Volume 6 - Issue 48

November 20th, 2026

The 830 TIMES



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Source: Texas Comptroller, City Sales and Use Tax rates.

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITORS BUREAU

Council to decide on fluoride addition to city drinking water

BY KAREN GLEASON
THE 830 TIMES

To add or not to add? That is the question city council members will have to answer regarding fluoride in the city's drinking water.

Del Rio City Council members discussed the fluoride issue during their regular meeting on Monday, Nov. 9, after hearing a presentation from Art Villarreal, the city's interim public works director.

Villarreal told the council, "Tonight I'll review fluoride in Del Rio's water system, the condition of our equipment, and the consideration for resuming or permanently discontinuing fluoride. The discussion covers why fluoride was added, why its use stopped and what would be needed to resume it. We'll also consider what continuing without fluoride injection means to the community."

Villarreal said fluoride is a mineral that occurs naturally and is known to strengthen tooth enamel and prevent tooth decay. He said hydrofluorosilicic acid is the liquid form of fluoride that can be dosed into a city's drinking water.

Villarreal said fluoride is found naturally in groundwater and springs. He said the San Felipe Springs, the source of all the city's drinking water, contains natural fluoride averaging 0.2 milligrams per liter, or parts per million. He said fluoride occurs in many fruits and vegetables, as well as in seafood and tea. It is also added to toothpaste and mouthwash.

Villarreal reviewed the process by which the city injected fluoride into its drinking water in the past. He said fluoride is precisely dosed into the water after it is filtered to meet a recommended residual of 0.7 milligrams per liter. He added water "is continuously monitored before filtration, after filtration and before distributing to ensure safe levels."

He told the council, "The purpose of adding fluoride is dental health. … Choosing whether to add fluoride is a public health policy decision."

Villarreal listed chemical supply, budget pressures and aging infrastructure as reasons why the city stopped injecting fluoride into its drinking water about five years ago.

Villarreal said the COVID-19 pandemic "created massive supply chain disruptions causing (the cost of) all treatment chemicals to skyrocket." He said today, water-grade fluoride, the chemical he identified as HSF, is "incredibly difficult to secure."

Villarreal then addressed the infrastructure that would be needed if the city were to decide to restart fluoride injection. He said the storage area and the tank for the chemical have both deteriorated.

"These conditions would need to be addressed before restarting the system," Villarreal said.

He said, "Restarting fluoridation would require addressing the storage and feed equipment, verifying proper dosing and securing a dependable chemical supplier. The evaluation should include both the initial work and the continuing cost of operation.

"Continuing without fluoride injection would avoid the proposed restart investment and ongoing fluoride chemical expenses. Resuming would involve capital costs, chemical purchase, monitoring and maintenance. Those expenses should be considered alongside the dental health purpose of the program," Villarreal added.



Interim Public Works Director Art Villarreal gives a presentation on fluoride during the city council meeting on Monday, Nov. 9. Villarreal told the council the city stopped adding fluoride to its drinking water in 2017. (Photo by Karen Gleason)

He said the two options city staff is presenting are permanently discontinuing fluoride injection or restarting the program.

"The decision should consider public health, long-term operating costs, regulatory compliance and community priorities," Villarreal said.

He said the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality does not require every Texas public water system to add fluoride. If the city elects to resume fluoridation, it will be subject to applicable TCEQ regulations.

Following the presentation, Villarreal asked if

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The 830 TIMES
www.830times.com

Meet Our Team

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

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

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

JOSH GUEVARA
Business Manager
(830) 313-1199

Distribution

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Del Rio residents call for meeting on higher water, sewer rates

BY KAREN GLEASON
THE 830 TIMES

All seven members of the Del Rio City Council were present for the Nov. 17 meeting.

What happened:

COUNCIL CONDUCTS PUBLIC HEARING ON SUBDIVISION REQUEST

Council members conducted a public hearing on a subdivision plat submitted by Becky Carroll, a professional engineer representing Jack E. Minney, for a property at 820 W. Cantu Road. The owner is requesting that the property be platted into two lots. No members of the public commented, and the hearing closed within a minute of opening.

COUNCIL CONDUCTS PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENTS

Council members conducted a public hearing on proposed amendments to Chapter 30 of the Del Rio Code of Ordinances. The amendments would update the city's procedures for reviewing certain discretionary land uses, including data centers.

City Planning and Zoning Director Janice Pokrant gave a presentation on the proposed changes. She told the council the Planning and Zoning Commission will consider the changes at its Dec. 2 meeting before they return to the council for final approval. No members of the public commented on the proposed amendments.

COUNCIL CONDUCTS PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED MOBILE FOOD VENDOR ORDINANCE

Council members conducted a public hearing on the proposed mobile food vendor and vendor park ordinance. The amendment would add an article titled "Mobile Food Vendors and Food Vendor Parks" to Chapter 20 of the Del Rio Code of Ordinances. The ordinance would regulate food vendors in accordance with the Texas Health and Safety Code.

Former Del Rio City Councilwoman Alexandra Falcon Calderon, a small business owner, said during the hearing that she hoped "no council (members), no staff, interferes when something like this is going to be put in place."

She charged that staff had tried to enforce ordinances in the past, but some council members and "other public community try and stop that." Calderon again asked council members to allow staff to enforce the proposed ordinance without interference.

RESIDENTS, THE BORDER ORGANIZATION CALL FOR MEETING ON HIGHER WATER, SEWER RATES

Nine people, including six leaders of The Border Organization, a grassroots activist group, signed up to address the council during the citizen comments portion of the meeting. The organization's leaders called on the council to review their proposal to charge a flat rate in place of the increases the council approved last year.



Amy Jarvis speaks to the Del Rio City Council during its regular meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 18. The council confirmed the appointment of Jarvis as the city's new human resources director. Jarvis thanked council members and City Manager Manuel Chavez for the opportunity and said she looked forward to working at the city. (Photo by Karen Gleason)

The leaders also called on the council to meet with residents about the water rates and answer their questions. Some asked to be placed on the council's agenda. Sandra Fuentes, a leader of The Border Organization, asked the council to tell residents exactly how the city is spending the revenue from the higher water rates. About 40 people concerned about the rates attended the meeting.

MAYOR, COUNCIL MEMBERS MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Al Arreola said he and his wife, Myrella Arreola, wanted to wish Del Rio residents and city employees "a blessed Thanksgiving." Councilwoman Carmen Gutierrez said she, too, wanted to wish everyone "happy Thanksgiving blessings."

Gutierrez thanked H-E-B for hosting its annual Feast of Sharing on Nov. 22, the organizations that volunteer, the individuals and groups that provide free entertainment and Border Federal Credit Union for sponsoring free rides to the event. She also thanked Val Verde County Judge Lewis G. Owens Jr. for sponsoring the annual Veterans Day Parade and asked everyone to continue to keep Owens and his family in their prayers.

Gutierrez said she also

SEE ROUNDUP- PAGE 7

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Four adopted, six reunited with mothers as CASA thanks county

BY KAREN GLEASON
THE 830 TIMES



CASA of Val Verde County Executive Director Ana Moreno and CASA volunteer supervisor Dr. Alma Mota present County Judge Lewis G. Owens Jr. and members of Val Verde County Commissioners Court with a fruit basket in appreciation of the court's support over the past year. From left, Commissioner Pct. 1 Kerr Wardlaw, Commissioner Pct. 2 Juan Carlos Vazquez, Mota, Owens, Moreno, Commissioner Pct. 3 Fernando Garcia and Commissioner Pct. 4 Gustavo "Gus" Flores. (Photo by Karen Gleason)

CASA of Val Verde County leaders recently thanked members of Val Verde County Commissioners Court, saying the court's support has led to a number of good outcomes for local children in foster care.

