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The 830 TIMES



Veterans Honored

Roberto Salazar, an Army veteran, watches the crowd from the American Legion float during Wednesday's Veterans Day parade in Del Rio. Salazar is one of three brothers who served in the military—Roberto in Panama, his twin Ruben in Korea, and Rene, who died in Vietnam. More than 1,000 people lined the streets to salute the veterans, and several hundred attended the ceremony. Both events were organized by the Val Verde County Veterans Services Office and other veterans. (Photo by Raul Davee Hernandez)


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Del Rio City Council roundup: Council approves police contract, $2.3 million sidewalk agreement

BY KAREN GLEASON
THE 830 TIMES

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

Here's what happened at the meeting:

MAYOR, COUNCIL MEMBERS CONGRATULATE WINNERS, HONOR VETERANS

Mayor Al Arreola congratulated County Judge Lewis G. Owens Jr., Precinct 2 County Commissioner Juan Carlos Vazquez and Precinct 4 County Commissioner Gustavo "Gus" Flores for winning their reelection bids. He congratulated all other candidates elected to office in the Nov. 3 general election.

Arreola also said he was honored to attend the 120th anniversary celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. Councilwoman Carmen Gutierrez reminded everyone Nov. 10 is the 251st anniversary of the founding of the U.S. Marine Corps, and she invited the community to participate in the annual Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11. She also thanked local veterans' organizations for their work.

Councilman LeRoy Briones asked everyone to keep County Judge Lewis G. Owens Jr. and his family in their prayers as they face Owens' recent cancer diagnosis.

CITY MANAGER MAKES ANNOUNCEMENTS, HONORS CITY EMPLOYEES WHO SERVED

City Manager Manuel Chavez said the holidays are coming up, adding that for anyone interested in participating in the city's annual Christmas Parade on Dec. 4, there will be a link and additional information on the city's website.

Chavez said utility bill payments through the city's website, automated phone system and text-to-pay features are currently unavailable as the city transitions to a new billing system and asked citizens to check the city's social media for further information.

Chavez also said it was "a great honor and privilege" to recognize city employees who are veterans of military service. He read the names of employees who are veterans, the city department in which they work and the branch of the military in which they served.

COUNCIL HEARS PRESENTATION ON JULY FLOODING

City Council members took no action following a presentation by Van Zabava, Texas Department of Emergency Management district chief, on a local flooding event in July. Zabava said the city and the county proved "resilient" in dealing with the problems caused by the flooding.

Zabava said the emergency management coordinators in his district, including Del Rio Emergency Management Coordinator Amanda Aldaco, "did a fantastic job" coordinating with elected officials and TDEM to get state assets "where they needed to be."

Zabava attributed the smooth response to ongoing training and planning and lauded the city and the county for working together to protect lives and property. Mayor Al Arreola also recognized Aldaco and thanked her for her work.

COUNCIL WILL DECIDE WHETHER CITY SHOULD ADD FLUORIDE TO WATER

City Council members will take a vote during some future meeting on whether the city should again add fluoride to its drinking water. The council heard a presentation on "Fluoride in the Del Rio Public Water Systems," presented by interim Public Works Director Art Villarreal.

Villarreal said the city began adding fluoride to city drinking water in 2006. It quietly stopped adding the chemical in 2017 after it was found to have corroded the storage room where it was kept, as well as some equipment.

Villarreal said if the council wants to resume adding fluoride to city drinking water, it must first rebuild the storage tank, a major unbudgeted expense. He also said fluoride is expensive and becoming more and more difficult to obtain.

The council discussed the issue, then agreed to take a formal vote at some future meeting after city administrators can provide more data about the pros and cons of adding fluoride.

COUNCIL APPROVES SCHOOL DISTRICT REQUEST TO CLOSE OFF PORTION OF WATERS AVENUE

City Council members voted 7-0 to approve a request by the superintendent of the local public school district and the school board of trustees to close off a portion of Waters Avenue adjacent to San Felipe Memorial Middle School in south Del Rio during school hours only.

The superintendent, Carlos Rios, was present and told council members the school district will construct gates at both ends of the portion of Waters Avenue to be closed. The gates, Rios said, will allow the district to control access to the Ricks Gym during school hours.

Council members asked questions about the measure, including access for emergency response vehicles, before voting to approve the request.

COUNCIL AUTHORIZES FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR BEDELL SIDEWALK PROJECT

City Council members voted 7-0 to approve a resolution authorizing City Manager Manuel Chavez to execute an advance fund-

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The 830 TIMES
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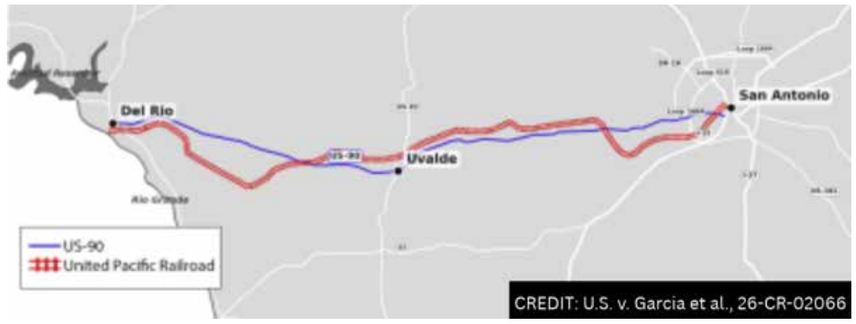
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(Left) The shipping container where authorities discovered six of the seven victims of an alleged human smuggling operation that began in Del Rio. The seventh victim was found near railroad tracks in San Antonio. Fourteen people have been indicted in connection with the deadly scheme, including three Del Rio residents and one Eagle Pass resident. (U.S. Department of Justice photo)

14 charged in deadly Del Rio human smuggling scheme that killed 7 aliens earlier this year

3 from Del Rio, 1 from Eagle Pass under federal indictment

RELEASE FROM THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXASW

WASHINGTON — A federal grand jury in the Western District of Texas returned a superseding indictment charging a total of 14 individuals, including seven illegal aliens, three non-citizens, and four U.S. citizens, for their roles in a conspiracy to smuggle aliens into the United States for profit. This included a failed human smuggling event that resulted in the deaths of seven people, including one child, who died after being loaded into a poorly ventilated shipping container.

"By allegedly orchestrating this deadly human smuggling scheme, these defendants showed no regard for the value of human life and put people in harm's way to pad their own pockets," said Assistant Attorney General A. Tysen Duva of the Justice Department's Criminal Division. "Those who show a reckless disregard for the rule of law and treat human beings like cargo for their own financial gain will be held accountable under this administration. Cases like these are exactly why President Trump established the Homeland Security Task Force to strengthen our efforts to keep Americans safe from transnational crime."

"Seven people are dead as the result of another callous alien smuggling scheme," said U.S. Attorney Justin R. Simmons for the Western District of Texas. "There have been multiple rail car alien smuggling interdictions over the last many months. Aliens found alive in those schemes will probably never realize how fortunate they are to have survived. To those who are placing their lives in the hands of dangerous alien smugglers, you must understand that there is no good outcome awaiting on this side of the border. Should you survive the journey, when we find you in the United States, you will be removed. To those alien smuggling organizations like the one responsible for these seven deaths, your date with American justice will come, and when it does, we will hold you accountable to the fullest extent of the law."

"This indictment reflects Homeland Security Investigation's (HSI) commitment to pursuing the criminal networks that profit by treating human lives as cargo," said Special Agent in Charge John A. Pasciucco of HSI San Antonio. "As alleged, this smuggling network used cargo trains and sealed shipping containers to move people into the country's interior, placing them in conditions that were inhumane and deadly. HSI and our law enforcement partners will continue to identify, investigate, and hold accountable those who exploit vulnerable individuals for profit and endanger lives in the process."

Defendants include Karina Garcia, 37, of Del Rio, Texas; Edson Alejandro Perez, 18, of Del Rio; Seferino Huerta-Casillas, 35, an illegal alien from Mexico; Jonas Ulloa-Aguilera, 25, an illegal alien from Honduras; Mayra Alejandra Huerta, 32, of Del Rio; Maria Norma Neri de Moran, 56, of Mexico; Damian Huerta Analucas, 55, of Mexico; Rosario Cristal Lopez-Saldana, 26, an illegal alien from Mexico; Eric Hernandez, 40, of Eagle Pass, Texas; Franklin Williams Ayala Aguilera, 30, an illegal alien from Honduras; Pascual Raymundo Loarca, 34, an illegal alien from Guatemala; Juan Alvaro Membreno-Contreras, 40, an illegal alien from Honduras; Yuri Julissa Cuaresma Paredes, 34, of Honduras; and Mavis Aleyda Escalante Peraza, 38, an illegal alien from Honduras.

