

SPORTS

Dynamic Mustangs ready for playoffs

Nixon has averaged 95.5 points per game over the last six contests, plays PSJA North Tuesday Page B1



LOCAL

LC has No. 1 nursing program in Texas

Page A3

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Laredo Morning Times

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MONDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2020

\$1.00

On \$52M bond, city secures low interest rate

Allows for financing of Manadas Creek Sewer Plant, a longtime priority of Utilities Department

By Julia Wallace LAREDO MORNING TIMES

Laredo City Council last week signed off on borrowing \$52 million to finance

the Manadas Creek Sewer Plant, which once constructed, will phase out the aged Zacate Wastewater Treatment Plant. City staff was excited to

announce that for the first 15 years this debt will have a 0% interest rate, and for the following 15 years it will have a 0.315% interest rate. "The rates we were able to secure were just phenomenal and unlike anything we've seen," said Tony Jasso, representing the city's financial adviser Estrada Hinojosa & Compa-

ny. The project is being financed through the Texas Water Development Board, which approved the loan in December. Jasso said that the cost differential if they were to have gone out for a bond in the open market is about \$29 million. Utilities Director Riazul Bond continues on A10



Jorge A. Vela / Laredo Morning Times

Senate candidate Annie "Mama" Garcia displays the medication she was able to buy in Nuevo Laredo.

US senate candidate visits Laredo on foot

By Jorge A. Vela LAREDO MORNING TIMES

As election day nears, candidates throughout the state of Texas have been running around to get the vote out. Annie "Mama" Garcia literally ran to Laredo this week and stopped for a visit to meet voters.

Garcia is an outspoken, no-holds-barred individual who is running her campaign by being her own mouthpiece. With few campaign donations she is traveling throughout the state on foot. She is one of 12 candidates vying to win the Democratic nomination for the Senate seat that is currently held by incumbent Republican Sen. John Cornyn.

"I don't make sense as a candidate because I don't have the money, but at the same time if I had the money, I would fit right up there with the rest of them as I am a lawyer, trilingual, I have lived in multiple countries and I know how to talk pretty," Garcia said. "However, I am not that candidate as I did not get to run, but rather decided to get the filing fee of \$5,000 and run."

Considering her lack of fundraising or notoriety, she points out that as senator she would care about taking the money out of politics, bringing true comprehensive immigration reform to the forefront and having a real debate about healthcare, which is one of her major concerns.

"My daughter was born with a heart defect in Spain. Because it happened in

Spain we did not go bankrupt, and I am very appreciative of their government providing a million and a half dollars in treatment," Garcia said. "So, I started a nonprofit organization. I became 'Mama' from that experience ... and since have worked in trying to showcase why this country's healthcare sucks and can be changed."

She pointed out that the high cost of medicine, which included even simple medication such as lice treatment that she needed for her daughter, costs between \$300 and \$500. Her family and other friends in her daughter's school also did not have the money. During her Garcia crossed to Nuevo Laredo in an effort to find cheaper medicine and prove a point on how the price of pharmaceuticals in the United States is astronomically higher. She made a point as she found the very medicine that she needed for her daughter at just \$3.50 in Mexico and not the \$500 they were charging her in Texas.

"I want the same thing that I found in Spain. I don't want parents to fear taking their children to the ER or have to wait until their insurance changes so they have to wait for the new deductible to be of consideration," Garcia said. "I do not want people to pay at the point of service (or) suffer due to preexisting conditions. And everybody is covered and included."

For Garcia, providing Senate continues on A10

Student comes home for miniature parade



Cuate Santos / Laredo Morning Times

Second grade students at Col. Santos Benavides Elementary had an opportunity to show off their miniature floats as they participated in a Youth Parade, resembling the WBCA Youth Parade, inside the school, Thursday. Among the participants were current student, Natalia Aileen Santos, representing the United States as an Abrazo Child and former student Ryan Joshua Sciaraffa, as Chief Sacred Warrior for the Princess Pocahontas Council.

Colonel Santos Benavides Elementary students visited by court royalty

By Jorge A. Vela LAREDO MORNING TIMES

On Thursday, students at Colonel Santos Benavides were treated not just to a miniature parade performed by second graders but also to a visit from court royalty as well.

Chief Sacred Warrior - also known as Ryan Joshua Sciaraffa when he is not representing royalty - was present at the event as well with Stacy Allison Lanier, who is the 2020 Princess Pocahontas. They paraded throughout the halls of the elementary school. For Sciaraffa, the occasion hit closer to home as he is a former student of the school.

"It's a great honor as my family has been in it for a while now and it is just amazing," Sciaraffa said. "It's a very memorable year and all the stuff we have done is cool, and all the events are fun and nice."

Sciaraffa is the fifth member of his family to be a part of the royal court as in the past his family members have been members, in-

cluding even as chief, such as Joseph Sciaraffa in 2007, Kristina Davila in 2007, Sergio "Red" Velasquez in 2009 as chief, and Trey Sciaraffa in 2012.

As for Princess Pocahontas, she also stated that she enjoyed the event and her experience as royalty during the month-long journey to the Anheuser-Busch Parade continues on A10

TODAY'S WEATHER HIGH 81 LOW 55

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LOTTO There are no lottery drawings on Sunday.

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Daily Roundup

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CALENDAR

TUESDAY, FEB. 25

United Methodist Men's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at 1220 McClelland Ave. All you can eat pancakes, syrup, butter, bacon and sausage, with a choice of coffee, orange juice, milk or lemonade. Public is invited. Free will donations accepted. Proceeds are used to support the church's mission projects.

THURSDAY, FEB. 27

Villa San Agustin De Laredo Genealogical Society Meeting and Presentation at 3 p.m., Joe A Guerra Public Library- Second Floor. Guest speaker for this event is Joe Arciniega presenting "Visit With A Maker Of Texas: Jose Miguel De Arciniega." For more information, call Sylvia Reash at (956) 763-1810.

