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The 830 TIMES



And The Winners Are. . .

Val Verde County Clerk Teresa Esther Chapoy, center, reads the results of the 2026 General Election in Val Verde County outside the county courthouse about 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 3. Chapoy is flanked by, from left, Val Verde County Democratic Party Chair Rosalinda Hernandez, Val Verde County Republican Party Chair Sasha Grace and Cynthia Reyes, county clerk's chief deputy for elections. (Photo by Karen Gleason)

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Commissioners court incumbents win; a new face for district clerk

BY KAREN GLEASON
THE 830 TIMES

Val Verde County voters resoundingly chose incumbents to return to their seats on county commissioners court and picked new faces for the office of district clerk and in two justice of the peace seats in the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Candidates, family members, friends and supporters began gathering outside the historic Val Verde County Courthouse on Pecan Street as soon as the polls closed at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

County Clerk Teresa Esther Chapoy came out of the front doors of the courthouse at 9:20 p.m. Tuesday and announced she would be giving the unofficial totals for each of the races on local ballots, including the results of early voting and votes cast on Election Day.

Incumbent County Judge Lewis G. Owens Jr., the Democratic Party nominee, won an overwhelming re-election victory over his Republican Party challenger, former County Commissioner Pct. 3, business owner and rancher Robert "Beau" Nettleton. Owens had an unofficial total of 7,572 votes, and Nettleton posted an unofficial total of 4,047 votes.

County Commissioner Pct. 2 Juan Carlos Vazquez and County Commissioner Pct. 4 Gustavo "Gus" Flores will also return to their seats on county commissioners court.

Vazquez, the incumbent and Democratic Party nominee, handily beat his Republican Party challenger Rey Robles. Vazquez earned an unofficial total of 1,361 votes, and Robles had an unofficial total of 892 votes.

Flores' re-election bid was one of the closest races on the ballot, but Flores, the incumbent and Democratic Party nominee, edged his challenger, Republican Party nominee John I. Wardlaw, by less than 100 votes. Flores garnered an unofficial total of 1,431 votes, and Wardlaw posted an unofficial total of 1,352 votes.

There will be a new face in the district clerk's office: Mary Jane Ross, the Republican Party nominee. Ross had an unofficial total of 6,026 votes, and her Democratic Party opponent, Rachel Magallanes, had an unofficial total of 5,449 votes. The incumbent district clerk, Jo Ann Cervantes, did not seek re-election and will retire from county service at the end of the year.

There will also be two new faces among the four county justices of the peace, but two sitting justices will return to the bench.

In the race for Justice of the Peace Pct. 1, the incumbent and Democratic Party nominee, Jesse James Trevino, handily defeated his Republican Party challenger, Mario Bosquez. Trevino posted an unofficial total of 1,624 votes, and Bosquez had an unofficial total of 785 votes.

Del Rio Police Department veteran Roberto "Bobby" Hernandez will be the next Justice of the Peace Pct. 2. Hernandez, the Democratic Party nominee, earned an unofficial total of 1,312 votes, and the sitting Justice of the Peace Pct. 2 J. Randel Dissler, the Republican Party nominee, had an unofficial total of 822 votes. A third, write-in candidate James Fernandez, earned an unofficial total of 119 votes.

Republican Party nominee Ashly Vicuña, who currently serves as chief deputy in the office of Justice of the Peace Pct. 3 Pat Cole, overwhelmingly defeated the Democratic Party nominee, Loida S. Arellano. Vicuña posted an unofficial total of 2,727 votes, and Arellano had an unofficial total of 1,412 votes. Cole did not seek re-election and will retire at the end of the year.

Justice of the Peace Pct. 4 Hilda Lopez was unopposed in her re-election bid. Lopez, a Democrat, earned an unofficial total of 2,154 votes.

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

Democrats 'blue tsunami' sweeps Val Verde County

BY KAREN GLEASON
THE 830 TIMES

The effects of the Democratic Party's "blue tsunami," which swept Texas Democrats into a U.S. Senate seat, the Texas governor's office and other down-ballot races, were also felt in Val Verde County, where voters picked Democrats to represent them in Washington, D.C., and Austin.

In unofficial election results announced outside the county courthouse on Tuesday, Nov. 3, Val Verde County voters picked Democrat James Talarico as the state's next U.S. senator, casting an unofficial total of 6,360 votes for the former schoolteacher. An unofficial total of 4,940 votes were cast in Val Verde County for Republican Ken Paxton.

Val Verde County voters also picked Katy Padilla Stout as their choice for U.S. representative, District 23, though this was one of the races The Associated Press had not called as of press time late Tuesday night. Stout earned

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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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Election winners say they're ready to get to work

BY KAREN GLEASON
THE 830 TIMES

Candidates who won their races in the 2026 General Election on Tuesday, Nov. 3, say they're ready to carry on or get started serving their constituents and expressed thanks for the voters who cast ballots.

Voter turnout in Val Verde County for the General Election was heavy. According to figures reported by Val Verde County Clerk Teresa Esther Chapoy, a total of 11,980 of the county's 31,038 registered voters have participated in the election so far, a number that translates to 38.6 percent. Chapoy said 102 mail-in ballots remain outstanding and will be counted if they are received by 5 p.m. Nov. 9.

Candidates, family members, friends and supporters began gathering outside the historic Val Verde County Courthouse as soon as the polls closed at 7 p.m. Tuesday. The candidates and their entourages formed discrete groups under the venerable old oaks and pecans on the wide courthouse lawn as they waited for the election results to be announced.

Chapoy and her elections deputy, Cynthia Reyes, as well as Republican Party Chair Sasha Grace and Democratic Party Chair Rosalinda Hernandez appeared at the front door of the courthouse at 9:20 p.m. to announce the unofficial results of the election. The results won't be official until they are canvassed by county commissioners court on Nov. 12.

Conspicuously absent from the evening's informal watch parties outside the courthouse was County Judge Lewis G. Owens Jr., who typically waited for results with his wife Sylvia and their children, along with other family members and supporters. Owens, who recently announced he has been diagnosed with cancer, was seeking re-election to the county judge's office.

Several of Owens' supporters were in attendance outside the courthouse, distinctive in their yellow Owens campaign t-shirts, and they cheered when Chapoy announced that the unofficial results showed Owens had decisively beaten his challenger, Robert "Beau" Nettleton.

Owens, the Democratic Party nominee, had an unofficial total of 7,572 votes, 65 percent of the 11,619 total ballots cast in the race, to Nettleton's unofficial total of 4.047 votes, 35 percent of the total votes.

Owens spoke about the election at the start of the November regular term of county commissioners court on Wednesday, Nov. 4.

Owens said, "Before we move on, to everybody who ran for office, I want to congratulate them. To those that won, I want to congratulate them too, but, and I've said this on multiple occasions, when you decide to run (for office), you put your family through all kinds of shit, something that they're not prepared for, something that you wish that, before you started to run, you ask yourself, is it really worth it? It is.