Ana Moreno, CASA of Val Verde County executive director, spoke to the court during its most recent meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 4.

Moreno told the court, "First and foremost, I would like to thank Judge Owens and commissioners court for allowing us to be here and supporting our mission of advocating for children in the foster care system in our county. Your financial contribution, your support throughout the year and providing the space for our office provides essential support in allowing us to continue our mission.

"Today I would like to share a brief update of some of the wonderful accomplishments that we have done as an organization over the past several weeks and along with the tremendous work being done by our volunteer advocates, our board members and all their supporters. The last six weeks have been especially busy and rewarding for CASA of Val Verde County," Moreno added.

She told the court CASA has had several cases reach permanency, "meaning these children have been able to transition into a safe, stable and permanent family environment."

Moreno said, "I'm happy to report that during September and October, four children were adopted into permanent, loving homes in two separate cases. Six children were successfully reunified with their mothers through two separate cases, and three children were placed in the care of the maternal grandma, who is the primary managing conservatorship.

"Additionally, we have two children in one separate case that moving toward adoption, permanent adoption, so that's a total of 13 children that have achieved permanency through the most recent case closures, which is a significant accomplishment for our program and for our community and all the team and people that are involved in the child welfare system," she added.

Moreno said as of Sept. 1, CASA of Val Verde County was serving 27 children in foster care. She said because of the case closures previously mentioned, the group's caseloads have decreased significantly. CASA is currently serving 15 children, as they got one new case in October.

Moreno said, "While we celebrate the success of the closures of these cases, we also recognize that the circumstances can change for the children and the family. This is why our continued presence and advocacy for these children in the child welfare system are very important. Our goal isn't simply to close a case, but we want to ensure every child we serve has the opportunity to grow in a safe, stable and nurturing environment."

Moreno said she also wanted to recognize the "incredible dedication" of CASA's volunteer advocates.

She said, "This fiscal year we had three advocate classes, one in November 2025, with five advoates; one in April 2026, with five advocates; and one in October 2026, with four advocates, a total of 14 advocates throughout the year serving our families and our children.

"During this fiscal year alone, our volunteers contributed to over 1,000 hours of advocacy, through more than 980 documented advocacy activities. That means going to court, visiting families, visiting the children wherever they are at, participating in family engagements meetings and all of that stuff."

Moreno told the court many local children in foster care are placed outside Val Verde County, requiring volunteers to sometimes travel significant distances.

Moreno said, "These 1,000 (volunteer) hours represent much more than just volunteer service. They represent compassion, dedication and commitment to ensuring that the children in foster care have someone consistently looking out for them.

"I want to emphasize that while we often report numbers and statistics, behind every number is a child whose life has been impacted in a positive way. Again, we report that four children have been adopted, six have been reunified with their mothers, three have been placed in the care of their grand-

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ROUNDUP - FROM PAGE 4

wanted to address the calls she had received from residents about their water bills. She thanked those who spoke to the council. As she continued speaking, Councilman Leno Hernandez called out a "point of order," saying Gutierrez was discussing an item outside the council's agenda.

Gutierrez continued, saying she believes the city should designate someone to check whether residents' meters are working correctly and someone to handle complaints about water rates. Hernandez said he also wanted to thank Border Federal Credit Union for sponsoring rides to the Feast of Sharing.

CITY MANAGER GIVES UPDATES ON UPCOMING EVENTS

City Manager Manuel Chavez said the Del Rio Main Street Program will host "Feel Good Friendsgiving" on South Main Street beginning at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 21. More information is available on the program's Facebook page and the city's Facebook page.

Chavez said anyone interested in participating in the city's annual Christmas parade on Dec. 4 can register on the city's website. This year's theme is "Destination Christmas."

The city is also accepting vendors for its Christmas market. Anyone seeking more information can contact Community Services Director Esme Esparza. Chavez said Esparza is also leading the seventh annual Light Up Del Rio Christmas lighting contest. Those wishing to register can email her at emeza@cityofdelrio.com.

Chavez said he will present another city project update at the Dec. 15 council meeting. He also said the city's transportation division is providing free rides to the Feast of Sharing. Those who need a ride can call 830-774-8690.

Chavez clarified that the city uses a third party to deliver utility bills to residents and that the arrangement has been in place for several years.

MUNICIPAL JUDGE GIVES UPDATE ON COURT OPERATIONS

Municipal Judge Kassandra Flores gave a presentation titled "State of the Judiciary: An Overview of Municipal Court Operations and Recommendations for Needed Improvements." After Flores reviewed court operations and recommended ways to streamline and improve them, council members asked questions but took no formal action.

COUNCIL APPROVES LEASE FOR DEL RIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Council members voted 7-0 to approve a resolution authorizing and directing City Manager Manuel Chavez to execute a lease agreement with the Del Rio Chamber of Commerce for office space in the Del Rio Civic Center. The lease begins Jan. 1, 2027, at a rate of $10,800 per year, payable in 12 monthly installments of $900.

COUNCIL APPROVES APPOINTMENTS TO DEL RIO BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Council members voted 7-0 to approve a resolution appointing Sergio Perez to the Board of Adjustment. Perez previously served as an alternate, attended meetings regularly when needed and wanted to become a full member, City Planning and Zoning Director Janice Pokrant told the council.

Pokrant said George Salinas was appointed in August 2025 to fill a vacancy on the board. His term expired, and he expressed interest in serving a full term. Pokrant encouraged council members to submit names of other residents who might be interested in serving on city boards and commissions.

COUNCIL APPROVES SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY FOR CITY OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES

Council members voted 7-0 to approve a resolution adopting a social media policy for inclusion in the city's personnel handbook. City Attorney Ana Markowski Smith said the policy addresses what council members and city employees can share in their official capacity while using city equipment or their official titles.

Smith also reminded council members that "what you post (on social media) is a public record."

COUNCIL APPROVES MOBILE FOOD VENDOR ORDINANCE

Council members voted 7-0 to approve an ordinance amending the Del Rio Code of Ordinances to address mobile food vendors and food vendor parks. Scot Carcasi, the city's operations and compliance manager, and City Planning and Zoning Director Janice Pokrant presented the changes. They said the city had held several public meetings with local mobile food vendors to share information about the changes.

Carcasi said the biggest change is that mobile food vendors now must obtain a state license to operate. He said he believed many local mobile food vendors had yet to obtain one. Carcasi reviewed key provisions of the ordinance, and council members asked questions and discussed the changes.

COUNCIL APPOINTS NEW HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

After meeting in executive session, council members returned to open session and voted 7-0 to confirm the appointment of Amy Jarvis as the city's new human resources director.

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

REUNITED - FROM PAGE 6

mothers and 13 children who have reached important milestones towards a more stable and secure future.

"These outcomes we have worked through every single day with CASA of Val Verde, with our board members, with our advocates, with our community partners, with our supporters, again it's important that we inform and educate the community that these things are happening in the community and the ways that they can support and they can help to ensure that these kids have a safe and permanent environment," Moreno said.

Moreno finished, "On behalf of the directors, staff, volunteer advocates and the children we serve, I sincerely want to thank County Judge Owens and the commissioners court for your continued investment in our mission. Without your support, this truly wouldn't be possible, and we are very, very thankful. We look forward to working with you in this next fiscal year and we will continue to report on a quarterly basis."

Moreno and Dr. Alma Mota, CASA of Val Verde County's volunteer director, then presented the court with a large fruit basket to show their appreciation for the court's support.

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

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VVRMC approved as training site for Texas Tech family medicine residency program

VAL VERDE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER PRESS RELEASE

Val Verde Regional Medical Center (VVRMC) has officially been approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) as a training site for the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Family Medicine Residency Program.

What does this mean for our community?