SATURDAY, FEB. 29

WBCA President's Cup Golf Tournament Sponsored by Vantage Bank from 1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Laredo County Club. The event is offering one last chance to celebrate the Father of our Country with red, white, blue and green. Tournament admission is \$225 per player and will consist of individual stroke medal play. \$500 for first place winners of each flight. Join us for the registration party at the Laredo Country Club on Friday, Feb. 28 along with a Cakutta and a night time glow in the dark closest to the pin contest. Register online at wbcalaredo.org.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

Alzheimer's Support Group at 7 p.m. in Laredo Medical Center, meeting room 2, building B. The support group is for family members and caregivers taking care of someone who has Alzheimer's. For information, please call 956-693-9991.

Submit calendar items by emailing editorial@lmtonline.com with the event's name, date and time and location, purpose and contact information for a representative. Items will run as space is available.

DO YOU KNOW?

Alfonso Villarreal



Alfonso Villarreal is an operator with heavy equipment. He loves Tigres soccer team and classic cars.

AROUND THE NATION



Mercedes Blackehart / AP

In this Saturday afternoon photo "Mad" Mike Hughes' rocket takes off, with what appears to be a parachute tearing off during its launch near Barstow, Calif.

FLAT EARTHER DIES IN ROCKET CRASH

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BARSTOW, Calif. — A California man who said he wanted to fly to the edge of outer space to see if the world is round has died after his home-built rocket blasted off into the desert sky and plunged back to earth.

"Mad" Mike Hughes was killed on Saturday afternoon after his rocket crashed on private property near Barstow, California.

Waldo Stakes, a colleague who was at the rocket launch, said Hughes, 64, was killed.

The Science Channel said on Twitter it had been chronicling Hughes' journey and that "thoughts & prayers go out to his family & friends during this difficult time."

"It was always his dream to do this launch," the Twitter message said.

Hughes also was a limousine driver, who

held the Guinness world record for "longest limousine ramp jump," for jumping 103 feet in a Lincoln Town Car stretch limousine, at a speedway in 2002.

A video on TMZ.com showed the rocket taking off, with what appears to be a parachute tearing off during the launch. The steam-powered rocket streaks upward, then takes around 10 seconds to fall straight back to earth. Shrieks can be heard as the rocket plows into the desert.

Freelance journalist Justin Chapman said the rocket appeared to rub against the launch apparatus, which might have caused the mishap with the parachute.

In March 2018, Hughes propelled himself about 1,875 feet into the air. He deployed one parachute and then a second one but still had a hard landing in the Mojave Desert in California, and injured his back.

Feds to investigate California bus rollover that killed 3

PALA MESA, Calif. — Federal investigators are sending a team to the scene of a charter bus crash that killed three people and injured 18 others on a rain-slicked highway near San Diego, officials said Sunday.

The bus was on Interstate 15 in Pala Mesa on Saturday when it swerved, rolled down an embankment and landed on its roof, North County Fire Protection District spokesman John Choi said.

Several passengers were thrown from the bus, and one of the dead was trapped under the vehicle, Choi said. Another person who died was trapped inside, he said.

The National Transportation Safety Board said Sunday that it had dispatched a team of four to investigate the crash in Pala Mesa, an unincorporated community about 45 miles (72 kilometers) north of San Diego,

"There was a pretty good rainstorm around the time of the crash," Choi said Sunday. It was too early to determine if the weather was a factor, officials

said.

The bus had no seat belts, according to Choi.

The wounded were taken to three hospitals with varying injuries, Choi said.

One of the patients was in critical condition and three others suffered major injuries, California Highway Patrol Officer Mark Latulippe told the San Diego Union-Tribune on Saturday.

The bus driver suffered minor injuries and remained at the scene. He apparently swerved for an unknown reason and lost control of the bus, Latulippe said.

— Compiled from AP reports

AROUND THE WORLD

S. Korea reports 161 new virus cases, bringing total to 763

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea on Monday reported 161 more cases of a new virus that has spread rapidly around a southwestern city, bringing the nation's total to 763 cases a day after the president called for "unprecedented, powerful" steps to combat the outbreak.

Two more deaths were confirmed, raising South Korea's death toll to seven from the COVID-19 illness, which is caused by a newly identified coronavirus that has infected tens of thousands of people, mostly in China.

More than 140 of South Korea's new cases were in and near the city of Daegu, where most of the country's infections have so far occurred. Six of the seven deaths were linked to a hospital in Che-



Xiao Yijiu / AP

In this Saturday photo, a nurse works at an ICU ward specialised for patients infected by coronavirus in Wuhan.

ongdo, near Daegu, where a slew of infections were confirmed among patients in a mental ward.

While officials have expressed hope they could contain the outbreak to the region surrounding

Daegu, some experts noted signs of the virus circulating nationwide, pointing to a number of cases in the capital, Seoul, and elsewhere that weren't traceable.

Far from where the illness first

emerged, authorities in Italy battled to contain Europe's first major outbreak and Iran reported eight deaths — the highest toll outside of China. Some of the disease clusters identified in recent days have shown no link to China, a worrying sign of the virus spreading beyond control.

The Iranian health ministry said there were now 43 confirmed cases in Iran.

In Italy's northern Lombardy region, which includes the nation's financial capital, Milan, the governor announced Sunday that the number of confirmed cases stood at 110. Italy now has 152 cases, the largest number outside of Asia, including three deaths, the most recent on Sunday.

Warning that China's virus epidemic is "still grim and complex," President Xi Jinping called for more efforts to stop the outbreak, revive industry and prevent the disease from disrupting spring planting of crops.

— Compiled from AP reports

TODAY IN HISTORY

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Monday, Feb. 24, the 55th day of 2020. There are 311 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 24, 1989, a state funeral was held in Japan for Emperor Hirohito, who had died the month before at age 87.

On this date:

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII issued an edict outlining his calendar reforms. (The Gregorian Calendar is the calendar in general use today.)