According to court documents, from at least April 2023 through May 12, 2026, the defendants and others operated a human smuggling organization that illegally used cargo trains to smuggle aliens further into the United States after smuggling them across the southern border from Mexico. Each smuggled alien, or their families and friends, paid smugglers in Honduras, Mexico, the United States, and elsewhere between $1,500 and $10,000. The organization was comprised of multiple smugglers who worked in concert

with other groups of smugglers to accomplish their goals. This in-

SEE SMUGGLING- PAGE 7

Council approves three-year agreement with police association

BY KAREN GLEASON
THE 830 TIMES

City council members approved a new three-year collective bargaining agreement with the Del Rio Police Officers Association (DRPOA) during the council's most recent regular meeting on Monday, Nov. 9.

Approval of the agreement was on the council's agenda, but before taking it up,

the council went into executive session to confer with its attorneys about it and several other matters.

The council returned to open session about an hour later, and Mayor Al Arreola announced no action had been taken while the council was behind closed doors.

During the executive session, Adrian Garcia, DRPOA president, told The 830 Times the DRPOA members had reviewed the contract and said a majority of the members had voted in favor of the agreement. DRPOA members have been meeting with city administrators about the agreement on and off for about two months.

City Secretary Mari Acosta read the heading of the agenda item: "An ordinance … authorizing the city manager to execute a collective bargaining agreement between the city of Del Rio and the Del Rio Police Officers Association …"

After Acosta read the heading, Arreola asked if there was a motion.

Councilwoman Elsa Reyes made the motion to approve the ordinance. Councilman LeRoy Briones gave the second.

There were no questions or comments following the motion and second, and the council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Following the meeting, Garcia made the following statement to The 830 Times.

Garcia said, "I want to express my profound gratitude to our community and to the Texas Border Organization for standing by our officers during these critical moments. It is deeply humbling to know we have such a wonderful and caring community, where we all share the same commitment to public safety.



Mayor Al Arreola, left, shakes hands with Adrian Garcia, right, president of the Del Rio Police Officers Association (DRPOA), after the regular city council meeting on Monday, Nov. 9. During the meeting, the council approved a new three-year contract between the city and the DRPOA, which includes pay increases for police officers over three years. (Photo by Karen Gleason)

"Secondly, to my collective bargaining team and our lead negotiator, Carlos Zamorano with CLEAT (Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas), thank you for your tireless work on providing multiple contract proposals and pay studies and standing by your fellow officers with such dedicated representation.

"Thirdly, to the city manager and his negotiating team, thank you for listening to our concerns and providing an opportunity to provide much-needed pay relief to the officers' current pay structure and an updated family leave policy where officers need it the most.

"Lastly, I want to thank the mayor and city council for their unanimous vote in passing the collective bargaining contract, which will secure a gradual pay increase for these next three years.

"While this contract is not everything our officers were hoping for, we strongly believe this serves as a positive foundation to build upon in future negotiations. We fully understand the city's current financial constraints, so our association remains committed to maintaining an effective working relationship with the city manager's office. Only together can we continue to address our officers' concerns and think outside the box in ways to improve the quality of life for our officers, firefighters, city employees and the entire community.

"Growth is important and requires collaboration, and we must never forget that a strong public safety foundation builds a strong and safe community. We are all in this together," Garcia said.

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Mayor touts 'impressive' commercial traffic numbers at international bridge

BY KAREN GLEASON
THE 830 TIMES

Commercial truck crossings of the Del Rio International Bridge increased sharply in September, posting gains Mayor Al Arreola called "impressive" during the most recent meeting of the city's international bridge board.

The board met Oct. 28, with Arreola, who serves as the board's chair in his capacity as mayor, and board members Mario Bosquez, Frank Mendoza and Ruben Nino attending. A fifth seat on the board remains vacant.

After Arreola made opening remarks, he recognized International Bridge Superintendent Jose L. Castillo, who went over bridge crossing reports from the month of September.

Castillo began with the vehicle crossing analysis of autos crossing the bridge.

Castillo said, "For the month of September, autos and (pickup) trucks saw a decrease of 5,263 vehicles. Commercial traffic increased by 1,411 vehicles."

Castillo then walked bridge board members through his monthly traffic report for the international bridge, comparing the September numbers with those posted in September 2025.

Castillo said, "For the month of September, cars and pickups saw a decrease of 3.57 percent, and commercial traffic increased by 25.47 percent. Bikes had an increase of 25.08 percent, and pedestrian traffic had an increase of 6.64 percent."

Castillo next reviewed the international bridge monthly total bank deposits.

Castillo said, "For the month of September, toll crossing income was $553,721.68. Pre-paid in-house, $50,018; web payments, $169,429; wire transfers, $13,7890; and a total bank deposit for the month of September of $786,948.68."

After Castillo finished his reports, Arreola said, "The most impressive thing is the (increase in) commercial vehicle traffic, the 25.47 percent."

The increase in commercial traffic crossing the international bridge in September continues a trend that began in midsummer, according to reports released by the city. Commercial traffic over the bridge increased 10.10 percent in June as compared to the same month in 2025.

Commercial bridge traffic increased by 8.51 percent in July compared to commercial traffic in July 2025 and 15.93 percent in August compared to August 2025, bridge records show.

"We're getting some traffic from Eagle Pass," Castillo noted during the discussion in the Oct. 28 meeting.

Arreola and Castillo spent some time speaking about a new comandante at the port of entry on the Ciudad Acuña side of the bridge and the possibility of a meeting between bridge officials and members of the bridge board with the new official at the Ciudad Acuña port.

Mendoza asked Castillo, "I keep bringing it up to you about the traffic on the bridge and the inspections. I was over there yesterday and the day before. There were 18-wheelers all the way across the bridge, and I was thinking to myself, 'I hope they're empty trucks, not full trucks,' because I'm thinking of the constant weight and the vibration, but you said they check (the bridge) every two years?"

SEE TRAFFIC- PAGE 8

SMUGGLING - FROM PAGE 4

cluded coordinating and utilizing each other's routes, guides, stash houses, and drivers. Once smuggled into the United States, aliens were often housed at stash houses or hidden in the brush along the Rio Grande River near Del Rio, Texas. The organization then loaded aliens into shipping containers to transport the aliens further into the interior of the United States. In February 2026, the organization began facilitating the smuggling of at least seven aliens, including one 14-year-old child from Honduras, into Del Rio. On or about May 9, after the smugglers illegally crossed the seven aliens from Mexico into the Del Rio area, the organization transported the aliens to an area near the Union Pacific train tracks in Del Rio. From approximately 1:18 p.m. to 1:25 p.m., while a Union Pacific train was stationary, smugglers, using red bolt cutters, allegedly cut the lock off a Conex shipping container's door, loaded the aliens into the container, and then shut the door.

The shipping container was stacked on top of another and had no ventilation or cooling system. Based on the investigation, the recorded outside temperatures for that day ranged from 88 to 92 degrees Fahrenheit. It was secured from the outside and could not be opened from the inside. The train then departed Del Rio and traveled east along U.S. highway 90 to San Antonio. Once the train arrived in San Antonio, smugglers opened the door to the Conex container and discovered the aliens in peril. The smugglers then fled the scene, allegedly leaving one of the deceased near the railroad tracks. Smugglers left the remaining victims in the shipping container. The next day, the train departed south along its route to Laredo.

On May 10, a worker at the Union Pacific Rail Yard in Laredo saw a leg sticking out from a Conex shipping container. Upon inspection, six people were discovered deceased in the shipping container. Laredo law enforcement contacted San Antonio agents for assistance. Later, San Antonio law enforcement discovered the seventh victim deceased and abandoned by the railroad tracks in San Antonio. Four of the deceased were Mexican nationals and three were Honduran nationals, including a 14-year-old child. The investigation revealed that at least one victim messaged a loved one, pleading for help.

A total of 14 defendants are charged with offenses relating to their involvement with this human smuggling organization. 11 of the defendants were indicted in July. The superseding indictment charges 12 defendants with conspiracy to transport aliens resulting in death and aiding and abetting the transportation of aliens resulting in death. If convicted, the defendants face a maximum penalty of life in prison. 11 defendants are charged with seven counts of aiding and abetting illegally bringing aliens to the United States. If convicted of at least three counts, they face a minimum penalty of five years in prison and a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison. 12 defendants are charged with one count of conspiracy to bring aliens to the United States causing serious bodily injury and placing lives in jeopardy. If convicted, they face a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. Additionally, 11 defendants are charged with conspiracy to commit money laundering. If convicted, they face a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison.

