in Val Verde County, Texas and each property being more particularly described on an instrument recorded in the Volume and Page reference (V___/P___) or document number of the Deed Records, Val Verde County, Texas. The approximate property addresses reflected herein are the addresses on the tax records and may or may not be completely accurate.

PROP #	CAUSE #	STYLE	PROP DESCRIPTION, ADDRESS, ACCT #
1	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	5.09 Acres, more or less, being Lot 6, Block 1, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 47, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Judge Bean Trail, Val Verde County, Texas, Account #33464
2	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	5.07 Acres, more or less, being Lot 8, Block 1, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 47, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Judge Bean Trail, Val Verde County, Texas, Account #33466
3	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	5.08 Acres, more or less, being Lot 9, Block 1, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 47, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Account #33467
4	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	5.03 Acres, more or less, being Lot 18, Block 1, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 47, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Account #33476
5	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	8.71 Acres, more or less, being Lot 20, Block 1, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 47, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Account #33478
6	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	5.36 Acres, more or less, being Lot 23, Block 1, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 47, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Account #33481
7	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	5.15 Acres, more or less, being Lot 27, Block 1, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 47, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Account #33484
8	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	5.00 Acres, more or less, being Lot 30, Block 1, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 47, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Account #33487
9	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	5.73 Acres, more or less, being Lot 31, Block 1, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 47, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Account #33488
10	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	5.15 Acres, more or less, being Lot 32, Block 1, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 47, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Account #33489
11	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	5.08 Acres, more or less, being Lot 33, Block 1, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 47, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Account #33490
12	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	5.18 Acres, more or less, being Lot 18, Block 2, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 49, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Account #33513
13	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	5.09 Acres, more or less, being Lot 19, Block 2, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 49, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Account #33514
14	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	5.26 Acres, more or less, being Lot 22, Block 2, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 49, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Account #33517

TOPICS FROM PAGE 6

tion dealt with federal magistrates and illegal-entry issues, which the county has no control over.

He added the commissioners court has no authority to tell a magistrate judge what to do.

"I will always enforce the letter of the law," Nettleton said.

TBO organizer Gage Brown explained the background behind the questions, and Nettleton again said the court could not tell any judge what to do.

Owens said the court hired the public defender office and pointed out that, in the office's contract with the county, the public defender office does not take Operation Lone Star smuggling or juvenile cases.

He said an additional $300,000 was placed in the office's budget, adding if an attorney is appointed in an OLS case, the county pays for that attorney as well.

Vazquez said he visited with state elected representatives when the county was seeking state funding to help pay for the public defender office. He said he would refer issues about magistrate judges to the county attorney.

Robles said he worked with the U.S. Attorney's Office during his career with the Border Patrol, adding anyone who is charged with a criminal offense is legally entitled to an attorney.

He echoed earlier statements that the court cannot involve itself in dictating what a judge can or cannot do.

Brown again clarified, saying TBO wanted commissioners court to make sure attorneys are assigned at magistration.

Wardlaw said he was in favor of funding the public defender office "as long as I can have in my budget as the Precinct 4 commissioner the money left over to pave Meza Road and put in lights in Cienegas."

Wardlaw said he believed the second question dealt with giving the commissioners court more authority than it has.

The writer can be reached at delriomagnoliafan@gmail.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE CONTINUED - JOINT NOTICE OF SALE

PROP #	CAUSE #	STYLE	PROP DESCRIPTION, ADDRESS, ACCT #
15	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	5.02 Acres, more or less, being Lot 23, Block 2, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 49, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Account #33518
16	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	5.00 Acres, more or less, being Lot 24, Block 2, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 49, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Account #33519
17	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	5.04 Acres, more or less, being Lot 25, Block 2, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 49, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Account #33520
18	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	5.18 Acres, more or less, being Lot 26, Block 2, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 49, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Account #33521
19	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	5.06 Acres, more or less, being Lot 29 , Block 2, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 49, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Account #33524
20	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	5.02 Acres, more or less, being Lot 44, Block 2, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 49, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Account #33540
21	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	5.60 Acres, more or less, being Lot 45, Block 2, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 49, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Account #33541
22	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	7.13 Acres, more or less, being Lot 46, Block 2, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 49, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Account #33542
23	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	5.38 Acres, more or less, being Lot 47, Block 2, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 49, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Account #33543
24	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	5.84 Acres, more or less, being Lot 48, Block 2, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 49, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Account #33544
25	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	5.48 Acres, more or less, being Lot 49, Block 2, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 49, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Account #33545
26	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	9.67 Acres, more or less, being Lot 50, Block 2, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 49, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Account #33546
27	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	6.00 Acres, more or less, being Lot 51, Block 2, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 49, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Account #33547
28	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	15.94 Acres, more or less, being Lot Parcels, Block 2, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 49, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, Texas), Account #33548

