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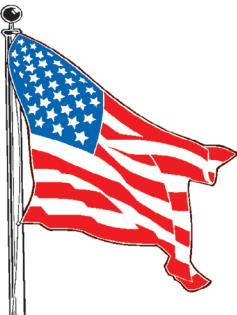
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La Feria News

Your Community Newspaper, Serving the Heart of the Rio Grande Valley



VOLUME 102 NUMBER 4

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Popular National Chain Opens in La Feria

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By Mike Villarreal

La Feria has welcomed an exciting new business that has captured the attention of residents. On Monday, January 15th, Wingstop, a popular national chain renowned for its delicious chicken wings, opened its doors. They also held their ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, January 17th. Located at the intersection of 9th and Main Street, this vibrant eatery is now a convenient dining option for locals.

Wingstop was founded in 1993 in Garland, Texas, by entrepreneur Antonio Swad, who envisioned a restaurant dedicated to serving high-quality chicken wings. By 1997, the brand began expanding

through franchising, allowing others to share in the success of this flavorful venture. By 2002, Wingstop proudly announced that it had served more than 2 million wings, establishing its reputation as a go-to destination for wing enthusiasts. The company took a significant step in 2010 when it opened its first international restaurant in Mexico, further broadening its reach.

Between 2014 and 2016, Wingstop gained recognition as the third fastest-growing restaurant chain in the United States, a testament to its appealing menu and business model. To enhance their brand identity, they adopted the catchy tagline,

"Where Flavor Gets Its Wings," which reflects their commitment to flavor-packed offerings. In 2020, the chain made it even easier for customers to enjoy their wings by partnering with DoorDash, allowing for convenient delivery options right to customers' doorsteps.

In addition to serving delicious food, Wingstop demonstrates a commitment to its employees through the establishment of the Team Member Foundation in 2019. This nonprofit organization, funded by employees, provides financial assistance to team members in dire emergency situations, fostering a supportive workplace culture.

As of 2022, Wingstop

has grown to over 1,400 locations and is now headquartered in Addison, Texas, signifying its tremendous growth and popularity.

Local resident Erica is particularly enthusiastic about the new Wingstop in La Feria. She shared that she typically indulges in Wingstop several times a month and is thrilled to have such a desirable option close to home. "Our little town is growing, and now there are more food options to choose from," she remarked, highlighting the positive impact of new businesses

on the community.

Wingstop offers an impressive selection of over 11 iconic flavors, ensuring there is something to satisfy every taste preference. Customers have the option to dine in at the restaurant, carry out their orders for a cozy meal at home, or enjoy the convenience of delivery services. With its flavorful menu and dedication to employees and customers, Wingstop is set to become a beloved destination in La Feria.

Photos by the City of La Feria Facebook page



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Local Butcher Participates in Meat Cutting Challenge



By Mike Villarreal

Harlingen butcher Eliud Camarillo has successfully advanced to the second round of the prestigious \$25,000 National Meat-Cutting Challenge, distinguishing himself as the only competitor from the Rio Grande Valley. In an exciting display of skill and artistry, butchers from several states, including Arizona, California, Idaho, Texas, Utah, Colorado, and Nevada, will gather on

January 21st in Henderson, Nevada, next week to compete in this unique event. Unlike traditional sports competitions, these craftsmen will showcase their expertise on the "ice" through their precision meat-cutting skills in the second round of the Qualifier Meat Cutting Challenge.

To qualify for this round, participants first participated in regional competitions last fall, demonstrating their talents

and prowess in meat cutting. Each competitor is provided with a selection of 20 to 30 pounds of beef, including one sirloin, one filet, and one ribeye. They are evaluated based on their ability to deliver high-quality cuts while maximizing yield within a set time limit. The winner is determined by the quantity and the quality of the steaks produced. All cutting occurs in a temperature-controlled environment, maintained at a chilly 38 degrees Fahrenheit, to ensure the meat remains fresh and of the highest standard. The ultimate competition will take place in March, where the national champion will receive a grand prize of \$25,000 and the coveted title of Meat Cutter of the Year.

James Workman, the Texas Roadhouse Regional Director of Product Coaches, emphasizes the importance of this competition, stating, "Our national meat-cutting challenge celebrates the extraordinary skill and precision of our local meat cutters – it's a tribute to a unique profession that blends artistry with expertise. We are proud to recognize our meat cutters' dedication to ensuring every steak is cut to perfection." For transparency and quality

assurance, each meat cutter is responsible for hand-cutting every steak served at their local Texas Roadhouse restaurant. On average, these skilled artisans cut approximately \$1 million worth of meat annually, dedicating seven to eight hours each day to the meticulous task of butchering in a 35-degree walk-in cooler.

The National Meat Cutting Challenge is part of the Meat Hero program, which was established in 2001 to honor the daily contributions of Texas Roadhouse meat cutters. Visitors to the restaurant can witness the craftsmanship of these professionals firsthand, as their work is prominently displayed in the lobby area. Guests can choose their favorite cuts, providing a personal touch to their dining experience.