ROUNDUP - FROM PAGE 3

ing agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation for the Bedell Sidewalk Project.

The project has been awarded $2.3 million in federal funding for the construction of about 7,600 linear feet of sidewalks along North Bedell Avenue and Braddie Drive "to enhance safety and accessibility for residents." The construction will also include ADA-compliant ramps and crosswalk improvements.

The city will not be required to allocate any matching funds for the project, but the construction will be carried out on a reimbursement basis, with the city putting up the funds through its Capital Improvement Plan, which will be reimbursed by the grant.

COUNCIL AUTHORIZES CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT PRE-APPLICATION FOR GRANT

City Council members voted 7-0 to approve a resolution authorizing and directing City Manager Manuel Chavez to submit a pre-application for the Texas Community Development Block Grant.

The city is seeking $431,100 to build a drainage ditch/water channel from the airport to the Carranza Detention Pond. The city will be required to provide a 15% match of $64,665 if the grant is approved. If the project is selected for funding, the city will be invited to submit a full application by June 1, 2027.

COUNCIL AMENDS ORDINANCES DEALING WITH VENDORS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

City Council members voted 7-0 to approve an ordinance amending Chapter 20 of the City of Del Rio Code of Ordinances on "Peddlers, Solicitors, Vendors and Special Events." Scot Carcasi, the city's operations and compliance manager, answered council members' questions about changes being proposed.

Council members asked questions about some of the changes in the ordinance. City Manager Manuel Chavez said city staff is trying to review all city ordinances to make sure they are up to date and easier for citizens to navigate.

COUNCIL APPROVES $10,000 IN HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX FUNDS FOR BORDER BULL MANIA

City Council members voted 7-0 to approve an ordinance authorizing the expenditure of up to $10,000 in hotel occupancy tax funds for the Border Bull Mania event, sponsored by the organization FOB Inc., to be held Nov. 13-14 at the county fairgrounds.

Council members asked questions about the event, which features professional bull riding, live entertainment and recognition of military veterans.

COUNCIL APPROVES AGREEMENT WITH COUNTY FOR FAMILY VIOLENCE SHELTER

City Council members voted 7-0 to approve an ordinance authorizing the expenditure of $90,000 from the city's general fund to Val Verde County for the operation of the Family Violence Shelter and approving an interlocal agreement with the county for funding the Family Violence Shelter program.

Since 2017, the city and the county have maintained an interlocal agreement to evenly divide the cost of operating the shelter. The county oversees operations of the shelter through a contracted third party.

COUNCIL APPROVES COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH POLICE ASSOCIATION

City Council members voted 7-0 to approve a three-year collective bargaining agreement with the Del Rio Police Officers Association (DRPOA). City administrators and negotiators have been meeting with DRPOA negotiators for the past two months to hammer out the terms of a new agreement.

City Council members met in executive session for about an hour before returning to open session to approve the proposed contract. DRPOA President Adrian Garcia told The 830 Times while the council was in executive session that a majority of the DRPOA members, 33 of 42, had voted to approve the agreement.

The agreement calls for a 2.5% pay increase for police officers beginning Nov. 14, with officers receiving an additional 0.5% pay raise on March 1. In the second year of the agreement, beginning Oct. 1, 2027, police officers will receive an additional 3.5% salary increase, and at the start of the agreement's fourth year on Oct. 1, 2028, they will receive an additional 4% pay increase.

The new agreement also includes 36 hours of paid funeral/bereavement leave annually for each civil service employee.

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

TRAFFIC - FROM PAGE 7

Castillo replied, "Yes, sir."

Mendoza said, "My concern is all that weight coming across at one time, as a precaution, as a safety thing."

Castillo added, "The good news is, and correct me if I'm wrong, usually when they (the tractor-trailers) go back, they're empty, when they go back to Mexico. It's only when they're coming over (into the U.S.) that they're full, but, yes, they do the inspection (of the bridge) every two years."

Mendoza wondered aloud if it might be possible for Del Rio's bridge officials to work with the new comandante and possibly suggest to him the opening of more inspection stations on the Ciudad Acuña side of the bridge at times when commercial traffic is particularly heavy "and get that traffic off the bridge, get it moving."

Mendoza, Arreola, Castillo and Jose Rivera, assistant international bridge superintendent, spent some more time discussing the issue.

At the end of the discussion, Arreola said, "I just want to commend you guys, because lately I've been going to Mexico more often than I want to, but . . . I think your employees are terrific. They do a great job so the traffic moves faster. . . I'm not going to complain about it. . . I'm glad that our commercial traffic is increasing. I hope we stay steady on that.

"I understand from entities in Acuña, they're trying to get more (commercial) traffic to come our route. They went to Saltillo. They went to Allende. They went to Monclova. They went to Nava. They even went as far as Mazatlan, trying to promote this port of entry, and this is where we're getting a little additional (commercial) traffic coming in.

"On our side, I think we're steady moving, and as long as our bridge revenue keeps increasing, that is a blessing," the mayor added.

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Pups and Pints

Pruitt sits next to a pint at Mesquite Creek Outfitters, 800 S. Main St., on Wednesday, Nov. 11. Mesquite will have its Paws & Pints AARC Fundraiser on Sunday, Nov. 15. (Photo by Louis Zylka)

Paranormal Fest returns

BY LOUIS ZYLKA
THE 830 TIMES

Experience ghost tours and see haunted artifacts during Paranormal Fest at the Whitehead Memorial Museum, 1308 S. Main St., on Friday, Nov. 13, and Saturday, Nov. 14.

The paranormal-inspired, ghost-themed event is put together by the Silent Society of the Paranormal and the Tipsy Gecko. Paranormal fest will run from 5 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. on Friday, and from 4 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, and guests will pay $5 for admission.

Paul Mancha, one of the organizers, spoke with The 830 Times about the event, which took place alongside Draculinafest until he split it into a separate event in July.

The main attraction of the festival is the ghost tours, which are taking place from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and the highlight of the tours will be the use of technology to try and interact with the afterlife in areas at the Whitehead. Mancha will also have 10 items on display from his haunted exhibit, including his famous Pete the Clown.

Some of the guests attending the event will be the Real West Texas Ghostbusters, a non-profit organization of Ghostbuster cosplayers from San Angelo, and Jessica the Nun, an entertainer from Austin portraying the nun from the "Conjuring" movie series.

Mancha said the festival is a "paranormal/horror" market taking inspiration from Del Rio Comic Con (DRCC) by helping other vendors, both locally and from other cities. He said Del Rio gets lots of vendors because the city is close to the border.

Paranormal Fest will have over 20 vendors and other entertainment including tattoo artists, card readings, table-top games and live music. Mancha said the event combines various vendors from DRCC, Draculinafest and the Del Rio Renaissance Faire. Paranormal Fest will be similar to Draculinafest but with more of a focus on the themes of the paranormal and ghost tours.

Mancha also talked about his interest in including live music at the event. On Friday, Anakin (solo artist) will play at 7 p.m., and While They Bled will play at 8 p.m. Smooth music will also be provided by DJ Andres Lira. On Saturday, Youlogy will play at 8 p.m. and a rock group with Robert Mancha, Memo Trillo and Luis Rangel will play at 9 p.m.

Mancha said there will also be a Dungeons-and-Dragons section for people interested in table-top games, which will have sessions occurring between 6:30 and 8 p.m.



Paul Mancha (far right) showcases Pete the Clown during Echoes of the Wand Gathering at the Whitehead Memorial Musuem on July 19, 2026. Mancha will bring back Pete for Paranormal Fest 2 at the Whitehead on Friday, Nov. 13, and Saturday, Nov. 14. (Courtesy photo)



Buy a drink; support rescued animals

BY LOUIS ZYLKA
THE 830 TIMES

Support the Animal Advocacy & Rescue Coalition (AARC) during a fundraiser at Mesquite Creek Outfitters, 800 S. Main St., on Sunday, Nov. 15, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Paws & Pints is a fundraising event to help AARC, a local non-profit organization focused on rescuing animals and offering low-cost surgeries for cats and dogs through spay-and-neuter clinics. Members of AARC will be at Mesquite on Sunday selling merchandise and talking about their organization to those who attend.

