

Volume 6 - Issue 42

October 9th, 2026

The 830 TIMES

National Night Out

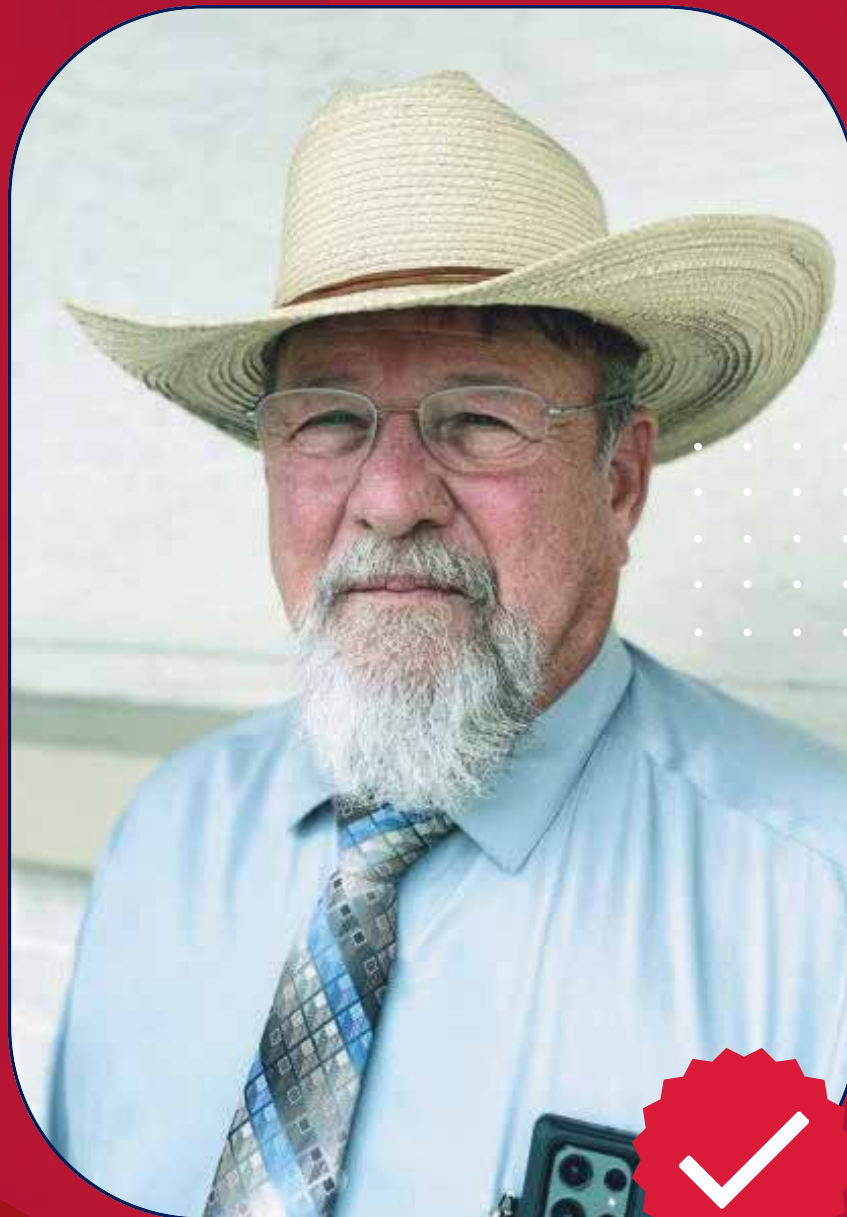
Border Patrol agent Ariel Altamirano, center, holds his four-legged partner, Shadow, an eight-year-old quarter horse gelding, as the horse wins a new friend in Clarissa Garcia, left, and her three-year-old daughter Aulani during the National Night Out on Tuesday, Oct. 6. (Photo by Karen Gleason)

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VOTE



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FOR

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JUSTICE OF THE
PEACE PRECINCT 2**

VOTE

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Federal, state candidates face grilling from The Border Organization

BY KAREN GLEASON
THE 830 TIMES

Three candidates for one federal and two state offices fielded questions on topics ranging from data centers to gun control from leaders of a regional grassroots community group during an accountability session held Sunday, Oct. 4.

The candidate accountability session was organized and hosted by La Organización Fronteriza/The Border Organization (TBO) and held in the San Felipe Exes Center Hall, 302 Menz St.

The Democratic Party candidates who attended were Katy Padilla Stout, Democratic Party nominee for the Texas District 23 seat in the U.S. House of Representatives; Texas Sen. Roland Gutierrez, who is seeking re-election to the District 19 seat in the Texas Senate; and Texas Rep. Eddie Morales, who is seeking re-election to the District 74 seat in the Texas House of Representatives.

All of the Republican Party candidates seeking to represent Val Verde County at the federal and state levels skipped an accountability session. The Border Organization organizer



Eddie Morales speaks to about 65 persons who attended The Border Organization candidate accountability session Sunday, Oct. 4, in the San Felipe Exes Center Hall in the San Felipe Neighborhood of south Del Rio. The three candidates who attended the session were called on to answer a series of questions dealing with issues ranging from affordable healthcare to an international bridge being planned in Eagle Pass. (Photo by Karen Gleason)

Gage Brown said Brandon Herrera, who is running against Padilla Stout, declined to participate. She said Marcus Cardenas, who is running against Gutierrez,

and Robert Garza, who is running against Morales, both said they would participate, but didn't show.

About 65 persons attended the accountability

session. Mario Arreola served as master of ceremonies for the event, welcoming those attending and inviting Dr. Mary Gonzalez to the podium to give

a brief history of the San Felipe Exes Center.

Gonzalez, a member of the San Felipe Ex-Students Association, Inc., said the organization exists "because we believe in the education of our community, in the education of young students in order to succeed." She also spoke about the functions of the Exes Center, which include holding events like the accountability session and serving as a monument to the importance of education to the community.

After Gonzalez spoke, Arreola called the session to order and explained how TBO conducts its public business.

Arreola said, "First, we are non-partisan. That means we do not endorse any candidate or political party. What we do endorse is our agenda, with a number of issues, which we have created through having hundreds of small group conversations in churches, homes, neighborhood walks and libraries over the past year in Val Verde, Uvalde, Kinney and Maverick counties."

Arreola said TBO's agen-

SEE BORDER ORG.- PAGE 8

**The 830
TIMES**
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Commissioners approve road funding, public defender agreement

BY KAREN GLEASON
THE 830 TIMES

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

Here's what happened at the meeting:

COUNTY JUDGE LAUDS TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT RESCUE CREW

County Judge Lewis G. Owens Jr. praised the work of a Texas Parks & Wildlife Department rescue crew called in to retrieve a member of the Precinct 2 road crew whose county work truck was overwhelmed by runoff that flooded the Dolan Creek Road on Thursday, Oct. 1, leaving him stranded.

"You see stuff like this on TV; it was just unbelievable. . . It was impressive," Owens said of the quick and effective work done by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department crew.

Owens also thanked members of the Val Verde County Sheriff's Office and the Val Verde County Fire Department, who also responded to the emergency call.

COMMISSIONER REMINDS WOMEN TO GET MAMMOGRAMS

County Commissioner Pct. 3 Fernando Garcia reminded women in Val Verde County that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and urged them to get a mammogram screening.

Garcia also shared a personal story underlining the importance of the test-

ing.

"My mom had breast cancer 30-something years ago, and she's still with us because she went and got checked and took care of it early. So all you ladies out there, go get yourselves checked, because your families need you," Garcia said.

COURT APPROVES FEDERAL GRANT APPLICATION FOR ADULT DRUG TREATMENT COURT

Commissioners court members voted 5-0 to authorize the application by the Val Verde County Adult Drug Treatment Court for a federal grant that will only include in-kind matching, with no financial obligation to the county.