In 1803, in its Marbury v. Madison decision, the Supreme Court established judicial review of the constitutionality of statutes.

In 1864, the first Union prisoners arrived at the Confederates' Andersonville prison camp in Georgia.

In 1868, the U.S. House of Representatives impeached President Andrew Johnson by a vote of 126-47 following his attempted dismissal of Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton; Johnson was later acquitted by the Senate.

In 1981, a jury in White Plains, New York, found Jean Harris guilty of second-degree murder in the fatal shooting of "Scarsdale Diet" author Dr. Herman Tarnower. (Sentenced to 15 years to life in prison, Harris was granted clemency by New York Gov. Mario Cuomo in December 1992.)

In 1996, Cuba downed two small American planes operated by the group Brothers to the Rescue that it claimed were violating Cuban airspace; all four pilots were killed.

In 2008, Cuba's parliament named Raul Castro president, ending nearly 50 years of rule by his brother Fidel.

Ten years ago: Testifying before Congress, Toyota CEO Akio Toyoda apologized personally and repeatedly to the United States and millions of American Toyota owners for safety lapses that had led to deaths and widespread recalls. Trainer Dawn Brancheau was dragged to her death by a killer whale, Tilikum, at SeaWorld in Orlando, Florida.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, defying a Republican-led Congress, rejected a bill to approve construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline. The Justice Department announced that George Zimmerman, the former neighborhood watch volunteer who fatally shot Trayvon Martin in a 2012 confrontation, would not face federal charges. A Texas jury rejected the insanity defense of Eddie Ray Routh, convicting him of murdering famed "American Sniper" author Chris Kyle and Chad Littlefield. Alaska became the third U.S. state to legalize the recreational use of marijuana.

Today's Birthdays: Opera singer-director Renata Scotti is 86. Singer Joanie Sommers is 79. Actress Jenny O'Hara is 78. Actor Barry Bostwick is 75. Actor Edward James Olmos is 73. Actress Debra Jo Rupp is 69. Actress Helen Shaver is 69. Baseball Hall of Famer Eddie Murray is 64. Actor Mark Moses is 62. Actress Beth Broderick is 61. Actor Emilio Rivera is 59. Actor Billy Zane is 54. Actress Bonnie Somerville is 46. Former boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. is 43. Actor Daniel Kaluuya is 31.

Thought for Today: "It is my feeling that Time ripens all things; with Time all things are revealed; Time is the father of truth." — Francois Rabelais, 16th century French writer and physician.

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AROUND THE STATE

Demand up for riverboat tours along private border wall

MISSION, Texas — The Riverside Club is a popular South Texas hangout for retirees and Winter Texans who want to enjoy a taste of Americana while gazing at another country from the banks of the Rio Grande.

The laid back, honky tonk-style

bar has for years appealed to seniors in cowboy hats, boots and shorts who enjoy sipping drinks while hootin' and hollerin' on the concrete dance floor.

But nowadays, a surprising number of patrons are packing the restaurant's riverboat tours — many eager to see a newly built private border wall just upriver.

A retired couple from Nebraska said they hadn't visited the area in 12 years and were shocked by the

restaurant's newfound popularity. They now winter in Arizona but said they drove to South Texas "on a whim" in hopes of seeing the border wall. The couple said they didn't tell their children so they wouldn't "get in trouble for making the drive."

In years past, the restaurant operated one daily ride on the "Riverside Dreamer," a 55-foot-long, 44-passenger pontoon boat. But the afternoon trip up and

down the river often got canceled if the weather was bad or there weren't enough riders. On Tuesday, however, at least four riverboat tours were completely booked.

In fact, all of the riverboat rides for the remainder of the week are sold out, according to the owner whose restaurant serves up traditional diner fare like burgers and chicken-finger baskets. Riverboat tours cost up to \$13 an hour or \$24 for two.

— Compiled from AP reports

OUR MASTHEAD

The Laredo Morning Times masthead topped with the seven flags logo is symbolic of Laredo's historic link to seven countries — that of France, 1685-1690; Spain, 1519-1685, 1690-1821; Mexico, 1821-1836; Republic of the Rio Grande, January 1840-late fall 1840; Texas, 1836-1845; confederacy, 1861-1865; and United States 1845-1861, 1865-present.



LOCAL



Courtesy of Laredo College

Nursing students celebrate Laredo College being named the No. 1 Associate Degree in Nursing Program in Texas for a third straight year.

LC nursing programs shape the future of Texas healthcare sector

COURTESY OF LAREDO COLLEGE

Laredo College anticipates 2020 to be the biggest year to date for its nursing and health sciences programs.

LC started the decade off strong, being named as the No. 1 Associate Degree in Nursing Program in Texas for a third consecutive year.

NursingProcess.org, an online resource that simplifies access to nursing education and career information, found that LC excelled in its mission to provide aspiring nurses with different options to complete their associate's degree in nursing through clinical experiences and preparing them for the national licensing exam.

Previously, the institution had been ranked as the No. 1 ADN Program in Texas by RNCareers.org and RegisteredNursing.org. After nabbing this honor once again, LC has positioned itself as the top choice for students all around the state who are looking for a quality, affordable education.

This momentous accomplishment has been achieved through the diligent work of LC's nursing director, faculty and staff. These talented professionals have revolutionized the way healthcare industry professionals are being prepared for the ever-changing demands of the field.

The ADN Program team is comprised of six full-time and three adjunct faculty members. Competing against other two-year colleges with larger budgets and staff, LC has focused on providing top-level quality education along with as much hands-on teaching experience as possible.

While compiling the list of top contenders and their respective rankings, NursingProcess.org consid-

ered four factors in their methodology to rate each school. These are NCLEX-RN first time pass rates from the past four years, affordability, the nursing schools' reputation, and academic quality. The latter category encompasses the school's acceptance rate, graduation rate, retention rate and student-to-faculty ratio.

Program graduates in the past four years have attained an impressive 100% passing rate in their licensing exams. This is higher than both the state and national averages for registered nurse candidates, according to information from the Texas Board of Nursing.