Mesquite will also be selling pints, along with pup-cups (small bowls of whipped cream) and treats for people's pets. The drinks, pup-cups and merchandise from AARC will go towards supporting the spay-and-neuter clinic and the rescue animals the organization currently has in its care.

Katelyn Hurta, director of AARC, spoke with The 830 Times to give more details about the fundraiser and their organization. Hurta said AARC's goal is to solve the over-population issue of stray cats and dogs in Del Rio, adding she and her members are grateful for any support that goes towards their clinic and the animals they have rescued.

Hurta said they may also have their long-term foster dog named Zorro at the fundraiser for people to meet. She said members will also talk about AARC's next spay-neuter-clinic event which will be on Jan. 14 and 15 of 2027.

Devils River star party set for Saturday

BY JOEL LANGTON
THE 830 TIMES

Stargazers can enjoy an evening under the stars Saturday, Nov. 14, when Devils River State Natural Area's Del Norte Unit hosts a Star Party with the San Antonio Astronomical Association.

According to Texas Parks and Wildlife, the event will run from 7 to 10 p.m., although the association's calendar lists different hours.

Visitors will meet in the headquarters parking area, and organizers encourage participants to bring folding chairs, red flashlights and binoculars and dress for the weather.

The program is free with park admission, which costs $5 for visitors ages 13 and older, while children 12 and younger enter free.

The Del Norte Unit, located at 21715 Dolan Creek Road, is an International Dark Sky Sanctuary.

Reservations are required to visit the natural area, but arrival arrangements for the evening program need confirmation because regular park rules prohibit check-in after 4 p.m.

The unit is scheduled to reopen Friday, Nov. 13, following a closure caused by flooding on Dolan Creek Road, so visitors should confirm road conditions before traveling.

For event information and updates, contact Gergo Perlaky at 737-289-3250 or Gergo.Perlaky@tpwd.texas.gov, or check the Devils River State Natural Area Facebook page.



This photo is indicative of the dark skies over Devils River State Natural Area's Del Norte Unit that hosts a Star Party with the San Antonio Astronomical Association Saturday night. (Courtesy photo)

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Movie Review: PAPER TIGER

BY LOUIS ZYLKA
THE 830 TIMES

Director James Gray is tackling the awards season with his new directed feature about a fictional crime thriller taking place in the 1980s. "Paper Tiger" is a period piece starring Scarlett Johansson, Adam Driver and Miles Teller, and it focuses on the hardships citizens deal with during the Cold War.

The film opens in the suburbs of 1986 Queens (one of the five boroughs in New York), where we focus on a small family of four. Irwin Pearl (Teller) and Hester Pearl (Johansson) are raising two sons peacefully until Irwin's brother Gary (Driver) visits them one day to give his brother a proposition to start a new business venture. This new business opportunity goes south when they get tangled with the Russian mafia.

Gray's film follows Irwin trying to protect his family from oncoming threats while still trying to maintain their normal lives. Though it may seem familiar, "Paper Tiger" is carried by its Oscar-worthy performances. Driver and Johansson give the best performances some critics are calling career-defining. Teller does a competent job playing Johansson's husband, and while he does deliver a strong performance, he still feels type cast as a father figure while still looking like a frat boy in college.

While the tension is not as gripping as the scenes in "The Godfather" or "Heat," several scenes will still put you on the edge of your seat. And the drama balances out the story to gravitate you towards the characters' lives and emotional trauma.

"Paper Tiger" does end on an unfulfilling note, but you will still be left with the emotional aspects and gut-wrenching moments that impact these innocent characters. Although there are no huge surprises in the plot, Gray's new film is one of the best of the year.



Irwin Pearl (Miles Teller) aims to protect his family from the Russian mafia in the new crime thriller "Paper Tiger," directed by James Gray. (Courtesy photo)

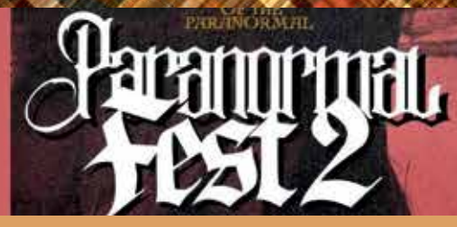
SCAN THE CODE TO SEE VIDEO OF THIS REVIEW



TOP 5 THINGS TO DO

Your weekly go to source for your top events

1



PARANORMAL FEST

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH AND SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH

ENJOY GHOST TOURS AND LOCAL VENDORS AT THE WHITEHEAD MEMORIAL MUSEUM, 1308 S. MAIN ST., ON FRIDAY, NOV. 13, AND SATURDAY, NOV. 14.

COME-UNITY WORSHIP NIGHT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH

GATHER AND CONNECT RELIGIOUSLY WITH OTHERS AT CULTURE SHOCK, 114 W. GREENWOOD ST., ON FRIDAY, NOV. 13, AT 7 P.M.



2

3



STAR PARTY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH

EXPERIENCE THE STARRY SKY AND LEARN ABOUT ASTRONOMY AT THE DEVIL RIVERS DEL NORTE HEADQUARTERS, 21715 DOLAN CREEK RD, ON SATURDAY, NOV. 14.

PAWS & PINTS AARC FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH

HELP RAISE MONEY FOR THE ANIMAL ADVOCACY & RESCUE COALITION AT MESQUITE CREEK OUTFITTERS, 800 S. MAIN ST., ON SUNDAY, NOV. 15, AT 2 P.M.



4

5



ART WORKSHOP AT MARCOS MARES' STUDIO

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH

LEARN LINOCUT PRINTMAKING AT MARCOS MARES ART STUDIO & GALLERY, 205 E. OGDEN ST., ON TUESDAY, NOV. 17, AT 6 P.M.

TO PLACE AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THE 830 TIMES, PLEASE CALL 618-593-2285

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830 Entertainment: *Events at a glance!*

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.

DEL RIO PARANORMAL FEST 2

NOV. 13 & 14 - The next Paranormal Fest event will take place at the Whitehead Memorial Museum, 1308 S. Main St., on Friday, Nov. 13, from 5 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 14, from 4 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

COME-UNITY WORSHIP

NOV. 13 - Worship God in the patio area during the free community event at Culture Shock, 114 W. Greenwood St., on Friday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m.

MARCOS MARES ART STUDIO & GALLERY

NOV. 14 - Children are invited to learn techniques using pencil, water colors and more at Marcos Mares Art Studio & Gallery, 205 E. Ogden St., on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is $40 for an individual class and $140 for an entire month.

MUSIC AT MESQUITE

NOV. 14 - Tony Zamora, a rock/country musician, will be playing live music at Mesquite Creek Outfitters, 800 S. Main St., on Saturday, Nov. 14, starting at 7 p.m.

POP UP DRTX

NOV. 14 - Support over 30 vendors at the Friendsgiving Pop Up DRTX market event at the Kress Building, 708 S. Main St., on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

QUEEN CITY KIDS MARKET

NOV. 14 - Shop from vendors run by children at A. Ramon Imports, 5601 E. Hwy 90, on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

STAR PARTY

NOV. 15 - Enjoy the starry sky and learn about astronomy at the Devil Rivers Del Norte Headquarters, 21715 Dolan Creek Rd, on Saturday, Nov. 14, after evening hours.

PAWS & PINTS AARC FUNDRAISER

Buy drinks to support the Animal Advocacy & Rescue Coalition, which will have members present at Mesquite Creek Outfitters, 800 S. Main St., on Sunday, Nov. 15, starting at 2 p.m .

FRIENDS GIVING MARKET

NOV. 15 - Shop from local vendors at the Enchanted Event Center, 4934 US 90, on Sunday, Nov. 15, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

TODDLER TUESDAYS AT LIBRARY

NOV. 17- Young children can interact with their peers in a safe environment at Val Verde County Library, 300 Spring St., on Tuesday, Nov. 17, from 10:30 a.m. to 11: 30 a.m.

ART WORKSHOP

NOV. 17 - Learn to make linocut printmaking botanical impressions at a creative art workshop at Marcos Mares Art Studio & Gallery, 205 E. Ogden St., on Tuesday, Nov. 17, at 6 p.m. Class fee is $40 per person.

FITNESS CLASSES AT THE FIREHOUSE

NOV. 17 & 19 - Del Rio Council for the Arts at the Firehouse, 120 E. Garfield St., will have beginner-friendly yoga classes on Tuesday, Nov. 17, and Thursday, Nov. 19, at 6 p.m. Tuition for a single-day class is $10.

