Volume 6 - Issue 45

October 30th, 2026

The 830 TIMES

A celebration of Monarchs

Colorful costumes, Monarch butterfly wings and traditional Mexican dresses fill Brown Plaza as participants make their way through the parade during Del Rio's third annual Monarch Festival. The celebration honored the monarch butterfly's annual migration through the region. (Photo by Karen Gleason)

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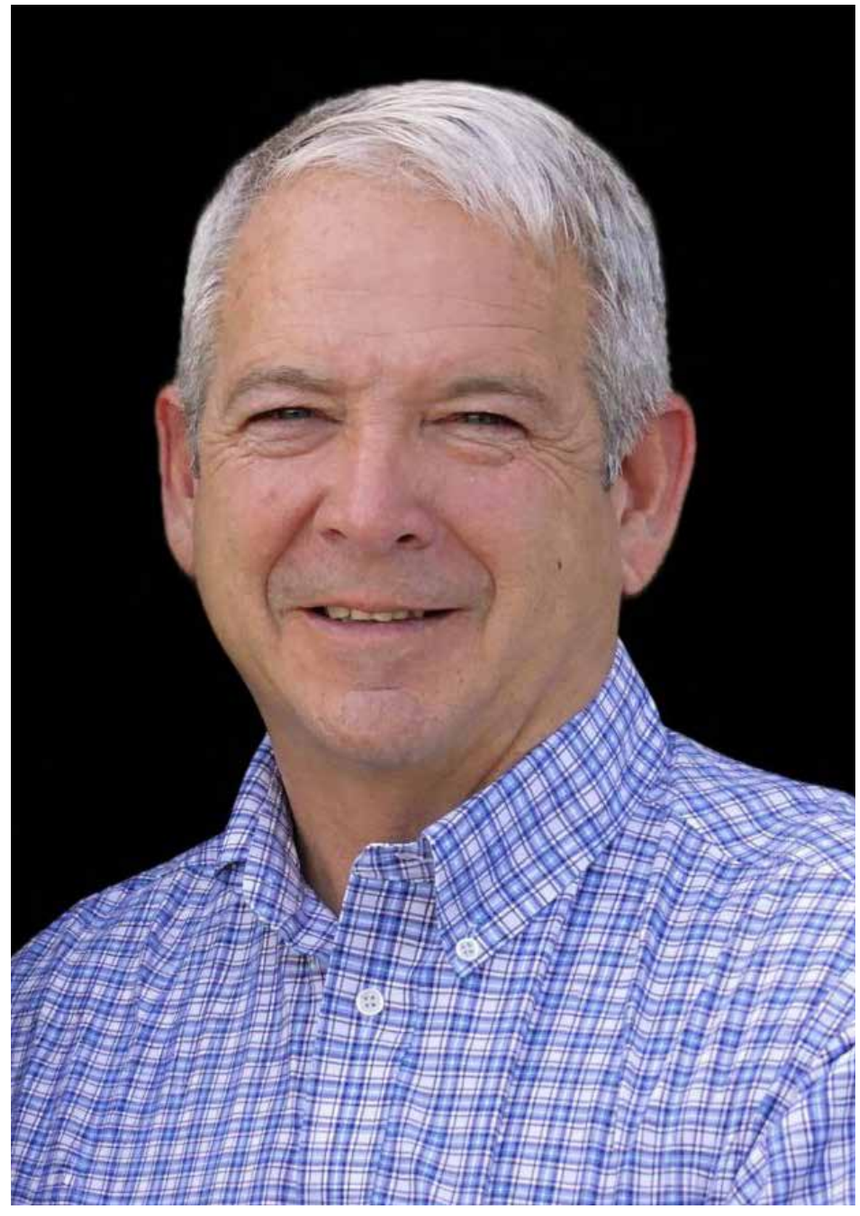
Judge Owens announces cancer diagnosis



FROM STAFF REPORTS
THE 830 TIMES

At 7:50 p.m. Wednesday, Val Verde County Judge Lewis Owens announced he'd been diagnosed with cancer.

Owens, in the midst of a re-election campaign, said it's full speed ahead on the campaign trail, although he'd had a tough time finding the right words to share the news via video, which has become one of his leadership trademarks.

Below is the text of his announcement:

How's it going, Val Verde County.

Aside from being a husband, father, and grandfather, serving as your County Judge for the past eight years has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. We've faced pandemics, snowstorms, flooding, the migrant situation, and plenty of other challenges together. Through it all, I've tried to lead with honesty, integrity, and transparency.

I want you to hear this directly from me – I have been diagnosed with cancer.

We went to the hospital on Sunday and received the news a little while ago. I tried to make a video, but I couldn't get past the first few seconds.

But I want y'all to know something else: I plan on fighting.

We're still finishing this election, and if the voters give me the opportunity to serve again, I still fully intend to do so.

My family and I plan to take things one day at a time. We don't have every answer right now, but we'll face what comes next together – with faith and a whole lot of fight.

I'm sharing this because I have always promised to be honest and transparent with the people I serve, but also because I love y'all.

So say a prayer for me and my family when you get the chance. We will keep you informed of the progress as we learn it.

As always, Love Y'all and God bless.

The 830 TIMES
www.830times.com

Meet Our Team

JOEL LANGTON
Publisher
(618) 593-2285
joelalangton@gmail.com

KAREN GLEASON
News Editor - Senior Writer
(830) 734-3021
delriomagnoliafan@gmail.com

LOUIS ZYLKA
Staff Writer
(830) 719-6888
ljzlka8@gmail.com

JOSH GUEVARA
Business Manager
(830) 313-1199

Distribution

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Council roundup: City approves pool contract, abolishes airport commission

BY KAREN GLEASON
THE 830 TIMES

All seven members of the Del Rio City Council were present.

Here's what happened at the meeting:

COUNCIL APPROVES ORDINANCES OKAYING REPLAT REQUESTS

City council members voted 7-0 to approve three ordinances dealing with property replat and revision requests. The first dealt with approval of a replat for the property located at 101 Rusty Drive, vacating setback lines and creating Lots 1A and 1B out of Lot 1. The second ordinance dealt with amending the existing plat and reconfiguring the property lines at 404 Ave. K. The third ordinance dealt with platting 2 Buena Vista Circle into three lots.

FORMER COUNCILMAN SPEAKS OUT ON TRIO OF ISSUES

Former Del Rio City Councilman Jesus Lopez Jr. spoke to the city council during the "Citizen Comments" portion of the meeting. Lopez said he was concerned whether the appropriate state laws were followed in an item later on the evening's agenda, the awarding of a construction contract to a company owned by a member of the council. Lopez also expressed his concerns about the proposed abolition of the Del Rio International Airport Commission and the abolition of the San Felipe Springs Golf Course Commission, which the council approved during a previous meeting.