Dr. Dianna Miller, LC Dean of Health Sciences, said the quality of all of LC's nursing programs is based on teamwork. Students meet with a nursing adviser who discusses the different nursing professions, and a retention specialist assists students in applying to the program. This helps the students determine the best career pathway for them.

In addition, the professors' nursing experience, knowledge level and dedication to the profession provide an excellent education for the students. A variety of learning strategies are incorporated in the theory, labs and clinical courses. For instance, the program has incorporated 25-40% of the laboratory time in simulation, skills lab and clinical courses.

The program uses a variety of manikins including 3GSim Mans/Nurse Annie Simulators, which present real-life situations for the students to respond to during their training. The maternity/pediatric courses have simulators for birthing moms, newborns and pediatric patients.

LC students receive a broader education with a greater depth of experience than can be found in an actual hospital setting.

In addition, the faculty members offer group and one-on-one weekly sessions to assist students through case studies, scenarios, understanding and practicing ways to improve on exams and much more.

BSN

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program has also been a major accomplishment that will bear its fruits with the first graduating class walking across the stage in June 2020.

The purpose of the BSN Program is to provide the opportunity for nurses in the community with an associate's degree to further their education. The program focuses on leadership, research, community and informatics.

The traditional ADN and BSN students take the same licensing exam. After completing the ADN Program and passing the NCLEX-RN, LC graduates can already begin working in the healthcare field while also pursuing their BSN.

LC's BSN students are already registered nurses, and the BSN degree provides students with a different nursing focus as well as a higher educational degree.

New building

Additionally, the South Campus College of Health Sciences Building will be opening its doors later this year with cutting-edge technology and state-of-the-art facilities for LC's students to have a great environment that is conducive to learning and honing their skills.

This building will also house a new Gateway Community Health Center clinic. This collaboration is the first of its kind in the entire nation. Other colleges and universities are looking to Laredo College as a model for this type of innovative partnership.

Full-time LC students will receive free dental ser-

VICES once a year. Medical services will also be available to qualifying students. Additionally, the clinic will moonlight as an on-site training facility for LC students completing their clinical rotations.

Miller said she is proud of the nursing team and for all of their collective efforts to provide effective and efficient nurses for our community.

"It is a great honor to be a pacesetter, and we will strive to continue to be at the forefront of nursing ed-

ucation in Texas," she said. "We strive to be the best and to focus on the nursing profession changes which are occurring and to be the innovators required to assist students in meeting their goals and the community's needs."

If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a nurse, contact the Laredo College Nursing Department at (956) 721-5252 to schedule an appointment to discuss the program requirements and career pathways.

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COLUMN

Can Sanders be stopped?

By Ross Douthat
THE NEW YORK TIMES

With Bernie Sanders romping in Nevada, we come to it again. The insurgent candidate, armored against normal political forces and equipped with a passionate following, leads a field of more conventional party politicians. His early-state successes have given him a clear path to a plurality of pledged convention delegates. And his rivals are dividing the votes that might derail him while what remains of the party establishment day by day proves itself irrelevant.

As with Donald Trump in 2016, so with Sanders so far in 2020. The characters are different, but the same dynamics are in play.

The Democratic Party, no less than the Republican Party, looks like a derelict ship awaiting capture by a band of pirates. The center-left establishment, no less than its GOP counterpart, seems old, exhausted, promising to mildly reform a status quo that an intense and motivated portion of its base regards as too decadent to be worth preserving. And the party actors who don't want to see Sanders nominated are finding, like NeverTrumpers before them, that it's awfully hard to stop a candidate if you can't agree on the alternative.

The repetition is far enough advanced that a replay of 2016 may be inevitable. But there's still time for conservatives who opposed Trump to offer some advice to Democrats who want to nominate someone other than the Vermont socialist.

So here are three lessons from the wreckage that was Never-Trump:

You need candidates who aren't actually winning primaries to drop out.

The fatal conceit of establishment politicians facing an insurgency is that because the insurgent has obvious weaknesses, they should hang around and hang around, piling up third-place finishes and minor delegate hauls, in the hopes of gaining ... something. What they are actually likely to gain is blame, irrelevance or both; just ask those noted influencers Jeb Bush and John Kasich.

So if you are, say, Amy Klobuchar, the fact that you have a solid case for your own electability is not a reason to stick around for Super Tuesday if you finish behind Pete Buttigieg in South Carolina as well as in Nevada. If you're Buttigieg, your strong Iowa and New Hampshire performances aren't a reason to stay in if it's clear you can't compete nationally with Michael Bloomberg and Joe Biden. If you're Biden, if you lose South Carolina you should drop out the next day. And so on.

None of this means that simply consolidating the field will stop Bernie; he might well win a head-to-head race, too. But giving him five or six opponents in every contest makes the solidity of his core support an

insurmountable advantage. And if you can narrow the field, the second lesson comes into play.

Against an unconventional front-runner, unconventional measures are required.

In the case of Trump, the person most willing to think this way was Ted Cruz, who made a serious bid to induce Marco Rubio to join him in an anti-Trump unity ticket. Would this have ultimately worked? Quite possibly not, but it was a brighter idea than the path that Rubio ultimately took — passionately bemoaning Trump's ascent but refusing to gamble boldly in response.

There isn't an obvious unity ticket equivalent for the non-Sanders Democrats, but the dynamic between Bloomberg, Biden and Buttigieg is worth watching. They are all positioned as moderate alternatives to the Sanders revolution, and after South Carolina and Super Tuesday one of them may look a lot more viable than the others. In which case two of the B's swiftly dropping out and just as swiftly campaigning and fundraising for (or simply funding, in Bloomberg's case) the third might be the only chance at a not-Sanders consolidation. And that chance is worth taking because of the third lesson.

You probably can't stop a plurality candidate at a contested convention.