Val Verde County Court-At-Law Judge Sergio Gonzalez attended the meeting with members of his Adult Drug Treatment Court and Juvenile Drug Treatment Court and thanked the court "for its steadfast support of our specialty court state grant programs and its continued efforts to secure federal funding."

Gonzalez said the specialty courts "serve high-risk, high-need individuals not expected to succeed under traditional probation" and noted the specialty courts' outcomes "reduce the financial and social costs associated with repeated arrests, court involvement, incarceration and victimization, thereby protecting Val Verde County taxpayers and enabling limited county resources to serve more residents effectively."

COURT APPROVES PAY-



Crews eye rising waters during the rescue of a Val Verde County Precinct 2 road crew employee stranded after floodwaters overwhelmed his county work truck on Dolan Creek Road on Oct. 1. The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Val Verde County Sheriff's Office and Val Verde County Fire Department responded to the rescue. (Courtesy photo)

MENT TO BELONG OF DEL RIO

Commissioners court members voted 5-0 to approve a \$2,500 payment to Belong of Del Rio.

Roxanne Carter, regional director of SJRC Texas/Belong, spoke to the work her organization has done over the past quarter.

Carter said Belong is in the process of implementing additional community partnerships as well as conducting more car seat

and CPR training workshops for the public.

She also said she will be putting together "child safety kits" so those who attend the car seat training can have the educational kits to take home with them.

COURT APPROVES APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Commissioners court members voted 5-0 to ap-

ply for the 2027-2028 Community Development Block Grant community development fund program through the Texas Department of Agriculture in the amount of \$750,000.

County Judge Lewis G. Owens Jr. asked Carl Esser, the county's grants administrator, if he needed a list of projects the county would fund with the grant, if it is approved.

SEE ROUNDUP- PAGE 28



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Garza defends going to granddaughter's christening, missing TBO event

BY JOEL LANGTON
THE 830 TIMES

Texas House District 74 candidate Robert Garza said Wednesday that family commitments kept him from attending The Border Organization's Sunday candidate forum, responding to criticism of his absence by an Eagle Pass publication.

Garza felt like the attack was unfair and that he had met with The Border Organization prior to the forum. TBO felt like Garza was going to try and be back for their Sunday event.

Gage Brown, an organizer with TBO confirmed that Garza met with them on Sept. 29. They just felt he implied he'd try and be back.

Brown said organizers understood Garza would try to return for Sunday's forum. Garza said he had explained that his grand-

daughter's baptism and related family activities would prevent him from attending.

Wednesday morning, Garza said, "there was no way I was missing my granddaughter's christening. I wanted to enjoy my time with family." Garza's granddaughter's christening was on Saturday, she was introduced at church on Sunday followed by family activities.

The following statement appeared on Garza's Robert Garza for Texas State Representative Tuesday afternoon.

Statement from Robert Garza for HD 74 Campaign:

Mr. Garza was invited to The Border Organization's candidate forum and met with the organization to answer their questions and concerns at his office on Tuesday, September 29, 2026.

He explained several times that the date and time of the forum cre-

ated a scheduling conflict with his granddaughter's baptism in Harris County. The organization considered changing the date but ultimately declined to reschedule. Mr. Garza again reminded the organization early on Sunday that he could not attend because of family events. For Robert Garza, family and faith come first.

No Republican candidates attended the forum, yet Robert Garza was singled out for a negative headline. The News Leader also failed to mention State Rep. Eddie Morales' absence from an important special legislative session on congressional redistricting at the Capitol in Austin, where he was needed to create a quorum and to represent his constituents.

Robert Garza has a proven record of showing up to represent his constituents, serving 4 years as Del Rio Mayor, 8 years as Del Rio City Councilman, 6 years as San Felipe



Robert Garza and his granddaughter's a Del Rio attorney running for House District 74 (Courtesy photo)

Del Rio School Board Trustee and 2 years as Brackettville City Councilman.

He will continue to put family, faith, and community first as he seeks to serve House District 74.





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BORDER ORG. - FROM PAGE 3

da would be presented as a series of questions posed by different leaders of the organization, adding the candidates would not be answering questions from the audience.

"The questions are posed in such a manner that the candidates should answer with a clear yes or no, and each candidate is given two minutes to elaborate," Arreola said.

Arreola then introduced the candidates and invited Del Rioan Anakin Zulayka to the podium to ask the first question.

Zulayka's question dealt with healthcare and SNAP benefits. He said he is a new father, and despite working to support his family, he does not have medical insurance.

"Securing the basic necessities is almost impossible for a young family like mine. It doesn't matter how hard I work, the cost of living continues to go up, and my worst fear is not being able to provide for my daughters. Current leaders continue to play politics with the lives of Texans by refusing to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, a measure that would expand affordable health care to more than one million Texans if enacted. Additionally, about five million Americans lost their SNAP benefits last year," Zulayka said.

He asked the state candidates if they would support the expansion of Medicaid to ensure all Texans have access to healthcare and the federal candidate if she would support Medicare For All and restore SNAP benefits "for the many struggling families in our community."

Gutierrez said yes to the question, adding Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has denied Medicaid expansion since the beginning of the Affordable Care Act, adding it has cost the state \$100 billion. He said the expansion would affect about 570,000 Texans.

"Greg Abbott and the people who are not here tonight, our opponents, have chosen to tell the

people in this community and all across Texas and give you the middle finger and tell you that you don't deserve it, that you don't need it, that the county could do better, and they can save you money, and all that's BS," Gutierrez said.

Morales also answered yes, and decried the three Republican candidates who did not attend the session, saying they did not attend because "they can't face you because they know that you are hurting, they know that groceries and prices continue to increase and access to quality healthcare continues to vanish." He added both he and Gutierrez supported the state's Health Stabilization Act and co-authored HB3000, which allows rural communities to receive up to \$500,000 in grant funds to purchase ambulances.

Padilla Stout said, "Yes, I would absolutely vote for Medicare For All. Healthcare is a human right and is something everyone should be entitled to." She added the cutting of SNAP benefits is one of the reasons she decided to run for office.

"Cutting SNAP benefits does nothing but hurt and affect our most vulnerable children. . . and cutting of SNAP benefits also affects Meals on Wheels, so now we're talking about not feeding our most vulnerable children, but also not feeding our home-bound senior citizens," Padilla Stout said.

Amanda Griffin, a leader with The Border Organization in Del Rio, posed the next question, which dealt with data centers and high-voltage power lines.

Griffin, vice president of the Hill Country Preservation Coalition, asked Padilla Stout if she would support a moratorium on data centers and the state candidates if they would support a moratorium on data centers, give counties the right to vote on the issue and support a complete pause on 765kV power lines until alternatives are considered.

Padilla Stout said she "whole-



Katy Padilla Stout, Democratic Party nominee for Texas District 23 in the U.S. House of Representatives, answers a questions. (Photo by Karen Gleason)

heartedly supports" a moratorium on data centers, adding data center placement and construction should be subject to "at least federal minimal regulation before it even gets into the hands of the states, counties and cities."

Morales and Gutierrez both said they supported a data center moratorium, with Morales saying that his district is one with the most proposed data centers and emphasizing the importance of not providing tax abatements for them. Gutierrez said he has asked Abbott for such a moratorium and urged the 765kV Howard-Solstice line be routed along I-10.

Former Del Rio Police Department Officer Eddie Cortez asked the next question, which dealt with immigration. Cortez said the Texas Legislature passed SB8, a law that requires local enforcement agencies to enter into an agreement with ICE to assist in federal im-

migration enforcement. He asked the state candidates if they would work to rescind Senate Bill 8 "and any other legislation requiring local law enforcement to work in collaboration with ICE."

Cortez asked Padilla Stout if she would support "a humane and accessible pathway to citizenship for our undocumented neighbors."