Mayor Al Arreola, center, presents a proclamation to, from left, Parks and Recreation Superintendent Lazaro Castro, Community Services Director Esme Esparza, Michael Garcia, assistant to the city manager/grants writer; and Communications and Marketing Director Peter Ojeda. The proclamation designates Nov. 6, 2026, as "Texas Arbor Day in Del Rio." The proclamation was read and presented during the city council meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 27. (Photo by Karen Gleason)

MAYOR PROCLAIMS NOV. 6, 2026, AS 'TEXAS ARBOR DAY IN DEL RIO'

Mayor Al Arreola read a proclamation designating Nov. 6, 2026, as "Texas Arbor Day in Del Rio." Arreola's proclamation noted, in part, "Trees – wherever they are planted – are a source of joy and spiritual renewal." He called on citizens to support efforts to protect trees and woodlands. Following the reading of the proclamation, Community Services Director Esme Esparza said on Nov. 6, city staff will begin an ongoing tree-planting initiative. Communications and Marketing Director Peter Ojeda said city staff is working with nonprofits and local businesses to sponsor the planting of a tree or trees. He said the Nov. 6 event will be the kickoff of the initiative, and the trees will be planted along the hike-and-bike trail adjacent to San Felipe Creek between the Joe Ramos Center and Camp Del Rio.

MAYOR, COUNCIL MEMBERS ANNOUNCE EVENTS

Mayor Al Arreola praised the recent Fiesta de Amistad events, calling them "tremendous." He also said he was honored to attend a BCFS candlelight vigil for victims of domestic violence on Monday, Oct. 26. Councilwoman Carmen Gutierrez reminded everyone to pay their property taxes before the end of October to receive the largest discount being offered for early payment. Councilman LeRoy Briones thanked the city and the citizens for supporting recent events, especially the Fiesta de Amistad Parade, and reminded citizens that "our spending habits do impact the city of Del Rio, so please shop local and invest in our small businesses." He also asked everyone to be careful while trick-or-treating on Halloween, which is Saturday.

Councilman Leno Hernandez said he was happy to see so many events in the city recently and singled out the car show held as part of Fiesta de Amistad as particularly well-attended. He also lauded KWMC and Mike Andrade for putting together a "trunk-or-treat" event and thanked city staff for organizing the Monarch Festival on Friday, Oct. 23. Finally, Hernandez reminded everyone to vote.

CITY MANAGER GIVES UPDATES ON PROJECTS

City Manager Manuel Chavez began his "City Manager's Informational Update" by speaking about a breast cancer awareness bake sale by staff members, with proceeds going to the Mary Pierce Cancer Resource Room at Val Verde Regional Medical Center. Chavez said there will be a seminar titled "Understanding Texas' New Mobile Food Vendor Law" at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28, at the Spark Lab in the city's transportation depot, 101 W. Ogden St.

Chavez said there will be trick-or-treating for kids of all ages at City Hall, 109 W. Broadway St., from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30. He announced a change in dates for the council's meetings in November. The council's first November meeting will be on Nov. 9, and the second meeting of the month will be on Nov. 17. Chavez said

SEE ROUNDUP- PAGE 17

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Lewis Owens, Jr.

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Precinct	Polling Location	Address
10, 11, 12 & 13	Joe Ramos Center	1105 W. De La Rosa
20, 21, 22, 23 & 24	Del Rio Civic Center	1915 Veteran's Blvd.
30, 31 & 33	Northside Baptist Church	1100 Amistad Blvd.
40 & 41	St. Joseph Church	510 Wernett St.
32, 42 & 43	Comstock Community Center	68 Langtry St. Comstock, Texas

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Police confirm homeowner shot suspected burglar inside Ricks Drive residence

THE 830 TIMES STAFF REPORTS

The Del Rio Police Department has provided an update on a shooting in a home on Ricks Drive reported by The 830 Times' Micheal Elizondo on Monday..

The biggest update: Police say the homeowner shot a suspected burglar he found inside his residence. The man fled but was later located and transported to San Antonio for medical treatment.

Officers responded to the 200 block of Ricks Drive at approximately 10:39 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, following a report of a residential burglary involving gunfire, according to the department.

Police said the homeowner reported being awakened by an unusual noise in his living room. When he went to investigate, he found a man he didn't know inside the home. The homeowner discharged his firearm, striking the unknown man.

The alleged burglar fled the residence before officers arrived, police said. He was located after an investigation and a search of the surrounding area.

The department's criminal investigations division continues to investigate. Police said criminal charges against the suspect are pending.

Police outside 200 block of Ricks Drive (Photo by Michael Elizondo)

PD'S COMPLETE UPDATE IS BELOW:

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY INVOLVING GUNFIRE

On Saturday, October 24, 2026, at approximately 10:39 p.m., officers with the Del Rio Police Department responded to the 200 block of Ricks Drive following a report of a residential burglary involving shots fired.

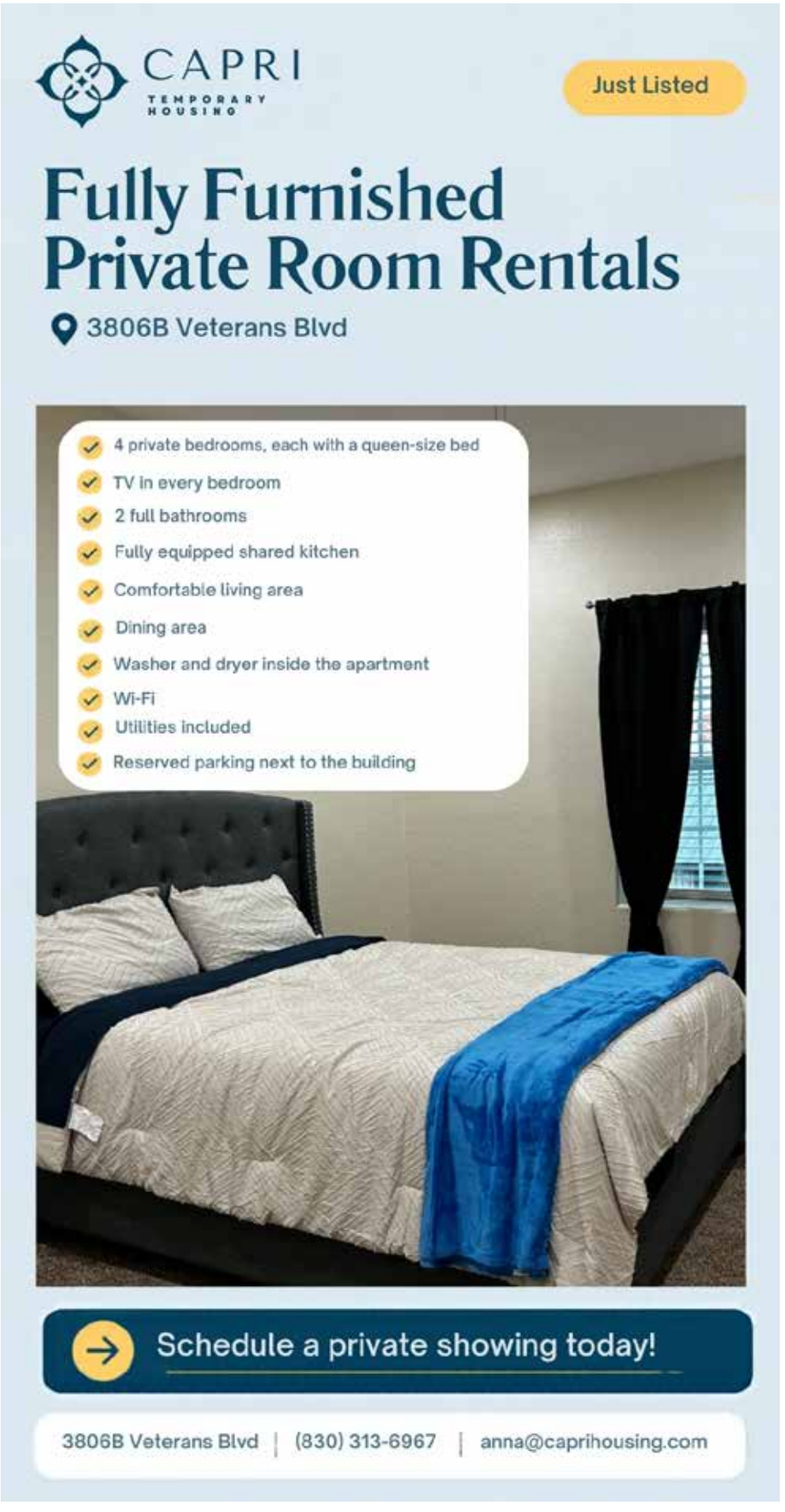
Upon arrival, officers made contact with the homeowner, who reported that he had discharged a firearm after discovering an unknown male inside his residence.