And that's especially true if he has a clear delegate lead. I spent the early months of 2016 arguing otherwise, but the party system I was defending is pretty obviously dead. There's little stomach among party officials to work against a candidate who wins the most primary votes, and voters themselves are unlikely to sustain rival candidacies if they're clearly just playing for a brokered convention.

I suspect that this is what doomed Cruz, in the end: Between his victory in Wisconsin and his campaign-ending defeat in Indiana, part of the anti-Trump coalition seemed to become exhausted by the idea of a convention fight that at best would end with Trump trying to split the party and voted strategically to end the race early instead.

The Democrats' delegate apportionment rules do make a contested convention more likely, but Bernie is better-liked by most Democrats than Trump was by Republicans at this stage in '16. So my bet is that history will repeat itself: A world where Sanders is on track to get a clear delegate plurality in late March is probably a world where he gets a majority by May.

Which means that the long game of delegate accumulation and superdelegate machination is probably irrelevant, and the only question is whether it's possible to unite a not-Sanders vote across the first three Tuesdays in March.

To quote an ancient NeverTrump proverb: Good luck with that.

OTHER VIEWS



COLUMN

China's health failures distract us from our own

By Nicholas Kristof
THE NEW YORK TIMES

President Donald Trump praises a "strong, sharp and powerfully focused" Chinese President Xi Jinping for his handling of the coronavirus outbreak. "President Xi strongly leads what will be a very successful operation," Trump said.

This offended some Americans. At a time when many Chinese are criticizing Xi for initially covering up the outbreak, should America's president really side with a dictator who punished doctors rather than listening to them?

That critique seems right to me. But a focus on China's failures or on Trump's praise risks distracting from our own failures in health care — and this is where Trump's actions have been more destructive than his words. He has proposed enormous budget cuts for Medicaid, the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; if carried out, these would leave the U.S. more vulnerable to a pandemic.

But whatever happens with the coronavirus, America's health system is a mess. That is a consequence of failures that go way back, and Trump is now compounding them. In particular, his lawsuit to destroy Obamacare without offering anything to take its place is the height of irresponsibility; it's not policy but vandalism.

Already, Trump's policies have led to the loss of health insurance for 400,000 children. Imagine that your child is crying from an ear infection or a toothache and you have no doctor to go to. Or you're worried that your daughter is slow to speak or your son isn't growing properly.

But whatever happens with the coronavirus, America's health system is a mess. That is a consequence of failures that go way back, and Trump is now compounding them. In particular, his lawsuit to destroy Obamacare without offering anything to take its place is the height of irresponsibility; it's not policy but vandalism. Already, Trump's policies have led to the loss of health insurance for 400,000 children. Imagine that your child is crying from an ear infection or a toothache and you have no doctor to go to.

What are you supposed to do?

I've written scathing columns about Xi's bungling of the coronavirus outbreak, but we Americans live in a glass house. A newborn in Beijing has a longer life expectancy (82 years) than a baby born in Washington, D.C. (78), or New York City (81).

Democrats' internecine battle over so-called "Medicare for All" is largely irrelevant, because the plan won't get through Congress. What's imperative is simply achieving universal medical and dental coverage, either by a single-payer system (like Britain's) or a multipayer system (like Germany's); both work fine. What matters is the universal part.

In some ways, America's health care is outstanding. Specialized anti-cancer treatments are saving lives. But overall our system has two fundamental flaws.

First, outcomes are mediocre and inequitable. Rich Americans live 20 years longer than poor Americans, and low-income American men have approximately the longevity of men living in Sudan. Several American counties have a shorter life expectancy than Cambodia does.

outcomes at enormous cost. "Prices for virtually any health care product or service in the United States tend to be at least twice as high as those for comparable products or services in other countries," Reinhardt wrote.

We spend an average of more than \$10,000 per person on health care each year, more than twice what France, Canada and Japan each spend (even though the French, Canadians and Japanese all live longer). An excellent forthcoming book by Anne Case and Angus Deaton, "Deaths of Despair and the Future of Capitalism," argues that this discourages hiring of low-income workers. The average cost of a family health insurance policy is \$20,000, which is a reason for a company not to hire a junior employee and assume insurance costs.

"Unless costs are somehow reined in, the long-run prospects for less-educated Americans remain bleak," Deaton warns.

Sadly, health professionals are part of the problem. Dentists have fought the licensing of dental therapists, who can perform simple procedures more cheaply. And doctor groups limit medical training and qualified foreign physicians to keep prices high; that's why there are fewer doctors per capita in the United States than in peer countries. As Case and Deaton write: "The industry that is supposed to improve our health is undermining it."

This year's election should in part be a debate about all these issues, and the coronavirus anxiety should remind us of the dysfunction of our own health system. Let's hold China accountable — but we Americans should also look unflinchingly in the mirror.

LETTERS POLICY

Laredo Morning Times does not publish anonymous letters.

To be published, letters must include the writer's first and last names as well as a phone number to verify identity.

The phone number IS NOT published; it is used solely to verify identity and to clarify content, if necessary.

Identity of the letter writer must be verified before publication. We want to assure our readers that a letter is written by the person who signs the