Starting in July 2027, new doctors will begin their training with Texas Tech. In July 2028, they will come to Del Rio to complete their final two years of training at VVRMC.

During that time, these doctors will live in Del Rio, care for local patients and become part of our community.

Why is this exciting?

Like many small towns, Del Rio faces challenges attracting doctors. This program gives us the chance to train new doctors right here at home, with the hope that some will choose to stay and serve our community for years to come.

"We want to thank Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and everyone who helped make this possible," said Jorge Jurado, VVRMC CEO. "This is a big step toward bringing more doctors to Del Rio and building a stronger future for health care in our community!"



Val Verde Regional Medical Center (VVRMC) has officially been approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) as a training site for the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Family Medicine Residency Program. (Courtesy photo)

Give Thanks!



Frenchey McCrea

Del Rio HIgh School Athletic Director

I'm most thankful for FAMILY!



Fernando Garcia

County Commissioner Pct. 3

"I am thankful for my family and my friends. I am thankful for my health. Also, I am thankful for my Precinct 3 family members and for the opportunity to make Precinct 3 and Val Verde County a better place to live."

Commissioners approve flood gauges, seek new bids for fire station site

BY KAREN GLEASON
THE 830 TIMES

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

What happened:

COUNTY JUDGE ASKS FOR MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR FALLEN SOLDIER

Following the meeting's opening ceremonies, County Judge Lewis G. Owens Jr. asked the court and audience to observe a moment of silence for Del Rio native Nicholas Mathew "Nick" Chavira.

Chavira, 23, the son of Norma and Marcus Chavira, was a resident of Odem, Texas, where his funeral was held. According to his obituary, Chavira enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2025 and died following a medical emergency as he was completing his final field training exam in Advanced Individual Training at Fort Lee, Virginia.

COUNTY JUDGE THANKS OUTGOING JUSTICE OF THE PEACE FOR 'EXCEPTIONAL' TRANSITION

Following the meeting's opening ceremonies, Owens thanked Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Randel Dissler for easing the transition to his successor.

Owens said transitions from one elected official to another following elections usually consist of the new official taking over on Jan. 1 with little or no overlap. Owens said he was impressed with how Dissler, who lost the election to Robert "Bobby" Hernandez, is handling the transition.

Owens noted he did not vote for Dissler when the court appointed him to the justice of the peace post but said Dissler has done "an exceptional, unbelievable job." Owens added that Dissler's treatment of Hernandez following the election and his efforts to ease the transition are "a true test of Judge Dissler's character."

COURT APPROVES CAR SEAT SAFETY EVENT AT COUNTY ANNEX

The court voted 5-0 to allow SJRC-Belong to host a "Keep Safe, Buckle Up" event at 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, at the Judge Antonio "Tony" Faz III County Annex, 315 E. Chapoy St.

Eligible families will have the opportunity to receive a free car seat. Owens said he still has 10 to 15 car seats and offered them to Precinct 2 Commissioner Juan Carlos Vazquez for use at the event.

COURT TAKES ACTION ON INSTALLATION OF FLOOD GAUGES

The court voted 5-0 to install new flood gauges on Dolan Creek and Miers roads in Val Verde County.

Vazquez said that because of repeated flooding on the two roads, he has met with County Engineer Carlos Velarde to determine the best type of gauge to use and to obtain gauges "compatible to our needs."

Owens said he received information last week that some state money is available for sirens and flood gauges. He asked commissioners to come up with a list of areas in their precincts where those warning devices might be best used.

STREETLIGHT REQUEST AGAIN DIES FOR LACK OF A SECOND

Precinct 4 Commissioner Gustavo "Gus" Flores again sought approval to install an LED streetlight and the necessary hardware and infrastructure and to authorize Owens to execute a CIAC agreement with AEP Texas for the light.

Flores said the estimated installation cost of $151.21 would be paid from the Precinct 4 operating budget. The streetlight would be installed at the intersection of Owens and Cienegas roads.

As he has since February, Flores made a motion to approve the installation, but his motion died for lack of a second.

COURT APPROVES HIGHER HOTEL RATE LIMIT FOR COUNTY CLERK TRAINING

The court voted 5-0 to make an exception to the $150 nightly hotel room limit for official travel, raising it to $250 per night for County Clerk Teresa Esther Chapoy and two members of her staff. They will attend the 2027 County and District Clerks' Association of Texas Winter Conference in San Marcos, Texas, Feb. 16-19.

Chapoy said the conference rate at the host hotel is $179 per night but added that she has been unable to get a reservation there.

COURT ACCEPTS DONATION TO VAL VERDE COUNTY LIBRARY

The court voted 5-0 to accept a $150 donation from the New Century Club in memory of Dorothy Brown, Carol Pendergrass and LaVerne Foster. The club donated $50 in memory of each individual.

COURT APPROVES CIENEGAS TERRACE PLAT

The court voted 5-0 to approve a plat creating lots 23A and 23B in Block NBC2 of Cienegas Terrace from Lot 23 of the same block, as shown in Volume 4, Page 83 of the Val Verde County Map Records.

Velarde told the court this was the second time the item had been presented and that it was up for final approval. He said there are two structures on the original lot and the owner is seeking to divide it into two lots to comply with the county's model subdivision rules.

COURT APPROVES DIABLO HEIGHTS PLAT REVISION

The court voted 5-0 to approve a plat revision establishing Lot 46R in Diablo Heights from lots 46, 47, 48 and 49, as shown in Volume 5, Pages 23 and 24 of the Val Verde County Map Records.

Velarde said this was the first presentation of the replat request to the court. The request was received last week and presented Tuesday, Nov. 17, to the Amistad Land Use and Zoning Commission, which recommended approval.

Velarde said that following the court's approval, property owners within 200 feet of the property will be notified of the requested change, and the request will be posted on the county's website. He said the owner wants to create a single 13.87-acre tract.

Owens asked Velarde to name the commission members so they could be publicly recognized and thanked. The commission includes Vazquez, Del Rio City Councilman J.P. Sanchez, Franklin Hargrove and Michelle Fagan. Owens said the commission has a quorum at every meeting, a feat he called "impressive."

COUNTY ENGINEER UPDATES COURT ON ONGOING PROJECTS

Velarde gave an update on the county's ongoing projects, including water-related work in the Escondido Estates and San Felipe Pastures areas and construction of a water tank in Comstock, west of Del Rio.

Velarde also reviewed work on the Roberto "Bob" Chavira Sports Complex off U.S. Highway 90 behind Del Rio Middle School, a new county gun range, a new county fire station and several projects to bring county properties into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The court took no action following the review.

COURT SEEKS NEW BIDS FOR FIRE STATION SITE PAD

SEE COUNTY- PAGE 22


ADVANCED
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ADVANCED
ROBOTIC SURGERY

HAPPY Thanksgiving

CITY OF Del Rio TEXAS

FROM
THE CITY OF DEL RIO CITY COUNCIL



Alvaro "Al" Arreola
Mayor



Randy A. Quiñones
District III



Carmen Gutierrez
At-Large Place A



Elsa Reyes
District I



JP Sanchez
At-Large Place B



Leno Hernandez
District II



LeRoy Briones
At-Large Place C



A Message from City Manager, Manuel Chavez
As we celebrate Thanksgiving, I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to the people who make Del Rio such a special community.

Whether you're gathering with loved ones, celebrating with friends, or simply enjoying a quiet moment, may this season remind us of the importance of kindness, gratitude, and community.

Thank you for all you do to make Del Rio a better place to live, work, and call home.

¡Qué pasa?

830 Entertainment



From Del Rio to the Latin Grammys

Del Rio native Mario Ortiz Jr, nearly picked up his sixth Grammy this past week and he stopped and shared about what it was like going to the Latin Grammys in Vegas Nov. 12 and what it was like trying to get home the next day when the Federal Aviation Administration grounded flights for more than 4 hours. (Courtesy photo)

See page QP2

Give Thanks!