According to the homeowner, he was awakened by an unusual noise coming from his living room. When he went to investigate, he encountered an unknown male inside his home. The homeowner discharged his firearm, striking the individual.

Despite sustaining injuries, the suspect fled the residence before officers arrived.

Following an investigation and search of the surrounding area, the suspect was subsequently located. Due to the nature of his injuries, he was transported to San Antonio, Texas, for further medical treatment.

The Del Rio Police Department's Criminal Investigations Division continues to investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident. Criminal charges against the suspect are pending as the investigation progresses.



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Representing the Del Rio Police Officers Association (DRPOA) in a collective bargaining session with the city on Thursday, Oct. 22, are, from left, Jeff Hartwick, Paul Hurley and Adrian Garcia, DRPOA president. The team also includes Carlos Zamorano, right, of the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas (CLEAT). (Photo by Karen Gleason)

Members of the city of Del Rio's collective bargaining negotiating team include, from left, Interim Finance Director Roxy Soto, City Attorney Ana Markowski Smith and City Manager Manuel Chavez. The team also includes Camela Sandmann, an attorney with the city's contracted firm of Denton Navarro Rodriguez Bernal Santee & Zech.
(Photo by Karen Gleason)

City, police officers will meet at least once more to negotiate pay increase

BY KAREN GLEASON
THE 830 TIMES

Negotiators for the city of Del Rio and for the Del Rio Police Officers Association (DRPOA) will meet at least once more as they finalize a requested pay increase for local police officers.

The teams representing the officers and the city will meet again at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 28, at City Hall. The teams agreed on the meeting during their most recent negotiating session on Thursday, Oct. 22.

Representing the city at the Thursday, Oct. 22, session were Camela Sandmann, an attorney with the city's contracted firm of Denton Navarro Rodriguez Bernal Santee & Zech, who is serving as the city's chief negotiator, as well as City Manager Manuel Chavez, City Attorney Ana Markowski Smith and Interim Finance Director Roxy Soto.

The police officers were represented by Carlos Zamorano, of the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas (CLEAT), who is serving as the officers' chief negotiator, and by Adrian Garcia, DRPOA president; Paul Hurley and Jeff Hartwick. Other current and former members of the Del Rio Police Department, as well as citizens and a representative of The Border Organization, a grassroots activist group, also attended the session.

Sandmann opened the meeting, then said before anything was discussed or "put across the table," she and the other city representatives would caucus in private.

The city team returned to council chambers about 20 minutes later, and Sandmann said, "Alright, gentlemen, we have a counterproposal the city would like to put across the table on a multi-year contract."

Chavez handed out hard copies for the police representatives to review, and Sandmann asked Chavez to explain the offer.

Chavez said, "I do want to thank the association for providing the three-year option. That's something I think we can agree that will probably be the best for both the city and the association. Looking at our current situation, our current financial means, we do want to continue to offer a 2.5 percent increase, as soon as an agreement is in place.

"And starting April 1, 2027, another half a percent increase, and going along with the three-year structure, 3 percent for the next two years as part of the agreement," Chavez said.

Chavez asked if there were any questions, and Zamorano asked about the other requests the DRPOA is seeking, including paid funeral/bereavement leave and paid leave for officers conducting DRPOA business or attending association training.

Sandmann replied, "We are rejecting those at this time."

Zamorano and the DRPOA representatives went to caucus privately to discuss the city's offer.

The police representatives returned to council chambers about 20 minutes later, and Zamorano said, "After consulting with my team here, the sentiment is to get this done. However, looking at these numbers, even with the numbers I presented to you, Del Rio still falls behind the other (comparable departments), even after those numbers I sent you.

"With these numbers, they fall even further behind, and the numbers that I sent you do not take into consideration that the agencies we compared with will also be getting raises during those years," Zamorano said.

"We want to get this done. The officers are willing to negotiate, but we would counter, and we would come off of our last proposal to where we would accept what you're offering in year one (the total of 3 percent in the current fiscal year), but we would ask for at

SEE NEGOTIATE - PAGE 26

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Spooky times come to Del Rio

Victoria Salinas Cruz poses for a picture at the 2025 Dia de los Muertos celebration at Plaza Del Sol Mall. Celebrate Halloween on Friday, Oct. 30, and Saturday, Oct. 31, and Dia de los Muertos on Sunday, Nov. 1. (Photo by Louis Zylka)

Julianna Vanzee (left) and Reagan Becker (right) attend the 2023 Monster Mash Market at the Whitehead Memorial Museum. The 2026 Annual Monster Mash will take place at the Historic Brown Plaza, 305 E. Canal St., on Saturday, Oct. 31. (Photo by Louis Zylka)

Enjoy Halloween celebrations on Friday and Saturday

With Halloween here again, The 830 Times has compiled a list of activities happening Friday, Oct. 30, and Saturday, Oct. 31, for the young and young at heart.

Halloween celebrations begin on Friday, Oct. 30, with a community event at the ***Judge Antonio "Tony" Faz III County Annex***, 315 E. Chapoy St., beginning at 3 p.m. The event is hosted by County Commissioner Pct. 2 Juan Carlos Vasquez, and ***free candy and games*** will be available for families to enjoy.