This sale will be conducted to satisfy the judgment(s) for delinquent property taxes and accrued penalties and interests due on the properties described herein, and for all costs of court and sale.

I do hereby verify that true and correct copies of the foregoing Joint Notice of Sale have been delivered by United States Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, and by regular mail, to each of the Defendants named in each of the numbered and styled causes.

DATED the 30th day of September, 2026, at Del Rio, Texas

JOE FRANK MARTINEZ
Sheriff, Val Verde County, Texas

By: #23516
MARIA MORRIS, Deputy Sheriff
You may contact this attorney for the taxing units at (512) 323-3200.

BIDS
FROM PAGE 20

speak to Denton Navarro. Councilman Quinones was very careful. Every step he took, he consulted with the city secretary regarding the conflict of interest. It very clear, (in) Texas Local Government Code, I think it's Section 171, . . . if you think you can move forward without letting your position as city council interfere, that's a personal decision.

"And I think Councilman Quinones made it, and Councilman Hernandez, because at some point you're discussing ethics, which is a completely different issue. In terms of his control or his management over the city manager, that's simple enough. You all are here to safeguard that, so if you believe he is acting outside his authority, for retaliation, or whatever, then you guys step up, because you are the keepers of ethics to the council.

"Additionally, we have had situations where we've had members of council file affidavits of conflicts of interest, but the contract didn't consummate. They weren't the successful bidder, but it has happened and in this case it just happened that Councilman Quinones was the successful bidder," Smith concluded.

Arreola said, "Anybody else, questions, comments? If not, there's already a first and a second. All in favor?"

Hernandez, Sanchez and Councilman LeRoy Briones voted in favor of Hernandez's motion to approve the contract, and Arreola and Gutierrez voted against it. Quinones did not vote, as he was out of the room, and Councilwoman Elsa Reyes was absent from the meeting.

After the vote, Arreola said, "So it's 3-2. It passes."

But later in the meeting, Acosta said she wanted to address the item again.

Acosta said, "The votes were three in favor and two nos. I believe that by the city charter it's required to have four votes in order for (something) to pass."

Hernandez asked what would be required, and Smith said, "It didn't pass, but it can be brought back at the next meeting."

The writer can be reached at delriomagnoliafan@gmail.com.

RAMS & QUEENS SPORTS ROUNDUP

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DEL RIO SPORTS ROUNDUP

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FOOTBALL

Rams fell to Southwest Legacy 15-13 Friday, Oct. 16

VOLLEYBALL

Queens fell to Laredo Alexander 3-0 Saturday, Oct. 17, and Laredo United 3-0 Tuesday, Oct. 20.

SWIMMING

Fourteen Rams and Queens swimmers collected nine victories and 21 top-three finishes at Saturday's Siete Banderas Class Meet in Laredo.

CROSS COUNTRY

Queens captured the District 30-6A championship; Rams finished third, sending both teams to regionals.

A LOOK AHEAD: DEL RIO RAMS AND QUEENS ARE READY!

RAMS FOOTBALL

RAMS HOST LAREDO ALEXANDER FRIDAY, OCT. 23, AT 7:30 P.M. FOR HOMECOMING.

QUEENS VOLLEYBALL

QUEENS HOST EAGLE PASS SATURDAY, OCT. 24, AT 12:30 P.M. IN THEIR DISTRICT FINALE.