GET FIT AT VVCL

NOV. 18 - Yoga sessions will be held at the Val Verde County Library, 300 Spring St., on Wednesday, Nov. 18, from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

KID'S STORY TIME

NOV. 18 - Children can interact with their peers during a story-time learning event at the Val Verde County Library, 300 Spring St., on Wednesday, Nov. 18, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAM

NOV. 19 - Learn how to properly install and use your child's car seat during an education and training program at Antonio Faz Annex, 315 E. Chapoy St., on Thursday, Nov. 19, at 10 a.m.

BOTS & BOOKS

NOV. 19 - A robotics program for students enrolled from third grade to 12th grade will be happening on Thursday, Nov. 19, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

QUEENS BASKETBALL GAME

NOV. 23 - The Del Rio High School (DRHS) Queens' basketball teams will play against Cornerstone at DRHS, 100 Memorial Dr, on Monday, Nov. 23. The junior varsity team will play at 12 p.m., and the varsity team will play at 1:30 p.m.

THANKSGIVING DAY 5K & FOOD DRIVE

NOV. 26 - The Thanksgiving Day 5K Turkey Trot (no registration required) will take place at the Rotary Pocket Park, 614 S. Main St., on Thursday, Nov. 26, at 9 a.m. The 5K will also be accompanied by a canned food drive to help support the local Bethel Center.

FEAST OF SHARING

NOV. 21 - The H-E-B 34th Annual Feast of Sharing returns to the Del Rio Civic Center, 1915 Veterans Blvd, on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Firefighters reject city pay offer; negotiations to continue

BY KAREN GLEASON
THE 830 TIMES

Members of the Del Rio Professional FireFighters Association Local 3662 (DRPFA) have rejected an offer by the city for a 2 percent salary increase and called on the city to offer firefighters the same pay increase offered to the city's police officers.

DRPFA representatives met with top city administrators in council chambers at City Hall at 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6. Sitting at the negotiating table for the firefighters were Edgar Escobedo, DRPFA president; Jacob Trevino and Raul Castillo, while City Manager Manuel Chavez, City Attorney Ana Markowski Smith and City Finance Director Roxy Soto represented the city.

Camela Sandmann, an attorney with Denton Navarro Rodriguez Bernal Santee & Zech, the city's contracted law firm, served as chief negotiator for the city.

Sandmann opened Friday's meeting and told the firefighters the city had a proposal for them to review and consider.

After the firefighters received the proposal, Escobedo said he wished to caucus with his negotiating team.

Escobedo and his team returned to the council chambers about 40 minutes later.

Castillo said, "We'd like to respectfully decline this proposal."

Representing the city of DHe referenced the "me too" clause in the contract, saying, "That's like a big protection for us."

The "me too" clause ensures that the city's civil service employees — police officers and firefighters — receive any pay increase given to the city's non-civil service employees.

Castillo went on, "Since 2017, we've lost 39 percent of compounded interest through the COLAs (cost-of-living adjustments). We've lost overtime pay. We were at $300,000, and now we're at $5,000. We've had 46 departures (of personnel) since 2019, with six more reported to leave, by survey. The 'me too' clause is our protection for future growth."

Escobedo added, "Also, just working on good faith here, the 'me too' clause is one of the biggest elements we wouldn't want to give up. It's a little bit of a protection, but also with what was proposed, it's a very, very small amount of personnel that would end up benefiting from it, but in good faith, we're willing to continue to work, if the city is able to continue to meet with us and negotiate with us."

Escobedo said firefighters would like to "meet what the police got under (their) collective bargaining contract."

The contract between the city and the Del Rio Police Officers Association will go before city council on Monday, Nov. 9. The DRPOA agreement is a three-year contract and stipulates police officers will receive a 2.5 percent salary increase to all positions beginning Nov. 14, with an additional 0.5 percent salary increase on March 1, 2027.

The contract also provides a 3.5 percent salary increase to all positions beginning Oct. 1, 2027, and a 4 percent salary increase to all positions beginning Oct. 1, 2028. The agreement also provides funeral/bereavement leave of 36 hours for each civil service employee annually.

Escobedo said, "We would like to be equivalent to them, and I believe they also got a couple of things extra."

SEE FIREFIGHTERS - PAGE 22



CITY OF Del Rio TEXAS

PRESENTS

DESTINATION: CHRISTMAS PARADE

Friday, December 4th 6:30 PM

THEME: DESTINATION CHRISTMAS

Where do you spend your Christmas? Grandma's house, A Landmark, Backyard BBQ? Let's see your creativity Del Rio!

- **ENTRIES LINE UP BETWEEN 4-6 PM**
- **ALL ENTRIES MUST BE IN LINE BY 6 PM**
- **PARADE BEGINS AT 6:30 PM**

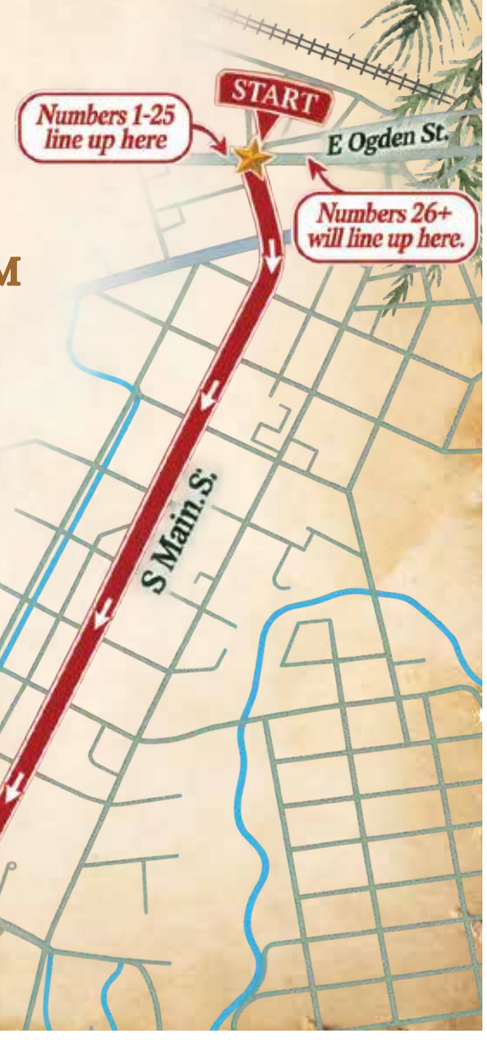
Christmas Market & Music
4:00 PM

TREE LIGHTING
8:30 PM

Event Concludes
11:00 PM

PARADE
6:30 PM

PARADE AWARDS
9:00 PM



QUESTIONS: CONTACT ESME ESPARZA Community Service Director (830) 282-2818

FIREFIGHTERS - FROM PAGE 20

Sandmann interjected, saying, "When you say equivalent, just so we're clear, do you mean a three-year contract like they got?"

"Yes, ma'am," Escobedo replied. "I would say the same thing on the salary side. I believe they got bereavement pay and also a $40 to $50 difference on their civic center overtime, so with that, if we were able to do the same on salaries and then on our structural and degree side, for our firefighters, change that to $25 more."

Trevino added, "Let me chime in. So just so everyone has an understanding, for the intermediate, advanced and master's, in order for you to attain those higher certificate tiers, you have to have time in service, so it takes about four years, so a lot of the newer guys, which is the bulk of the people we have in our department, they would have to wait 12 years to get to their advanced, and then for them to receive their master's, it requires a degree, which only a few individuals in this department have.

"So for that, it just takes too long for the certification pay to get paid out for anyone to see a benefit, so we would like to get at least, what you currently have in the proposal, which is the certification pay for the basic to the master for our structural, and the education, from the associate's to the bachelor's, to have those increased by $25 extra a month, which would be capped at $275," Trevino added.

Trevino, Escobedo and Sandmann then spent some time discussing the various certifications and requirements for those certifications, as well as educational requirements that exist for some of the certifications.

After the discussion, Escobedo said, "And just to refrain on this real quick: The reason why we've come back and said we want something equivalent to what PD got on the salaries side of it is it comes down to we're both public servants, public safety entities for the city. I don't think that one is more important than the other. I mean, we have missed out on a couple of things in the past. We continued to just struggle to keep personnel and morale and something that would be equivalent to that in a three-year contract, we would be fine with that."

City representatives then went to caucus. They met privately for about 20 minutes, then returned to council chambers.

Sandmann said, "We took what you guys had to say, and what we think, what we're willing to put across the table right now, is a one-year contract. We think it's best for both sides, and in that one-year contract, it would be a 2 percent increase to salaries, and we would leave the 'me too' clause in for this one year. The only reason we're leaving it in for one year, we're hoping over the course of this time, that other options and revenue avenues are being looked at, and that maybe next year, it will be a better position for you and us.