Morales said he learned in meetings with local law enforcement officers that the reasons behind SB8 were valid, but "the way they've implemented it has been the problem," adding those meetings have also led him to believe they are not fully in favor of rescinding SB8, but added, "We do need guardrails," then pledged "to work tirelessly to make sure that those changes are made, and we have fair treatment of all residents

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Recent rains give Lake Amistad a much-needed boost

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Recent rains have given Lake Amistad a significant boost, raising the reservoir by more than 3 feet in a week.

The lake's average water level climbed from 1,056.42 feet above sea level Sept. 28 to 1,059.55 feet Oct. 5, according to the Texas Water Development Board.

The latest available reading Monday morning placed the lake slightly higher, at 1,059.57 feet, still approximately 57.4 feet below its conservation pool elevation of 1,117 feet.

According to the board, Texas' share of Amistad's conservation storage was 43.5% full Monday, up from 40% a week earlier.

The board listed reservoir storage at approximately 839,705 acre-

feet, an increase of about 67,500 acre-feet since Sept. 28.

The gains are even greater over the past three months.

On July 5, the lake's average elevation was 1,047.89 feet, reservoir storage stood at 614,113 acre-feet and Texas' share of conservation storage was 29.7% full.

Since then, the lake has risen approximately 11.7 feet and added about 225,600 acre-feet of reservoir storage, while Texas' share of conservation storage has increased by 13.8 percentage points.

Despite the recent gains, Amistad remains well below its conservation pool elevation.

The figures are provisional and subject to revision as additional measurements become available.



Although much of the recent rain missed Del Rio, it pushed water into rivers like the Devils River, that feed into Lake Amistad, raising the lake's water level. Monday's average water level was the highest since Jan. 29, 2024, according to historical data from the Texas Water Development Board. (Photo courtesy of Hooker's One Stop)

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People who buy their tickets now for the Wild Game Dinner will get a two-for-one on early purchase of tickets. For more information, call the Del Rio Chamber of Commerce at 830-775-3551 for information about this event that helps the community in advocacy efforts to high school scholarships. (Courtesy photo)

Chamber offers special raffles ahead of Wild Game Dinner

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Del Rio Chamber of Commerce's Special Projects Committee is offering two firearm raffles ahead of the 38th Wild Game Dinner, scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Del Rio Civic Center.

A three-gun special raffle will be held Tuesday, Oct. 20, with the drawing broadcast live at 4 p.m. on the chamber's Facebook page. Winners will also be announced on social me-

dia, according to Jimmy Murdoch, chairman of the Chamber's special projects committee.

The event helps finance the chamber's advocacy efforts and provides scholarships for local high school seniors.

Prizes include a Brownie AB3 .270 rifle, a Henry Golden Boy .22 LR rifle and a Weatherby Element 20-gauge shotgun.

Organizers are advertising half-price raffle tickets, with packages of 50 tick-

ets for \$25 or 100 tickets for \$50. Tickets will still be eligible for one of the 100 guns raffled off in the December event.

A separate bonus raffle will feature three handguns, with raffle cards available for \$20 each. Three decks of 54 cards will be sold, with one deck assigned to each handgun. The handgun selections and drawing date were not specified in the promotional materials.

Tickets and cards can

be purchased at the chamber office, 1915 Veterans Blvd., by calling 830-775-3551 or through a member of the Special Projects Committee.

Blanca Larson, Del Rio Chamber of Commerce President and CEO said buyers unable to visit the office can pay by phone by calling 830-775-3551 and receive a photograph of their ticket numbers or card assignment.

Winners do not have to be present. According to or-

ganizers, out-of-town and out-of-state winners may have firearms shipped to a licensed firearms dealer at their own expense.

The iconic Dec. 5 Wild Game Dinner will include a gun raffle and auction along with a dinner featuring a number of foods from throughout the region. Sponsorship tables are available, and additional information can be obtained by calling the chamber at 830-775-3551.

QUESTIONS - FROM PAGE 8

in District 74 and in the state of Texas."

Gutierrez said he voted against SB8 and pledged to attempt to repeal SB8 if he is re-elected, and said, "What's happening right now in our country, I want to be very clear, is illegal, and it must stop now, and these are Nazis and it is Gestapo tactics." He said he would rather see the \$10 billion he said has been "wasted" on border security to be used for healthcare and education.

Padilla Stout said, "Yes, I would absolutely support a pathway to citizenship for members of our community that have already been here. My grandparents were both undocumented. . . My father was a first-generation American who worked as a migrant farmworker." She said her father eventually became an attorney, adding, "The best and the brightest are not always born in the most well-connected and affluent families."

Questions about gun control were next on the agenda, asked by Denise Feldtman, a leader with The Border Organization in Uvalde, who told the audience she began going to every meeting of the Uvalde public school district's board of trustees following the shooting of 19 students and two teachers at the Robb Elementary School. She said "the cries of the parents of the murdered children for transparency and accountability were falling on deaf ears."

After speaking in some detail about the shooting, Feldtman asked all the candidates if they would support raising the age to purchase a firearm from 18 to 21 years of age, require universal background checks and restrict the sale of assault weapons.

All three candidates answered yes to all three questions. Each of the three also offered additional comments, with Gutierrez saying he also supported "extreme risk

protective orders," allowing a judge to temporarily remove firearms from the home of a person who is mentally ill or who has threatened to hurt others.

Padilla Stout said the Uvalde mass shooting was another reason she decided to run for public office, adding, "We can no longer pretend that this is not a problem." Morales answered "yes" to all of the questions and praised Gutierrez "for being the voice of Uvalde."

Betty Gonzalez, a leader of The Border Organization in Uvalde and the resident of a colonia called Uvalde Estates, asked each of the candidates, if elected, would they work to secure state or federal funds for areas with poor or no water infrastructure like Uvalde Estates in Uvalde and Moreno Valley Subdivision in Del Rio.

All three candidates said they would work to secure additional funding for water infrastructure for border counties. Gutierrez not-

ed, "Water is the biggest problem facing Texas and the United States of America, and it's the problem you don't hear Republicans talking about at all."

Carlos Coronado, a leader of the Border Organization in Val Verde County, posed the next question, to ask about jobs and minimum wage increases. Coronado asked the state candidates if they would work to introduce a workforce development initiative for "sustainable, living wage jobs." He asked Padilla Stout if she would introduce a similar initiative at the federal level and support raising the federal minimum wage to at least \$15 an hour.

All three of the candidates answered yes to the TBO questions.

The final two questions dealt with issues facing Eagle Pass residents. (See separate story.)

The writer can be reached at delriomagnoliafan@gmail.com

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¿Qué pasa? **830 Entertainment**

Methodist unveils community pumpkin patch

The First United Methodist Church has brought back its annual pumpkin patch at its location on 100 Spring St., which will be open for pumpkin shopping till its last day on Saturday, Oct. 31. (Photo by Louis Zylka)

See page QP2

Bring families and friends to go pumpkin shopping

BY LOUIS ZYLKA
THE 830 TIMES

Shop for pumpkins at the 17th Annual Pumpkin Patch at the First United Methodist Church (FUMC), 100 Spring St., lasting all the way to Saturday, Oct. 31.

The local pumpkin patch, which opened to the public on Sunday, Oct. 4, is put together by the FUMC. The hours of operation will be Mondays through Fridays from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.

When you visit the church, you will be greeted with hundreds of pumpkins in various sizes and shades of orange scattered across the entrance and on the right side of the building. A couple of face-in-the-hole boards and wagons are also on display for visitors to take photos.

With the fall season here, FUMC will also have a country store on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and hayrides on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Ronda Kohut, event coordinator for the pumpkin patch, spoke with The 830 Times about what else visitors can expect and how the opening day performed. Kohut said volunteers helped unload 1,200 pumpkins and 1,000 specialty

pumpkins on Saturday, Oct. 3. She then said the pumpkin patch did “really well” for the first day on Sunday. Kohut added the weather worked in the event’s favor.