"It takes a lot for people to throw their hat in the ring, so if you come across some of the individuals who ran for office, whether they won or they didn't – I hate using the word lost, but there always has to be somebody to go home – thank them. It takes a lot for people to run for office," Owens said.

He added, "For everybody that came out and voted, I don't know if we set a record or not, I want to thank them."

Owens was congratulated before the meeting by two other winners from the General Election, County Commissioner Pct. 2 Juan Carlos Vazquez and County Commissioner Pct. 4 Gustavo "Gus" Flores.

Election results announced on Tuesday showed Vazquez received an unofficial total of 1,361 votes, 60 percent of the total 2,253 votes cast in the race. His challenger for the Pct. 2 seat, Rey Robles, had an unofficial total of 892 votes, or 40 percent of the total votes cast.

Vazquez and a large group of family members and friends camped out in front of the courthouse, and the announcement of the results elicited cheers and clapping.

Vazquez said, "I'm happy. I'm ecstatic. I will continue to be the Precinct 2 county commissioner because of the will of the people. It was up to them, and they decided I was doing enough for the community to keep me there another four years. It's very humbling, and it means a lot.

"I want to thank the people of the county, Precinct 2, and I want them to know I will continue to be there for them. I also thank the Lord, I thank my mom, my family, my supporters and especially my constituents, that put me in office for four more years. God bless you all," Vazquez said.

Flores, a Democrat, was not present at the courthouse, and his re-election race was the closest of the six contested county races. Flores earned an unofficial total of 1,431 votes, 51 percent of the total 2,783 votes cast in the race, with his challenger, Republican Party nominee John I. Wardlaw garnering an unofficial total of 1,352 total votes, or 49 percent of the total cast.

Flores spoke about his victory following Wednesday's commissioners court meeting.

Flores said, "I'm very proud, very proud of my family. They're my best supporters. They're my backbone. Without them, I couldn't do a lot of these things or be successful. I also want to thank the people, my loyal supporters that have always been there for me.

"It's a good feeling, to win, because nobody runs to lose. I think if I was to lose, I'd probably start

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Justice of the Peace Pct. 1 Jesse James Treviño, right, and his wife Erica Treviño, left, celebrate outside the Val Verde County Courthouse after the results of the 2026 General Election were announced on Tuesday, Nov. 3. Treviño, the incumbent and Democratic Party nominee, won his re-election in an overwhelming majority, garnering 67 percent of the votes cast in the race. (Photo by Karen Gleason)

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melting. I take a lot of pride in what I do, especially representing the people and coming up with projects and programs that benefit everybody, not just Precinct 4, but the whole county. I'm not just talk, I'm action, and I'm still young – not as young as I used to be, but not old – and thanks to God still healthy, so I'm ready to serve four more years," Flores said.

While Val Verde County sent a trio of familiar faces back to commissioners court, they also selected three new faces for the offices of district clerk and two justice of the peace seats.

Mary Jane Ross, a member of the county auditor's staff and the Republican nominee for the office of district clerk, handily defeated Rachel Magallanes, a current member of the district clerk's staff and the Democratic Party nominee. Ross had an unofficial total of 6,026 votes, which represented 53 percent of the total 11,475 votes cast in the race, while Magallanes had an unofficial total of 5,449 votes, or 47 percent of the total votes cast.



Roberto "Bobby" Hernandez, right, gets a hug from his son, Estevan Hernandez, after the results of the 2026 General Election were announced on Tuesday, Nov. 3. Bobby Hernandez, the Democratic Party nominee for the office of Justice of the Peace Pct. 2, bested the sitting Justice of the Peace Pct. 2 J. Randel Dissler, the Republican Party nominee, as well as a write-in candidate. (Photo by Karen Gleason)

After the results were announced, Ross said, "Oh my goodness, I feel so overwhelmed, so happy. I'm so proud. It's just a great feeling. Just the support, it means so much to me."

Asked about the work ahead of her after she is sworn in on Jan. 1, 2027, Ross said, "I am so ready. I think I've been ready for a few years now. This is something that I've really wanted, and it was my goal. I'm ready to serve everyone."

Del Rio Police Department veteran Roberto "Bobby" Hernandez will be sworn in on Jan. 1, 2027, as well, as the new Justice of the Peace Pct. 2. Hernandez, the Democratic Party nominee, defeated the sitting Justice of the Peace Pct. 2 J. Randel Dissler, the Republican Party nominee, as well as write-in candidate James Fernandez.

Hernandez had an unofficial total of 1,312 votes, 58 percent of the total 2,253 votes cast in the race, while Dissler had an unofficial total of 822 votes, representing 36 percent of the total cast. The write-in candidate received 119 votes, 6 percent of the total votes.

Hernandez waited outside the courthouse with his son and fellow DRPD officer Estevan Hernandez. After the results were announced, the elder Hernandez said, "I'm relieved that it's over. I thank God that we live in a country where people like you and me can vote, can apply for the position and win. Also, my family backing, all the people who had confidence in me.

"Public service is continuous in my family, for me, first in the police department and now on the bench. This is my town. This is my city, so I'm very happy. I'm honored to have won this election. Judge Dissler set the standard high, and I just told him I will try and live up to his example," said Hernandez, who has been with the DRPD for 31 years.

Ashly Vicuña, who currently serves as the chief deputy for Justice of the Peace Pct. 3 Pat Cole, will take over for her boss on Jan. 1, 2027. Vicuña, the Republican Party nominee, posted one of the largest margins of victory in the election, earning an unofficial total of 2,727 votes, 66 percent of the total 4,139 votes cast in the race. Loida S. Arellano, the Democratic Party nominee, had an unofficial total of 1,412 votes, 34 percent of the total.

After the results were announced, Vicuña said, "I'm just excited, excited and very thankful that the people saw the potential in me. We did a lot of work (campaigning), and tonight all that work paid off."

Vicuña concurred she will be filling a big pair of shoes, but said she believes she is ready

"I had a great teacher. I've always stood by her side. We've been through everything together," Vicuña said.

All four of the county's justices of the peace were up for election this year, and while voters picked two new judges, they also re-elected two of the incumbent justices.

Justice of the Peace Pct. 1 Jesse James Treviño, the Democratic Party nominee, handed his challenger Mario Bosquez, the Republican Party nominee, a resounding defeat, earning an unofficial total of 1,624 votes, 67 percent of the 2,409 total votes cast in the race. Bosquez had an unofficial total of 785 votes, or 33 percent.

After the results in his race were announced, Treviño got a long hug and a peck on the cheek from his wife Erica, who has been his number one supporter through the years and multiple elections.

Treviño said, "It's exciting. The nerves are over now, I'm glad the people still want me in office, and I appreciate their support. Of course, also my wife and my family. I'm glad to have another four years in office and will continue helping the people, just as I've been doing for the past six years.