"So we're willing to increase, like you said, take the specialty certifications out and increase it by $25 on each of those that you requested. We've also requested that the effective date of this contract, we're able to get this done and make the next council meeting. I think, which is the 17th of November, for efficiency for the staff, we would make this effective Nov. 28 through Sept. 20, 2027. That is what we are proposing across the table to you guys today," Sandmann finished.

Trevino responded, "So when you state you're looking at possible revenues for the next year, if we decline this right now, is this going to be the end of negotiations?"

Sandmann said, "I'm not going to say that we are quite at an impasse at this time for meet and confer, but that would be up to you all. Do you have anything you want to put back across the table that you want us to consider?"

Trevino, Castillo and Escobedo conferred among themselves for a moment, then Escobedo said, "At this time, we decline that proposal. Again, it's one of those situations where we've already spoken with our members, and what we proposed earlier today was … to see if we could continue to work with you all to get to that point, but for 2 percent for a one-year contract and the circumstances that we've already explained in the past, it will just put us in the same situation … so we'll respectfully decline that proposal at this time."

Sandmann asked, "Is that the only proposal you put across the table?"

Escobedo said, "The proposal that we put forward earlier today is one that we would really, really like to work on."

Sandmann said, "Right, and we had declined that. There's not going to be a multi-year contract at this time, especially with the 'me too' clause included. But definitely not a multi-year contract at this stage of the game and in the budget cycle. This is the best we have to offer across the table, and the reason why we only did one year, is because we think maybe next year after certain things are looked at and other revenue options, there may be an option to be better for the next year.

"Whether that happens or not, that's the hope from our side to you guys. We can't commit to a multi-year contract to you guys at this time, whether a 'me too' clause is in there or not," Sandmann added.

Escobedo said, "We understand, and we fall back on just the same comment that you said right now, so it's never a situation where things are promised and may look a little bit better in a year or two, but they never have. They don't. So we would like to, the 2 percent for this year and the increments in our education and structural side, that proposal itself would be declined on our side, but we would have to go into caucus to allow us to see if we would bring back something else, and if that's allowed from your side."

Sandmann responded, "You can try again, and keep in mind, if you're going to try and keep a 'me too' clause in there, it's only going to be a one-year contract, but yes, by all means, if you all want to go caucus again and see if there's something you can come up with now, or if you can't come up with anything, we can always reschedule again for another day."

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, and (Del Rio 90 Storage), located at 3695 Veterans Blvd., Del Rio, TX 78840, will hold an auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be held online at www.storagetreasures.com. Bidding will begin at 2a.m. on November 10, 2026, and end November 24, 2026 @ 12p.m.

Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash, Deposit for removal and cleanup may be required. Seller reserves the right not to accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property in each space may be sold item-to-item, in batches, or by the space(s) of the tenant listed below, with brief description contents in the space(s).

Tenant: Gutierrez, Mia

Non-Tenant: N/A

For more information, please contact manager at 830-309-7303

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.

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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

Obituaries

Adan Isael Castaneda

January 24, 1939 – November 4, 2026

To our beloved family, relatives, friends, and all whose lives were touched by Adan,



With heavy hearts and gratitude to God for his wonderful life, we share the passing of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, Adan, who went home to be with the Lord on November 4th.

Adan lived a meaningful life of hard work, dedication, accomplishment, and love. A successful engineer and architectural designer, he made lasting contributions through his talents and by serving his country in the United States Marine Corps.

Above all, his greatest legacy was his love for family. He was a devoted husband of 62 years to his beloved wife, Irene, and a loving father to Audrey, Martha, Tracie, Corey, Marco, and cherished grandchildren. He is survived by his only living sibling, his sister, Angela Yount. His wisdom, kindness, and precious memories will forever remain in the hearts of those he loved.

God's Word reminds us in Ecclesiastes 3:1, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

As we reflect on his life, we find comfort in 2 Timothy 4:7: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

Though his earthly journey has ended, his love, accomplishments, and legacy will live on through generations. We find peace in God's promise in John 14:2-3 of a place prepared in our Father's house, and in Revelation 21:4, where He promises to wipe away every tear.

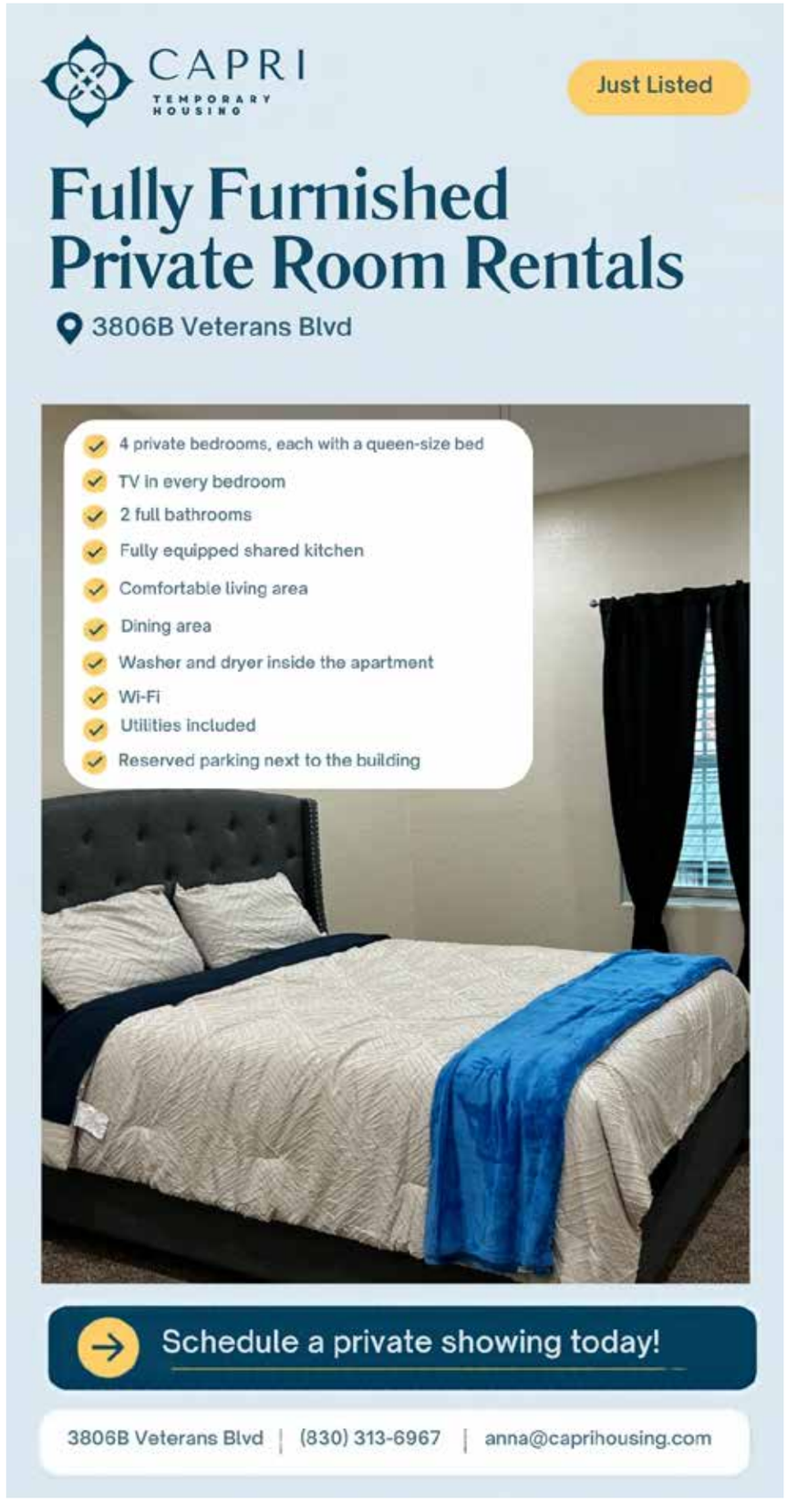
Though our hearts grieve, we are comforted by the assurance of God's eternal love.

Adan, you will be deeply missed, forever loved, and never forgotten.

May we honor your memory by cherishing one another and continuing to share the love and kindness that made your life so meaningful.

May God bless and comfort all who mourn.

Until we meet again, may you rest in God's eternal peace.