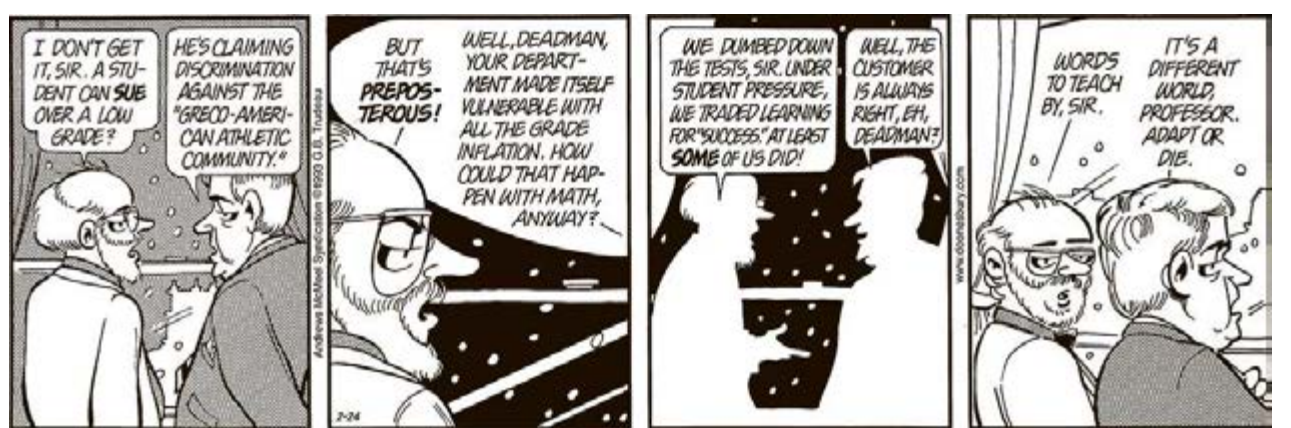
letter. Laredo Morning Times does not allow the use of pseudonyms.

This space allows for public debate of the issues of the day.

Letters are edited for style, grammar, length and civility. No name-calling or gratuitous abuse is allowed. Also, letters longer than 500 words will not be accepted.

Via email, send letters to editorial@lmtonline.com or mail them to Letters to the Editor, 111 Esperanza Drive, Laredo, TX 78041.

DOONESBURY | GARRY TRUDEAU



LOCAL & MORE

Reliability of pricey new voting machines questioned

By Frank Bajak
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In the rush to replace insecure, unreliable electronic voting machines after Russia's interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential race, state and local officials have scrambled to acquire more trustworthy equipment for this year's election, when U.S. intelligence agencies fear even worse problems.

But instead of choosing simple, hand-marked paper ballots that are most resistant to tampering because paper cannot be hacked, many are opting for pricier technology that computer security experts consider almost as risky as earlier discredited electronic systems.

Called ballot-marking devices, the machines have touchscreens for registering voter choice. Unlike touchscreen-only machines, they print out paper records that are scanned by optical readers. South Carolina voters will use them in Saturday's primary.

The most pricey solution available, they are at least twice as expensive as the hand-marked paper ballot option. They have been vigorously promoted by the three voting equipment vendors that control 88 percent of the U.S. market.

Some of the most popular ballot-marking machines, made by industry leaders Election Systems & Software and Dominion Voting Systems, register votes in bar codes that the human eye cannot decipher. That's a problem, researchers say: Voters could end up with printouts that accurately spell out the names of the candidates they picked, but, because of a hack, the bar codes do not reflect those choices. Because the bar codes are what's tabulated, voters would never know that their ballots benefited another candidate.

Even on machines that do not use bar codes, voters

may not notice if a hack or programming error mangled their choices. A University of Michigan study determined that only 7 percent of participants in a mock election notified poll workers when the names on their printed receipts did not match the candidates they voted for.

ES&S rejects those scenarios. Spokeswoman Katina Granger said the company's ballot-marking machines' accuracy and security "have been proven through thousands of hours of testing and tens of thousands of successful elections." Dominion declined to comment for this story.

Nearly 1 in 5 U.S. voters will be using ballot-marking machines this year, compared with less than 2% in 2018, according to Verified Voting, which tracks voting technology.

Pivotal counties in the crucial states of Pennsylvania, Ohio and North Carolina have bought ballot-marking machines. So have counties in much of Texas, as well as California's Los Angeles County and all of Georgia, Delaware and South Carolina. The machines' certification has often been streamlined in the rush to get machines in place for presidential primaries.

Ballot-marking devices were not conceived as primary vote-casting tools but as accessible options for people with disabilities.

Critics see them as vulnerable to hacking. At last year's DefCon hacker convention in Las Vegas, it took tinkerers at the 'Voting Village' not even eight hours to hack two older ballot-marking devices.

Tampering aside, some of the newer ballot-marking machines have stumbled badly in actual votes. That happened most spectacularly in November when ES&S's top-of-the-line ExpressVote XL debuted in a Pennsylvania county.

Even without technical troubles, the new machines can lead to longer lines, potentially reducing turnout. Voters need more time to cast ballots and the machine's high costs have prompted election officials to limit how many they purchase.

"There are a huge number of reasons to reject today's ballot-marking devices — except for limited use as assistive devices for those unable to mark a paper ballot themselves," says Doug Jones, a University of Iowa computer scientist who co-authored the voting technology history "Broken Ballots."

But election officials see ballot-marking devices as improvements over paperless touchscreens, which were used by 27 percent of voters in 2018. They like them because the touchscreens are familiar to voters, looking and feeling like what they have been using for nearly two decades, and officials can use one voting method for everyone.

Michael Anderson, elections director for Pennsylvania's Lebanon County, said "voters want it." The county offers voters both machine- and hand-marked ballots.

"When we give them a paper ballot, the very first thing they say to us is, 'We're going back in time,'" he said.

New York State election commission co-chair Douglas Kellner was an early critic of paperless electronic voting machines. But he is confident in a ballot-marking device, the ImageCast Evolution by Dominion, certified for use in his state. He said safeguards built into the machines and security protocols make a hack of the Image Evolution "extraordinarily unlikely."

But Jones is among experts who think today's ballot-marking devices undermine the very idea of retaining a paper record that can be used in audits and recounts.



Courtesy of TAMIU

TAMIU "Reading the Globe" students present one of their "glocal" gifts to the Sacred Heart Children's Home. Pictured in front from left are Dr. Hayley Kazen, Andrea Flores, Sister Maria Isidra Valdez, Sister Teresa Escamilla, Lourdes Marquez, Mary Joy Patricio and Dr. Conchita Hickey. In the back row are Marcos Enriquez, Astrid Veliz, Mariana Ponce, Estefania Magallanes, Lesdy Posadas, Juan Manuel Sanchez.