Ashly Vicuña, center, is all smiles as she celebrates with her husband Adrian Vicuña, son Evan and daughter Emery and with her mother Alma Crisp, her cousin Roberto Orozco, her aunt Rosario De Leon and Alice Williams, a family friend, outside the Val Verde County courthouse on Tuesday, Nov. 3, after election results were announced. Vicuña won the race for the Justice of the Peace Pct. 3 seat. (Photo by Karen Gleason)

It feels good."

The fourth justice, Justice of the Peace Pct. 4 Hilda Castillo Lopez, the Democratic Party nominee, was unopposed in her re-election bid. She was re-elected with an unofficial total of 2,154 votes.

Several other county officials were re-elected without opposition in the 2026 General Election. They included 83rd Judicial District Judge Robert E. Cadena, Republican, who had an unofficial total of 8,360 votes; County Court-At-Law Judge Sergio J. Gonzalez, Democrat, who had an unofficial total of 8,792 votes; County Clerk Teresa Esther Chapoy, Republican, who had an unofficial total of 8,039 votes; County Treasurer Aaron D. Rodriguez, Democrat, who had an unofficial total of 8,381 votes; and County Surveyor Abner Martinez, Democrat, who had an unofficial total of 8,156 votes.

The writer can be reached at delriomagnoliafan@gmail.com

Val Verde County Commissioners Court roundup

BY KAREN GLEASON
THE 830 TIMES

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

Here's what happened at the meeting:

COUNTY JUDGE CONGRATULATES ALL CANDIDATES

• County Judge Lewis G. Owens Jr., who won a resounding victory in his own re-election bid to the office of county judge, started the meeting by congratulating all of the candidates who ran for county offices in the 2026 General Election. Owens congratulated the winners, but added, "It takes a lot for people to throw their hat in the ring, so if you come across some of our individuals who ran for office, whether they won or – I hate to use the word lost, but there always has to be somebody that has to go home – thank them, because it takes a lot for people to run for office." Owens also thanked everyone who voted, adding he was not sure whether Val Verde County's voter turnout in the 2026 General Election – 38.6 percent – had set a record.

•

COURT APPROVES AGREEMENT FOR FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION PROGRAM

• Commissioners court members voted 5-0 to approve an interlocal cooperation agreement between the city of Del Rio and Val Verde County for mutual family violence protection program funding. Under the agreement, the city agreed to provide $7,500 per month on a month-to-month basis from Oct. 1, 2026, through Sept. 30, 2027. The agreement also calls for the county to form a committee, which will include a member appointed by the mayor to represent the city in "planning the best use of the funds to accomplish the terms of this agreement." The money provided under the agreement helps the county maintain and operate a family violence shelter for families seeking refuge from domestic abuse.

•

COUNTY APPROVES USE OF COUNTY ANNEX FOR 'CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD' EVENT

• Commissioners court members voted 5-0 to allow Del Rioan Mary Mota to use a portion of the Judge Antonio "Tony" Faz III County Annex for her annual "Christmas Around the World" event on Dec. 13. Commissioner Pct. 2 Juan Carlos Vazquez explained Mota and her "Christmas" volunteers collect and buy toys for some of Del Rio's disadvantaged children, and County Judge Lewis G. Owens Jr. asked Mota, who was in the audience, how persons who wanted to donate toys or make a monetary donation could contact her. Mota provided her phone number, 830-734-7027. Owens asked Vazquez to bring updates on the group's efforts to the court during its next two meetings.

•

CASA DIRECTOR GIVES COURT END-OF-YEAR ACTIVITY REPORT

• CASA of Val Verde County Executive Director Ana Moreno gave county commissioners court members an update on the work the organization is doing. Moreno said the last six weeks have been "especially busy and rewarding." She said during September and October, four children served by the organization have been adopted into permanent homes in two separate cases. Also, she said, six children were successfully reunified with their mothers in two separate cases, and three children were placed into the care of their maternal grandmothers. Additionally, Moreno said, two children are moving towards adoption in one case. She said as of Sept. 1, 2026, CASA was serving 27 children in foster care in the county. Moreno said during the current fiscal year, CASA has trained a total of 14 advocates.

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COURT TAKES NO ACTION ON COMMISSIONER'S REQUEST FOR NEW STREETLIGHT

• Commissioners court members once again took no action on a request by Commissioner Pct. 4 Gustavo "Gus" Flores to install one LED streetlight at 109 Owens Road at the intersection of Cienegas Road, including the necessary hardware and infrastructure and to authorize County Judge Lewis G. Owens Jr. to execute the AEP Texas CIAC agreement. The expenses related to installing the streetlight, an amount of $151.21, would be paid through the Precinct 4 operating budget. Flores made the motion to approve the request, but no one gave a second, so Owens announced that the motion died. Flores has been seeking approval for installing the new streetlight since February.

•

COURT APPROVES INCREASE IN PAYMENT FOR MOTEL ROOM FOR COUNTY TRAVEL

• Commissioners court members voted 5-0 to make an exception to the $150 limit for hotel room per day, as specified in the county's personnel policy related to travel on official business and increase the limit to $170. County Attorney David Martinez told the court his victim assistance coordinator, Alex Cervantes, will attend this year's Texas District and County Attorneys Association Victim's Assistance Coordinator and Key Personnel Conference in Ft. Worth, Texas. Martinez said there is no availability in the host hotel, and the overflow hotel rate is about $170 before taxes.

•

COURT REAUTHORIZES APPLICATION FOR LAUGHLIN AIR FORCE BASE GRANT

• Commissioners court members voted 5-0 to authorize County Judge Lewis G. Owens Jr. to sign an updated Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG) application for funding in the amount of $4,848,870.84 for the Laughlin Aerospace and Manufacturing Initiative at Laughlin Air Force Base. County Engineer Carlos Velarde told the court the total amount requested increased by $150,000, and the project will be renamed "Laughlin Aerospace and Manufacturing Initiative" instead of "Val Verde Aerospace and Manufacturing Initiative."

•

COURT APPROVES AWARD FOR WORK AT ADULT PROBATION OFFICES

• Commissioners court members voted 5-0 to approve an award to DLP Construction for the replacement of flooring and interior painting at the existing adult probation offices, in the total amount of $52,124, with $23,000 to be funded from the 2023 Tax Note Target Range Account.

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SWEEP - FROM PAGE 3

an unofficial total of 5,737 votes from Val Verde County voters, and county voters cast an unofficial total of 5,274 votes for Republican Brandon Herrera.

Val Verde County voters also picked Democratic Party incumbents in two races for the Texas Senate and for the Texas House of Representatives.

In the race for state senator, District 19, Val Verde County voters cast an unofficial total of 6,118 votes for the incumbent Democrat, Roland Gutierrez, and an unofficial total of 5,237 votes for his Republican challenger, Marcus Cardenas.