Founded by Kent Taylor in 1993, Texas Roadhouse is headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky, and has grown to include more than 600 locations across 49 states and 10 foreign countries. The family-friendly restaurant chain is renowned for its hand-cut steaks, made-from-scratch sides, freshly baked bread, and lively dining atmosphere. In recognition of its excellence, Texas Roadhouse was named one of Fortune Magazine's



Most Admired Companies in 2022. Furthermore, in 2021, the restaurant ranked third on Newsweek's list of America's Best Customer Service for Casual Dining Restaurants. Alongside Texas Roadhouse, the

company owns and operates Bubba's 33 and Jagers. For additional information, please visit <http://www.texasroadhouse.com>. Photos courtesy of QMCC challenge Texas Roadhouse

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Community Calendar

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Mon.-Wed. & Fri. 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Tues.-Thurs. 12:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

For more information, please call **(956) 797-1242**

MONDAYS	Wednesdays • 2-4pm Musicians by invite only OPEN TO PUBLIC Park Place Estates Ballroom • Harlingen contact Charlie (308) 379-4589 LINE DANCING Weds • 9:00am - 11:30am • \$3 Park Place Estates Ballroom • Harlingen
LA FERIA SCHOOL BOARD 2nd Monday, 6:30pm Board Room Central Administration Office 203 E. Oleander Ave. (956) 797-8300	THURSDAYS
LA FERIA BAND BOOSTERS 3rd Monday, 7:00pm La Feria HS Band Hall (956) 797-8300	SANTA ROSA CITY COUNCIL MEETING 3rd Thursday • 7:00pm Santa Rosa City Hall (956) 636-1113
SANTA ROSA SCHOOL BOARD 3rd Monday • 6:30pm Santa Rosa HS Library (956) 636-9800	FRIDAYS
MAINSTREAM/PLUS DANCE Mondays • 9:30am - noon Park Place Estates Ballroom • Harlingen	LINE DANCING Sat • 1:00pm - 3:00pm • \$3 Park Place Estates Ballroom • Harlingen
TUESDAYS	SATURDAYS
BLUEGRASS JAM SESSIONS Every Tuesday, 1:30pm Kenwood RV Resort 1201 N. Main • La Feria (956) 797-1875	ORDER OF EASTERN STAR HARLINGEN CHAPTER #641 3rd Saturday • 2:00pm Masonic Temple 702 E. Harrison • Harlingen (956) 423-5544
WEDNESDAYS	COUNTRY JAM

Have a weekly community event you would like us to include in our calendar?
email news@laferianews.net
or call (956) 797-9920

MAIN & MAGNOLIA

FROM THE CORNER OF

First Baptist Church, La Feria

January 1, 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt set a world record for a head of state. At an official New Year's Day, White House function, Roosevelt shook hands with 8,513 people. Completing his political duty, biographer Edmund Morris, wrote that President Roosevelt, "went upstairs, and privately, disgustedly scrubbed himself clean."

Incoming president Trump has a less than positive view of shaking hands. "I think the handshake is barbaric... Shaking hands, you catch the flu, you catch this, you catch all sorts of things." As the pandemic has taught us to bump fists, many of us would agree with Mr. Trump.

I have shaken hands with one US president, Jimmy Carter. But I shook hands with Carter twice. The first was while I was a student at Samford University in Birmingham AL. As president, Carter was nothing like the marathon handshaker Roosevelt or the hesitant handshaker Trump. However, Carter's uniqueness went far beyond a handshake.

"Carter appointed more women, Black Americans, and Jewish Americans to official positions and judgeships 'than all 38 of his predecessors combined.'" He established the Department of Energy and the Department of Education. As well as brokering the Camp David Peace Accord.

The second time I shook hands with Jimmy Carter he was no longer president but was still serving and working. Following his presidency, Carter received the Nobel Peace Prize and helped build enough Habitat for Humanity homes that people thought he was Habitat's founder.

This week I saw a cartoon of Jimmy Carter walking into heaven wearing his iconic tool belt. He is arm and arm with who appears to be Jesus. "Welcome home, from one carpenter to another."

-Mark S. Ross DMin.

22nd Annual BBQ Cook-Off Taking Place in Mercedes

By Mike Villarreal

Smokin' on the Rio is returning for its 22nd Annual event at the Mercedes Livestock Showgrounds. This year's event will take place on February 7th and 8th.

It is one of the largest sanctioned BBQ cook-offs in Texas. Gates will open at 6 PM on Friday and at 9 AM on Saturday. Smokin' on the Rio World Championship BBQ Cook-Off was established

in 2004 by a group of local businessmen aiming to raise money for youth agriculture projects in the Rio Grande Valley. All proceeds from this event are used to purchase student projects for the Sale of Champions at

SMOKIN' ON THE RIO
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the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show. The main goal of this event is to ensure that students receive a fair return on their livestock investments, encouraging them to participate again and inviting their friends to join in. Smokin' on the Rio is proud of its success, becoming the largest sanctioned BBQ cook-off in Texas and the United States. Every year, the event is held on the second Saturday of February at the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Showgrounds

in Mercedes and attracts teams from all over. Attendees will have plenty of delicious BBQ, including entries such as fajitas, beans, chicken, pork spare ribs, pork, brisket, and pan de campo. This year's entertainment will feature the legendary Josh Turner, along with special guest Mark Chestnut, promising an unforgettable night of country music on Saturday. In 2025, Smokin' on the Rio will introduce a new feature

allowing high school youth teams to compete independently against other school teams as well as with national contenders. For more information, please visit www.smokinontherio.com.



For more information

City of La Feria CALENDAR of EVENTS



115 E. Commercial Ave. • La Feria, Texas 78559 • (956) 797-2261

In accordance with the Order of the Office of the Governor issued March 16, 2020, the City of La Feria will conduct the meeting and provide audio/telephonic availability for the public using live stream in order to advance the public health goal of limiting face-to-face meetings (also called "social distancing") to slow the spread of the Coronavirus (also known as Covid-19). To view the meeting via internet live streaming, please visit <https://www.cityoflaferia.com/boards-and-commissions/city-commission/agendas-2020/> where you will find the agenda for the next meeting. The pdf for the agenda will include a link, meeting ID and passcode for the Zoom meeting. More information is available by calling 346-248-7799.