TAMIU 'Reading The Globe' students award \$5,000 in 'glocal' donations to charities

COURTESY OF TAMIU

Student advocates in Texas A&M International University's internationally recognized "Reading The Globe" program have identified two charities to be recipients of "glocal" award donations totaling \$5,000.

Dr. Conchita Hickey, TAMIU Dean Emerita and senior lecturer, said the students wanted to provide award donations that would have both global and local impact.

"Reading the Globe" is a cornerstone program at the university. For the 12 years since its inception, students have traveled and visited 11-plus countries," Hickey said. "They frequently conduct fundraisers thereafter, building a fund that can be awarded in the future. Reflective of their global experience, they wanted to select a global charity. In recognition of their home and love of community, they also wanted a local charity to share in the award. Overarching both gifts is the 50th anniversary of our international university and the opportunity to give in a way that recognizes both our international perspective and our pride of home...The combination is a

'glocal' gift."

The charities splitting the "glocal" award will be the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and Sacred Heart Children's Home.

"The students were impressed by the Switzerland-based campaign's work for a world free of landmines and cluster munitions. Likewise, the needs of the children of Sacred Heart Children's Home are close to our students' heart and home," Hickey said.

"Reading the Globe" recently celebrated its 12th anniversary at TAMIU. It provides freshmen students an international memoir as part of a common read. Students engage with the work and discuss it in university seminars, and the author comes to campus to address the entire freshman class.

An essay competition follows with 15 "Reading the Globe" ambassadors selected to travel to the author's country for programming to prepare them to become responsible global citizens. It introduces narratives about events of the highest global importance, promotes discussions of international issues across the campus and connects the broader world to the Lare-

do community.

Since its inception, more than 10,000 TAMIU freshmen have engaged with "Reading the Globe" to have a transformative international experience. Over 170 Ambassadors have traveled to Cambodia, Chile, China, Eastern Europe, Ghana, India, Poland, Russia, South Africa and, most recently, Brazil.

The "Reading the Globe" program was recently recognized by the Institute of International Education in the 2020 IIE Andrew Heiskell Awards as an Honorable Mention in the Internationalizing the Campus category.

"Reading the Globe" students will be presenting on their 2020 trip to Brazil at the April Lamar Bruni Vergara Academic Conference at TAMIU.

For additional information about TAMIU's "Reading the Globe" program, visit tamiu.edu/spotlight, visit offices in the Senator Judith Zaffirini Student Success Center in room 223 or call (956) 326-2134.

For more on the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, visit icbl.org. To learn more about Sacred Heart Children's Home, visit its Facebook page.

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Laredo Morning Times

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CONTEST RULES: Send your completed entry form to Laredo Morning Times, 11 Esperanza Drive before February 26th for the chance to win a \$250 voucher that can be spent at any of the participating businesses listed on this page. The drawing will take place on February 27th. Participants must be 18 or older. Please note that employees of the newspaper and sponsoring businesses, including family members, are not eligible to participate in the contest.

early voting continues

Early Voting continues until Friday, February 28

Election Day is March 3

yes!

I will vote



Tiempo de Laredo

LUNES 24 DE FEBRERO DE 2020

CIUDAD DE LAREDO

Préstamo millonario

Fondos financiarían Planta de Alcantarillado Manadas Creek; obtienen tasa de interés baja

Por **Julia Wallace**
TIEMPO DE LAREDO

La semana pasada, el Ayuntamiento de Laredo firmó un préstamo de 52 millones de dólares para financiar la Planta de Alcantarillado Manadas Creek, que una vez construida, eliminará la antigua Planta de Tratamiento de Aguas Residuales Zacate.

El personal de la ciudad se complace en anunciar que durante los primeros 15 años esta deuda tendrá una tasa de interés del 0%, y durante los siguientes 15 años tendrá una tasa de interés del 0.315%.

“Las tarifas que pudimos asegurar fueron fenomenales y diferentes a todo lo que hemos visto”, dijo Tony Jasso, en representa-

ción del asesor financiero de la ciudad, Estrada Hinojosa & Company.

El proyecto se está financiando a través de la Junta de Desarrollo del Agua de Texas, que aprobó el préstamo en diciembre. Jasso dijo que el diferencial de costos si hubieran salido a buscar un bono en el mercado abierto es de aproximadamente 29 millones.

El Director de Servicios Públicos, Riazul Mía, dijo que presentarán más proyectos a la Junta de Desarrollo del Agua de Texas porque pueden ahorrar mucho dinero de esta manera. Señaló que este es un fondo de préstamos rotativos subsidiado por el estado; cualquier interés que acumule la junta vuelve al fondo.

Cuando la junta aprobó el préstamo, la ciudad esperaba que la tasa de interés fuera del 0,87%, dijo Mía.

La ciudad pudo mostrar a la junta la calificación crediticia del Departamento de Servicios Públicos, el efectivo en reserva y el reciente aumento de la tasa para los usuarios de agua y aguas residuales, que es la forma en que la junta obtu-

vo esta baja tasa de interés, dijo Mía.

“Estábamos muy contentos”, dijo.

Con el aumento anual del 5% en las tarifas de agua y aguas residuales, la ciudad planea financiar 178 millones en nueva infraestructura en los próximos años. La planta de Manadas Creek es su primera prioridad.



Danny Zaragoza / Laredo Morning Times

Obtiene premio por consumir 310 jalapeños en Jalapeño Festival

Concursantes profesionales y amateurs consumen cuantos jalapeños sean posibles durante un periodo de 15 minutos, el sábado 22 de febrero de 2020 en el El Metro Park and Ride, durante el Jalapeño Festival, patrocinado por La Costeña. Molly Schuyler, tercera desde la izquierda, fue la ganadora al ingerir un total de 310 jalapeños durante el concurso.

ELECCIONES 2020



Jorge A. Vela / Laredo Morning Times

La candidata al Senado Annie “Mamá” García muestra medicamentos que pudo comprar en Nuevo Laredo, México.