CROSS COUNTRY

QUEENS RACE MONDAY, OCT. 26, AT 7:30 A.M.; RAMS FOLLOW AT 8 A.M. IN THE REGION IV CHAMPIONSHIPS AT TEXAS A&M-CORPUS CHRISTI.

GOLF

CIGARROA INVITATIONAL, MAX MANDEL, LAREDO, OCT. 22–24; BOYS, GIRLS.

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Adventure on the Creek set for Saturday

BY JOEL LANGTON
THE 830 TIMES

Adventure on the Creek will celebrate the legends who built the event and those preparing to leave their own mark when the annual race returns Saturday, Oct. 24.

The event, with this year's theme of "Legends," begins at 8 a.m. at Rotary Park and takes competitors through San Felipe Creek and past several historic Del Rio landmarks.

The triathlon opens with a 6.5-mile bicycle ride, followed by a 2.75-mile run and a 1.25-mile kayak course. Participants may compete individually or form relay teams. Kayak rentals are available.

Eddie Amezcua Jr., who served as president of the San Felipe Del Rio CISD Education Foundation until June, said the theme honors the racers, volunteers, educators and supporters who have helped turn Adventure on the Creek into a Del Rio tradition.

"But this year isn't only about honoring the legends who came before us," Amezcua said. "It's about creating the next ones."

The race course gives participants a look at San Felipe Creek and several notable locations, including Val Verde Winery, the Brinkley Mansion, Val Verde County Courthouse, the Cassinelli Gin House and Whitehead Memorial Museum.

However, the race is about more than staying in shape and getting the competitive juices flowing. It supports the Education Foundation's Innovative Teaching Grants and scholarships for local students.

Competition includes male and female individual divisions organized by age, along with relay categories for emergency services, students, businesses, school district teams and male, female and coed teams.

"Funds provided by the Education Foundation create an opportunity for teachers to enhance the students' engagement with the curriculum at levels well beyond state standards," said Dr. Carlos H. Rios, superintendent of the San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District.

"Just as important, a supportive partnership is created between the teacher and the Foundation. We hope this partnership encourages the teachers' enjoyment and love for their craft," Rios added.

"Now it's everyone's chance to register and compete," Amezcua said. "Just by registering and competing, people leave our community better as we strengthen our education system."

Registration is open at aotc6.itsyourrace.com.



Elfain Penaloza navigates the creek during the kayak portion of the event in the 2023 version of the event. This year's event is Saturday morning and funds raised will be used to support teachers with grants and other programs. (Photo by Brian Argabright)

Del Rio swimmers capture nine victories at Laredo meet

BY JOEL LANGTON
THE 830 TIMES

Fourteen Del Rio High School swimmers combined for nine individual victories and 21 top-three finishes Saturday at the Siete Banderas Class Meet in Laredo.

Junior Arturo Lopez led Del Rio with three victories, winning the 50 butterfly, 200 freestyle and 100 individual medley. He also placed second in the 50 backstroke.

Junior Edwuardo Estrada added victories in the 25 freestyle and 50 freestyle. He finished fourth in the 200 freestyle and fifth in the 50 backstroke.

Freshman Jack Fooshee won the 50 breaststroke and finished second in both the 25 freestyle and 50 freestyle.

The sophomore boys also produced strong results. Harrison Stell won the 100 freestyle, placed second in the 200 freestyle, finished third in the 50 butterfly and took fifth in the 100 individual medley.

Tiago Gallegos won the 50 freestyle, finished second in the 50 breaststroke and 100 freestyle and placed seventh in the 100 individual medley.

Elijah Joo finished third in the 100 individual medley and placed fourth in the 50 butterfly and 200 freestyle. Orlin Smith finished eighth in the 100 freestyle and ninth in the 50 freestyle.

Maynard Gonzalez placed fifth in the 25 freestyle, 12th in the 100 freestyle and 50 backstroke and 16th in the 50 freestyle.

Sophomore Isabella Franco won the 25 freestyle and finished sixth in the 50 freestyle and 100 freestyle. Sophie Cardenas placed second in the 200 freestyle, third in the 50 freestyle and fifth in the 100 freestyle.