Members of the public may sign up for public comment on an agenda item or for another item of public concern by submitting an email to amorales@cityoflaferia.com containing (1) the name of the individual wishing to comment; and (2) the item number or subject matter the individual wishes to comment on. Please submit requests for public comment no later than two hours before the meeting. Join the meeting at the time and login listed above and the Mayor will call on you when it is your turn to speak. A recording of the meeting will be made and will be available to the public in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. If during the course of the meeting, any discussion of any item on the agenda is permitted to be held in executive or closed session, whether such item is already so identified on this Agenda or not, the City Commission will convene in such executive or closed session in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 551.001-551.146.

JANUARY 7, 2025

6:30 PM City Commission Meeting
Commission Meeting Room
115 E. Commercial Avenue • La Feria, TX

JANUARY 21, 2025

6:30 PM City Commission Meeting
Commission Meeting Room
115 E. Commercial Avenue • La Feria, TX

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OFFICE CLERK
Mike Villarreal



CORRECTION POLICY
Although the La Feria News Staff strives for excellence in all stories and advertising, spelling or typographical errors can occur. If you find any confirmed factual or other type of error, please call 956-233-9928 during business hours or leave a message.

WEEKLY COLUMNS printed in the La Feria News contain the opinions of the Authors. They may or may not be the opinion of the Newspaper.

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The La Feria News is mailed and delivered **Monday, January 20, 2025** and published weekly by **La Feria Publishing, LLC**. Periodical Postage Rates paid at La Feria, TX., Post Office. Advertising deadline is **noon Wednesday** at the office at 123 W. Commercial Ave., La Feria, TX 78559.

CHURCH SERVICE DIRECTORY

- 1st United Methodist Church**
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331 S. Main St., La Feria,
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Sunday PUMC Youth 4:30pm (ages 12-18yrs)
Communion on the 1st Sunday of every month
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- International Worship Center**
Bishop Ronaldo Ortiz
956-797-1204
116 W. Seventh St., La Feria
Services Sunday (English) 9:30am
Domingo (Español) 11am,
Miercoles 7pm
Interdenominational Worship
Extreme Youth Sat. 6pm
- First Baptist Church of Santa Rosa**
Pastor Ramon Zarate
956-636-1603
118 Jesus R. Cruz, Santa Rosa Sunday
Services 9:30am Bible Study, 10:30am
Morning Worship,
7pm Wednesday Evening Worship.
- Apostolic Faith Tabernacle**
Pastor Ramon Zarate
357-1384
621 South Main, La Feria
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Sunday Worship 4pm, Wed.
Evening 7:30pm.
All services are bilingual.
- Iglesia Oracion en Su Presencia Missionary Church, Inc.**
Pastors Frank & Janie Gonzalez
797-0044 4th Street, La Feria, TX
Sunday 10am & 6pm,
Monday 7 pm Prayer Service,
Wednesday 7 pm, Friday 7 pm.
- Church of Christ**
Minister Roger Goodwin
912 N. Parker Rd., La Feria
Sunday 10:30am Service
Sunday 5pm Evening Service
Los Domingos 2:00pm Medio Dia Los
- Faith Church of Christian & Missionary Alliance Church**
Pastor Oscar Loreda
797-1739
125 W. First St., La Feria, TX
Bilingual Ministry Sunday 10am Sunday
School, 11am Worship, Wednesday 7 pm
Bible Study, Friday 7 pm Prayer.
- Santa Rosa United Methodist Church**
408 Main Street (Hwy. 107/506)
Santa Rosa, across from High School
Sunday Coffee and
Fellowship 9:30 AM Worship 10 AM
(Communion first Sunday)
Wednesday Prayer Service 9:00 AM
Pastor: Carole Lahti
(956) 279-3407
- Casa de Esperanza Apostolic Church**
416 W. Spruce La Feria
965-639-4301 Bilingual Services Sunday
at 1:00pm
Daniel Martinez - Pastor
- St. Mary's Catholic Church**
FR. Edouard Atangana,
956-636-1211
101 San Antonio Ave., Santa Rosa
Saturday Mass 5pm Bilingual,
Sunday Mass 8am Spanish,
10am English.
- First Baptist Church of La Feria**
797-1214
Main St. & Magnolia, La Feria
Wednesday 6:30pm Youth Bible Study &
Mission Friends, 9:45am Sunday School,
11am Morning Worship Service
- St. Albans Episcopal Church**
Reverend John Inserra
956-428-2305,
1417 E. Austin, Harlingen, TX
Holy Communion 8am, Sunday School
9:15, Holy Eucharist 10:30am.
- Hope in the Word Church**
Pastors Jose & Bertha Belmares
797-3621,
28354 S. Bixby Rd., La Feria
Services Friday 6pm, Sunday 10am.
All services are Bilingual, English &
Spanish.
- Primera Iglesia Bautista**
604 N. Main St., La Feria TX.
956-797-1740
Pastor, Jorge Navarro
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Adult SS class in Spanish
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Worship Service at 10:45 AM
- Iglesia Generacion En Conquista**
Pastor Samuel y Magda Cervantes,
Phone (956) 536-2215
2803 W. Exp. 83 Suite A La Feria
Sunday Service 10am Bible Study, 11am
Worship Service,
7pm Wednesday Family Service
- Living Water Church and Ministry**
Pastor Henry and Rosie
2805 Memorial Suite B. La Feria Sunday
Service 11am, 6pm Spanish Worship
Service,
7pm Wednesday Service
- St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church**
Msgr. Luis Javier Garcia
797-2666, office: 502 S. Canal
church: 500 South Canal St., La Feria,
Saturday Mass 5:30pm,
Sunday Mass 8am Spanish,
11am English
- Christ In Our Midst Missionary Church**
Pastor: Rev. Daniel Carrizalez
956-742-6311
1 mile N. of FM 506, La Feria
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.,
Sunday Worship - 11:00 a.m.,
Wednesday Service - 7:00 p.m., Monday
Prayer - 7:00 p.m.
- New Hope Presbyterian Church**
208 West Central Ave,
La Feria, TX, 956-277-0208
Services Sunday 4:30 pm
Sunday School 3:15 pm
Communion on the
1st Sunday of every month
- Cowboy Church**
11235 Swift Ln. Santa Rosa, Tex. Service
at 11:00am Sunday
6:30pm pm Monday
956-975-6144
www.westernoutreach.org
- St. Paul Lutheran Church**
Pastor Nathan Wendorf
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10:30AM (Contemporary)
HC second, fourth & fifth
(956) 423-3924
602 Morgan Blvd.
Harlingen, TX 78550
church@saintpaulharlingen.com
- Templo Getsemani**
Pastor Julio y Claudia Mendoza
Phone (956) 589-5016
11418 Fifth St. La Feria
Servicios:
Tuesday & Thursday 7pm
Friday Pray at 7pm
Sunday Bible Study at 10am & 6pm
- Immanuel Lutheran Church & School**
Rev. Ed Weber
956-565-1518 Office (M-F, 8-12 noon)
956-565-3208 School (Grades: PK-5th)
703 W. 3rd St., Mercedes, TX
Sunday Worship Services 9am
Sunday Bible Class 10:30 am
immanuelmercedes@gmail.com
lutheranmercedes.com