To make trick-or-treating easier, children can pick up a ***free pumpkin-shaped bucket*** at the ***Whitehead Memorial Museum,*** 1308 S. Main St., on Friday, Oct. 30, and Saturday, Oct. 31, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Trick-or-treating begins early as the city of Del Rio will open its ***City Hall doors at 109 W. Broadway St. on Friday, Oct. 30, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.*** Members of various city departments will offer candy to children who visit. Community Services Director Esme Esparza said this year's theme for the all-ages event is "***The Enchanted Forest,***" adding that members from 10 of the city's departments will be in attendance with different themes handing out candy indoors.

Esparza said children can also walk over to get candy at the ***Del Rio Municipal Court building*** at 125 E. Martin St., the public works department at 114 W. Martin St. and the transportation building at 100 W. Ogden St. from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Staff at the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Program, 200 Bridge St., will also pass out candy from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Children can continue getting sweet treats at various ***trunk-or-treat*** locations on Friday, Oct. 30, and Saturday, Oct. 31. ***The Del Rio Nursing Rehabilitation Center, 301 W. Martin St.,*** will be handing out candy on Friday, Oct. 30, from 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Children can also get candy at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 509 W. Garza St., on Saturday, Oct. 31, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Candy will also be passed out on Saturday, Oct. 31, at different car dealership locations, including ***Cecil Atkission Ford Del Rio,*** 2700 Veterans Blvd., starting at 3 p.m.; ***Hyundai Del Rio,*** 1508 Veterans Blvd., from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.; and ***Toyota Del Rio,*** 3617 Veterans Blvd., from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The 24th Annual Monster Mash, put together by the Del Rio Downtown Association (DRDA), will take place on Saturday, Oct. 31, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Brown Plaza, 305 E. Canal St Alexandra Falcon, DRDA founder, talked with The 830 Times about the new location for this year's Mash, adding the change was made to give a different experience and to see how the community responds.

"(The Monster Mash) is something (DRDA) adopted and wants to bring to the community. It is a very anticipated event. Very family friendly. We want people to have a great time all in one area," Falcon said.

The Monster Mash will not include a night parade this year, but there will be games, food trucks, bouncy castles and cake walks. Falcon mentioned one of the most popular parts of the Monster Mash is the costume contest, which begins at 7 p.m.

Two ***Halloween costume contests,*** one for adults and one for children, will also be held at the ***Blue Oasis Bar & Grill***, 3806 Veterans Blvd., on Saturday, Oct. 31, at 9 p.m., and prizes and candy will be handed out. The restaurant's hours of operation are 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. ***Queen City Market*** will also be hosting a costume contest and a Halloween themed pet parade at ***A. Ramon Imports,*** 5601 E. Hwy 90, at 3 p.m.

Adults can also enjoy the ***Gothic Halloween Party*** at ***Mesquite Creek Outfitters, 800 S. Main St., on Saturday, Oct. 31, at 7 p.m.*** Mesquite will have a Frank-N-Stein Host competition free to those who attend, and customers can get a one-day-only Halloween cocktail with a free goblet/champagne flute with purchase.

TOP THINGS TO DO

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1

BORDER BASS BATTLE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31ST

COMPETE IN THE HOURLY-FISHING COMPETITION AT LAKE AMISTAD ON SATURDAY, OCT. 31, FROM 7:45 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

ELECTION DAY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD

VOTE AT DEL RIO'S NEAREST POLLING LOCATIONS ON TUESDAY, NOV. 3, FROM 7 A.M. TO 7 P.M. SEE AD ON PAGE 28 FOR POLLING PLACES

2

3

CALAVERAS Y CALACAS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

CELEBRATE DIA DE LOS MUERTOS AT THE WHITEHEAD MEMORIAL MUSEUM, 1308 S. MAIN ST., ON SUNDAY, NOV. 1, 6 P.M. TO 10 P.M.

YOGA AT THE GIN HOUSE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

PARTICIPATE IN YOGA CLASSES AT THE GIN HOUSE JAZZ CLUB, 900 PECAN ST., ON SUNDAY, NOV. 1, AT 11 A.M.

4

5

RAMS HOME GAME

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30TH

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Movie Review: CLAYFACE

Matt Hagen (Tom Rhys Harries) lives his life as a talented actor before becoming a monstrous villain in Gotham City in "Clayface," directed by James Watkins. (Photo by Louis Zylka)

BY LOUIS ZYLKA
THE 830 TIMES

Halloween's here, and what better way to enjoy the holiday with not only a horror movie, but a comic-book horror movie. DC Studios, led by James Gunn and Peter Safran, has graced movie theaters with a new villain origin story centered on the Batman antagonist, Clayface.

Matt Hagen (Tom Rhys Harries) is an aspiring actor getting all the fame any hard-working celebrity would want, only for all of it to come tumbling down after crossing paths with a mob boss. Now with his face damaged from cuts and scars, which affects his career and off-screen persona, Hagen agrees to be the test subject of an experiment to restore his good looks. And though at first his face recovers, the side effects take over and start turning him into psychotic, revenge-fixated mutant monster, both figuratively and physically.

"Clayface" does not aim to be a great horror movie, nor does it deliver as the perfect monster/body-horror film, but it is still competent with its likable characters and a coherent story. The story of Clayface ends up becoming more of a revenge tale, which is executed perfectly. You root for the main character to get his revenge, despite his actions turning him down a dark path.

"Clayface" is a fun comic-book movie and a great entry in the new DC Comics cinematic universe held by Gunn and Safran. While it may not be the greatest movie of the year, as it's held back by a few cheesy scenes and imperfect writing, the villain's origin story is a great time at the movies with crowd-pleasing kills and a few gruesome and memorable images.

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830 Entertainment: *Events at a glance!*

17TH ANNUAL PUMPKIN PATCH

OCT. 29 & OCT. 30 - Buy a pumpkin during the final days of the annual pumpkin patch at the First United Methodist Church, 100 Spring St., on Friday, Oct. 30, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 31, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

RAMS HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME

OCT. 30- The Del Rio High School (DRHS) football team will go up against United Laredo at Walter Levermann Stadium, 100 Memorial Dr, on Friday, Oct. 30, at 7:30 p.m.

REMEMBERING YOUR PET WORKSHOP

OCT. 30 - Participate in a Dia De Los Muertos art workshop focusing on painting the pets we have lost in our lives at Marcos Mares Art Studio & Gallery, 205 E. Ogden St., on Friday, Oct. 30, for two hours starting at 6 p.m. Entry fee is $40.