Kohut said the major difference in this year’s pumpkin patch is the change in times during the weekdays, which originally opened at 1 p.m. She said the change is to help get more business flowing and volunteers involved.

Pumpkins are sold based on their size, which Kohut said is determined by a measuring tape used by the volunteers at the patch. Pumpkins can range from \$3 to \$50, while specialty pumpkins have specific set prices.

All proceeds go back to serving the community. Kohut said her team raised \$8,200 last year from donations and money made from pumpkins sold, including at the country store. The \$8,200 went to helping the cancer resource room at Val Verde Regional Medical Center, the Bethel Center, Baptist Child Family Services, the Wesley Nurse Healthcare Ministry at FUMC and CASA of Val Verde County.

Kohut encourages the community to visit the pumpkin patch, adding “every year we design (the patch) to be a little different so that helps it (attract more people).”

(From left) Chris Evert, John Fletcher and Erica Tyler help unload pumpkins at the First United Methodist Church (FUMC) on Saturday, Oct. 3. The 17th Annual Pumpkin Patch returns to FUMC at 100 Spring St. (Photo by Robin Palmer)



Whitehead travels back in time to the renaissance era

BY LOUIS ZYLKA
THE 830 TIMES

The Del Rio Renaissance Faire will return to the Whitehead Memorial Museum on Friday, Oct. 9, from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 10, from 5:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

The Del Rio Renaissance Faire began three years ago and is inspired by medieval periods and 16th century European aesthetics. Eighteen vendors will be in attendance, selling various food item, art and hand-crafted items.

Haven Mancha, spoke with The 830 Times about this year's "Ren Faire" and what makes it different from those in previous years. Mancha said the creation of the faire is based off her experiences visiting other renaissance-themed festivals out of town with her partner, Nathan Villarreal. She mentioned the best way to describe the Ren Faire experience is by calling it "whimsical," which she wants to create for people in Del Rio.

"I want everyone who attends the fair to experience some whimsy and magic along with friendship; I want the general public to enjoy whimsical things, even if it makes you feel silly at first," Mancha said.

Mancha said the major change for this year's faire is it will start at later times, which gives people more opportunities to visit after getting off work. Mancha also mentioned the change in times helps turn the faire into a night market and make it easier for guests who might have



Myles Kent Jakubowski, a local carpenter from Wood Troll Studios, uses a wheel to spin thread at the Del Rio Renaissance Faire on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024, at the Whitehead Memorial Museum. Wood Troll Studios will return to this year's local renaissance faire on Friday, Oct. 9, and Saturday, Oct. 10. (Photo by Louis Zylka)

heat issues.

Mancha said the entertainment would include presentations on the history of the spinning wheel by Myles Kent Jakubowski from Wood Troll Studios. Members from Draculina's Nerdvana and the Topsy Gecko will participate in a bellydancing performance. Minor Farms will be in at-

tendance with their petting zoo, and a masseuse will also be on location offering massages. Mancha mentioned that no pets are allowed at the faire.

The Ren Faire will have a costume contest and a beard contest, which involves judging an individual's facial hair based on length, style and quality.

Mancha said attendees can dress however they please, adding that her team have seen people dress in various creative outfits in the past. She also said there will be a professional photographer on site to take photos.

Besides vendors selling customized foods for the Ren Faire, Mancha said

the Whitehead will also be selling turkey legs and draft beer. She said her team's relationship with the Whitehead has been in good standing.

Entry fee for the Del Rio Renaissance Faire will be \$5 per person. Children five-years or under and seniors will be free to enter.

Movie Review: Digger

BY LOUIS ZYLKA
THE 830 TIMES

Tom Cruise can still be regarded as the biggest movie star living and still working today. But much of Cruise's success has been from his wheelhouse of delivering high stunts and thrilling action set pieces in blockbusters such as "Top Gun: Maverick" and the "Mission Impossible" sequels. Now Cruise has slowed down to give a daring and thought-provoking performance in

Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's "Digger."

Inarritu, known for bringing us "Birdman" (2014) and "The Revenant" (2015), gives movie goers an artistic film heavily inspired by dark comedies such as Stanley Kubrick's "Dr. Strangelove." Cruise is in the center playing Digger Rockwell, a wealthy billionaire oil tycoon who is called in to save the world from an upcoming global-scaled threat caused by a huge ice shelf, which has fallen

into the ocean near Europe and will cause threatening weather conditions. Rockwell aims to help stop this upcoming doom, while also causing and facing other twists and turns that make the premise complicated to explain without spoiling the film.

"Digger" has a strong cast with competent performances by Riz Ahmed, John Goodman and more. The main attraction is Cruise as Rockwell, who gives his most outrageous and fascinating performance in recent years. However, the movie's quality is not the same as the performances Cruise and the cast give. "Digger" is a more disappointing experience with an uneven pace and strange decisions on the narrative, making



Digger Rockwell (Tom Cruise) has to decide how to save the world from a shift in global temperatures in Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's "Digger." (Courtesy Photo)

it both the strangest and one of the most memorable movie-going experiences of the year.

Inarritu's highly anticipated political satire may have its audiences, which could grow in years to come with revisited viewings, but

"Digger" is not a crowd pleaser. While there are entertaining scenes and intriguing themes being tossed around, the newest Tom-Cruise-leading film is a daring theatrical experiment that viewers must approach with caution.

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1



RAMS FOOTBALL GAME

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9TH

SUPPORT THE RAMS DURING THE HOME GAME AGAINST LAREDO UNITED SOUTH AT WALTER LEVERMANN STADIUM, 100 MEMORIAL DRIVE, ON FRIDAY, OCT. 9, AT 7:30 P.M.

RENAISSANCE FAIRE AT WHITEHEAD

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9TH, AND SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH

DRESS UP IN MEDIEVAL ATTIRE AND GET TRANSPORTED TO THE PAST AT THE DEL RIO RENAISSANCE FAIRE ON FRIDAY, OCT. 9, AT 6 P.M. AND SATURDAY, OCT. 10, AT 5 P.M.



2

3

RIO GRANDE METAL DETECTING PRESENTS

HALLOWEEN METAL MAYHEM

HALLOWEEN METAL MAYHEM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH

ROCK OUT AND LISTEN TO HEAVY METAL BANDS AT THE CASA DE LA CULTURA, 302 CANTU ST., ON SATURDAY, OCT. 10, AT 7 P.M.

MAD TEA PARTY AT MESQUITE CREEK OUTFITTERS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11TH

RESERVE A SEAT AND ENJOY COFFEE, TEA AND AN ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT-BRUNCH GRAZING TABLE AT MESQUITE CREEK OUTFITTERS, 800 S. MAIN ST., ON SUNDAY, OCT. 11, FROM 11 A.M. TO 1 P.M.



4

5



PUMPKIN PATCH AT METHODIST CHURCH

OCT. 9 THROUGH OCT. 31

SHOP FOR PUMPKINS AT THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 100 SPRING ST., WHICH LASTS TILL SATURDAY, OCT. 31



The Upstagers
Production of

facebook.com/
TheUpstagersDelRio
www.upstagers.org

Directed by
Rob Wade

Swingtime CANTEEN

Book by Linda Thorsen Bond,
William Repicci and Charles Busch
Orchestrations and Vocal Arrangements by Bob McDowell
Special Material by Dick Gallagher

OCT 9, 10, 16 & 17
7:30 PM @ CIVIC CENTER RED OAK BALLROOM

ADULTS: \$20
STUDENTS: \$15
(KINDER -
HIGH SCHOOL)

TICKET OUTLETS: (CASH / CHECK ONLY)
PAULINO'S SERVICE CENTER 4220 Hwy 90 West
DIAMOND'S SALON 709 E. Gibbs St.
DEL RIO FEED & SUPPLY 111 E. Gibbs St.
MESQUITE CREEK OUTFITTERS 800 S. Main St.
TICKETS AT THE DOOR: (CASH/CHECK/CREDIT CARD)

830 Entertainment: *Events at a glance!*

17TH ANNUAL PUMPKIN PATCH

OCT. 9 THROUGH OCT. 31 - The First United Methodist Church, 100 Spring St., has brought back its annual pumpkin patch available from Friday, Oct. 9, 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 FOOTBALL GAME

OCT. 9 - The Del Rio High School Football team will play against Laredo United South at Del Rio High School, 100 Memorial Dr, on Friday, Oct. 9, at 7:30 p.m.