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CITATION BY PUBLICATION - TRC 109 & 114

THE STATE OF TEXAS
2024-DCL-07014-H

Fidel Cortez, Jr. § IN THE 444TH DISTRICT COURT
VS § OF
Fidel Cortez, Sr. § CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS

TO: **Guadalupe Cortez**
Known and Unknown Heirs
No Known Address

NOTICE TO 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 am on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after the date this citation was issued, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org."

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the **Original Petition** at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this citation before the Honorable 444th District Court of Cameron County, at the Courthouse in said County in Brownsville, Texas. Said **Original Petition** was filed in said court on the 22nd day of November, 2024 in the above entitled cause.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit:

as is more fully shown by **Original Petition** on file in this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Brownsville, Texas, on this the 15th day of January, 2025.

ATTORNEY:
TRAVIS BENCE
24029441
956-440-8900
1018 East Tyler
Harlingen TX 78550



Laura Perez-Reyes
District Clerk of Cameron County
974 E Harrison Street
Brownsville, Texas 78520

By: *Jolanta Gutierrez*
Jolanta Gutierrez, Deputy Clerk

CITATION BY PUBLICATION - TRC 109 & 114

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2024-DCL-07014-H

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TO: **Fidel Cortez Sr.**
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ATTORNEY:
TRAVIS BENCE
24029441
956-440-8900
1018 East Tyler
Harlingen TX 78550



Laura Perez-Reyes
District Clerk of Cameron County
974 E Harrison Street
Brownsville, Texas 78520

By: *Jolanta Gutierrez*
Jolanta Gutierrez, Deputy Clerk

La Feria News

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REMEMBER: Deadline is Wednesday at NOON for ads to be published in the following week's edition.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of Walter Nasarewitch, Deceased, were issued on September 30, 2024 under Cause No.: 2023-COPC-00281, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Cameron County, Texas to: Olga Skrypoczka.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate, addressed as follows:

Olga Skrypoczka, Independent Administrator
of the Estate of Walter Nasarewitch, Deceased
Law Offices of Phillippe & Associates
847 E. Harrison St.
Brownsville, Texas 78520

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED: January 14, 2025.

Olga Skrypoczka, Independent Administrator
of the Estate of Walter Nasarewitch, Deceased

By: *Christopher Lee Phillippe*
Christopher Lee Phillippe, Attorney for Independent Administrator

CITATION BY PUBLICATION - TRC 109 & 114

THE STATE OF TEXAS
2024-DCL-06638-H

Julian Chavez, Jr. § IN THE 444TH DISTRICT COURT
VS § OF
Manuel Chavez § CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS

TO: **Manuel Chavez**
Known and Unknown Heirs
No Known Address

NOTICE TO 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 am on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after the date this citation was issued, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org."

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the **Plaintiff's Original Petition** at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this citation before the Honorable 444th District Court of Cameron County, at the Courthouse in said County in Brownsville, Texas. Said **Plaintiff's Original Petition** was filed in said court on the 6th day of November, 2024 in the above entitled cause.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit:

as is more fully shown by **Plaintiff's Original Petition** on file in this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Brownsville, Texas, on this the 15th day of January, 2025.