Family Jewelz

Del Rio brothers' trio blending rock, country, and Americana with borderland soul.

Family Jewelz are definitely thankful this year for family, health and the opportunity to be able to play our music for the community that always supports us.



Daniel White

Award-winning songwriter, singer and local band director

Having a loving family that supports me in my career whether as a teacher or perform

From the red carpet to the road: Del Rio's Ortiz keeps making music

BY JOEL LANGTON
THE 830 TIMES

Del Rio musician Mario Ortiz Jr. left Las Vegas without a sixth Grammy Thursday, Nov. 12, but he barely had time to dwell on it before his next musical adventure began.

A nationwide flight disruption, a 19-hour drive home and a last-minute tour would turn his return to the Latin Grammys into the start of a whirlwind week.

Ortiz, who built his musical foundation playing in his parents' church band in Del Rio, walked the red carpet Thursday afternoon, hoping to leave with another golden gramophone.

It wasn't Ortiz's first waltz down the red carpet, but it was his first in 10 years.

"It's been about 10 years since I did my last Grammy or Latin Grammy ceremony, so it was pretty cool to experience that again," Ortiz said.

Ortiz said he has contributed as a producer, engineer, keyboardist and arranger to Grammy- and Latin Grammy-winning projects by Chente Barrera, Joe Posada, Little Joe y La Familia and David Lee Garza. He also said he produced three Grammy-nominated albums for Jay Perez.

His trophies have stayed at the family home in Del Rio rather than his San Antonio home. Ortiz said his late mother built a shrine to display them, and he never got to take them home with him.

His latest chance at a trophy came through his work with Destiny Navaira, a singer who hails from Tejano royalty. She is the daughter of musician Raulito Navaira and the niece of the late Tejano pioneer Emilio Navaira.

"Her record company hired me to produce a couple of songs, and I recorded all the vocals at my studio," Ortiz said.

Navaira's "3" competed against albums by Kevin Aguilar, Jay Perez, Vilax and eventual winner Bobby Pulido for Best Tejano Album at this year's Latin Grammys.

Pulido, now a congressman-elect, also turned his musical career into a campaign calling card.

Pulido's incumbent opponent put his music front and center during the campaign when she said the election "isn't about who you want performing at your niece's quinceañera." Pulido responded by accepting invitations to perform at quinceañeras across the district, drawing national attention during his successful bid to flip the Republican-held seat.

For Ortiz, the next stop after the awards ceremony was supposed to be home. Getting there proved more complicated.

Ortiz said he and his crew arrived at the airport Friday, Nov. 13, as an FAA ground stop halted departures nationwide for more than four hours.

With performances waiting back home and no clear departure time, they rented a van and made the 19-hour drive to San Antonio.

Ortiz said his Southwest app still showed him waiting for a flight when he spoke with The 830 Times on Monday, Nov. 19.



Mario Ortiz Jr. pauses with is wife Cindy while walking the red carpet at the Latin Grammy for a quick picture. (Courtesy photo)

Once home, he had about 10 minutes with his children before leaving to perform Saturday night, Nov. 14. He returned around 2 or 3 a.m., slept an hour or two and reported to church at 6:30 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 15, to lead praise and worship.

After church, he spent the afternoon with his family, then packed for another trip. While in Las Vegas, he had accepted a last-minute job as music director for a tour with rapper That Mexican OT.

By Monday, Ortiz had landed in Santa Barbara, Calif., and was preparing to head to Los Angeles for rehearsals. He said the tour would keep him on the road until Dec. 20.

Ortiz said his reputation for assembling bands, directing musicians and solving problems helped land him the job.

"If anything goes left, I make sure it goes right," Ortiz said.

The whirlwind schedule meant putting his studio projects on hold until he returned. But for Ortiz, it was another chapter in a career built around making music.

"I've been very blessed and fortunate to be able to do this for a living," Ortiz said. "It's a hustle, bro. It's a grind, and not too many people are built for this," he added.

And it all started right on the border in Del Rio.

Castle finds hope, second chances in new song

BY JOEL LANGTON
THE 830 TIMES

For Clifton Castle, "Whistling Down the Avenue" is more than another song. It is a reflection of difficult chapters, lessons learned and the happiness he has found on the other side.

"I actually wrote 'Whistling Down the Avenue' as a reflection of where I am in my life today," said Castle, who has lived in Del Rio for 31 of his 45 years.

Castle has been involved in music for years, performing as Clifton Castle and with On the Fly, primarily playing cover songs. His newest country-pop release, however, draws from his own life.

Like most people, Castle said he has experienced ups and downs, made mistakes and learned difficult lessons about life, relationships and himself.

The most significant turning point came when he met the woman who became his wife. Finding love and happiness after those experiences gave him a new outlook and inspired the song.

"It's about finally reaching a place in life where you can genuinely smile again, appreciate what you have and look forward to what's ahead instead of dwelling on what's behind you," Castle said.

To Castle, the song represents second chances, personal growth, love and rediscovering happiness.

"One thing I've learned is that happiness doesn't always come when or how you expect it," he said. "Sometimes you have to travel a pretty rough road before you recognize just how good life can be."

Castle believes that message can resonate with people who have endured divorce, difficult relationships, personal struggles or periods when life did not unfold as planned.

Castle recorded "Whistling Down the Avenue" in Del Rio with producer Asaf Figuerias, whom he met during the Spring Jam festival.

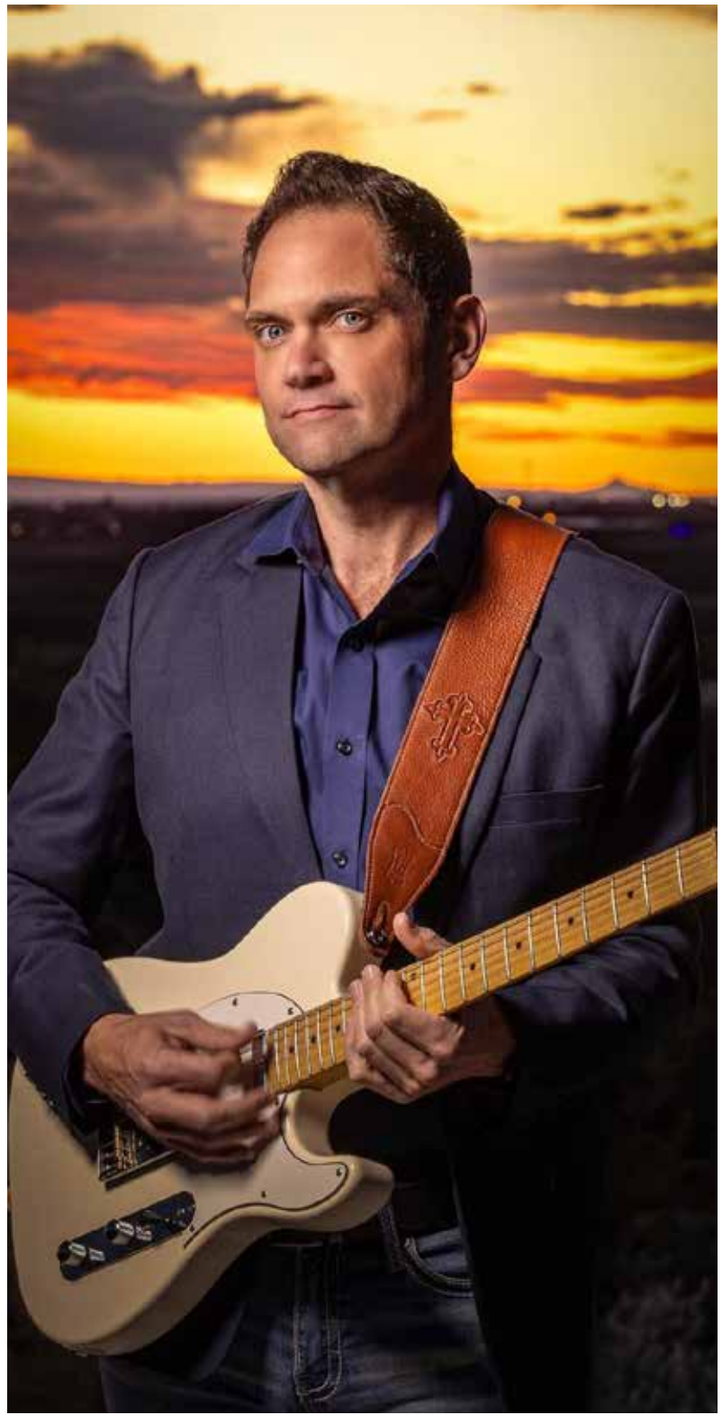
"Asaf Figuerias is a producer who is very talented," Castle said.