DEL RIO RENAISSANCE FAIRE

OCT. 9 & 10 - The Del Rio Renaissance Faire returns to the Whitehead Memorial Museum, 1308 S. Main St., on Friday, Oct. 9, from 6 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 10, from 5 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

MARCOS MARES ART STUDIO & GALLERY ART CLASSES

OCT. 10 - Children are invited to learn techniques using pencil, water colors and more at Marcos Mares Art Studio & Gallery, 205 E. Ogden St., on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$40 for an individual class and \$140 for an entire month.

POP UP DRTX

OCT. 10 - The Pop Up DRTX market events will be celebrating its four-year anniversary with 30 vendors at the Kress Building, 720 S. Main St., on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

QUEEN CITY MARKET

OCT. 10 - Queen City Market will be presenting its "Fall Into Fun" market event at A. Ramon Imports, 5601 E. Hwy 90, on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

HALLOWEEN METAL MAYHEM

OCT. 10 - Six heavy-metal bands will perform at the Casa de la Cultura, 302 Cantu St., on Saturday, Oct. 10, starting at 7 p.m. The event is free and doors will open at 6 p.m.

AME (AMISTAD MUSIC EVENT)

OCT. 10 - Enjoy house/techno music at 713 E. Losoya on Saturday, Oct. 9, starting at 11 p.m. The DJ lineup includes DJ Trajic, Cybersoul, DJ Oscar and IronButterfly.

MAD TEA PARTY

OCT. 11 - Mesquite Creek Outfitters will have an all-you-can-eat brunch grazing table with a coffee-and-tea bar on Sunday, Oct. 11, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Purchase a ticket on Mesquite's official website.

SQUISHY BUNDLES

OCT. 11 - Shop from local vendors at the enchanted event center, 4934 US Highway, on Sunday, Oct. 11, from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

TODDLER TUESDAY

OCT. 13 - Young children can interact with their peers in a safe environment at Val Verde County Library, 300 Spring St., on Tuesday, Oct. 13, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

YOGA CLASSES AT THE FIREHOUSE

OCT. 13 & OCT. 15 - Del Rio Council for the Arts at the Firehouse, 120 E. Garfield St., will have beginner-friendly yoga classes on Tuesday, Oct. 13, and Thursday, Oct. 15, at 6 p.m. Tuition for a single-day class is \$10.

QUEENS VOLLEYBALL GAME

OCT. 13 - The Del Rio High School volleyball teams will play against SA Legacy at Del Rio High School, 100 Memorial Dr, on Tuesday, Oct. 13. JV and Freshman teams will play at 5:30 a.m., and varsity will play at 7 p.m.

AUTUMN PALETTE, LEAVES IN COLOR WORKSHOP

OCT. 15 - Learn to work with fall colors while painting autumn leaves at Marcos Mares Art Studio & Gallery, 205 E. Ogden St., on Thursday, Oct. 15, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Entry fee is \$40 per person.

OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT FOR KIDS

OCT. 15 - Children can enjoy a screening of "Lady and the Tramp" at the First United Methodist Church basketball courts, 100 Spring St., on Thursday, Oct. 15 (Time TBA).

BOTS & BOOKS

OCT. 15 - Students from third-grade levels to 12th-grade levels can participate in activities in the robotics program at the Val Verde County Library, 300 Spring St., on Thursday, Oct. 15, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

NIGHTMARES ON MAIN ST.

OCT. 15 - Mesquite Creek Outfitters, 800 S. Main St., will be screening "Nightmare on Elm Street" as part of its weekly horror-movie marathon on Thursday, Oct. 15, at 7:30 p.m.

FIESTA DE AMISTAD

OCT. 17 & 18 - The International Good Neighbor Council (IGNC) will bring back the annual Fiesta de Amistad celebrations on Friday, Oct. 17, and Saturday, Oct. 18. Stay updated with The 830 Times for more details.

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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Book by Linda Thorsen Bond,
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Orchestrations and Vocal Arrangements by Bob McDowell
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7:30 PM @ CIVIC CENTER RED OAK BALLROOM

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EARLY VOTING (ALL PRECINCTS) DEL RIO CIVIC CENTER 1915 VETERANS BLVD

**Val Verde County
General Election**
Tuesday, November 3, 2026
7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Precinct	Polling Location	Address
10, 11, 12 & 13	Joe Ramos Center	1105 W. De La Rosa
20, 21, 22, 23 &	Del Rio Civic Center	1915 Veteran's Blvd.
24 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

Monday, October 19, 2026 – Friday, October 23, 2026
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

- ❑ First day to apply for a ballot by mail: **January 1, 2026**
- ❑ 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:
Teresa Esther Chapoy, Val Verde County Clerk
400 Pecan St. – PO Box 1267
Del Rio, TX 78841-1267
Phone: (830) 774-7564 Fax: (830) 774-7608
Email: elections@valverdecountry.texas.gov



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Comstock's boys and girls cross country teams celebrate their performances at the District 31-1A meet Monday in Utopia. The varsity boys won their sixth consecutive district title, while the girls placed third, qualifying both teams for the Region IV meet in Corpus Christi. Comstock's junior varsity boys also won their division. (Courtesy photo)

Comstock boys claim sixth straight district cross country title

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Comstock Panthers captured their sixth consecutive District 31-1A boys cross country championship Monday, Oct. 5, in Utopia, Texas, sweeping the top three individual places and qualifying for the Region IV meet in Corpus Christi.

Comstock finished with 20 points, comfortably ahead of runner-up Rocksprings with 58 and third-place Utopia with 74, according to Athlete Guild's meet results. Six Panthers finished among the top 10.

The Panthers have finished among the top six teams at the Class 1A state meet each of the past three years. Comstock placed third with 106 points in 2023, won the state championship with 57 points in 2024 and finished sixth with 154 points in 2025, according to UIL records.

The Panthers are ranked No. 8

in Class 1A in the Cross Country Coaches Association of Texas's latest posted coaches poll.

Noah Bahena claimed this year's individual district championship, completing the race in 17 minutes, 56.665 seconds. Gustavo "Gus" Flores finished second in 19:08.018, followed by John Howell in third at 19:26.146. Dalton Hutchinson placed fifth in 19:37.630, Martin Lopez finished ninth in 20:23.519 and Jacob Allen took 10th in 20:36.007. Alan Huerta rounded out Comstock's varsity lineup, placing 20th in 22:27.876.

The Lady Panthers also qualified for the regional meet, finishing third with 83 points. Nueces Canyon won the girls championship with 45 points, followed by D'Hanis with 78. Comstock finished seven points ahead of fourth-place Utopia.

Fernanda Lopez led the Lady Panthers with an eighth-place fin-

ish in 14:08.797, while Alexis Guajardo placed 10th in 14:49.237. Both earned top-10 medals.

Charlotte Kennedy finished 18th in 15:20.984, Sophia Flores placed 19th in 15:30.452 and Lucero Tarango took 29th in 16:32.011. Anna Bahena finished 36th in 19:16.568, and Maya Lopez placed 39th in 20:21.940.