ATTORNEY:
TRAVIS BENCE
24029441
956-440-8900
1018 East Tyler
Harlingen TX 78550



Laura Perez-Reyes
District Clerk of Cameron County
974 E Harrison Street
Brownsville, Texas 78520

By: *Jolanta Gutierrez*
Jolanta Gutierrez, Deputy Clerk

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ISSUE CITY OF PRIMERA, TEXAS CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Commission of the City of Primera, Texas will convene at its regular meeting place in the City Hall in Primera, Texas, at 6:00 o'clock P.M., Primera, Texas time on 18th day of March, 2025, and, during such meeting, the City Commission will consider the passage of an ordinance or ordinances and take such other actions as may be deemed necessary to authorize the issuance of one or more series of taxable or tax-exempt certificates of obligation in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$5,000,000 for the purpose or purposes of paying contractual obligations of the City to be incurred for making permanent public improvements and for other public purposes, to-wit: (1) designing, constructing, acquiring, purchasing, renovating, equipping, and improving a new municipal complex that will include administrative offices housing governmental functions of the City, the City's Public Works department, and public safety facilities, including the City's police department, (2) designing, engineering, constructing, acquiring, purchasing, renovating, enlarging, and improving the City's utility system, (3) the purchase of materials, supplies, equipment, land, and rights-of-way for authorized needs and purposes, and (4) the payment of professional services relating to the design, construction, project management, and financing of the aforementioned capital improvements. The certificates of obligation (the Certificates) will be payable from the levy of an annual ad valorem tax, within the limitations prescribed by law, upon all taxable property within the City and from a lien on and pledge of certain revenues derived by the City from the operation of the City's utility system. In accordance with Section 271.049, as amended, Texas Local Government Code, (i) the current principal amount of all of the City's outstanding public securities secured by and payable from ad valorem taxes is \$15,204,000; (ii) the current combined principal and interest required to pay all of the City's outstanding public securities secured by and payable from ad valorem taxes on time and in full is \$22,612,431.50; (iii) the estimated combined principal and interest required to pay the Certificates to be authorized on time and in full is \$9,894,361.11; (iv) the maximum interest rate for the Certificates may not exceed the maximum legal interest rate; and (v) the maximum maturity date of the Certificates to be authorized is April 15, 2055. The Certificates are to be issued, and this notice is given, under and pursuant to the provisions of the Certificate of Obligation Act of 1971, as amended, Texas Local Government Code Section 271.041 through Section 271.064, and Chapter 1502, as amended, Texas Government Code.

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LA FERIA SPORTS

SR Warriors Lift Big

Santa Rosa Warriors Host 7th Annual Powerlifting Meet



Kaley Cruz came in 1st in the 123lbs division



Carlos Medrano came in 2nd in the 148lbs division

Emilio Flores
LFN

The Santa Rosa Warriors hosted their 7th Annual Powerlifting Meet on Saturday, January 9, marking another successful event for the Rio Grande Valley's powerlifting community. The meet saw over 220 lifters from 14 schools compete in a thrilling display of strength and determination.

At the end of it, the Donna Redskins emerged as the dominant force, clinching both the Male and Female division titles. Meanwhile, the Santa Rosa Warriors showcased their talent and resilience, with standout performances from some of Santa

Rosa's Senior Class Powerlifters, seniors Kaley Cruz, JJ Anaya, and Carlos Medrano. Kaley Cruz triumphed in the 123-pound division, while Carlos Medrano secured an impressive second place in the 148-pound category.

A Platform for Growth

Head Coach Joe Marichilar expressed pride in his team and the event's overall success. "This year, we have a mixture of experience and youth. The older Warriors are expected to make the journey to State again, while the young Warriors learn the process of becoming Ultimate Warriors," Marichilar shared. For many competitors,

the meet was more than just a chance to test their limits; it was an opportunity to build camaraderie, set goals, and embrace the Warrior mentality.

Spotlight on the Warriors

- **Kaley Cruz** - A senior with four years of powerlifting experience, Cruz totaled an impressive 725 pounds. Encouraged by her parents to try the sport, Cruz admitted, "I was pretty nervous about it, but I ended up liking it a lot." Looking ahead, she plans to attend Texas A&M University-Kingsville to study Pre-Veterinary Medicine. Her favorite animal? The hedgehog and she has one of her own!
- **Carlos Medrano** - In his third year of powerlifting, Medrano has grown to love the sport for its physical and mental challenges. A multi-sport athlete, Medrano also plays football and competes in track. His goal for the season is ambitious: reaching a 1,350-pound total and placing at State. Medrano credited his mom and teammates as his biggest motivators.
- **JJ Anaya** - With four years of experience, Anaya thrives on the sport's relentless challenges. "I enjoy lifting heavy—it forces me to want to do more," he said. Also a football player, Anaya aims to achieve a 1,350–1,400-pound total this season. His family has been his cornerstone of support, cheering him on every step of the way.

Looking Ahead

The Santa Rosa Warriors are poised for a strong season, with seasoned athletes leading the way and younger lifters gaining invaluable experience. As the team builds on the momentum of this successful meet, the future looks bright for the Warriors and the Rio Grande Valley powerlifting community.

Staying Perfect

Lions, Lionettes unbeaten in District

By Ruben Rodriguez
La Feria News

With non-district coming to an end just within the last two weeks, District play had already begun for the 2024-25 Basketball season. And for the Roll Pride, things are looking great.

We start off with the Lionettes, who are off to a hot start in 32-4A action. Three District games are already in the books, and La Feria has certainly made their mark. To open up district play, the Lionettes began district

against Port Isabel. La Feria played solid defense to secure the 59-38 win.

The defensive dominance continued for the Lionettes as they took on Grulla in their second matchup. This time, offense was on point, winning by a 35 point difference, 55-20. In their third district game, the Lionettes battled with Hidalgo. The Lionettes again were able to control the tempo of the game and take the win 73-42.

Meanwhile, the La Feria Lions Boys Team have also been playing

sharp. The Lions opened up 32-4A action in a big way, by going 2-0. The Lions first took on the Hidalgo Pirates and shut them down to win 51-35. In their second district game against Brownsville Jubilee, the Lions were hot on both sides of the ball, controlling the game and taking the win 56-41.