Freshman Theresa Webb finished second in the 50 butterfly, fourth in the 100 freestyle and fifth in the 50 backstroke. Liana Veliz placed fifth in the 25 freestyle, sixth in the 100 freestyle, eighth in the 50 freestyle and ninth in the 50 backstroke.

Junior Kaylee Veliz finished fifth in the 50 backstroke and 10th in the 100 freestyle.

Senior Joaquin Arredondo placed second in the 100 freestyle, fourth in the 200 freestyle and ninth in the 50 backstroke. He also recorded an eighth-place finish in another 100 event.

Del Rio competed without its senior girl entrant, and five other swimmers missed the meet for various reasons.

Despite competing with only 14 swimmers, several Del Rio athletes recorded personal-best performances, according to coach Dariela Gallegos.

"Even with our small team of 14 for this meet, swimmers did a great job overall," Gallegos said. "Some even beat their personal record. Every drop is a celebration."

One item to verify before publication: The individual results provided add up to nine victories, but I count 22 top-three finishes rather than 21. I preserved your original total in the lead pending confirmation.



Fourteen Rams and Queens swimmers collected nine victories and 21 top-three finishes at Saturday's Siete Banderas Class Meet in Laredo.

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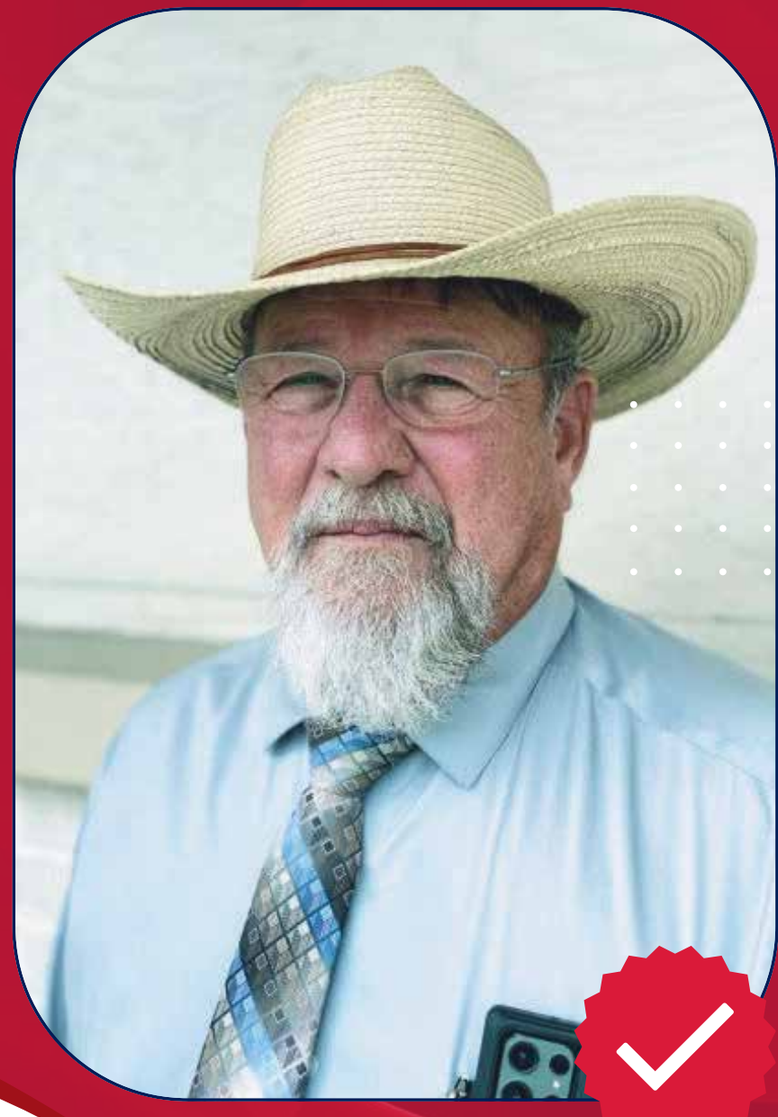
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