"Whistling Down the Avenue" follows several other original releases from Castle. He previously released "Unbreakable Walls," along with "She Believes," co-written with John Stritenberger, and "You're Here Now," co-written with Allen B. Morgan.

Outside music, Castle works in agricultural sales and consulting, a career that keeps him traveling. Music, however, has remained an important part of his life, and he said he is excited to release more original work.

"Your past doesn't have to define your future," Castle said. "Sometimes the best chapters of your life are the ones you never saw coming."

"Whistling Down the Avenue" is available on Spotify, Apple Music and other streaming platforms. Castle has also released a promotional video for the song.



Clifton Castle recent release "Whistling Down the Avenue" wraps a lot of his personal story in the song. (Courtesy photo)

Give Thanks!



William Beckmann

Del Rio native, country artist, and Warner Music Nashville recording artist

"I'm most grateful for my family and the people who come to my shows and support my music."



Nelson Acerbus

Lead singer for Semper Acerbus and guitar tech and stage manager for Stryper

I'm thankful for my health, my family and always looking forward to better endeavors.

Movie Review: WILD HORSE NINE

BY LOUIS ZYLKA
THE 830 TIMES

Award season is still firing on all cylinders with the release of "Wild Horse Nine," the newest film by writer and director Martin McDonagh ("Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri," "The Banshees of Inisherin"). McDonagh, known for delivering audiences black comedies with social/political commentaries, unites John Malkovich and Sam Rockwell as the stars of an espionage drama taking place in Chile during the 1970s.

McDonagh's film centers on Chris Carlisle (Malkovich) and Lee Chesterfield (Rockwell), two CIA agents sent to Easter Island in Chile, where the famous stone statues called moai reside. Chris and Lee try and enjoy a vacation trip when it begins to derail as assassination attempts occur, Carlisle begins to suffer terminal cancer and memory loss and sensitive secrets and information unfolds related to our protagonists.

"Wild Horse Nine" is carried by strong performances from talented actors working with fun, witty and engaging dialogue. Malkovich is the scene-stealer who expertly brings an awkward and dark sense of humor to Mcdonagh's film. Rockwell is always an incredible actor, and while he may not be an immediate lock for a best supporting actor nomination, his performance complements the journey of Malkovich's character.

McDonagh's film is also accompanied by beautiful cinematography, capturing beautiful shots of Easter Island, and a melodramatic score by Carter Burwell. "Wild Horse Nine" is not a laugh out-loud comedy nor an action thriller, but it strives as the thought-provoking political commentary it promises to be. While it is slow, the film wraps up decently with satisfying moments, depending on how attached you are with the characters by the end.



(From left) Chris Carlisle (John Malkovich) and Lee Chesterfield (Sam Rockwell), two CIA agents, travel to Easter Island in Rapa Nui, Chile, for personal matters in "Wild Horse Nine," written and directed by Martin McDonagh. (Courtesy Photo)

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1



DIAMOND ART CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

FRIDAY, NOV.EMBER, 20TH

LEARN TO DECORATE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS AT CULTURE SHOCK, 114 W. GREENWOOD ST., ON FRIDAY, NOV. 20, FROM 6 P.M. TO 8 P.M.

2

THE CUFF GRAND OPENING

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER. 21ST

SHOP FOR NEW CLOTHES AT THE GRAND OPENING OF THE CUFF AT 407 S. MAIN ST. ON SATURDAY, NOV. 21, AT 10 A.M.



3



FEAST OF SHARING

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER. 21ST

CELEBRATE THE HARD WORKERS IN THE COMMUNITY AT THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER EVENT AT THE DEL RIO CIVIC CENTER, 1915 VETERANS BLVD, ON SATURDAY, NOV. 21, AT 11 A.M.

4

BEYBLADE TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER. 21ST

TEST YOUR BEYBLADE SKILLS WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILIES AT PLA MOR DEL RIO, 1201 N. BEDELL AVE, ON SATURDAY, NOV. 21, AT 6:10 P.M.



5



RAGE & GAZE II

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER. 21ST

BRING CANNED FOOD AND ENJOY ROCK MUSIC AT A LOCAL FOOD DRIVE AT THE WHITEHEAD MEMORIAL MUSEUM, 1308 S. MAIN ST., ON SATURDAY, NOV. 21, FROM 7 P.M. TO 11:30 P.M.

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830 Entertainment: *Events at a glance!*

LIVE MUSIC AT MEMO'S

NOV. 20 - Rene Maldonado will perform live music at Memo's Restaurant, 804 E. Losoya St., on Friday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m. Make reservations by calling 830-774-1583.

DIAMOND ART CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

NOV. 20 - Enjoy some hot chocolate and create Christmas ornaments at Culture Shock, 114 W. Greenwood St., on Friday, Nov. 20, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

POKEMON AT DRACULINA'S

NOV. 20 - Partake in the Pokemon trading care game (TCG) tournament at Draculina's Nerdvana, 401 S. Main St., on Friday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m.

THE CUFF GRAND OPENING

NOV. 21 - A new thrift boutique with a selection of clothing, accessories, candles and other items will open its doors to the public at 407 S. Main St. on Saturday, Nov. 21, at 10 a.m.

HEB FEAST OF SHARING

NOV. 21 - Del Rio residents can enjoy a free holiday meal during the annual community event at the Del Rio Civic Center, 1915 Veterans Blvd, on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

BEYBLADE X TOURNAMENT

NOV. 21 - The Del Rio Beyblade League will have a tournament at Pla-Mor, 1201 N. Bedell Ave, on Saturday, Nov. 21. The freeplay/registration will begin at 5 p.m., and the official tournament will begin at 6:10 p.m. Entry fee is $5.

MARCOS MARES ART STUDIO & GALLERY ART CLASS

NOV. 21 - 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. 21, beginning at 3 p.m. Admission is $40 for an individual class and $140 for an entire month.

RAGE N GAZE II

NOV. 21 - A food drive with music from Blindface, Youlogy, Blemish and Ghettoside will take place at the Whitehead Memorial Museum, 1308 S. Main St., on Saturday, Nov. 21, at 7 p.m.

GAMES AT DRACULINA

NOV. 21 - Draculina Nerdvana, 401 S. Main St., will have several card games take place at their location on Saturday, Nov. 21. A Digimon Card Game tournament will take place at 2 p.m., and a One Piece Card Game session will take place at 7 p.m..

DR QUEENS 3VS TOURNAMENT

NOV. 22 - A basketball tournament for local players, boys and girls, will take place at the Sacred Heart Gym on Sunday, Nov. 22, starting in the afternoon. Team entry fee will be $100. Contact 830-703-6784 for more information.