At 3-0 and 2-0, both La Feria basketball teams look to keep the tide going in district play. While still a young district schedule, La Feria certainly has the tools to contend for a district title.



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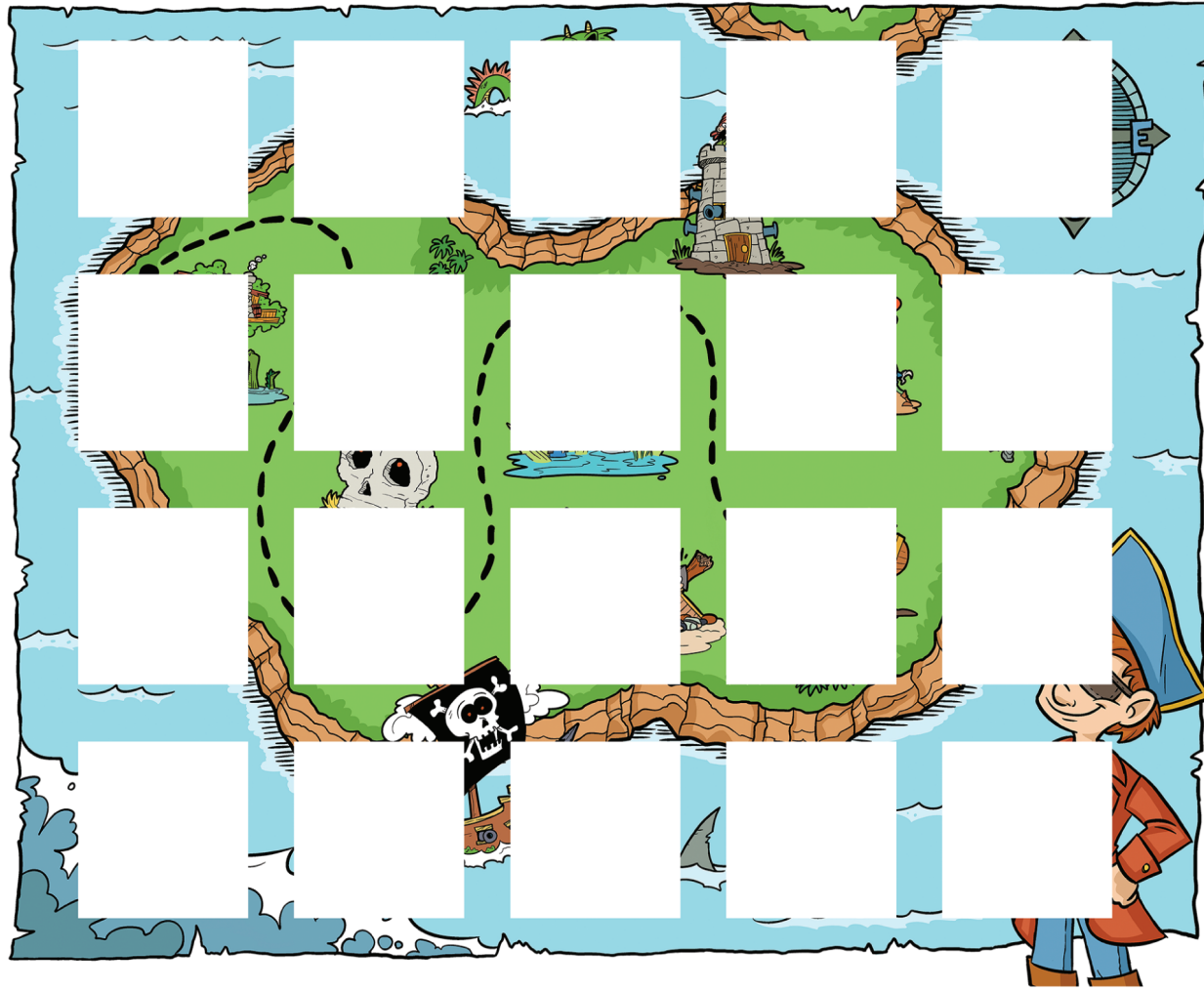
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AUSTIN – As many parts of the state prepare to deal with wintry weather, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) reminds Texans that extreme cold, freezing rain, ice and snow can pose major hazards to drivers and pedestrians and urges residents to be prepared and exercise caution in those types of conditions.

"Winter weather can be unpredictable, but by making safety a top priority you can help take control," said Colonel Freeman Martin. "Plan ahead, check road conditions and adjust your driving for the type of roads you're traveling on. These are all simple things that can make a big impact in making this winter season safer for everyone on the road."

DPS encourages everyone to take the appropriate safety

precautions during winter weather. This includes checking your vehicle's battery, windshield wipers, tire pressure, tire treads and fluid levels, as well as ensuring door and trunk locks are properly lubricated to prevent them from freezing. Having a well-stocked emergency kit with warm clothes, food, water, cell phone battery/charger and first aid items is also a good idea.

Here are some other tips to help you stay ahead of winter weather:

Winter Weather Road Safety Tips:

- Monitor local weather broadcasts and check the latest weather conditions from the National Weather Service before you hit the road.
- Avoid traveling when sleet, freezing rain or snow is predicted, and monitor road conditions

by visiting Drive Texas or calling (800) 452-9292.

- If you must drive in inclement weather, allow extra time to reach your destination. Share your travel plans with a friend or family member so someone knows the route you're taking.
- On icy roads, drive slowly and increase the distance between your vehicle and others, as you may need additional room to stop.
- Do not use cruise control.
- Ensure your vehicle has a full tank of gas.
- Be aware that ice accumulates on bridges and overpasses before drivers may see it on roads, so approach them more slowly in winter weather.
- Watch for downed trees and power lines. If a stop light is out, treat the

intersection as a four-way stop.