Comstock also won the junior varsity boys division. Anthony Carston claimed the individual championship in 20:57.670, followed by Julian Perez in second at 21:10.410 and Ruben Chavez in third at 23:35.715.

Liam Graff finished fifth, Steven Kaler sixth and Alexander Ward seventh as the Panthers added another division victory to their district performance.

According to information provided by Comstock, the varsity boys and girls will next compete at the Region IV meet in Corpus Christi.

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RAMS & QUEENS SPORTS ROUNDUP

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DEL RIO SPORTS ROUNDUP

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QUEENS VOLLEYBALL

BEAT SOUTHWEST 3-1 OCT. 2 AND SWEPT LAREDO LBJ 3-0 OCT. 6;
NOW 15-10 OVERALL, 3-6 IN DISTRICT.

RAMS FOOTBALL: The team rested up with an off week.

CROSS COUNTRY: Competed at SA Legacy Invitational (Canceled due to Weather)

TENNIS: Del Rio fell in the first round of the playoffs against O'Connor after a successful season

SWIMMING: Boys finished 5th, Girls 9th at SCUC Spring Invitational at Schertz.

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

RAMS FOOTBALL	QUEENS VOLLEYBALL	CROSS COUNTRY	GOLF	SWIM TEAM
HOST LAREDO UNITED SOUTH FRIDAY, OCT. 9, AT 7:30 P.M.	AT LAREDO UNITED SOUTH SATURDAY, OCT. 10; HOST SOUTHWEST LEGACY TUESDAY, OCT. 13, AT 7 P.M.	WILL COMPETE FOR A VARSITY AND JV DISTRICT MEET SATURDAY, OCT. 14, IN SAN ANTONIO.	GOLF: CIGARROA INVITATIONAL, MAX MANDEL, LAREDO, OCT. 22-24; BOYS, GIRLS.	BOYS AND GIRLS SWIMMING: SIETE BANDERAS CLASS MEET, UISD NATATORIUM, LAREDO, OCT. 17.



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Queens volleyball catches fire in October

BY JOEL LANGTON
THE 830 TIMES

The Del Rio Queens' pink shirts for October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month simply say "Fight." It's a word the Queens have taken to heart, turning a four-match September losing streak into a two-match winning streak in October.

It took plenty of fight Tuesday to overcome Laredo LBJ. The Queens won the opening set 25-18, then pushed the final two sets into extra points to complete a three-set sweep, 26-24 and 27-25.

The victory improved Del Rio to 15-10 overall and 3-6 in District 30-6A. LBJ dropped to 17-14 overall and 3-6 in district, according to the Laredo Morning Times' scoreboard.

The Queens began their October turnaround with a 3-1 road victory over Southwest on Friday, winning 26-24, 25-22, 16-25 and 25-22 to end their four-match slide.

Tuesday's win also evened the season series with LBJ, after the Lady Wolves defeated Del Rio 3-2 in their Sept. 12 meeting.

The gym was full of screaming fans, led by athletic director Frenchy McCrea, who thrust himself into the role of head volleyball cheerleader.

The opening set remained close at 20-17 before the Queens caught fire and pulled away from the Lady Wolves.

The second set was more

of a battle royale. Del Rio trailed 24-23 before reeling off three consecutive points to claim the set, 26-24.

In the third set, the Queens gave the Lady Wolves a head start, falling behind 10-5 before pulling even at 18-18. LBJ moved back ahead 20-18, but Del Rio battled back and eventually claimed the set and match, 27-25.

With five district matches remaining, the Queens have pushed themselves back into the playoff race.

LEARNING FROM LOSSES

Queens coach Angelica Rivera said the second-round turnaround grew out of tough losses during the first round.

"We've had a lot of time to watch film. We've had a lot of time to think about our moments and our game," Rivera said. "This is everybody that we should have beat from the beginning. So now the girls want it even more because we saw it, we watched it on film, we watched ourselves, and the girls know what they can do better."

Rivera said the team's six seniors are entering their final five district matches and potentially their final competitive volleyball games.

She has implemented some coaching tweaks for a team that came close during the first round but struggled to finish matches.

Volleyball is a mental game, Rivera said, and the

Queens have focused more on that aspect, kicking off the week with a "Mental Monday."

"They have a journal," Rivera said. "They write in this journal. They have an activity where they really sit there and think about their mindset for the week, and then we have goals that we started putting up," she said, pointing toward several poster boards listing team goals in a corner of the gym. "But at the end of the day, it's working on those little mistakes that we made, and we've just stuck to the same thing."

ENERGIZED AD

While much of the work involves the mental side of volleyball, another challenge is keeping players from overthinking. That's where the head cheerleader, also known as the athletic director, steps in.

McCrea has learned to read athletes during his 23 years of coaching and serving as athletic director.

"For me, the level of concern for me was the facial expressions on the girls' faces. You know, we were having fun, and then all of a sudden we made a few mistakes, and it seemed like our girls were coming down a little bit, overthinking, and I knew if we could just get the energy back up, they would stop thinking and start playing volleyball," McCrea said.

So McCrea took matters into his own hands, working to create enough noise and excitement to help the



Lauryn Jimenez, a Junior on the Queens volleyball team, smacks a spike during Tuesday's 3-0 victory against Laredo's LBJ. (Photo by Hernan Gonzalez)

Queens regain their confidence.

His efforts have included bringing the newly named "Dad Coalition" down from the stands to cheer with their booming voices.

Tuesday, he encouraged parents to get louder, then moved down to rally the student section. At one point, he ran to his office, returned with a stack of Queens volleyball hand towels and tossed them into the stands.

"We just got all of this hype behind the girls and they are responding," he said.

They are responding with victories over teams that beat them earlier in district play. Now the question is if the Queens can keep it up and claim a playoff spot.

In Tuesday's junior varsity match, LBJ defeated Del Rio 25-15 and 25-22.



Five-year-old Greyson Levrie rides high behind the wheel of the Del Rio Fire Department's Engine #7. (Photo by Karen Gleason)

Del Rio Police Department Capt. Valentin Martinez, left, shows off some of the accessories in one of the police department's newest patrol vehicles, a Chevrolet Tahoe, to nine-year-old Evan Vicuña, right, during the National Night Out on Tuesday, Oct. 6, held at the county fairgrounds. (Photo by Karen Gleason)



Val Verde County celebrates National Night Out

BY KAREN GLEASON
THE 830 TIMES

Hundreds of Val Verde County residents participated in the annual National Night Out on the grounds of the county fairgrounds on Tuesday, Oct. 6.

The event included city, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies, area fire departments and first responders who exhibited vehicles and equipment and answered questions.

The event was held in conjunction with other National Nights Out in communities across the country.

Too often, the only contact between citizens and the first responders who protect and serve them comes during a crisis – a vehicle crash, a burglary, a fire or a medical emergency. National Night Out gives the public a chance to interact with police, firefighters and ambulance crews under much more relaxed circumstances.

That was one of the foundation-

al ideas behind the development of community events that grew into National Night Out more than 40 years ago.

National Night Out is “an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships. . . that enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community,” according to the National Night Out website, www.natw.org

Del Rio Police Department Capt. Valentin Martinez, left, shows off some of the accessories in one of the police department's newest patrol vehicles, a Chevrolet Tahoe, to nine-year-old Evan Vicuña, right, during the National Night Out on Tuesday, Oct. 6, held at the county fairgrounds. (Photo by Karen Gleason)

At the local event on Tuesday, attending agencies set up exhibits ranging from horses to a helicopter on the county fairgrounds parking lot. Each agency also had sworn personnel and other staff to answer questions and to demonstrate how some of the equipment displayed is used.