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Special Projects Committee and Scholarship Fund
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EXPLORE DEL RIO
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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITORS BUREAU

PROPOSED TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD

Ganso – Escondido 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Monday, November 30
5 to 7 p.m.

International Center for Trade
3925 Bob Rogers Drive,
Eagle Pass, TX 78852

AEP Texas representatives are seeking public input regarding the proposed transmission line rebuild project in Maverick County. The project includes rebuilding approximately 12 miles of 138 kV transmission line in between the Ganso and Escondido substations.

Please join us for the opportunity to view detailed maps, speak with project team members and provide feedback on preliminary route links. There will be no formal presentation, and attendees may arrive at any time during the open house.

For more information, please contact:

833-329-4865

AEPTexasOutreach@AEP.com

AEPTexas.com/Ganso-Escondido

AEP TEXAS
An AEP Company

PROPUESTA DE RECONSTRUCCIÓN DE LA LÍNEA DE TRANSMISIÓN

Proyecto de reconstrucción de la línea de transmisión de 138 kV Ganso – Escondido

Lunes, 30 de noviembre
de 5 a 7 p.m

International Center for Trade
3925 Bob Rogers Drive,
Eagle Pass, TX 78852

Los representantes de AEP Texas solicitan la opinión del público sobre el proyecto de reconstrucción de la línea de transmisión eléctrica en el condado de Maverick. El proyecto incluye la reconstrucción de aproximadamente 12 millas de línea de transmisión de 138 kV entre las subestaciones de Ganso y Escondido.

Les invitamos a participar en esta sesión informativa, donde podrán consultar mapas detallados, hablar con los miembros del equipo del proyecto y dar su opinión sobre las posibles rutas. No habrá presentación formal y los asistentes podrán llegar en cualquier momento durante la reunión abierta al público.

Para obtener más información, contáctenos al:

833-329-4865

AEPTexasOutreach@AEP.com

AEPTexas.com/Ganso-Escondido

AEP TEXAS
An AEP Company

PROPOSED TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD

Hamilton – Ganso 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Tuesday, December 1
5 to 7 p.m.

Del Rio Civic Center
1915 Veterans Boulevard, Del Rio, TX 78840

AEP Texas representatives will host an open house regarding the proposed transmission line rebuild project in Val Verde, Kinney and Maverick counties. The project includes rebuilding approximately 43 miles of 138 kV transmission line in between the Hamilton Road and Ganso substations.

Please join us for the opportunity to view detailed maps, speak with project team members and provide feedback on preliminary route links. There will be no formal presentation, and attendees may arrive at any time during the open house.

For more information, please contact:

833-329-4865

AEPTexasOutreach@AEP.com

AEPTexas.com/Hamilton-Ganso

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PROPUESTA DE RECONSTRUCCIÓN DE LA LÍNEA DE TRANSMISIÓN

Proyecto de reconstrucción de la línea de transmisión de 138 kV Hamilton- Ganso

Martes, 1 de diciembre,
de 5 a 7 p.m.

Del Rio Civic Center
1915 Veterans Boulevard, Del Rio, TX 78840

Los representantes de AEP Texas organizarán una sesión informativa sobre el proyecto de reconstrucción de la línea de transmisión eléctrica en los condados de Val Verde, Kinney y Maverick. El proyecto contempla la reconstrucción de aproximadamente 43 millas de línea de transmisión de 138 kV entre las subestaciones de Hamilton Road y Ganso.

Les invitamos a participar en esta sesión informativa, donde podrán consultar mapas detallados, hablar con los miembros del equipo del proyecto y dar su opinión sobre las posibles rutas. No habrá presentación formal y los asistentes podrán llegar en cualquier momento durante la reunión abierta al público.

Para obtener más información, contáctenos al:

833-329-4865

AEPTexasOutreach@AEP.com

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QUEENS ROLL TO 3-0 START AS RAMS PREPARE FOR BASKETBALL OPENER

The Del Rio Queens are off to a strong start on the basketball court, while the Rams are preparing to open their season and local runners have wrapped up their trips to state.

Queens basketball:
Del Rio improved to 3-0 Tuesday, Nov. 10, with a 72-21 home victory over Eagle Pass Winn. The Queens opened the season by beating Crystal City 76-57 on Nov. 6 and Fort Stockton 92-58 the following afternoon. Del Rio has scored 240 points through its first three games while allowing 136.

Del Rio cross country:
Junior Ray Torres finished 100th at the UIL Class 6A state championships Friday, Nov. 6, at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock. Torres completed the 5,000-meter course in 16 minutes, 26.4 seconds, closing a season that included advancing through the Region IV championships in Corpus Christi.

Comstock cross country:
The Panthers brought home third place in the Class 1A boys state meet with 155 points. Freshman Gustavo Flores led Comstock in 24th place, followed by senior Noah Bahena in 26th. In the girls race, freshman Fernanda Lopez finished 89th in 13:57.3 over 3,200 meters.

Rams football:
Del Rio closed its season with a 49-21 loss to Eagle Pass on Nov. 6, finishing 1-9. The Rams' lone victory came against San Antonio Stevens, 35-32, on Sept. 4. 830Times

A LOOK AHEAD: WHAT'S COMING NEXT

Boys basketball — Del Rio Rams
Del Rio opens its regular season at San Angelo Central at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17. The schedule then sends the Rams to the Harlandale ISD Classic Nov. 19-21 before a home game against Carrizo Springs at 3 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23. sfdr-cisd.org

Girls basketball — Del Rio Queens
Del Rio will compete in the Harlandale Tournament through Saturday before traveling to Odessa for a 6 p.m. game Tuesday, Nov. 17. The varsity Queens will then compete in the Alpine Tournament Nov. 20-21.

The Queens return home to face Cornerstone at 1:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23, followed by Uvalde at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 24. District play begins Dec. 8 against Laredo United in Del Rio. sfdr-cisd.org

Brackett football:
The Tigers face Chilton in the Class 2A Division II bi-district playoffs Saturday, Nov. 14, at 5 p.m. at Eschenburg Field in Floresville, according to The 830 Times' published preview. Brackett enters the postseason 4-6 after winning its final three regular-season games.

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Future bright for Comstock cross country after boys take third at state

BY JOEL LANGTON
THE 830 TIMES

The future looks bright for the Comstock cross country program after the Panthers capped another successful season Saturday, Nov. 7, with a third-place finish at the UIL Class 1A state championships at Old Settlers Park.

With a young roster that exceeded expectations, the Panthers returned to the state medal stand for the third time in four years, while freshman Fernanda Lopez delivered a personal-best performance in her first state meet.

The Comstock boys entered the state meet unranked in the Texas Cross Country Coaches Association poll, but that didn't stop them from finishing among the state's elite programs.

The Panthers scored 155 points, edging fourth-place Cumby Miller Grove by just six points. Tilden McMullen County won the state championship with 60 points, while Garner finished second with 123.

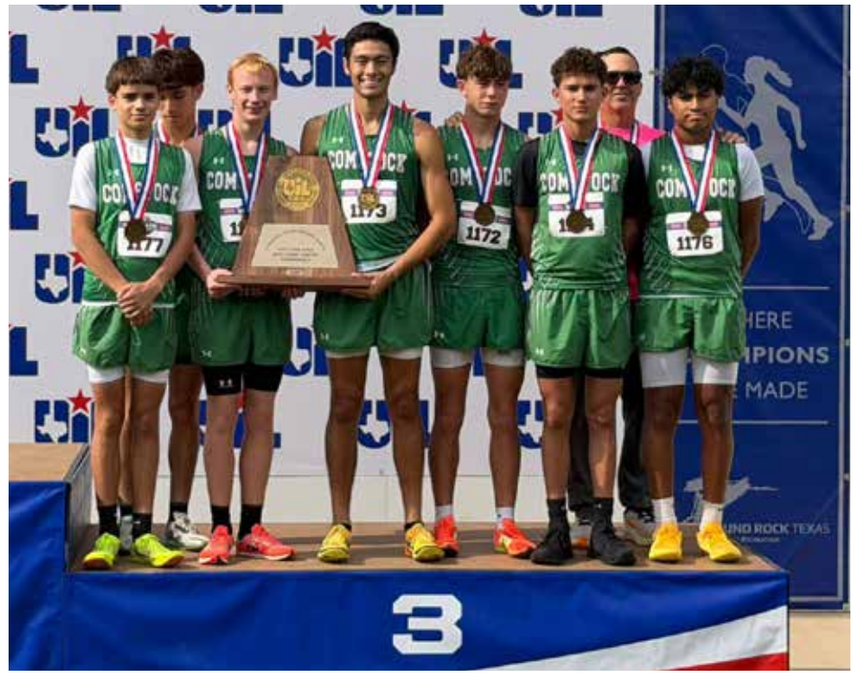
"Our boys set their personal records at the right time to come up with an inspirational performance that most people didn't expect," Comstock coach Lee Abbey said.