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 BREAK FOR SFDRCISD

NOV. 23 THROUGH NOV. 27 - All the school campuses will be closed, giving students, teachers and school staff a week-long break for Thanksgiving starting Monday, Nov. 23, and continuing to Friday, Nov. 27. Students and staff will return to school on Monday, Nov. 30.

JUST A SLICE ART WORKSHOP

NOV. 24 - Focus and learn how to mix colors and work with shading and textures while making portraits of cakes at a creative workshop at Marcos Mares Art Studio & Gallery on Tuesday, Nov. 24. The fee will be $40.

FITNESS CLASSES AT THE FIREHOUSE

NOV. 24 & 26 - Del Rio Council for the Arts at the Firehouse, 120 E. Garfield St., will have beginner-friendly yoga classes on Tuesday, Nov. 24, and Thursday, Nov. 26, at 6 p.m. Tuition for a single-day class is $10.

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.

ONE PLACE MARKET

NOV. 28 - Shop from local vendors at the Pecan Ballroom area at the Del Rio Civic Center, 1915 Veterans Blvd, on Saturday, Nov. 28, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

POKEMON TCG CUP

NOV. 28 - Champions unite! The Pokemon Trading-Card-Game (TCG) Cup will take place at Draculina's Nerdvana, 401 S. Main St., on Saturday, Nov. 28, at 12 p.m. The entry fee is $20, and a prize pack will be handed out per entry (a decklist is required)

.

WINTER SPC CONCERT SERIES

DEC. 1 THROUGH DEC. 15 - The San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District's (SFDR CISD) Fine Arts Department will be featuring its concert series with performances by student musicians at 315 Griner St. starting on Tuesday, Dec. 1, at 6 p.m. The series will end on Tuesday, Dec. 15.

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FLUORIDE - FROM PAGE 3

there were any questions.

Councilman Leno Hernandez began by asking Villarreal when the city started fluoridation, and Villarreal replied it was in 2006.

Hernandez said, "We don't have any data that tells us the pros and the cons of what life was before the addition of fluoride until today?"

Villarreal replied, "At the water plant, it was just monitoring levels and making sure they were the correct doses that were set by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)."

Hernandez then asked if the question of whether the city should restart fluoridation or permanently discontinue the practice would be brought back before the council.

City Manager Manuel Chavez said, "We wanted to kind of present this as far as our current state. I know that it's been brought up here most recently, and the idea for this particular presentation was just to make you aware that currently it's not being injected, mainly because the equipment needs to be replaced, repaired, and, if this is something we want to continue, then definitely we need to bring it back.

"It is costly. It's been introduced in budget, as early as 2021," Chavez added.

Villarreal interjected with some data about costs researched by city staff and added that currently most suppliers of the chemical are located overseas. He said it would cost about $300,000 to ready the equipment and storage facilities needed to restart fluoridation.

Hernandez reiterated Villarreal's presentation did not include data on the pros and cons.

He said, "There was no pros and cons to tell us whether or not we need it, whether or not we're benefitting from it being in our system or not, so that we can make that decision whether or not it's worth the investment. We were just told how expensive it is and how low the supply is."

The councilman said whenever the issue is brought back to council, he would like to see "actual data" regarding dental health before and after fluoride was added to the city's water system.

"There have to be some studies out there that are going to help us decide whether we need to make these types of investments or not," Hernandez said and asked Chavez to provide the council with that information.

Mayor Al Arreola asked when the city stopped adding fluoride to its water, and Villarreal replied it was in 2017-2018.

Councilwoman Elsa Reyes speculated the city may have started adding fluoride because at the time there were not as many products with fluoride in them.

Arreola said citizens over the past 20 years have approached the city about not adding fluoride to the city's drinking water, noting some fluoride occurs naturally in the spring water that is the city's source of drinking water.

He then recognized Councilwoman Carmen Gutierrez.

Gutierrez, reading from prepared notes, said, "On June 30, 2005, a group named Environment Concerned Citizens, led by myself and Ms. Rosalinda Sanchez, came before council because at that time, council had already approved the addition of fluoride into our water system, and we came with facts, detailed information from the Centers for Disease Control and everything, and that particular council voted to stop the addition of fluoride.

"Two weeks later, due to influence by an outside organization and some dental professionals, it was reinstated. That decision to stop adding fluoride into our water system was rescinded and it began again. On Sept. 12, 2006, John Morony, environmental specialist, came before council, speaking to the toxicity of fluoride addition to our water system.

"On Oct. 24, 2006, Fluoride Action Network, led by Bob Dinoir, also came and spoke about the fluoride toxicity that has been in existence for nearly 25 years. In 2017, the city of Del Rio went ahead and stopped due to issues resulting in having to redo the facility and upgrade equipment. Fluoride ate up the equipment.

"From July to August this year, I have had requests to add this item to the agenda. So it's time. I'd like to ask the city manager to add the discussion of and possible action on to permanently remove fluoride from the water system. HSF is highly corrosive. If it's going to corrode the equipment that we have out there in the water filtration system, can you imagine what it would do to our bodies?

"But it's not my decision alone. It's something that each and every citizen needs to decide and they need to decide vocally. If at that time council cannot decide, maybe future action would be to put it on a ballot, a referendum, and that would be a different option, but I would like to see the discussion and possible permanent removal of fluoride in the water system.

"As of right now, they're not adding it. So that's good. … If you look at the dental, and I know they talked about the dental, there is a warning label on our toothpaste that says, 'poison control.' And I'm not saying it's my opinion, but there are established records of high incidents of dementia, thyroid illness, endocrine disorders, higher and higher increasing in this area," Gutierrez said.

She finished, "It is a public health decision, and it is a public health choice, and hopefully we can hear from our citizens at that time."

Arreola noted the city "will remain where we're at" until Chavez brings the issue back before the council. Chavez said based on the evening's discussion, he would bring back an action item on the issue, "with more information that has been available since 2006."

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

Give Thanks!



Sheriff Joe Frank Martinez

I am grateful for the citizens of Val Verde County for placing their trust and support and allowing us to keep our community safe.



Juan Carlos Vazquez
County Commissioner Pct. 2

"This is a really great time of the year to spend with family and friends, with children and grandchildren. I'm really grateful for the place we live in. I'm just really grateful for the whole community."

COUNTY – FROM PAGE 10

The court voted 5-0 to authorize County Purchasing Agent Melissa Vasquez to advertise for competitive bids for labor and materials to build the site pad and foundation for the county's planned fire station off U.S. Highway 90, just northwest of the Del Rio city limits.

Owens said the county had sought bids for base material, materials for the station itself and labor. He said the pad was built and materials for the fire station were purchased, but the pad "did not pass" strength testing.

"At this point, we are going to start all over. The individual who we bought the concrete off of has a bond, and our attorneys will be pursuing that avenue," Owens said.

Owens said advertising for bids is the next step. He said the recommendation from the next round of bids would be brought back to the court "while our attorneys navigate the legal process with the bonding company on the concrete."

COMMISSIONERS GIVE UPDATES ON ROAD REPAIRS AND OTHER PROJECTS

During the "Commissioners' Comments" portion of the meeting, Vazquez said the Precinct 2 road and bridge crew is working on Dolan Creek and Miers roads, which were heavily damaged in recent flooding.

Vazquez said crews are also working on the Chavira sports complex, picking up brush and filling potholes. He said he would visit Lausen Lane with the county engineer later in the day to continue work on the last portion of paving there.

Precinct 1 Commissioner Kerr Wardlaw said his crew has been working on washed-out roads and low-water crossings. He said recent rains led to more potholes and more brush.

COUNTY JUDGE ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR ROAD PAVING

Owens said he planned to send an email that afternoon about funding the county would receive through a $2 million loan. He said the email would show how much each commissioner would receive based on the road logs for their precincts.