Winter Weather Home Safety Tips:

- Use an all-hazards weather radio for up-to-date warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information.
- Sign up for calls or texts from your local emergency notification system.
- Insulate outside faucets and pipes near outer walls.
- Make sure furnaces, heaters, fireplaces and wood stoves are clean, well-ventilated and in good working condition.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from walls and combustible materials, including furniture and bedding. Turn them off when you're away or sleeping. Also ensure space heaters cannot

tip over and there is no damage to the cord.

- To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, never operate a generator or other fuel-powered device inside a home, garage or other enclosed space. The odorless, colorless gas is deadly and is produced any time a fossil fuel is burned. Consider installing a carbon monoxide detector in your home.
- Never heat your home with a gas stove or oven.
- Check on friends and family members whose health or age may put them at greater risk.
- Stock up on firewood and supplies, including canned goods, bottled water and medication.

Texans are encouraged to stay vigilant, practice caution and remain prepared as winter weather conditions develop.

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- DOWN**
1. Acronym, abbr.
 2. Discarded cards in cribbage
 3. Tear down
 4. Enclose in a cyst
 5. Orthodontic appliance
 6. Motion Picture Association of America, e.g.
 7. Certain tray content
 8. *Former multiple time Grammy host Andy _____
 9. Related to ear
 10. RPMs
 11. Before, in verse
 13. Predatory fish
 14. Gin's partner
 19. Giraffe's striped-leg cousin
 22. *1995 "Have I Told You Lately That I Love You" winner _____ Morrison
 23. Scout's mission
 24. What phoenix did
 25. _____-la
 26. Non-negotiable
 27. Old European coin
 28. Last 8 in college basketball
 29. More than sly
 32. *Nominated artist Post Malone's actual last name
 33. Hula dancer's necklace
 36. *Taylor Swift's "The _____ Poets Department"
 38. Nautical "Stop!"
 40. Nile viper
 41. *Grammy winners Frank and Billy
 44. Top scout
 46. Make a connection
 48. Double-reed instruments
 49. Famous Memphis street
 50. Unforeseen obstacle
 51. Foal's mother
 53. Chieftain in Arabia
 54. Tennis amount
 55. General Services Administration
 56. Romanian money
 58. *Kendrick Lamar's "_____ Like Us"

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- THEME: THE GRAMMYS**
- ACROSS**
1. 43,560 square feet
 5. Undergarment
 8. "She _____ a Yellow Ribbon"
 12. Ocean Spray _____-Apple juice
 13. #5 Across, pl.
 14. Concentration of solution, in chemistry
 15. CISC alternative
 16. Swearing-in words
 17. Goodwill branch
 18. *Artist with most Grammy nominations
 20. ALCS counterpart
 21. Winter Olympics participant
 22. IX minus II
 23. Drum roll sound
 26. Front of building, pl.
 30. Get it wrong
 31. Upholstery choice
 34. Reflect deeply
 35. Raccoon's cousin
 37. "_____ the fields we go"
 38. Binary digits code
 39. Capital on a fjord
 40. Isaac of science fiction fame
 42. Consumed
 43. Within shortest distance
 45. *100-year-old Grammy Award nominee
 47. Beer faucet

Time To Buzz In: UTRGV History Lecturer Advances In Jeopardy! Wildcard Tournament



Dr. William Yancey, a UTRGV history lecturer, the dream of appearing on Jeopardy! began long ago. Fast forward, he's now taking his shot at the Jeopardy! Champions Wildcard Tournament. (Courtesy Photo)

By Amanda L. Alaniz

RIO GRANDE VALLEY, TEXAS – JAN. 13, 2025 – For Dr. William Yancey, a UTRGV history lecturer, the dream of appearing on Jeopardy!

began long ago. Growing up, he would sit in front of the television with a ballpoint pen, pretending it was his buzzer, practicing for a moment like this. Now, he's taking his shot at the Jeopardy! Champions Wildcard Tournament, proving that academia can be both intellectually stimulating and

entertaining. "I've been watching Jeopardy! since I was 13 years old," he said. "My grandmother was a fan too, and she used to watch it with me to see if I could answer the questions right." Yancey, a lecturer II in History, advanced to the semifinals in the Jeopardy! Champions Wildcard Tournament on Monday. He made his first appearance on Jeopardy!, the iconic trivia game show, in September 2024. He finished in third place after missing the Final Jeopardy question about "Percy Jackson and the

Olympians," a middle-grade book series featuring half-human and half-demigod characters. Although he did not walk away a winner, he gained a potential reading goal for the future. Yancey shared his friends and family teased him about getting the series as a gift for him. "I said, 'If y'all buy it, I'll read it,'" Yancey said. "I still haven't gotten the series. I may read it anyway now."

A SECOND CHANCE

While Yancey ended that round in third place, his Jeopardy! journey

didn't end at that buzzer. Yancey received a call to participate in the Jeopardy! Second Chance Tournament, a special two-week event showcasing contestants who did not with their regular games. Yancey won two rounds, advancing to the Jeopardy! Champions Wildcard Tournament, an event where wildcard players compete for a chance at a spot in the Jeopardy! Tournament of Champions. "I got that last Final Jeopardy question right, and I looked over and I could see the other contestant scores," he recalled. "I looked out to my wife, and she had her head buried in her hands because she was way more nervous than I was. I think I said 'Wow, it's hard to believe.'"