Val Verde County voters also picked incumbent Democrat Eddie Morales, a resident of Eagle Pass, over native son Robert Garza, former Del Rio mayor, attorney and business owner. Morales garnered an unofficial total of 6,532 votes, and Garza had an unofficial total of 4,954 votes.

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

ROUNDUP - FROM PAGE 6

COURT APPROVES CHANGE ORDER FOR WORK AT TARGET RANGE

• Commissioners court members voted 5-0 to approve Change Order No. 3, submitted by J.P. Sanchez Construction, at the request of Val Verde County, for interior construction work at the target range facility in the amount of $23,000, to be paid from the 2023 Tax Note Target Range Account. On a question from Commissioner Pct. 4 Gustavo "Gus" Flores, County Judge Lewis G. Owens Jr. said the project was bid out without the inclusion of the interior sheetrock walls and shelving.

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COMMISSIONERS MAKE COMMENTS ON ELECTION

• In the "Commissioners' Comments" portion of the court's agenda, Commissioner Pct. 2 Juan Carlos Vazquez congratulated County Judge Lewis G. Owens Jr. on his victory in his re-election bid and said it would be his pleasure to work with Owens for another four years. He also thanked his Precinct 2 constituents and said he is grateful for their support. Commissioner Pct. 1 Kerr Wardlaw said he, too, wished to congratulate all the candidates who won their election races, adding he wished to thank everyone "who came out and participated in the democratic process." Commissioner Pct. 4 Gustavo "Gus" Flores congratulated everyone who won their election races. He thanked the people of Val Verde County for coming out and voting. Flores said, "As I've stated before, your vote is your voice."

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COUNTY JUDGE THANKS COUNTY OFFICIALS WHO SUPPORTED ELECTION EFFORTS

• In the "County Judge's Comments" portion of the court's agenda, County Judge Lewis G. Owens Jr. thanked County Clerk Teresa Esther Chapoy, who also won her re-election bid, for the work she, Cynthia Reyes and the rest of her staff did in running the election. Owens also thanked County Sheriff Joe Frank Martinez for working with Chapoy to make the election run smoothly. Finally, Owens, who recently announced a cancer diagnosis, said he would make a video today updating everyone on what he and his family are facing because of the diagnosis.

The writer can be reached at delriomagnoliafan@gamil.com



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¡Qué pasa?

830 Entertainment



Explore Art for November

The Casa de la Cultura celebrates Dia de los Muertos at 302 Cantu St. The Catrina Cartoneria Exhibit will continue to be on display at the Casa for First Friday Art Walk on Friday, Nov. 6, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. (Photo by Lupita de la Paz)

Lights, Camera, Conservation: Free Film Night and Nature Hunt

BY LOUIS ZYLKA
THE 830 TIMES

Members of the Devils River Conservancy (DRC) will be hosting free educational events on Friday, Nov. 6, and Saturday, Nov. 7, in the downtown and San Felipe areas.

To start the weekend, DRC will present a free screening of the documentary, "Deep in the Heart 2: Texas Rivers," at the Rotary Pocket Park, 614 S. Main St., on Friday, Nov, 6, at 7 p.m.

"Deep in the Heart" is a documentary focusing on the natural resources of Texas rivers. Sergio Lopez, DRC project coordinator, spoke with The 830 Times about the documentary. Lopez said the idea to screen the film came from other members of DRC who know the producers of the documentary series.

Lopez said the DRC has been working on eradicating Arundo donax, also known as carrizo cane, an invasive plant species, from the banks of the San Felipe Creek to make them "more beautiful and accessible" for more people visiting. He said one of the ways to celebrate their success in removing the plants is by showing the documentary to the public, which showcases how beautiful Texas waters are.

Popcorn will be provided for those who attend the screening downtown, and Lopez encourages people to bring their lawn chairs and refreshments.

Members of the DRC will also have a free BioBlitz event involving educational activities for all ages at the Dr. Alfredo Gutierrez Jr. Amphitheater, 1101 W. De La Rosa St., on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m. till noon.

Lopez said the people attending the Saturday event have to download an app called iNaturalist, which helps users document plants and animals. People can take photos of the plants and animals in the areas around the San Felipe Creek and upload them to the app, which labels them with their scientific names.

The iNaturalist app helps identify what plants and animals live in the surrounding areas, while also encouraging people to learn about their native environments and how to protect them. Lopez said the app is "very easy" to download and sign into.

Lopez said the goal of Friday's and Saturday's events is to introduce members of DRC to the community, talk about the DRC's goals and encourage more people to participate in future activities, such as planting new plants.

"(These events) are a reminder to really protect our waters, and to explore and get to know all the (species) that live around these waters. The message we want to share is for people to really get out there and get to know all these natural resources that we have so that we can protect them more," Lopez said.



Clear water flows along the stone-lined banks of San Felipe Creek in the downtown/San Felipe area. Members of the Devils River Conservancy have been working to remove invasive carrizo cane from the creek banks to improve access and beauty. (Photo by Karen Gleason)



Oddity art to be displayed at La Bohemia

BY LOUIS ZYLKA
THE 830 TMES

La Bohemia, 107 Pierce St., will showcase work by Karla Arellano, a local artist who goes by Afterbloom Oddities, on Friday, Nov. 6, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Arellano spoke with The 830 Times early in the week to talk more about her exhibit at La Bohemia and what kind of art she will display, which includes over 20 handcrafted oddity pieces made out of insects, bones and dry florals she had sourced from trusted suppliers.

Arellano uses natural elements to create her work, which she refers to as "oddity art" or "entomology art." Arellano said she began creating her work for the first time early in 2026. She added her work is a "very time-consuming process" with some pieces taking up two weeks to make.

"I hope people can see the beauty in things that they might not normally pay attention to, and I like my work to spark curiosity and show something that is unusual and unconventional but can still be beautiful," Arellano said.

Besides selling her work at local markets, this November's First Friday Art Walk will be the first time Arellano will showcase her work in an exhibit for people to see, which she said will be on display all month at La Bohemia. Arellano said she will be present at the store to meet those visiting the local art galleries on Friday evening.

Ashley Trevino, store owner of La Bohemia, said she will provide snacks and a harvest sangria for the people who attend. She also said music will be played at her location, and people can purchase ice cream and other drinks at Sweet Scoops Real Fruit Ice Cream from across the street.



Karla Arellano, a local artist who goes by Afterbloom Oddities, creates "entomology art" using spiders and other insects, which will be shown during an exhibit at La Bohemia on Friday, Nov. 6. (Photo by Karla Arellano)



Conrad's Casita, known for selling home decor products and supplies for handmade projects, will be showcasing art from middle school students at 648 S. Main St. on Friday, Nov. 6. (Photo by Louis Zylka)

Local art students to be represented downtown

BY LOUIS ZYLKA
THE 830 TIMES

Conrad's Casita, 648 S. Main St., will be showcasing art from students at San Felipe Memorial Middle School (SFMMS) on Friday, Nov. 6, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Antoinette "Toni" Conrad, owner of Conrad's Casita, said the pictures being displayed will be from the sixth, seventh and eighth-grade art classes taught by Lillie Gamez.