Owens said Precincts 1 and 3 would receive $6,000 per mile, and Precincts 2 and 4 would receive $5,000 per mile. He said the $1,000 difference reflects the $1,000 per mile that Precincts 2 and 4 received during the county's previous fiscal year.

Owens said road materials in two piles off U.S. Highway 277 South would also be distributed among the commissioners based on their road logs. He thanked Texas Department of Transportation personnel for providing the material.

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

H-E-B's Feast of Sharing returns to Del Rio Saturday

FROM STAFF REPORTS

H-E-B will bring Del Rio residents together for a free holiday meal Saturday, Nov. 21, as its annual Feast of Sharing returns to the Del Rio Civic Center.

The dinner will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the civic center, 1915 Veterans Blvd., according to H-E-B's official event calendar.

The celebration is free and open to the public, welcoming families, friends and neighbors to share a meal and enjoy holiday cheer.

Del Rio's gathering is part of a series of 34 dinners across Texas and Mexico that serve more than 350,000 meals, according to H-E-B. The celebrations feature food, music and opportunities for communities to come together.

H-E-B launched Feast of Sharing in 1989 to thank its customers and invite them to the holiday table. Volunteers have helped serve more than five million meals since the tradition began.

The dinners are part of H-E-B's Hunger Relief Program, which works throughout the year to prevent hunger.



Anvar Navejar, a student at Del Rio High School, serves Rosa Soto a Texas Thanksgiving meal at a past Feast of Sharing. More than 4,500 meals were served throughout the day. (Photo by Joel Langton)



It takes numerous volunteers working hard to serve up 4,500 plates of food at HEB's Feast of Sharing held this Saturday at the Del Rio Civic Center. (Photo by Joel Langton)

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Val Verde has 5th screwworm case

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A New World screwworm detection in a Val Verde County sheep has prompted state officials to expand an animal quarantine zone into neighboring Terrell County, while additional detections there have brought another round of restrictions.

According to a Nov. 9 order from the Texas Animal Health Commission, screwworm was detected in a Val Verde County sheep Nov. 8. The finding followed an Oct. 21 detection in a head of cattle in the county, which had prompted an earlier quarantine order. The modified order establishes Infested Zone 24.A across portions of Val Verde and Terrell counties.

As of 2 p.m. Nov. 15, state officials listed five animal cases in Val Verde County: three in the positive-case category involving cattle and sheep, and two inactive cases involving a sheep and a goat, according to the Texas Division of Emergency Management's situation report. Those figures count affected animals, not individual screwworm larvae.

The restrictions prohibit moving warm-blooded animals out of the designated zone without prior commission authorization. Animals leaving the zone must undergo required inspection and treatment and receive a movement permit or certificate. The order also requires inspection and any necessary treatment of hides, carcasses and animal parts capable of carrying the pest before removal from the zone.

The restrictions apply to designated areas within the counties. Owners can check their property's location using the state's online infested-zone map.

In Terrell County, state officials reported screwworm in a head of cattle Nov. 11 and in two sheep Nov. 13. Those detections prompted a separate modified order Nov. 14 covering an infested zone in portions of Terrell and Brewster counties.

Another order, issued Nov. 10, established restrictions in portions of Crockett, Irion and Reagan counties following a detection in a head of cattle in Reagan County.

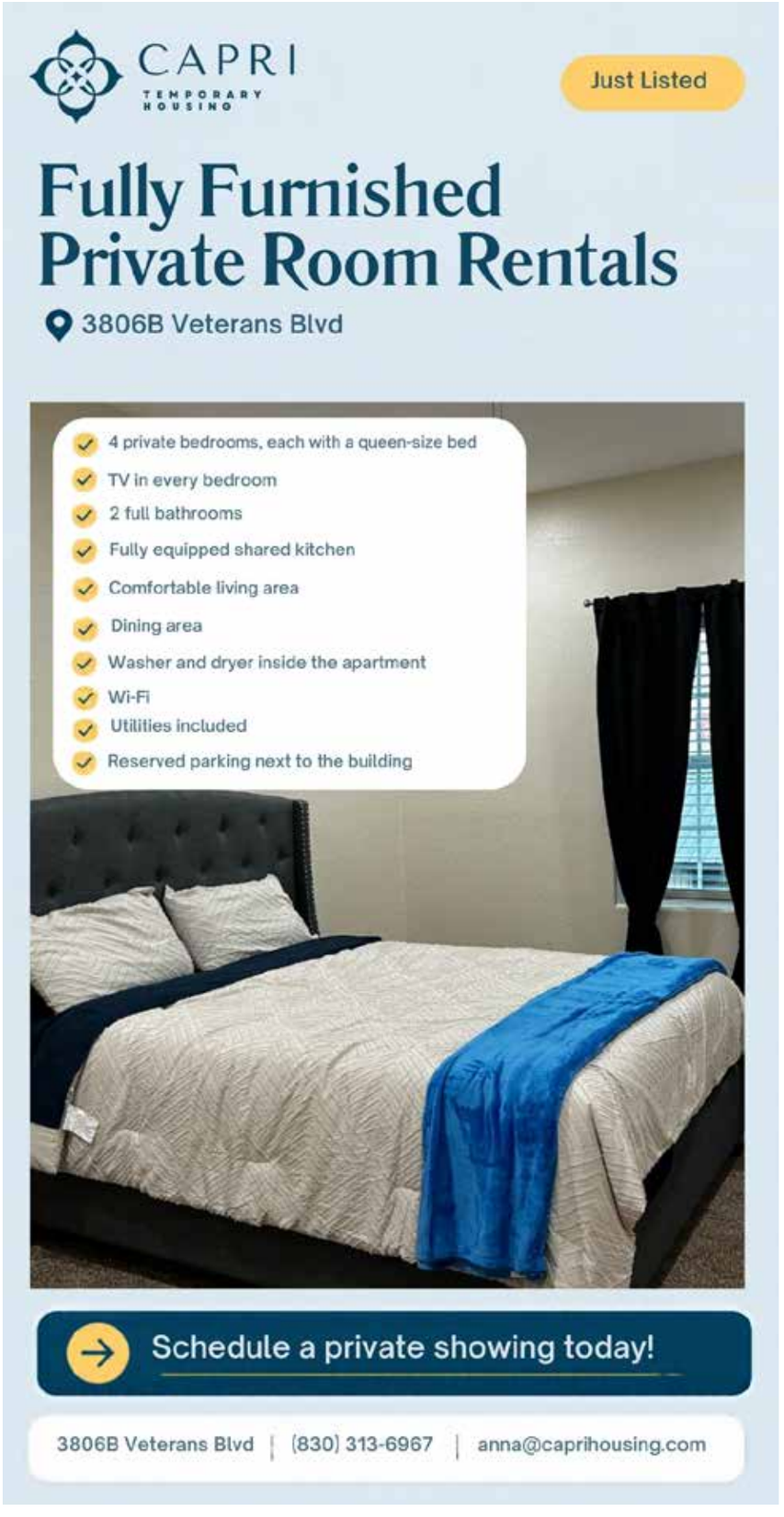
New World screwworms are fly larvae that burrow into and feed on living tissue. The flies lay eggs in wounds or body openings, and resulting infestations can cause severe injury or death. Livestock, pets, wildlife and people can be affected, according to the commission.

State officials urge livestock and pet owners to inspect their animals closely and report suspicious wounds or larvae promptly. Federal and state agencies are conducting surveillance and releasing sterile flies as part of efforts to control and eradicate the pest.

Suspected cases in livestock or pets should be reported to the Texas Animal Health Commission at 800-550-8242. Suspected wildlife cases can be reported to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at 512-389-4505. Current orders and a link to the zone map are available at tahc.texas.gov/emergency/nws.html.