GAMES AT DRACULINA

OCT. 30 & 31 - Draculina Nerdvana, 401 S. Main St., will have a Pokemon trading-card-game (TCG) challenge on Friday, Oct. 30, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. And on Saturday, Oct. 31, Draculina will have a Pokemon tourney for the Mega Evolution Delta Reign release at 12 p.m., a Digimon card game tourney at 2 p.m. and a One Piece card game tourney at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

BATTLE BASS TOURNAMENT

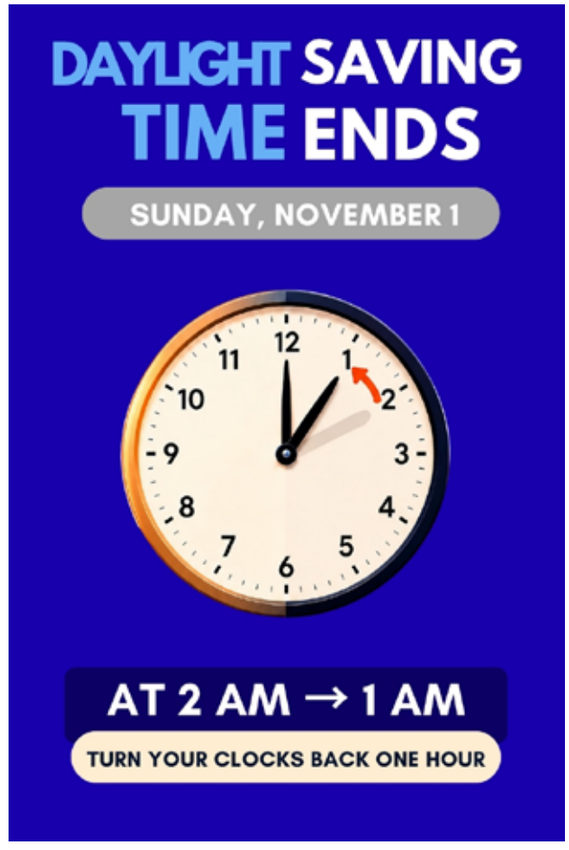
OCT. 31 - The Border Bass Hourly Competition will take place at Lake Amistad on Saturday, Oct. 31. The first cast will be at 7:45 a.m. and the competition hours will last till 4 p.m. Call 830-775-3551 to pre register.

POKEWEEN

OCT. 31 - Gamestop 2415 Veterans Blvd will be handing out special-Halloween Pokemon booster packs for trading-card games on Saturday, Oct. 31, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

BEYBLADE TOURNAMENT

OCT. 31- Enter in the Beyblade Tournament being held at Pla Mor Del Rio, 1201 N. Bedell Ave, on Saturday, Oct. 31, starting at 6 p.m. Check-in time is at 4 p.m. and the entry fee is $10 for teenagers and adults and $8 for children ages eight through 12. The Del Rio Beyblade League will be giving away candy bags for attendees who are also trick-or-treating.



SCOOBY-DOO RUN

M&L Auto Sales will be hosting a 5K & Kids 1 K event with vendors at the Rotary Pocket Park, 614 Main St., on Saturday, Oct. 31, at 8 a.m.

CATRINAS, COSTUMES & COMMUNITY

OCT. 31 & NOV. 1 - Queen City Market will have its holiday themed market events at A. Ramon Imports, 5601 E. Hwy 90, on Saturday, Oct. 31, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 1, from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

DAYLIGHT CHANGES

NOV. 1 - Daylight saving time changes on Sunday, Nov. 1, at 2 a.m. with the local time falling back an hour to 1 a.m.

YOGA CLASSES AT THE GIN HOUSE

NOV. 1 - The Gin House Jazz Club, 900 Pecan St., will host yoga classes on Sunday, Nov. 1, at 11 a.m. Entry fee for the class is $20.

CALAVERAS Y CALACAS

NOV. 1 - Celebrate Dia de los Muertos with a Catrina Cartoneria Exhibit, Ballet Folklorico dance performances and sugar skull activities at the Casa de la Cultura, 302 Cantu St., on Sunday, Nov. 1, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

NOV. 1 - The Whitehead Memorial Museum, 1308 S. Main St., will have a Dia De Los Muertos celebration with a community ofrenda, mariachi performances, arts-and-craft events and Mexican dishes on Sunday, Nov. 1, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

ELECTION DAY NOV. 3

YOGA CLASSES AT THE FIREHOUSE

NOV. 3 & NOV. 5 - Del Rio Council for the Arts at the Firehouse, 120 E. Garfield St., will have beginner-friendly yoga classes on Tuesday, Nov. 3, and Thursday, Nov. 5, at 6 p.m. Tuition for a single-day class is $10.

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK

NOV. 6 - Enjoy art exhibits from your local art galleries, including the Falcon Art Gallery, Lee-Bunch Studio Gallery and Del Rio Council for the Arts on Friday, Nov. 6. Stay updated with The 830 Times for more information.

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ROUNDUP - FROM PAGE 4

the city staff will have a tree-planting event at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 30, beginning at the Joe Ramos Center. Finally, the city manager thanked Community Services Director Esme Esparza and other staff members for their work on the recent Monarch Festival.

COUNCIL APPROVES ROXY SOTO AS CITY FINANCE DIRECTOR

Following the "City Manager's Informational Update," the city council moved into executive session at 7:08 p.m. and returned to open

Roxy Soto has been named as the city of Del Rio's finance director. City council members voted

unanimously to confirm Soto's appointment during the city council meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 28.

Soto, who has worked for the city for 12 years, has been serving as interim finance director.

(Photo by Karen Gleason)

session at 7:51 p.m. Mayor Al Arreola announced no action had been taken while the council was behind closed doors. City council members first voted 7-0 to approve a motion by Councilman Leno Hernandez that the council "approve the contract as written and as agreed-upon with the City Manager Manuel Chavez." The council then voted 7-0 to approve a motion by Councilwoman Elsa Reyes "to confirm the appointment of Roxy Soto as our finance director for the city of Del Rio, effective Tuesday, Oct. 27." Council members congratulated Soto, who has been with the city for 12 years.

COUNCIL APPROVES EXECUTION OF CONTRACT WITH COUNCILMAN'S POOL COMPANY

City council members voted 4-2-1, with Mayor Al Arreola and Councilwoman Carmen Gutierrez casting the two opposing votes and Mayor Pro Tem Randy Quinones abstaining, to approve a resolution authorizing and directing City Manager Manuel Chavez to award and execute a contract in the amount of $941,000 with Connected Home Solutions, doing business as Stella's Pools, for design-build services for the Buena Vista Pool Rehabilitation Project.

Prior to considering the item, City Secretary Mari Acosta announced Quinones has filed conflict-of-interest paperwork with her office as required by state law and which is available for public review. Quinones also read a statement announcing his conflict of interest, noting he has a "substantial interest" in Connected Home Solutions, doing business as Stella's Pools, and adding he has filed the required paperwork with Acosta. He also announced he would abstain from discussion of and voting on the item.

The council went into executive session. After the closed-door session, the council took up consideration of the pool reconstruction contract, with several council members voicing their opinions on the contract award.