Conrad said there will be 30 to 40 pieces of art displayed at her store, including some nature-themed art created by Gamez. Conrad said the majority of the art created by the students will be fall themed.

Conrad said Gamez is passionate about teaching her students and always seeking ways to "shine a light" on their work, including giving them the experience of an artist by having their work displayed somewhere for the public to see. She said this upcoming Friday Art Walk will be the third time her store will display artwork by the students at SFMMS.

Conrad said her store has been displaying art during First Friday Art Walks since November 2025, three months after her store opened.

Food and drinks will also be provided by Conrad's Casita for those who are attending November's First Friday Art Walk.

Movie Review: GODZILLA MINUS ZERO

BY LOUIS ZYLKA
THE 830 TIMES

The king of the monsters is back! Director Takashi Yamasaki has returned to deliver the sequel to "Godzilla Minus One" (2023), which became a critically acclaimed darling and Oscar winner. Does the anticipated sequel live up to its predecessor? No, but "Godzilla Minus Zero" offers plenty of great scenes and moments, depending on what you are looking for.

"Minus Zero" takes place two years after the events of the first film. The focus is still on the lives of Koichi Shikishima (Ryunosuke Kamik) and Noriko Oishi (Minami Hamabe), who are living peacefully with their adopted daughter, until a new monster invades Japan. On top of a new threat, Godzilla also returns. Now the main characters have to destroy the monsters by pitting them against each other in a fight to the death.

"Godzilla Minus Zero" dials the human drama to 100 with characters grieving from the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Godzilla's attack in the last film. The new film does show graphic imagery of dead bodies, earning the film's R-rating. While you may gravitate towards the characters, the drama overstays its welcome when you realize how little screen time Godzilla has and how short the monster fights are.

The visuals, though, are a massive improvement and the amazing sound design and score will give viewers an incredible experience. And the secret monster does steal the show with an aerial fight scene giving "Top Gun Maverick" a run for its money.

The newest Godzilla film is still a worthy theatrical experience. While it is a step-down from the 2023 film, the Japanese blockbuster can still be admired for either its emotional story about survivors of post-war Japan or the grand visuals and monster scenes, which can be few and far in between.



Godzilla returns to the big screen to fight a new enemy in "Godzilla Minus Zero," directed by Takashi Yamasaki. (Courtesy photo)

FOR A VIDEO OF THIS REVIEW SCAN HERE:

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TOP THINGS TO DO

Your go-to source for your top weekend events

1



FIRST FRIDAY ARTWALK

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH

ENJOY ART EXHIBITS FROM YOUR LOCAL ART GALLERIES INCLUDING THE FALCON ART GALLERY, LEE-BUNCH STUDIO GALLERY AND DEL RIO COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS AT THE FIREHOUSE ON FRIDAY, NOV. 6.

MOVIE SCREENING AT POCKET PARK

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH

WATCH A SCREENING OF THE DOCUMENTARY, "DEEP IN THE HEART 2: TEXAS RIVERS," AT THE POCKET PARK, 612 S. MAIN ST., ON FRIDAY, NOV. 6, AT 7 P.M.



2

3



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE ANNIVERSARY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH

CELEBRATE THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CHURCH AT 509 W. GARZA ST., ON FRIDAY, NOV. 6 AT 5 P.M.

BBQ COOKOFF FOR VETERANS DAY

FRIDAY, NOV. 6 & SATURDAY, NOV. 7

HONOR VETERANS DAY AT THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP BBQ COOKOFF AT THE AL VERDE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, 2006 N. MAIN ST., ON FRIDAY, NOV. 6, AT 5 P.M. AND SATURDAY, NOV. 7, AT 10:50 A.M.



4

5

QUEENS BASKETBALL GAMES

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

SUPPORT THE DEL RIO HIGH SCHOOL QUEENS BASKETBALL TEAMS AT DEL RIO HIGH SCHOOL, 100 MEMORIAL DR, ON SATURDAY, NOV. 7, FROM 12 P.M. TO 1:30 P.M.

ADVERTISE HERE!



830 Entertainment: *Events at a glance!*

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK

THE FIREHOUSE

The Del Rio Council for the Arts at the Firehouse, 120 E. Garfield St., will be showcasing their Annual Quilters Show and Sale on Friday, Nov. 6, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

FALCON ART GALLERY

Local and international artists will be represented at Falcon Art Gallery, 301 E. Garfield St. on Friday, Nov. 6, from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Food and drinks will be available.

LEE-BUNCH STUDIO

Lee-Bunch Studio Gallery, 100 W. Greenwood St., will be featuring contemporary art from local artist David Forks on Friday, Nov. 6. from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

CASA DE LA CULTURA

The Calaveras y Calacas art exhibit celebrating Dia de los Muertos will continue to be on display at the Casa de la Cultura, 302 Cantu St., on Friday, Nov. 6, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

MARCOS MARES ART STUDIO & GALLERY

Local artist Marcos Mares will be showcasing his art exhibit "Residuos" at his gallery located at 205 E. Ogden St. on Friday, Nov. 6, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

CONRAD'S CASITA AND CULTURE SHOCK

Art from San Felipe Memorial Middle School students will be showcased for First Friday Art Walk at Conrad's Casita, 650 S. Main St., from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and at Culture Shock, 114 W. Greenwood St., from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

LA BOHEMIA

La Bohemia, 107 Pierce St., will be showcasing art from Karla Arellano, a local artist under the name Afterbloom Oddities, on Friday, Nov 6., at 6:30 p.m.

OTHER EVENTS

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE 120TH ANNIVERSARY

NOV. 6 - Celebrate over 100 years of religious traditions at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church at 509 W. Garza St., on Friday, Nov. 6, at 5 p.m. The anniversary will begin with a special mass, which will continue the celebration at the Parish Gym across the street of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

SCREENING OF "DEEP IN THE HEART 2: TEXAS RIVERS"

NOV. 6 - The Devils River Conservancy and the city of Del Rio are partnering to showcase a screening of "Deep in the Heart 2: Texas Rivers" at the Pocket Park, 614 S. Main St., on Friday, Nov. 6, beginning at 7 p.m.

VETERANS DAY STATE CHAMPIONSHIP BBQ COOKOFF

NOV. 6 & 7 - Celebrate Veterans Day with the State Championship BBQ Cookoff event at the Val Verde County Fairgrounds, 2006 N. Main St., on Friday, Nov. 6, and Saturday, Nov. 7. On Friday, the cooks' meeting begins at 5 p.m., with the events continuing till 8 p.m. On Saturday, the cook-off events continue from 10:50 a.m. to 4 p.m.