"We knew we had the ability and work invested to deliver great results," Abbey said.

Freshman Gustavo Flores led the Panthers in the 5,000-meter race, finishing 24th overall in 17 minutes, 52.4 seconds. Senior Noah Bahena was right behind him, placing 26th in 17:53.8, just 1.4 seconds behind his younger teammate.

John Howell placed 64th in 18:52.0, Dalton Hutchinson finished 71st in 18:58.5 and Martin Lopez rounded out Comstock's scoring five with an 85th-place finish in 19:21.6.

Jacob Allen finished 102nd in 19:47.1, and Alan Huerta was 103rd in 19:48.0, giving the Panthers seven runners who completed the state championship course in less than 20 minutes.



he Comstock Panthers boys cross country team entered the UIL Class 1A state championships unranked in the Texas Cross Country Coaches Association poll but defied expectations, racing past much of the competition to claim third place and a spot on the state medal stand. (Courtesy photo)

The performance continued a remarkable stretch for the small-school program, which has now qualified for the state championships six consecutive years.

Comstock finished third in 2023, captured the state championship in 2024 and placed sixth in 2025 before returning to the medal stand Saturday.

This year's success was especially meaningful considering the Panthers had to replace four of their top seven runners from last season, including a three-time state champion.

Abbey credited his younger runners for stepping into larger roles while praising the leadership of his seniors.

"Our young freshman and junior guys stepped in to replace four of our top seven runners from last year, including a three-time state champion," Abbey said. "It came down to a six-point difference and everyone had to do their part. What a performance and what a season of growth!"

For Bahena, Saturday marked the conclusion of a remarkable high school cross country career. The senior competed in four consecutive state meets and helped the Panthers reach the medal stand three times, earning two bronze medals and a state championship.

Abbey also praised senior John Howell for his contributions to the program.

"Thank goodness for our senior John Howell. He has been our model teammate, and steady as a rock for two years," Abbey said.

Freshman Lopez delivers personal best

On the girls side, freshman Fernanda Lopez made her state championship debut in the Class 1A 3,200-meter race, finishing in 13 minutes, 57.3 seconds.

Lopez, who qualified as an individual after the Region IV championships in Corpus Christi, finished 89th among 147 runners, according to Abbey.

The freshman improved her regional time by approximately 36 seconds, an encouraging performance considering she was competing without her teammates for the first time.

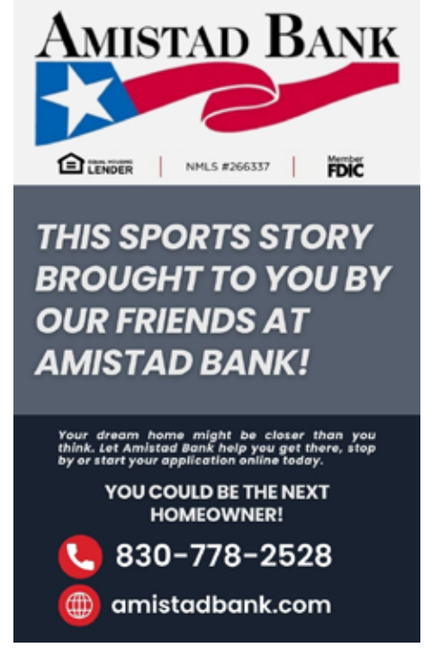
"She seemed a little tense running with no teammates for the first time, but she delivered a personal record," Abbey said.

Her performance gives Comstock another young runner with state championship experience heading into next season.

Young Panthers provide reason for optimism

Perhaps the most encouraging part of Saturday's performance was what it revealed about the program's future.

SEE COMSTOCK- PAGE 30



7 local sports results in two minutes

BY JOEL LANGTON
THE 830 TIMES

With football dwindling down and basketball starting, the high school sports scene is busy. Here's a quick recap from this weekend.

DEL RIO'S TORRES FINISHES AMONG STATE'S TOP 100

Del Rio's Ray Torres capped his junior cross country season Friday, Nov. 6, with a top-100 finish at the UIL Class 6A state championships at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock. Torres completed the 5,000-meter course in 16 minutes, 26 seconds, competing against some of the best high school runners in Texas.

Torres earned his trip to state after advancing through the Region IV championships in Corpus Christi. Both Rams and Queens advanced to regionals after the Queens won the District 30-6A championship and the Rams finished third.

COMSTOCK BOYS TAKE THIRD AT STATE

The Comstock Panthers entered Saturday's Class 1A state cross country meet unranked in the Texas Cross Country Coaches Association poll but left with a third-place trophy. The Panthers scored 155 points, just six ahead of fourth-place Cumby Miller Grove. Freshman Gustavo Flores led Comstock with a 24th-place finish in 17:52.4, followed by senior Noah Bahena, who finished 26th in 17:53.8.

The finish marked Comstock's third trip to the state medal stand in four years and its sixth consecutive state appearance. The Panthers finished third in 2023, won the state championship in 2024 and placed sixth last year. With several young runners returning next season, coach Lee Abbey is optimistic about the program's future.

COMSTOCK FRESHMAN SHINES IN STATE DEBUT

Comstock freshman Fernanda Lopez made the most of her first trip to the state championships Saturday, finishing 89th among 147 runners in the Class 1A girls 3,200-meter race. Lopez completed the course in 13 minutes, 57.3 seconds, improving her regional qualifying time by nearly 36 seconds.

Lopez qualified individually after finishing 16th at the Region IV championships in Corpus Christi. With Lopez and all but one of the Lady Panthers expected to return next season, the future looks promising for Comstock's girls program.

DEL RIO LOSES AGAINST EAGLE PASS

The Del Rio Rams closed out their 2026 football season Friday, Nov. 6, falling to rival Eagle Pass 49-21. The Rams finished the season 1-9, with their lone victory coming Sept. 4 against San Antonio Stevens, a 35-32 win that ended a 12-game losing streak.

Despite the difficult season, Del Rio showed improvement at times, including close losses to Southwest Legacy and Laredo Alexander. The Rams, under coach Daniel Infante, will now turn their attention to the offseason and preparing for the 2027 campaign.

BRACKETTVILLE TIGERS HEADED TO PLAYOFFS

The Brackettville Tigers finished their regular season on a high note Friday, defeating Center Point 49-14 to earn their third consecutive victory. The Tigers also defeated D'Hanis 40-26 and La Pryor 36-14 during their late-season run, finishing with a 4-6 overall record and a 4-2 district mark.

Brackettville now turns its attention to the Class 2A Division II playoffs. The Brackettville Tigers (4-6) will face the Chilton Pirates (8-2) Saturday at 5 p.m. at Eschenberg Field in Floresville in the Class 2A Division II bi-district playoffs. The Tigers will look to carry their late-season momentum into the postseason after scoring at least 36 points in each of their final three regular-season victories.

DEL RIO QUEENS OPEN BASKETBALL SEASON

The Del Rio Queens opened their 2026-27 basketball season with a pair of impressive victories, defeating Crystal City 76-57 Friday before knocking off Fort Stockton 92-58 Saturday. The Queens begin the season 2-0, scoring a combined 168 points in their first two games.

Del Rio returns to action Tuesday, Nov. 10, when the Queens host Eagle Pass Winn at 6:30 p.m. The team will then compete in the Harlandale Tournament Nov. 12-14 as it prepares for the District 30-6A schedule, which begins Dec. 8 against Laredo United.

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COMSTOCK - FROM PAGE 29

Despite losing two seniors, the Panthers will return a strong group of experienced runners next season, including two freshmen who finished among the team's top four at state and three juniors who helped contribute to the team's success.

The program also has an eighth-grade district champion expected to move up to the high school boys team next year.

On the girls side, Abbey expects all but one of his runners to return, giving the program an experienced foundation to build on.

The combination of returning state qualifiers, developing younger runners and a consistent record of success has Comstock positioned to remain competitive at the state level.

After six consecutive state appearances, three podium finishes in four years and a state championship, the Panthers have established themselves as one of the most consistent Class 1A cross country programs in Texas.

And with much of the roster returning, Abbey sees plenty of reasons to believe the best may still be ahead.

"I would say the future is bright for Comstock Panther cross-country," Abbey said.

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