COUNCIL APPROVES AGREEMENT FOR NUTRITION SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY

City council members voted 7-0 in favor of a resolution to approve the fiscal year 2026-2027 contractor agreement between the city of Del Rio and the Middle Rio Grande Development Council (MRGDC)/ Area Agency on Aging to provide nutrition services. The agreement affirms the city's role as the provider of nutrition services for seniors in Val Verde County, including congregate meals, home-delivered meals, nutrition education, participant assessments and transportation. The agreement al-

SEE COUNCIL- PAGE 18

COUNCIL - FROM PAGE 17

lows the city to be reimbursed for the cost of the program, which is about $143,248. The program provides about 46,000 meals a year to eligible residents.

COUNCIL APPROVES RESOLUTION ON AIRPORT RUNWAY REDESIGNATION

City council members voted 7-0 to approve a resolution authorizing submission of a formal letter of intent to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Aviation Division for the runway redesignation project at Del Rio International Airport. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has determined the magnetic variation at the airport is out of tolerance and must be updated. Runway 13/31 at the airport will be redesignated as Runway 14/32. An engineering firm contracted by the city has estimated the total cost of the redesignation project at $379,000 to $389,000. The letter of intent allows the city to seek federal funding for the project.

Airport improvement grants require a 10% cost match from the city, with the FAA's Airport Improvement Program paying the 90% share.

COUNCIL APPROVES NEGOTIATING CONTRACT FOR VENDING SERVICES

City council members voted 7-0 to approve a resolution authorizing and directing City Manager Manuel Chavez to negotiate a contract with Amistad Snacks, a Del Rio company, for vending machines in various city buildings. City Purchasing Director Luis Menchaca said the city had advertised twice for vending machine services. He said during the first round of requests for proposals for the service, no vendor responded. Menchaca said Amistad Snacks, a Del Rio company, was the only vendor that submitted a proposal during the second round of advertising for the services. He said once negotiations are complete, the contract will be brought back to the council for approval.

COUNCIL AMENDS CODE OF ORDINANCES DEALING WITH DANGEROUS DOGS

City council members voted 7-0 to approve an ordinance amending a chapter in the Del Rio Code of Ordinances dealing with dangerous and aggressive dogs. The changes will allow the city's animal services division to address dangerous dog determinations, aggressive dog classifications, enforcement procedures, owner responsibilities and "costs associated with impoundment and compliance." The council also unanimously approved an ordinance amending the city's fee schedule to reflect costs associated with the dangerous and aggressive dog designations.

COUNCIL ABOLISHES DEL RIO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMMISSION

City council members voted 7-0 to approve an ordinance abolishing the city's airport commission, an advisory board made up of citizen volunteers to make recommendations to city council on projects and issues related to the airport. The council also approved a related ordinance removing the phrase "airport commission" from the Del Rio Code of Ordinances.

Airport Manager Juan Onofre told the council the airport commission met most recently in January. Onofre said in 2025, the commission met six times, and the commission met three times in 2024. Onofre said sometimes he cannot wait on the next commission meeting to bring projects and issues to the city council. City Manager Manuel Chavez said the commission "hasn't been fully working as intended."

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

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Rams rally before falling to Alexander, 21-14

BY JOEL LANGTON
THE 830 TIMES

The season of almosts continues for the Del Rio Rams football team.

On Oct. 16, the Rams almost knocked off San Antonio Southwest Legacy, missing a potential game-winning field goal by less than a foot in the closing seconds of a 15-13 loss.

A week later, the almosts continued. Playing before a homecoming crowd Friday, Oct. 23, Del Rio rallied from a 14-point halftime deficit to tie Laredo Alexander, only to watch the Bulldogs score in the fourth quarter and escape with a 21-14 District 30-6A victory.

For Rams head coach Daniel Infante and his staff, the close losses are reminders that rebuilding a football program doesn't happen overnight.

"It's gonna take some time for everything to fall into place. But yeah, I mean, 'almost' is a good word, I guess, to kind of put it in layman's terms," Infante said.

"We just have to continue to get better and develop this program to the direction where it needs to be."

Making Friday's loss even more difficult to swallow was a potentially game-changing play just before halftime.

Del Rio's Elvis Gonzalez intercepted an Alexander pass and returned it for an apparent touchdown, but the score was wiped out by a clipping penalty.

Alexander jumped out to a 14-0 first-quarter lead, threatening to turn homecoming into a long evening for the Del Rio faithful.

But when the Rams started the second quarter, it was almost as if a different team had taken the field.

From that point forward, Del Rio went toe-to-toe with the district-leading Bulldogs, showing flashes of the football program Infante is trying to build.

Del Rio Rams players urge their fans to turn up the volume during Friday's homecoming showdown against Laredo Alexander. The Rams rallied from a 14-point halftime deficit to tie the district-leading Bulldogs before falling 21-14, giving the home crowd plenty to cheer about. (Photo by Joel Langton)

Unfortunately, penalties and turnovers repeatedly stalled promising drives. On one possession, Del Rio found itself facing third-and-32.

Injuries only complicate matters more.Two of the Rams' offensive and defensive leaders watched from the sidelines on crutches. By the second quarter, Friday night's starting quarterback had joined them on the sideline, although without the crutches.

Still, the Rams refused to go away.

There were glimpses of Infante's high-octane offense, with occasional long runs and completed passes giving fans reasons to forget the penalties, turnovers and injuries.

Del Rio scored 14 unanswered points in the third quarter to erase Alexander's halftime advantage and tie the game.

But Alexander answered with a fourth-quarter touchdown, and Del Rio couldn't respond.

Junior quarterback Brandon Dominguez completed eight of 15 passes for 90 yards and a touchdown. He also rushed for a score.

Junior Santiago Ortiz led Del Rio's receivers with eight catches for 128 yards and a touchdown, while senior Raul De Luna carried 14 times for 66 yards, according to MaxPreps.

For Alexander, Javier Trejo rushed for 87 yards and a touchdown, while quarterback Santiago Vazquez passed for 133 yards and a score. Defensively, Emil Cardenas recorded 17 tackles and four sacks, according to MaxPreps.

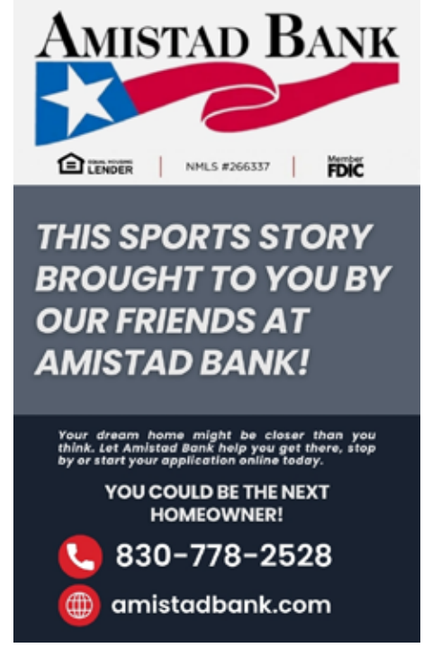
The loss dropped Del Rio to 1-7 overall and 0-5 in District 30-6A. Alexander improved to 6-2 overall and remained unbeaten in district play at 5-0.