BIOBITZ AT AMPHITHEATER

NOV. 7 - Members of the Devils River Conservancy will be hosting a BioBlitz educational activity at the Dr. Alfredo Gutierrez Amphitheater, 1101 W. De La Rosa St., on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m. to noon.

QUEENS BASKETBALL

NOV. 7 - Support the girls' basketball teams of Del Rio High School during their game against Fort Stockton at Del Rio High School, 100 Memorial Dr, on Saturday, Nov. 7. The freshman and junior varsity teams will play at 12 p.m., and the varsity teams will play at 1:30 p.m.

MUSIC AT MESQUITE

NOV. 7 - Donovan Amaya, a country music band from Uvalde, will perform in the patio area at Mesquite Creek Outfitters, 800 S. Main St., on Saturday, Nov. 7, at 7 p.m.

THIS IS ME! ART WORKSHOP

NOV. 7 - Children are invited to learn drawing and color techniques while painting a self-portrait of themselves at Marcos Mares Art Studio & Gallery, 205 E. Ogden St., on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is $40 for an individual class.

VETERANS APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

NOV. 8 - The Veterans Appreciation Luncheon will take place in the grand ballroom area at Enchanted Event Center, 4934 W. US Hwy 90, on Sunday, Nov. 8, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

TODDLER TUESDAYS AT LIBRARY

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

FITNESS CLASSES AT THE FIREHOUSE

NOV. 10 & 12 - Del Rio Council for the Arts at the Firehouse, 120 E. Garfield St., will have beginner-friendly yoga classes on Tuesday, Nov. 10, and Thursday, Nov. 12, at 6 p.m. Tuition for a single-day class is $10.

VETERANS DAY PARADE

NOV. 11 - The Annual Veterans Day Parade will begin at Dodson Avenue and Chapman Road and end at the Del Rio Civic Center, 1915 Veterans Blvd, on Wednesday, Nov. 11. The lineup starts at 9 a.m., with the parade beginning at 10 a.m. The Veterans Day celebrations continue with a ceremony at the Civic Center at 11:11 a.m.

ADULT BOOK CLUB AT LIBRARY

NOV. 12 - Participate in a book discussion of "How to Read a Book" by Monica Wood at the Val Verde County Library, 300 Spring St., on Thursday, Nov. 12, from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL TEENS

NOV. 12 - Teenagers ages 12 to 18 can try and rate Korean snacks in an interactive workshop at the Val Verde County Library, 300 Spring St., on Thursday, Nov. 12, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

POUR TOUR

ONGOING - 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.



Val Verde Regional Medical Center surgeons use the hospital's new da Vinci robotic-assisted surgical system to perform a minimally invasive procedure. The advanced technology allows surgeons to operate with enhanced precision, control and visualization, helping expand surgical care options for patients in Del Rio and the surrounding communities. (Courtesy photo)

VVRMC celebrates 100 robotic surgeries

BY JOEL LANGTON
THE 830 TIMES

One hundred surgeries. One hundred opportunities for patients to receive advanced surgical care without leaving Del Rio.

Val Verde Regional Medical Center board members, physicians and hospital staff gathered Wednesday, Oct. 28, to celebrate the completion of 100 procedures using the hospital's da Vinci 5 robotic-assisted surgical system.

While the milestone represents a significant achievement for the hospital, the real success can be measured in smaller incisions, less invasive procedures and patients who can often recover in the comfort of their own homes rather than spending additional time in a hospital bed.

The robotic-assisted system allows surgeons to perform complex operations through small incisions while maintaining precise control of the surgical instruments.

The hospital announced the arrival of its da Vinci 5 surgical system May 26, and Dr. Ashley Lopez, an obstetrician-gynecologist, performed her first robotic-assisted surgery at VVRMC on June 2, making Wednesday's milestone an achievement reached in less than five months.

The VVRMC CEO Jorge Jurado told those attending the celebration that the milestone represents something particularly important for residents of Val Verde County.

"What makes this achievement so meaningful is what it represents for our community," Jurado said. "Our patients can access advanced robotic surgery right here at home without having to travel outside the area for services."

Dr. Wyn Nguyen, a general surgeon who is also board-certified in colorectal surgery, was credited during the celebration with performing the hospital's

SEE ROBOTIC- PAGE 19


ADVANCED
ROBOTIC SURGERY
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ROBOTIC SURGERY

ROBOTIC - FROM PAGE 17

100th robotic-assisted surgery.

Nguyen said the technology has allowed him to complete procedures that would have been extremely difficult, if not impossible, using conventional laparoscopic techniques.

He recalled two particularly complicated cases in which patients underwent lengthy operations but were still able to return home the same day.

Lopez emphasized that the technology not only improves the hospital's surgical capabilities but also positions VVRMC to recruit additional specialists, including urologists, who increasingly expect robotic-assisted equipment to be available.

Several VVRMC surgeons at the event agreed that the da Vinci system is vital to recruiting more physicians to Del Rio.

"New doctors coming out of medical school won't even look at you if you don't have a robot," said Nguyen.

Jurado credited the hospital's board of directors for making the substantial financial investment necessary to bring the technology to Del Rio.

He also singled out Dr. Mark G. Manning, a general surgeon and the hospital's chief medical officer, for helping turn the idea into reality.

Jurado recalled Manning coming into his office and telling him, "This isn't a want anymore. It's a need. We have to get this done."

Another key player behind the acquisition, and the 100 surgeries, was Dr. Antonio Castañeda, a board-certified bariatric and general surgeon, who was instrumental in bringing robotic-assisted surgery to Val Verde Regional Medical Center, Jurado said.

Castañeda helped shape the vision for the program and played a key role in turning that vision into reality. He performed the hospital's very first robotic-assisted surgical procedure, helping launch the program alongside Dr. Ashley Lopez. His early belief that advanced robotic surgery could be successfully established in Del Rio laid the foundation for what has now become a significant milestone for the hospital and the community it serves, Jurado said.

The hospital's commitment to expanding its capabilities is about more than keeping up with medical technology, Jurado said.

"I think that this is just the beginning of innovation," Jurado said, adding that continued improvements will allow the hospital to increase access to services previously unavailable locally.

Val Verde County Hospital District Board Chair Robin Palmer reflected on how much the hospital has changed since she attended Eastside Elementary School across Bedell Avenue and walked to the hospital for tuberculosis testing.

"That hospital was so small, and we didn't have any of this," Palmer recalled. "And look where we're at now. Look where we're at now."

VAL VERDE
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Fair Trade Should Work for Texas Workers, Even Along the Border

BY SASHA GRACE

America's trade relationship with Mexico has long been a major political issue, and here in Del Rio, we are on the front lines. Ciudad Acuña sits just across the Rio Grande, and we witness the flow of cross-border commerce every day. Healthy international trading relationships are worth fighting for, but they won't happen on their own.