Parents brought their children to pet Shadow, one of the horses of the U.S. Border Patrol Del Rio Sector Horse Patrol Unit/Northern Corridor. Parents were also invited to take photos of their youngsters perched on a saddle slung over a bale of hay.

Members of the horse patrol unit explained to visitors that horses are still the most effective means of

Members of the U.S. Border Patrol Del Rio Sector Horse Patrol Unit/Northern Corridor, from left, Ariel Altamirano, Martin Prado and Tyler Snyder, are joined by Shadow, one of the horses the patrol uses, at the National Night Out on Tuesday, Oct. 6. The horses allowed Border Patrol agents to quickly survey territory too rugged for vehicles and to do so more quickly than they could on foot. (Photo by Karen Gleason)



SEE NIGHT OUT- PAGE 30



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GUN RAFFLE & AUCTION**

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UNDER FEDERAL AND STATE LAW, YOU MUST BE:
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**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2026
DEL RIO CIVIC CENTER
1915 VETERANS BVD. DEL RIO TX**

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ROUNDUP - FROM PAGE 4

Esser told the court the county must use at least 51 percent of the funds for “priority one activities,” such as projects dealing with water, streets, drainage and others.

“You don’t have to select a particular project today, you just need to say that you’ll use 51 percent of the funds for those elements,” Esser said.

Commissioner Pct. 4 Gustavo “Gus” Flores asked if the grant funds would be distributed among the four precincts, and Esser replied, “Right now, this is just to get your foot in the door to see if you’ll get an invite to submit a full application.”

He added the pre-application must be submitted by Nov. 19, and Owens said the measure would come back to the court if the county is invited to proceed with a full application.

COURT AUTHORIZES PLAN OF FINANCE AND APPROVES TAX NOTES FOR COUNTY PROJECTS

Commissioners court members voted 5-0 to authorize a plan of finance and approve the issuance of \$2,175,000 in Series 2026 Val Verde County Tax Notes.

County Judge Lewis G. Owens Jr. told the court, “This is your paving money, based on \$5,000 per mile of road, per precinct, and then another \$1,000 per mile of road for Precinct 1 and Precinct 3.”

Owens then recognized David Gonzalez with PFM Financial Advisors LLC of San Antonio, who gave the court a presentation on the issuance of the tax notes.

He discussed treasury and municipal interest rate movements, an overview of the county’s current debt portfolio and the tax rate impact of the Series 2026 notes.

Gonzalez told the court the \$2,175,000 tax note will have no impact on the county’s interest and sinking (I&S) tax rate.

COURT MAJORITY APPROVES

HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX FUNDING FOR CAR SHOW

Commissioners court members voted 4-1 to expend \$2,200 of the county’s hotel occupancy tax (HOT) funds for the Fiesta de Amistad Car Show.

County Judge Lewis G. Owens Jr. gave the sole opposing vote following a presentation by the car show’s organizer, Cesar Garza, owner of Texas Tint.

Garza requested an expenditure of \$7,550.

Garza told the court he started the car show three years ago, in part “to give people a reason to come to Del Rio.”

He said there were 10 cars exhibited at his first show, and 70 cars were exhibited the second year.

Garza said he expects more than 200 cars this year.

Garza said he planned to use the county HOT funds to advertise the car show outside of Del Rio.

Owens noted that data from the Del Rio Chamber of Commerce’s Placer.ai visitor tracker showed 168 out-of-town visitors had attended the car show last year, adding the requested amount would thus break down to \$44.64 per visitor.

Owens said in comparison, the money the county spends on the George Paul Memorial Bullriding event breaks down to \$3.94 per visitor.

The court eventually decided to allocate less than a third of Garza’s original request.

COURT APPROVES AGREEMENT FOR PUBLIC DEFENDERS OFFICE

Commissioners court members voted 5-0 to approve an interlocal agreement between Val Verde County and Culbertson County Far West Texas Regional Public Defenders Office for indigent defense services for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

James McDermott, chief public defender with the regional public defenders office, gave a detailed presentation about the public defenders office in Val Verde County, noting the attorneys in his office here are now taking 100 percent of eligible cases.

“Some weeks we’re in court every day here,” McDermott told the court.

Commissioner Pct. 4 Gustavo “Gus” Flores asked how the deci-

sion to appoint a public defender, and McDermott replied that decision is made by the judge in the case.

The writer can be reached at delriomagnoliafan@gmail.com

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618-593-2285.

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

To: All Interested Persons

In accordance with the environmental review procedures of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found at 40 CFR Part 6 entitled "Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act and Assessing the Environmental Effects Abroad of EPA Actions" as guidance, EPA has performed an environmental review of the following proposed action:

Project Name: Wastewater Collection Improvements in Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila, Mexico
Name and Address of Applicant: Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila, Mexico
Project Location: Ciudad Acuña WWTP, Las Alamedas and Puente Internacional lift stations
Estimated EPA Share: \$ 8,000,000
Estimated Local Share: \$ 48,700,000

Background

Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila is facing critical sanitation challenges that directly impact shared water resources and public health on both sides of the Southern Border. Approximately 20% of the city's wastewater, about 2.24 million gallons per day (MGD), escapes from deteriorated sewer lines and flows untreated into tributaries leading to the Rio Grande. Additionally, frequent electrical failures at key lift stations result in the emergency discharge of up to 11.9 MGD of untreated wastewater directly into the river.

The Rio Grande is the primary source of drinking water for both Ciudad Acuña and Del Rio, Texas. Ongoing discharges of untreated wastewater into this binational waterway jeopardize drinking water safety, contribute to bacterial contamination in Segment 2304 of the river, and pose transboundary health and environmental risks. These impacts undermine the goals of the 1944 Water Treaty and International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) agreements, which commit both countries to cooperative efforts to resolve sanitation problems in the border region.

The project aligns with EPA priorities to protect shared water resources, prevent transboundary pollution, and improve environmental conditions for underserved border communities.

EPA Region 6 has performed an environmental review and assessment on the Environmental Information Document, and other supporting data, prepared for the proposed project. The environmental review and assessment process did not identify any potentially significant adverse environmental impacts associated with the proposed action. The project individually, cumulatively over time, or in conjunction with other actions is not expected to have a significant adverse effect on the quality of the environment. Accordingly, EPA Region 6 has made a preliminary determination that the proposed project is not a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and that preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not warranted.

Comments regarding this preliminary decision not to prepare an EIS and issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) may be submitted to Salvador Gandara, Drinking Water Infrastructure Supervisor, at gandara.salvador@epa.gov. All comments will be taken into consideration. No administrative action will be taken on this decision during the 30-day comment period. This preliminary decision, and the FONSI, will become final after the 30-day comment period expires if no new information is provided to alter this finding.

CLAUDIA
HOSCH

Digitally signed by
CLAUDIA HOSCH
Date: 2026.10.01 10:36:16
-05'00'

Claudia V. Hosch
Branch Manager
Assistance Programs Branch

Date

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment Wastewater Collection Improvements in Wastewater Collection Improvements in Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila, Mexico

The documents are posted on the NADBank website at:
<https://nadbank.org/solutions-and-services/findings-of-no-significant-impact>

PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITATION TO BID

The Housing Authority of the City of Del Rio, Texas is accepting bids for the labor for Concrete work for parking, sidewalks, and fence footing of a multifamily housing development. Bidders may obtain the bid specification requesting it via email to drhousing@gmail.com. The deadline for submission of bids is October 23, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. More detailed information will be provided with the specification. For any other questions you may contact Isidro Valdez Fernandez, Chief Executive Officer to the email mentioned above. The Del Rio Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive informalities, negotiate with qualified contractors, and award the work in the best interest of the agency. Equal Opportunity Employer and Contracting Agency.