Despite another frustrating defeat, Infante said the coaching staff continues working to keep the players together and focused on the program's future.

"We just kind of keep them mentally locked in, mentally focused, and making sure that they're not, you know, bickering at each other and all that type of stuff. We're trying to keep them united and making sure that we're all on the same page," Infante said.

For now, the Rams continue searching for the consistency needed to turn competitive performances into victories.

Del Rio's next chance comes Friday, Oct. 30, when the Rams host Laredo United at 7:30 p.m



RAMS & QUEENS SPORTS ROUNDUP

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SOUTHWEST TEXAS SPORTS ROUNDUP BROUGHT TO YOU BY AMISTAD BANK

Here's our weekly sports roundup, covering Del Rio, Comstock and Brackettville, with a look at what happened and what's coming next.

CROSS COUNTRY

Several Val Verde County athletes have earned berths in the UIL State Cross Country Championships, led by the Comstock Panthers boys team, which will make its sixth appearance at state. Del Rio High School's Ray Torres will compete in the Class 6A boys division, while Comstock freshman Fernanda Lopez will represent the Panthers in the Class 1A girls competition.

RAMS FOOTBALL

What happened: Del Rio rallied from a 14-0 halftime deficit to tie Laredo Alexander before falling 21-14 Friday, Oct. 23, on homecoming night. The Rams dropped to 1-7 overall and 0-5 in District 30-6A.

QUEENS VOLLEYBALL

What happened: Del Rio closed sent their seniors out with a victory in its season finale with a 3-1 victory over Eagle Pass Saturday, Oct. 24, winning 25-16, 23-25, 25-17 and 26-24. The Queens finished with a 17-13 overall record.

SWIMMING

What happened: Del Rio's most recently reported meet was the Oct. 17 Siete Banderas competition in Laredo, where 14 swimmers combined for nine individual victories and 21 top-three finishes.

A LOOK AHEAD: WHAT'S COMING NEXT

RAMS FOOTBALL
Hosts district-leading Laredo United Friday, Oct. 30, at 7:30 p.m. – final home game of the season.

CROSS COUNTRY
UIL State Cross Country Championships in Round Rock: Torres Friday, Nov. 6; Comstock boys team and Fernanda Lopez Saturday, Nov. 7.

SWIMMING
at Laredo's La Copa Championship November 13

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Del Rio's Torres, Comstock runners qualify for state cross country meet

BY JOEL LANGTON
THE 830 TIMES

Del Rio's Ray Torres, the Comstock Panthers boys team and Comstock's Fernanda Lopez are headed to the state cross country meet after their performances at the Region IV championships Monday, Oct. 26, and Tuesday, Oct. 27, in Corpus Christi.

Torres qualified individually in Class 6A, while the Panthers earned a team berth with a second-place finish in Class 1A. Lopez also qualified individually in the Class 1A girls race.

The top four teams and the top 10 individuals not on qualifying teams in each race advance to the state meet.

DEL RIO

Torres led the Rams in Monday's Class 6A boys race, finishing 14th overall in 15 minutes, 40.65 seconds to earn his state berth.

Del Rio cross country coach Vicky Perez praised Torres and both teams for their performances throughout the season.

Del Rio's Ray Torres stands on the awards podium after finishing 14th in the Class 6A boys race Monday at the Region IV cross country championships in Corpus Christi. Torres completed the course in 15 minutes, 40.65 seconds, earning a berth in the state championships.

"Super proud of our Queens and Rams team this season. What they were able to accomplish this season is because of their hard work and dedication to our program," Perez said. "A lot of good came out of this season. We will continue to build on what we have started in the seasons to come."

Perez said the program is especially excited about Torres' opportunity to compete against the state's best runners.

"We are so proud of Ray and we are excited to see him race and we also know he will represent Del Rio well at state," Perez said.

The Rams finished 20th as a team with 490 points. Jesus Robles placed 97th in 17:09.23, followed by Isau Salazar, 142nd in 18:02.24; Alexavier Medina, 146th in 18:06.72; Emiliano Zuniga, 155th in 18:28.87; Tyler Lopez, 164th in 18:48.74; and Reynaldo De Los Santos, 170th in 19:15.95.

The Queens placed 21st in the girls race with 594 points. Celeste Garcia led Del Rio with a 100th-place finish in 20:59.68, while Xitlali Vasquez was 108th in 21:10.50.

Reba Salinas finished 148th in 22:06.00, Amya Mendoza was 155th in 22:19.61, Bella Montemayor placed 167th in 22:49.09, Hailey Dobbins was 169th in 23:04.28 and Ava Jimenez finished 176th in 23:22.26.

COMSTOCK

The Comstock Panthers are headed back to the state cross country meet for the sixth consecutive year, but their latest trip to the state's biggest stage was anything but routine.

Competing Tuesday, Oct. 27, in Corpus Christi, the Panthers overcame illness, heavy rain and a muddy, slippery course to finish second in the Class 1A boys race with 83 points.

Comstock's Noah Bahena battles through a muddy course Tuesday at the Region IV Class 1A cross country championships in Corpus Christi. Bahena finished sixth overall in 19 minutes, 37.24 seconds, helping the Panthers earn a second-place team finish and their sixth consecutive trip to the state meet.

The National Weather Service recorded 0.89 inches of rain at Corpus Christi International Airport on the day of the meet, although the amount that fell at the racecourse was not immediately available.

Comstock cross country coach Lee Abbey said the rain was pouring when the girls began their race, leaving the course in miserable condition for the boys, who competed after the rain had stopped.

Runners struggled to maintain their footing on the saturated course, making times difficult to compare with performances elsewhere in the state.

Abbey said several of his runners were also battling illness, but refused to let the conditions become an excuse.

"Instead of excuses, they made results," Abbey said.

The coach was particularly encouraged by how strongly his runners finished, noting that some were still racing each other toward the finish line despite the difficult conditions.

Noah Bahena led the Panthers with a sixth-place finish in 19:37.24. Gustavo Flores was 17th in 20:50.23, John Howell placed 18th in 20:50.96, Jacob Allen took 20th in 20:58.22 and Dalton Hutchinson finished 22nd in 21:01.18.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NO. 6904

IN RE: ESTATE OF ROSARIO D. JIMENEZ, DECEASED

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF VAL VERDE COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Letters of Testamentary on the Estate of **ROSARIO D. JIMENEZ**, Deceased, were issued on September 30. 2026, to **CRISELDA J. RODRIGUEZ**, as Independent Executrix of the Estate of said Decdent, in Cause No. 6,904, in the County Court of Val Verde County, Sitting in Matters of Probate.

The address of record for purposes of notice is as follows: Robert Garza, Attorney-at-Law, 2116 Veterans Blvd., Ste. 5, Del Rio, Texas 78840.