That is why I believe we need a tariff on Mexican beer.

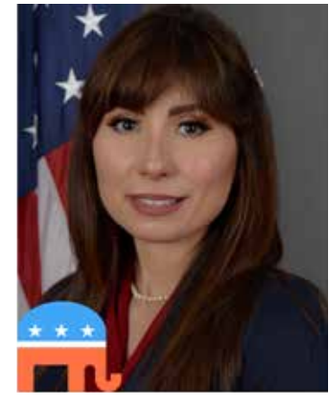
Texas' economic success depends on good-paying American jobs staying here in this country. The Texas Miracle is a perfect example of how policies that reward investment, entrepreneurship, and hard work lead to real economic wins. As a mother who has worked at Laughlin Air Force Base, I know how much a steady, good-paying job means to a family. We cannot stand by as more family-sustaining jobs are lost to unfair trade.

The beer industry provides many jobs like the ones I'm talking about, even in communities without a brewery down the street. According to the 2023 Beer Serves America study, beer supports an estimated 204,087 jobs across Texas. That economic impact reaches well beyond the breweries themselves, supporting the farmers who grow grains for brewing, the workers who make cans and bottles, and the drivers, distributors, and stores that bring beer to customers here in Del Rio.

American brewers, however, are competing on an uneven playing field. Close to a quarter of the beer Americans drink is now imported, and Mexico produces more than 80 percent of it. Brewery workers in Mexico make roughly $3,700 per year. That is far from the nearly $80,000 per year earned by American union brewery workers. Given the fundamental economic differences between Mexico and the United States, tariffs are the most effective policy tool we have to establish fairness.

Cross-border commerce is a big part of what has made Val Verde County successful, and I'm not against it. But American producers and workers need an honest chance to compete, and right now they don't have one.

Tariffs on Mexican beer imports would help put American breweries, and the Texas farmers, manufacturers, and drivers who depend on them, back on equal footing. I urge our leaders in Washington to make this happen, because cross-border trade should be fair to both nations



SASHA GRACE IS CHAIRWOMAN OF THE VAL VERDE COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY.

PAID CONTENT

Wild Game Dinner announces early raffle winners

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Wild Game Dinner is just over a month away, but the first raffle drawings have already been held.

Six winners have been announced, each receiving a firearm as part of the event's early raffles.

The drawings included three ticket raffles and three card raffles, with prizes ranging from rifles and shotguns to handguns.

The winners are:

Serapio Rodriguez — Browning AB3 .270 rifle, ticket SR 421.

Lee Piekarski — Kimber Micro 9 9mm handgun, pink card No. 1034.

Martin Wardlaw — Henry Golden Boy .22 LR rifle, ticket SR 691.

Jesse Deaton — Smith & Wesson 642 .38 Special revolver, yellow card No. 2024.

Cory Kiesel — Weatherby Element 20-gauge shotgun, ticket SR 574.

Cindy McKaskle — Sig Sauer P365 9mm handgun, green card No. 0011.

Winners can claim their prizes at Humphreys' Gun Shop, 124 E. Garfield Ave. in Del Rio, and must present their ticket stubs and identification.

The drawings are part of the festivities leading up to the 38th annual Wild Game Dinner, scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Del Rio Civic Center.

Doors open at 5 p.m., and dinner plates will be available for $10.

The annual event brings together area residents for an evening of food and fundraising, giving guests an opportunity to sample a variety of wild game dishes while enjoying raffles, prizes and other activities.

This year's festivities will include a 100-gun raffle, auctions and a hunters' vendor market.

The Wild Game Dinner has become a popular tradition for local hunters, outdoor enthusiasts and community members, with proceeds helping support Del Rio Chamber of Commerce advocacy efforts and scholarships for local high school seniors.

The early raffle drawings are just a preview of the activities planned for the event, which celebrates Southwest Texas' hunting and outdoor traditions.

For more information about the dinner or tickets, contact the Del Rio Chamber of Commerce at 830-775-3551 or visit its office at 1915 Veterans Blvd.



Nanca Rodriguez and Tony Hernandez, emcees for the Del Rio Chamber of Commerce's Gun Raffle and Auction, held Dec. 5. (Courtesy photo)



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This week's biggest local sports story is the UIL State Cross Country Championships in Round Rock, where Del Rio and Comstock will compete Friday and Saturday. We'll also cover the end of the Rams' football season and the beginning of boys' and girls' basketball.



WHAT HAPPENED

CROSS COUNTRY — Del Rio and Comstock qualify for state

Del Rio junior Ray Torres earned a trip to the Class 6A state championships with a 14th-place finish at the Region IV meet in Corpus Christi.

Comstock's boys qualified as a team after finishing second at the Class 1A regional meet. Freshman Fernanda Lopez also qualified individually in the girls' division.

The Panthers are looking to build on their 2024 boys' team state championship.

RAMS FOOTBALL — Rams fall to United

Del Rio fell to district-leading Laredo United 38-6 on Oct. 30. The Rams enter their final regular-season game with a 1-8 record, including 0-6 in district play.

Basketball — Queens prepare for season opener

The Del Rio Queens are preparing to open their basketball season this weekend. The team held a preseason scrimmage Oct. 31, with its first scheduled regular-season game coming Friday at Crystal City.
The Rams' boys basketball team is also preparing for the season, following a 27-11 campaign last year.

A LOOK AHEAD: WHAT'S COMING NEXT

RAMS FOOTBALL Friday, Nov. 6 7:30 p.m. – Del Rio at Eagle Pass.

CROSS COUNTRY - State championships

Friday, Nov. 6 8:45 a.m. – Del Rio's Ray Torres, Class 6A boys' 5,000 meters, Old Settlers Park, Round Rock.
Saturday, Nov. 7 9:30 a.m. – Comstock's Fernanda Lopez, Class 1A girls' 3,200 meters. 10:10 a.m. – Comstock Panthers boys' team, Class 1A 5,000 meters.

Girls basketball — Del Rio Queens

Friday, Nov. 6 – At Crystal City, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 7 – vs. Fort Stockton, 1:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 10 – vs. Winn, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 12-14 – Harlandale Tournament, times TBA.

Boys basketball — Del Rio Rams

Saturday, Nov. 7 -- At San Antonio Southside, 10 a.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 17 – At San Angelo Central, 6 p.m. (Season opener: no games listed for the coming week.

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Local athletes prep for run at state

BY JOEL LANGTON
THE 830 TIMES



The Comstock Panthers celebrate their second-place finish at the Region IV Class 1A cross country championships Tuesday in Corpus Christi. The Panthers scored 83 points to qualify for the state meet for the sixth consecutive year under coach Lee Abbey. (Courtesy photo)

Eight Comstock Panthers and one Del Rio Ram will head to Round Rock this week for the University Interscholastic League State Cross Country Championships.