This small herd of sheep and goats in northern Val Verde County is vulnerable to New World screwworm. Five animal cases have been reported in Val Verde County, according to the Texas Division of Emergency Management's situation report. (Courtesy photo)




CITY OF Del Rio TEXAS
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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).

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CITATION BY PUBLICATION

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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

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Maria Ramon
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SWIM

JOAQUIN ARREDONDO, TIAGO GALLEGOS, ARTURO LOPEZ AND HARRISON STELL TOOK BRONZE IN THE 200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY FRIDAY AT THE LA COPA SWIM MEET IN LAREDO. THE RAMS FINISHED EIGHTH AND THE QUEENS PLACED 12TH.

BASKETBALL

Del Rio Queens Basketball took 2nd at the Harlandale Tournament, Nov. 12-14

- *Lost to Clark 59-45.*
- *Lost to Medina Valley 58-43.*
- *Defeated Burbank 78-76 (OT).*
- *Defeated Laredo Martin 57-40.*
- *Lost to Boerne-Champion 74-30.*

- *Nov. 17, Queens defeated Odessa Bronchos, 50-49.*

Del Rio Rams Basketball

- *Lost to San Angelo Central, 76-63*

A LOOK AHEAD: WHAT'S COMING NEXT

Boys basketball — Del Rio Rams

Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 19-21
Del Rio Rams at the Harlandale ISD Classic in San Antonio. Tipoff times TBA.

Friday-Saturday, Nov. 20-21
Del Rio Queens at the Alpine Tournament in Alpine. Tipoff times TBA.

Rams and Queens home doubleheader

Monday, Nov. 23 -Del Rio High School
Del Rio Queens vs. Cornerstone Christian, 1:30 p.m.
Del Rio Rams vs. Carrizo Springs, 3 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 24 -Del Rio High School
Del Rio Queens vs. Uvalde, 11:30 a.m. at Del Rio High School.
Del Rio Rams at C.C. Winn, 1:30 p.m. in Eagle Pass.

Swim

Nov. 19, 5:30 p.m., Del Rios Vs Laredo United Vs Laredo Alexander

Dec. 4 and 5, Texas Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association Swim and Dive Championship Meet at Laredo.

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Queens edge Odessa by one, Comstock boys win opener

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Del Rio Queens improved to 6–3 Tuesday with a 50–49 road win over Odessa, according to MaxPreps.

The Queens have come out of the blocks fast under head coach Marisa Soto, embracing her run-and-gun offense. They opened the season with wins over Crystal City (76–57), Fort Stockton (92–58) and Winn (72–21).

Del Rio finished second at the Harlandale Tournament, beating Burbank 78–76 in overtime and Martin 57–40. The Queens' three losses this season came at the tournament against Clark, Medina Valley and Boerne-Champion.

The Del Rio Rams opened their season with a 76–63 loss at San Angelo Central. The Bobcats went 29–6 last season and won the District 2-6A title with a 9–1 record. Tuesday's win was their 16th straight at home dating back to last season, according to MaxPreps.

The Queens play in the Alpine Tournament on Friday and Saturday before hosting Cornerstone Christian at 1:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23. The Rams host Carrizo Springs at 3 p.m. Monday in their home opener.

The Comstock boys opened their season with a 62–26 home win over La Pryor, while the Comstock girls fell 59–36. Both teams are scheduled to play at Sanderson on Tuesday, Dec. 1, with the girls tipping off at 6 p.m. and the boys at 7:30 p.m.

Brackett's girls dropped their season opener 57–25 at Nueces Canyon. They're scheduled to host Rocksprings at 6 p.m. Friday.

Some of Del Rio's District 30-6A opponents picked up close nondistrict wins Tuesday. Southwest's girls edged McCollum 53–51, and its boys beat Boerne 52–51. The United South boys got past Edinburg North 40–38, and the Southwest Legacy boys beat Highlands 56–50. Both Eagle Pass teams fell, with the girls losing 51–25 to Carrizo Springs and the boys losing 75–43 to Pieper.

Among Comstock's District 31-1A opponents, the Rocksprings girls beat Blanco 50–45, the Knippa girls topped Sabinal 41–16 and the Leakey girls fell 39–21 to Llano. In boys' action, Comfort beat Knippa 79–49.

The Uvalde Coyotes beat Nueces Canyon 68–8 in their home opener Tuesday, according to the Uvalde Leader-News. Three Coyotes scored in double figures, led by Jordan "Porkchop" Albarado with 19 points. Ramiro Gamez added 13, and Alex Hernandez scored 11.

The Uvalde Leader-News also reported that Medina Valley beat the Uvalde Lobos 60–22 Tuesday. The Lobos (3–1) open play Thursday, Nov. 19, at the Southside basketball tournament, where they'll face Lytle and Highlands in pool play.

It was a tougher night for Brackett's District 29-2A opponents. Along with Sabinal's loss to Knippa, the Johnson City girls fell 36–35 to San Saba, and the Harper girls lost 57–27 to Cole. The Center Point boys fell 54–33 to Cotulla.

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Del Rio swimmers medal in relay at La Copa championship

BY JOEL LANGTON
THE 830 TIMES



Del Rio's boys brought home a bronze medal and several Rams and Queens recorded personal-best times Friday at the La Copa championship swim meet in Laredo.

The Rams finished eighth among 16 boys teams with 136 points, while the Queens placed 12th among 15 girls teams with 32 points. Del Rio took nine boys and four girls to compete, according to coach Dariela Gallegos.

Joaquin Arredondo, Tiago Gallegos, Arturo Lopez and Harrison Stell teamed up to finish third in the boys' 200-yard medley relay in 1 minute, 56.15 seconds.

The same four swimmers earned fifth place in the 200-freestyle relay with a time of 1:43.48.

"Getting a relay team up on the podium is always a moment to be proud of for our small team! But I'm also proud of each swimmer that PR'ed today in their individual event. Swimming is a sport where you're up against your own best time, and beating that is a celebration worthy of acknowledgement!" coach Gallegos said.

Lopez led Del Rio's individual ribbon winners with a sixth-place finish in the 100 butterfly in 1:04.12. Stell placed seventh in the 100-freestyle in 57.82 seconds, and Tiago Gallegos finished eighth in the 100 breaststroke in 1:13.96.

The Rams also picked up points in the 200 freestyle, where Gallegos finished ninth in 2:16.95 and Arredondo placed 10th in 2:18.58.

Lopez added a ninth-place finish in the 200 individual medley in 2:28.23. Elijah Joo finished 14th in that event in 2:34.27 and took 10th in the 100 butterfly in 1:07.39.

Jack Fooshee placed 15th in the 50 freestyle in 27.09 seconds and 16th in the 100 breaststroke in 1:20.88. Arredondo added a 15th-place finish in the 500 freestyle in 6:30.29.

For the Queens, Isabella Franco, Avery Leverett, Theresa Webb and Liana Veliz finished 11th in the 200 medley relay in 2:51.63. The same four swimmers placed 11th in the 200 freestyle relay in 2:27.80.

Leverett earned individual points with a 15th-place finish in the 100 breaststroke in 1:48.05 and a 16th-place finish in the 200 freestyle in 2:57.22. Webb placed 16th in the 100 backstroke in 1:36.53.

Despite the personal bests and relay success, coach Gallegos said maintaining speed through the finish remains a priority as the team prepares for district competition.

"As we get closer to district, our team needs to focus on our events. We've been working on keeping a good pace and then punching it at the last lap all the way through, but we do need to continue to work on that area so we don't add time in those last 15 yards," Gallegos said.



Joaquin Arredondo, Tiago Gallegos, Arturo Lopez and Harrison Stell teamed up to finish third in the boys' 200-yard medley relay in 1 minute, 56.15 seconds and earned fifth place in the 200 freestyle relay with a time of 1:43.48

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