All persons having claims against this estate are required to present their claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, to the above address.

DATED on the ___ day of _____, 2026.

By: /s/
CRISELDA J. RODRIGUEZ
Independent Executrix

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Administration for the Estate of Juan Arreola Jr., Deceased, were issued on 8 October 2026, in Cause No. 6929, pending in the County Court of Val Verde County, Texas, to: Miguel Alberto Arreola.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Gregorio Flores
Attorney at Law
125-A W. Garfield Street
Del Rio, Texas 78840

DATED the 27th day of October, 2026.

GREGORIO FLORES
SBN: 24081654
125-A W. Garfield Street
Del Rio, Texas 78840
Telephone: (830) 308-3088
Facsimile: (830) 282-6837
Attorney for Miguel Alberto Arreola.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit and a Late Hours Certificate by LONESTARDELRIO, LLC, d/b/a LONESTARDELRIO, to be located at 700 S. Main St., Del Rio, Val Verde County, Texas 78840. The sole member and manager of said limited liability company is Roberto Calvetti Jr.

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: **RANDI CHRISTINA JONES** Respondent, Greeting:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable Distict Court Of, Val Verde County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County, 100 E. Broadway, in Del Rio, Texas, at or before ten o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after the expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DIVORCE of RAYMOND WILLIAM LEE JONES, Petitioner, filed in said court on the 16th day of June, 2026, against RANDI CHRISTINA JONES, Respondent, in said suit being numbered **2026-0045-CCL** on the docket of said court, and entitled,

"IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF RAYMOND WILLIAM LEE JONES AND RANDI CHRISTINA JONES."

The nature of which suit is a request for dissolution of marriage.

The name and address of the attorney for the petitioner is: Schroeter Firm 100 Central St. Del Rio, Tx 78840

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree dissolving the marriage and providing for the division of property which will be binding on you.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at **Del Rio**, Texas, this the 26TH day of October A.D. 2026.

COUNTY, TEXAS ★ DISTRICT COURT OF VAL VERDE

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

NEGOTIATE - FROM PAGE 9

least 5 (percent) and 5 (percent) for the next two years, for a total of 13 percent over the next three years," Zamorano announced.

Sandmann said she wanted to ask the city team if they wanted to caucus, then Chavez asked if there was any other counter in addition to the percentage increases being requested.

Zamorano said, "Yes," and he discussed the time frames for the next round of negotiations between the city and the DRPOA and several other issues.

The city representatives then caucused privately for about an hour.

Returning to council chambers, Sandmann began by discussing several issues other than pay the city representatives and the police association had been talking about.

Sandmann then said, "So the verbal for our multi-year is going to be like it was before, the 2.5 (percent) starting immediately and the other half-percent in April (2027), 3 percent for the second year, 4 percent for the third year, and we are including now the funeral leave at 36 hours, paid funeral leave."

Zamorano asked to caucus with his team, and he and the DRPOA met privately for about 15 minutes.

Returning to open session, Zamorano said the police team would counter "to be able to sell this to the members" of the police association, and he put forward a proposal of a 2.5 percent increase for the first year, a 4 percent increase the second year and a 5 percent increase the third year.

The city team then caucused again, and following their return to open session, both groups agreed to meet again on Wednesday, Oct. 28.

The writer can be reached at delriomagnoliafan@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Housing Authority of the City of Del Rio, (HACDR), is requesting proposals for the employee's **Dental and Vision Insurance.** Bid forms and specifications are available at the Housing Authority office at 102 E. Rodriguez; Del Rio, Texas. From 8:00am -12:00pm and 1:00pm - 4:30pm. Sealed bids will be accepted through November 18, 2026, until 2:00pm at which time all bids will be reviewed.

For more information, please contact Mr. Isidro Valdez Fernandez at (830) 774-6506 or email at drhousing@gmail.com.

The Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in the proposal process. The HACDR is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Contracting Agency.

PUBLIC NOTICE - INVITATION TO RFP

San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District

Public RFP No.: 27-196
Description: New School Facility Construction-Roberto "Bobby" Barrera Elementary STEM School LAFB
Opening Date and Time: Wednesday, January 6, 2027 at 2:30 p.m.

The complete proposal package, including drawings and specifications, may be obtained from the project Architect, ERO Architects. After logging into EUNA Solutions, https://sfdr-cisd.bonfirehub.com, navigate to the Files tab and review the document titled "Invitation to Submit Proposal & Special Conditions" for detailed instructions on obtaining the project documents.

Interested Bidders can contact EUNA Solutions at Support@GoBonfire.com for technical questions related to the EUNA Solutions portal or visit the EUNA Solutions help forum at https://vendorssupport.gobonfirecom/hc/en-us Bid submissions shall be prepared in the file formats listed under 'Requested Information' for this opportunity in EUNA Solutions.

PUBLIC NOTICE - INVITATION TO RFP

San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District

Public RFS No.: 27-197
Description: Drop-Off/Pick-Up Loop at Ruben Chavira Elementary School Project
Opening Date and Time: Thursday, December 3, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

Public RFS/Qualification: 27-31
Description: Project Management Services
Opening Date and Time: Thursday, December 3, 2026, at 2:30 p.m.

RFS No. 27-197: The complete proposal package, including drawings and specifications, may be obtained from Amistad Consulting Services, Inc. After logging into EUNA Solutions, https://sfdr-cisd.bonfirehub.com, navigate to the Files tab and review the document titled "Invitation to Bid" for detailed instructions on obtaining the project documents.

Interested Bidders can contact EUNA Solutions at Support@GoBonfire.com for technical questions related to the EUNA Solutions portal or visit the EUNA Solutions help forum at https://vendorssupport.gobonfirecom/hc/en-us Bid submissions shall be prepared in the file formats listed under 'Requested Information' for this opportunity in EUNA Solutions.

RFS/Qualifications 27:31: Qualification submissions will be accepted electronically by assessing the EUNA Solutions, https://sfdr-cisd.bonfirehub.com, until date and time as specified above .

Interested Bidders can contact EUNA Solutions at Support@GoBonfire.com for technical questions related to the EUNA Solutions portal or visit the EUNA Solutions help forum at https://vendorssupport.gobonfirecom/hc/en-us Bid submissions shall be prepared in the file formats listed under 'Requested Information' for this opportunity in EUNA Solutions.

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30, 31 & 33 | Northside Baptist Church | 1100 Amistad Blvd.
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32, 42 & 43 | Comstock Community Center | 68 Langtry St. Comstock, Texas
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8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Saturday, October 24, 2026
7:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Sunday, October 25, 2026
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Monday, October 26, 2026 – Friday, October 30,2026
7:00 AM – 7:00 PM
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The last day to register to vote: Monday,October 5, 2026
The last day to apply for a ballot by mail: Friday, October 23, 2026
(application received, not postmarked)
For election information, please contact:
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Del Rio, TX 78841-1267
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