The championships will be held Friday and Saturday, Nov. 6-7, at Old Settlers Park, with Del Rio competing Friday and Comstock Saturday.

For Comstock coach Lee Abbey, the final preparations are about keeping his runners healthy while maintaining their intensity.

"Primarily trying to keep the allergies and illness away so we can be healthy Saturday," Abbey said.

The Panthers earned their state berth with a second-place finish at the Region IV Class 1A championships in Corpus Christi, while freshman Fernanda Lopez qualified individually in the girls' division.

Comstock's seven boys competing at state are Jacob Allen, Noah Bahena, Gustavo Flores, John Howell, Alan Huerta, Dalton Hutchinson and Martin Lopez.

"We have been running more hills and inclines," Abbey said. "We are trying to keep the pedal down and not back off too much. I think we are in good shape to contend for the award stand."

Comstock's cross country tradition stretches back to 1995, when the Panthers first qualified as a boys' team for the state championships.

In 2024, Abbey's Panthers captured the Class 1A boys' team state championship, the first team state title for a Val Verde County school in 50 years.

Former Panther Sebastian Talamantez won three consecutive individual Class 1A state championships from 2023 through 2025, giving Comstock four state cross country titles during that stretch.

The Panthers also finished third as a team in 2023 and sixth in 2025. This year's squad returns seeking the school's second boys' team championship.

Comstock will depart Friday around 7:30 a.m. to preview the course and pick up race bibs.

Fernanda Lopez competes in the Class 1A girls' 3,200-meter race at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, followed by the Comstock boys in the 5,000-meter race at 10:10 a.m.

Del Rio continues state tradition

Del Rio cross country coach Vicky Perez has been reducing the training workload for junior Ray Torres, who qualified for state after finishing 14th at the Region IV Class 6A championships in Corpus Christi.

"We have tapered his long runs (time and pace) as well as his speed work (volume), just helping maintain his fitness level," Perez said.

Del Rio's state cross country tradition dates back more than two decades.

Under former coach Smith, the Rams and Queens established a strong record of state competition from 2005 through 2014. According to UIL records, the Rams have qualified as a team 12 times, beginning in 2005, while the Queens have made five team appearances, beginning in 2009.

The Rams reached state eight times between 2005 and 2014.

Under Perez, Del Rio continued that success, qualifying runners for state in eight consecutive seasons from 2015 through 2022.

In 2015, the Queens qualified as a team, along with one individual boy. The following year, the Rams qualified as a team, along with one individual girl.

Both teams advanced in 2017, and the Rams returned in 2018.

From 2019 through 2022, Del Rio sent an individual female runner to state each season.

After three years without a qualifier, Torres' regional performance puts Del Rio back on the state stage and gives Perez state representation in nine seasons since 2015.

Neither the Rams nor the Queens have won a team state championship, but both have established a tradition of competing among Texas' best.

Torres and Perez will leave Thursday for Round Rock, allowing him to practice on the championship course before Friday's race.

Torres competes in the Class 6A boys' 5,000-meter race at 8:45 a.m. Friday.

For Abbey and the Panthers, the goal is a place on the awards stand. For Perez and Torres, the focus is having the Del Rio junior ready to deliver his best performance when the starting gun sounds.

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PUBLIC NOTICE - INVITATION TO RFP

San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District

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

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

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

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

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

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

LEGAL NOTICE

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

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you."

THE STATE OF TEXAS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COUNTY, TEXAS ★ DISTRICT COURT OF VAL VERDE

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

PUBLIC NOTICE - INVITATION TO RFP

San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District

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

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

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Gerald Francis Heinrich were issued on October 7, 2026, in Cause No. 6935, pending in the County Court at Law of Val Verde County, Texas, to Christopher Heinrich. All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows:

c/o Christopher Heinrich
108 Medicine Bow Trail
Del Rio, Texas 78840

Dated: October 26, 2026

F. Gail Schroeter
Attorney for Executor of the Estate of Gerald Francis Heinrich

NOW HIRING!

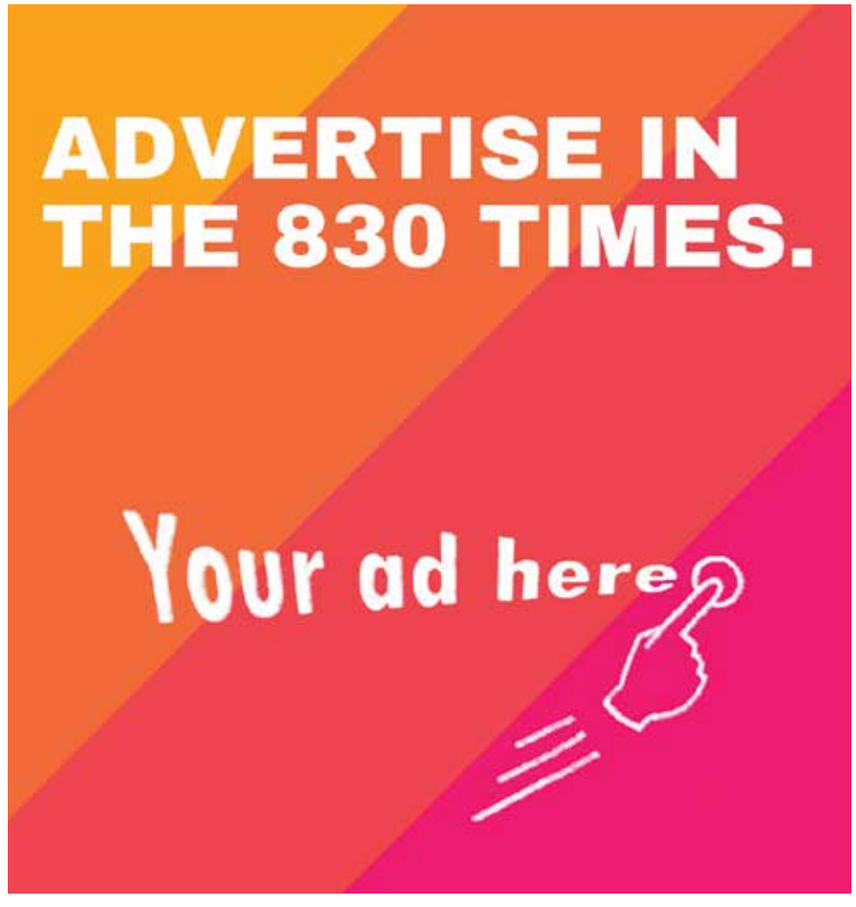


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- More than 30 heirloom dolls
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- Beautiful Italian marble-top furniture
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- Decades of National Geographic, Life and other magazines
- Extensive book collection Marilyn Monroe collectible poster
- Christmas decorations and much more!

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Sunday 9am to 3pm and Sunday from 1pm to 4pm