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

Competing on the game show has always been a personal goal for Yancey, who has been a

fan for about 40 years. He mentioned that he had tried out for the show years prior before finally making it to Alex Trebek's stage. Walking into the studio where the legendary game show host Alex Trebek stood for decades was an unbelievable feeling for Yancey. He said it didn't truly hit him that he was on Jeopardy! until he stood behind the podium, holding the buzzer. "You go through a couple of practice runs to get used to the buzzer and get used to being on stage. It was definitely a sense of, 'Wow, this is a big deal,'" he said. A key rule of the game is that contestants must wait until the question is fully read before answering in the form of a question. While he achieved his lifelong goal of being on Jeopardy!, Yancey felt something was missing – he wished his grandmother could see him on that stage. "The first thing she would tell me is, 'I'm proud of you.' The second thing

she'd tell me is, 'Don't brag about it, because this doesn't make you better than anybody else,'" he said. "She was a very humble lady." A cultural phenomenon, the game show averages about 9 million viewers.

REPRESENTING UTRGV

For Yancey, representing UTRGV means a lot, and he finds the online support he has received the last couple of weeks encouraging. "Anybody in our department could probably go and do this. It means a lot to represent UTRGV on a national stage, that's big," he said. "And being able to say, 'Look, you know you can come out of the Valley, and you can do anything.' That means a whole lot." Be sure to tune in to see Yancey buzzing in on Jeopardy! Champions Wildcard Tournament tonight at 6 p.m. on the local NBC station.



Yancey participated in the Jeopardy! Second Chance Tournament, a special two-week event showcasing contestants who did not with their regular games. (Courtesy Photo)

Precision Agriculture New Frontier: Crop Digital Twins

By Blair Fannin

Crop farmers in South Texas are witnessing the future of agriculture unfold with the advent of digital-twin technology. Spearheaded by Texas A&M AgriLife Research, this cutting-edge approach combines remote sensing, big data and artificial intelligence to simulate and predict real-world crop production scenarios. Juan Landivar, Ph.D., director of the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Corpus Christi, leads a multidisciplinary team of experts, including agronomists, computer engineers, electrical engineers and civil engineers. He recently shared their findings at the Texas Plant Protection Association Conference, emphasizing this technology's transformative potential. Their methods and results have been published in the peer-reviewed journal Computers and Electronics in Agriculture.

agriculture emerged from a conversation six years ago between Landivar and his then-colleague Jinha Jung, Ph.D., now an associate professor at Purdue University. "We were returning from a meeting when the idea clicked," Landivar recalled. "I couldn't sleep that night. By 3 a.m., I was texting Jinha, realizing the vast opportunities this technology could unlock for agriculture." This sparked a series of trials on a 200-acre farm in South Texas, cultivating cotton and sorghum, which have showcased the technology's promise. Using drones, the team gathered over 250,000 data points in a single season, measuring canopy cover, plant height and vegetation indices via normalized difference vegetation index, NDVI.

The challenge then became how to interpret this massive data trove.

Power of AI

"That's where our AI-powered web-based modeling comes in," Landivar said. "It translates complex datasets into actionable

insights for farmers, helping with decisions on yield prediction, biomass estimation, crop termination and irrigation scheduling." One notable success involved advising a farmer to prepare for harvest earlier than expected. In the 2024 cotton crop, AI modeling accurately predicted optimal harvest preparation as early as June 18. "The farmer said 'no way. I usually defoliate in July,'" Landivar recalled, "but field observations on June 24 confirmed the model's accuracy." "Somewhere along there, they had several inches of rain and delayed defoliation," he said. "But while waiting for the soil to dry, heavy rains from an approaching hurricane came through and dropped another 4 inches. Harvest wasn't until late July, losing quality and about \$70 per acre in potential profit."

Benefits for farmers

Digital-twin technology is ushering in an era of prescriptive agriculture, where decisions are data-driven rather than guesswork. For instance, early yield forecasts — available six to eight weeks before harvest — can aid financial planning and



Crop farmers spearheaded by Texas A&M AgriLife Research, are using remote sensing, big data and artificial intelligence to simulate and predict real-world crop production scenarios. (Texas A&M AgriLife)

market strategies. "This precision saves costs and maximizes harvest potential," Landivar said. "It also supports sustainability goals, like estimating biomass for carbon credit markets." **Looking ahead** The affordability of advanced tools like multispectral cameras has accelerated data collection and analysis, making technologies that once seemed out of reach more accessible. "We've come a long way," Landivar said. "What used to be a luxury is now a necessity for modern farming." As this technology evolves, it holds immense promise for agriculture

worldwide, Landivar said. By empowering farmers with real-time insights and predictive analytics, digital twins are not just recreating crops — they are reshaping the future of farming. Joining Landivar on the research team: • Jung, Ph.D., Lyles School of Civil Engineering, Purdue University. • Pankaj Pal, Ph.D., research associate; Jose Landivar-Scott, engineer/programmer and senior research associate; Lei Zhao, Ph.D., AgriLife Research graduate assistant; Mahendra Bhandari, Ph.D., AgriLife Research remote-sensing crop physiologist and assistant professor, all at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Research

Center, Corpus Christi. • Nick Duffield, Ph.D., professor and director of Texas A&M Institute of Data Science, and Kevin Nowka, Ph.D., professor of practice-electrical and computer engineering, both with the Texas A&M Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. • Anjin Chang, Ph.D., research associate professor, Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Tennessee State University. • Kiju Lee, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Engineering Technology and Industrial Distribution and Mechanical Engineering, Texas A&M.