PUBLIC NOTICE

AMENDED AFFIDAVIT OF OWNERSHIP BY
ADVERSE POSSESSION

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day appeared Rosa Nava, a/k/a Rosa Maria Nava (hereinafter referred to as "Rosa Nava"). to me well known, and who, after having been by me first duly sworn, upon oath stated:

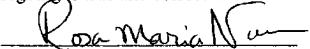
"I, Rosa Nava, residing at 1102 W. Chapoy St., Del Rio, Texas 78840, claims to be the fee simple owner by adverse possession of the real property described as Lot Six (6), Block "C", of Escondido Estates, near the City of Del Rio, Texas, according to the map or plat recorded in Volume 4, Page 5, of the Map Records of Val Verde County, Texas, commonly known as 125 Vista Largo Dr., Del Rio, Texas 78840, hereinafter referred to as "the property".

I claim title to the property by virtue of the following:

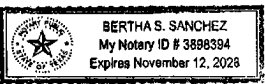
1. I, Rosa Nava first entered the property on October 6, 2000, in peaceable and adverse possession from that date until the present time, peaceable and adverse possession has thus continued for more that (25) twenty-five years, and I, Rosa Nava now own full title under Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code Sections 16.028.
2. The property was purchased by Maria Antonia G. Chavez, my mother from Maria R. Flores through a Warranty Deed dated October 6, 2020, conveying only a life estate to Maria Antonia G. Chavez, which Deed is recorded under document number 0183595 of the Official Public Records of Val Verde County, Texas. Maria R. Flores died on March 3, 2012 in Del Rio, Val Verde County, Texas (14 years as of February 2026).
3. On May 12, 2003, Maria Antonia G. Chavez, conveyed her interest on the property to me, through a Warranty Deed, recorded under document number 0200369 of the Official Public Records of Val Verde County, Texas, (22 years as of February 2026).
4. From October 6, 2000 to the present I have paid all real property taxes to the County of Val Verde, and the San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District, for a total period of 25 years. See Payment Information on Account # 35417 attached hereto.

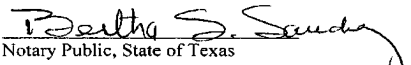
I have had actual continuous, complete possession, dominion, control, used and enjoyed of "the property" for the past 25 years, under color of title. Also, I have paid all real property taxes from 2000 to the present. In addition, no other person or governmental entity has ever claimed any interest on "the property". My ownership of the property has been open and notorious to the community.

"I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct".


Rosa Nava, a/k/a Rosa Maria Nava

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO by Rosa Nava, a/k/a Rosa Maria Nava on this 22 day of Sept, 2026, to certify which witness my hand and seal of office.




Notary Public, State of Texas

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

NOW HIRING

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apply at:
www.trigentsolutions.com/
job-opening

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PUBLIC NOTICE CONTINUED - JOINT NOTICE OF SALE

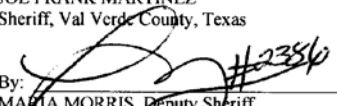
PROP #	CAUSE #	STYLE	PROP DESCRIPTION, ADDRESS, ACCT #
15	2020-0191-CIV	Comstock Independent School District v Barry Watson	5.02 Acres, more or less, being Lot 23, Block 2, Castle Canyon Estates Subdivision, Val Verde County, Texas (Volume 5, Slide 49, of the Map and Plat Records of Val Verde County, 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:  #2386
MARIA MORRIS, Deputy Sheriff
You may contact the attorney for the taxing units at (512) 323-3200.

NIGHT OUT FROM PAGE 10

transportation in the rugged, brushy areas of the sector, giving agents an elevated vantage point and allowing them to cover ground too rough for motorized vehicles.

Other Border Patrol agents exhibited one of the sector’s air boats and all-terrain vehicles and let parents take photos of their children perched on both types of vehicles.

At other exhibits, youngsters could climb into the high cab of the Del Rio Fire Department’s Engine #7, peek inside the back of an ambulance brought by the emergency medical service team at Val Verde Regional Medical Center or look into a Bell 407 helicopter from AirEvac Life Team.

Val Verde County Sheriff’s Office personnel explained the many functions and capabilities of the VVSO’s mobile command unit, and members of the Del Rio Police Department allowed visitors to check out one of the department’s newest vehicle additions, a Chevrolet Tahoe outfitted for patrol work.

Texas Department of Public Safety troopers and personnel were also on hand, as were staff from The Geo Group and a team from the 47th Security Forces Squadron at Laughlin Air Force Base.

The writer can be reached at delriomagno-liafan@gmail.com .



San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District Police Department Chief Joe Faz, center, poses with members of his department at their display tent at the National Night Out Tuesday, Oct. 6. Faz said his department is now comprised of more than 35 officers, all of them licensed Texas peace officers. (Photo by Karen Gleason)



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OUR FUTURE.

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YOUR VOTE.
YOUR VOICE.
☒
BE ELECTION READY!
★★★★★

JOIN US FOR A
COMMUNITY MOCK ELECTION

 **LEARN**
how the election
process works.

 **PRACTICE**
using the voting
machines.

 **BUILD CONFIDENCE**
so you're ready
for Election Day.

★★★★★
EVERY VOTE
STRENGTHENS
our community.



Learn the Process. Practice Your Vote.
Ride into Election Day with Confidence.

 **DATE:**
October 14, 2026

 **TIME:**
6:00 PM

 **LOCATION:**
Val Verde County Library

Presentation and Mock Election will be presented by the Val Verde County Clerk's Office.



LET'S PRACTICE TODAY SO WE'RE
READY TO VOTE TOMORROW!



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OUR NEWSLETTER**

**DON'T MISS
A THING**

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Package Store Permit (P) by PMA LLC dba Sip and Smoke Liquor to be located at 1800 Veterans Blvd, suite E, Del Rio, Val Verde County, Texas, 78840. Paras Mani Arora, Manager.

INVITATION TO BID

The Val Verde Appraisal District is accepting bids until 11:30 a.m., November 19th, 2026 (submission deadline) for its bank depository for the 2027/2028 fiscal year.

The bids will be reviewed and presented for discussion and possible action at the board of directors meeting on November 19, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. Any questions concerning the proposals/bids or for a copy of the bid specifications please contact the Val Verde Appraisal District at 830-774-4602. All bids must be clearly marked on the outside of the sealed bid package **2027/2028 bank depository bid for the Val Verde Appraisal District** and mailed or delivered to the Attention of: Jackie Casanova, at 417 W. Cantu Road, Del Rio, Texas 78840. **The Val Verde Appraisal District reserves the right to reject any and all bids.** Bids received after this time and date will not be accepted.



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Healthcare**

PROGRESSIVE



Obituaries



FRED COX SLOVER

Fred Cox Slover was born in Del Rio, Texas on September 4, 1948. He passed away on October 6, 2026 at the age of seventy-eight in Del Rio, Texas.

He was a proud Vietnam veteran. His passions were hunting and fishing. He was a truck driver for over fifty years.

He was survived by his wife Jeanne Roberts Slover, daughter Courtney Roe, grandson Michaelangelo, brother Rahe and wife Carolyn, step-sons Billy, Jason and Michael Clark, mother-in law Jeri Kynion, brother -in-law James Roberts and numerous nieces and nephews.

A service to celebrate Fred’s life will be held on October 24, 2026 at 10 a.m. at First United Methodist Church, 100 Spring Street. The family requests in lieu of flowers, a donation to First United Methodist Youth Ministries or a charity of your choice.

REY
ROBLES

FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER

PRECINCT 2

✓

PROTECT COUNTY RESOURCES – LOWER TAXES

✓

TRANSPARENT AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF COUNTY FUNDS

✓

IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE IN VAL VERDE COUNTY

A portrait of Rey Robles, a man with short dark hair, wearing a tan cowboy hat, a white button-down shirt, and a tan blazer. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a solid dark purple color.

Political Advertising Paid for by Rey Robles



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