¡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.

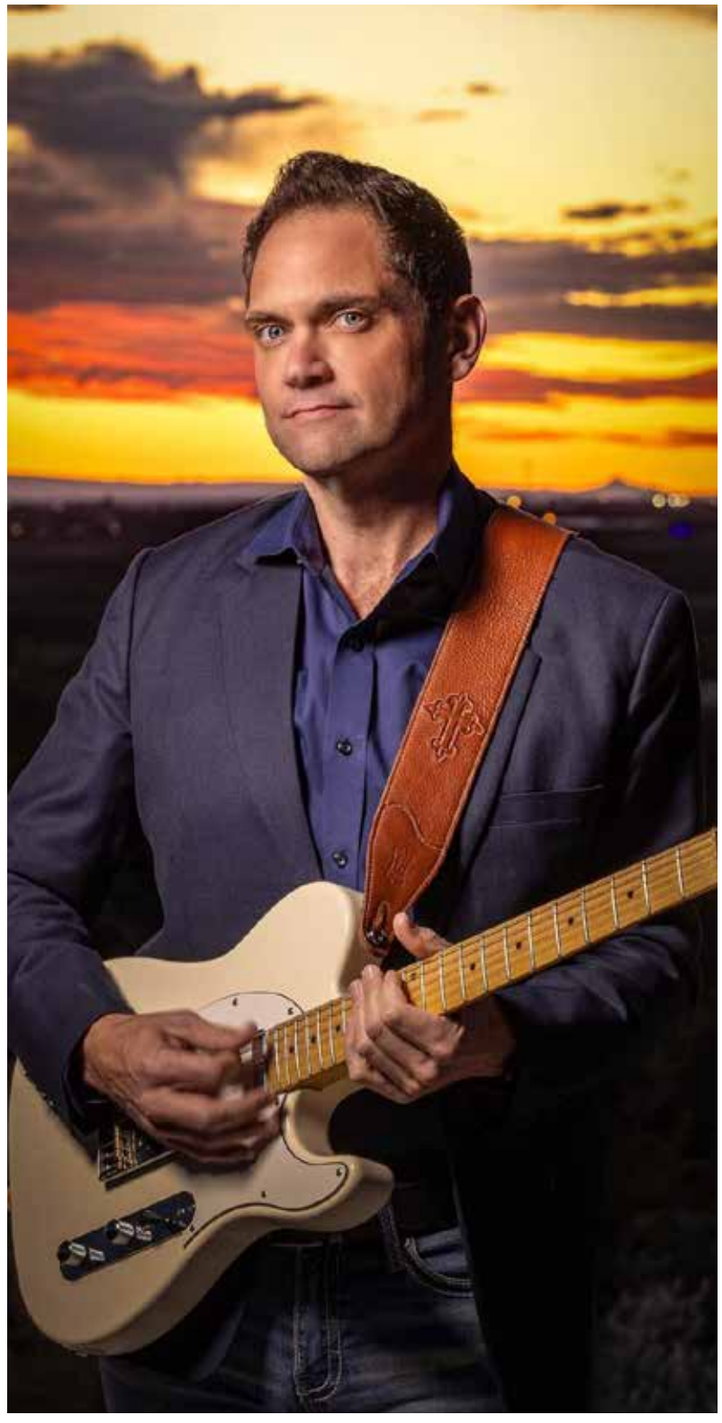
"Asaf Figuerias is a producer who is very talented," Castle said.

"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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TOP 5 THINGS TO DO

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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)

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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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