Candidata a Senado visita Laredo

Por **Jorge A. Vela**
TIEMPO DE LAREDO

A medida que se acerca el día de las elecciones, los candidatos en todo el estado de Texas han estado en campañas para lograr el voto. Annie “Mamá” García literalmente corrió a Laredo esta semana para una visita con el fin de reunirse con los votantes.

García es una persona abierta, sin ataduras, que dirige su campaña siendo su propia portavoz. Con pocas donaciones de campaña, viaja por todo el estado. Ella es uno de los 12 candidatos que compiten por ganar la nominación demócrata para el escaño en el Senado que actualmente ocupa el Senador **SENADO continúa en A7**

COLONEL SANTOS BENAVIDES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Desfila corte real ante estudiantes



Cuete Santos / Laredo Morning Times

Estudiantes de segundo grado en la escuela primaria Colonel Santos Benavides Elementary School tuvieron oportunidad de mostrar sus carros alegóricos en miniatura mientras participaban en un desfile, similar al Desfile Juvenil de WBCA, en el interior de la escuela, el jueves 20 de febrero de 2020. Entre los participantes estuvieron la actual estudiante Natalia Aileen Santos, Niña del Abrazo representando a Estados Unidos y el ex estudiante Ryan Joshua Sciaraffa, como Jefe Guerrero Sagrado de la Corte de la Princesa Pocahontas.

Alumnos disfrutan visita de Princesa Pocahontas y Jefe Guerrero Sagrado, además de un desfile en miniatura

Por **Jorge A. Vela**
TIEMPO DE LAREDO

El jueves, los estudiantes de la escuela primaria Colonel Santos Benavides Elementary School fueron invitados no solo a presenciar un desfile en miniatura realizado por estudiantes de segundo grado, sino también a una visita de la realeza de la corte.

El Jefe Guerrero Sagrado, también conocido como Ryan Joshua Sciaraffa cuando no representa a la realeza, estuvo presente en el evento junto con Stacy Allison Lanier, quien es la

Princesa Pocahontas 2020. Ellos desfilaron por los pasillos de la escuela primaria. Para Sciaraffa, la ocasión fue más cercana, ya que es un ex alumno de la escuela.

“Es un gran honor ya que mi familia ha estado en él por un tiempo y es simplemente increíble”, dijo Sciaraffa. “Es un año muy memorable y todo lo que hemos hecho es genial y todos los eventos son divertidos y agradables”.

Sciaraffa es el quinto miembro de su familia en formar parte de la corte real, ya que en el pasado los miembros de su familia han sido miembros, incluso como jefe, como Joseph Sciaraf-

fa en 2007, Kristina Dávila en 2007, Sergio “Red” Velásquez en 2009 como jefe y Trey Sciaraffa en 2012.

En cuanto a la princesa Pocahontas, ella también declaró que disfrutó el evento y su experiencia como parte de la realeza durante el mes de eventos hasta el Desfile Anheuser-Busch por el Natalicio de Washington el sábado por la mañana.

“Me siento muy honrada de ser la princesa Pocahontas porque no solo puedo representar a una organización increíble, sino que también puedo representar a Laredo saliendo en el

DESFILE continúa en A7



Jacquelyn Martin / Associated Press

El presidente Donald Trump habla con los reporteros afuera de la Casa Blanca, el domingo 23 de febrero de 2020, en Washington, antes de viajar a la India.

DONALD TRUMP

Desconocería esfuerzo ruso para ayudar a Bernie Sanders

WASHINGTON – El presidente Donald Trump dijo el domingo que nunca se le informó sobre los esfuerzos rusos para ayudar a Bernie Sanders a ganar la nominación presidencial demócrata.

Además, el mandatario acusó a un importante congresista demócrata de filtrar información de seguridad electoral obtenida en una sesión informativa clasificada.

Sanders reconoció el vi-

ernes que autoridades estadounidenses le informaron el mes pasado sobre supuestos esfuerzos de Rusia para aumentar sus posibilidades de ser el candidato contra Trump en noviembre.

“Leí donde Rusia está ayudando a Bernie Sanders”, dijo Trump a los periodistas antes de iniciar un viaje a la India. “Nadie me lo dijo. Nadie me lo dijo en absoluto. Nadie me informó sobre **SANDERS continúa en A7**

ESCRÍBANOS

tiempo@lmtonline.com
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TIEMPO DE LAREDO

AGENDA LOCAL

Martes 25 de febrero

Laredo International Fair & Exposition en su 57ava edición inicia hoy en los terrenos de L.I.F.E. Puertas abren a las 8 a.m. hasta medianoche. Entrada 5 dólares. Mayores informes al 956-722-9948.

El grupo de hombres de la Iglesia First United Methodist Invitan a su evento de pancakes Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper en 1220 McClelland Ave., desde las 6 p.m. a 7:30 p.m. Todos los pancakes que pueda comer acompañados de jarabe, mantequilla, tocino y salchicha con café, jugo de naranja, leche o limonada a su elección. El evento es gratuito y abierto al público. Se aceptan donativos. Lo que se recaude será utilizado en apoyar a las misiones de la iglesia.

Venga y celebre el inicio del carnaval en Golondrina Food Park. Disfrute de bebidas inspiradas en Nueva Orleans, hora feliz, música y colares!. La cita es en Golondrina Food Park, 10211 Golondrina Dr., desde las 4 p.m.

Miércoles 26 de febrero

Laredo International Fair & Exposition en su 57ava edición en los terrenos de L.I.F.E. Puertas abren a las 8 a.m. hasta medianoche. Entrada 5 dólares. Mayores informes al 956-722-9948.

Curso básico de comercio exterior, a partir de las 9:30 a.m., en 901 Hidalgo St.. Inscripciones en línea al correo: cursos@alfafowarders.org. Duración aproximada de 3 horas.

Jueves 27 de febrero

Laredo International Fair & Exposition en su 57ava edición en los terrenos de L.I.F.E. Puertas abren a las 8 a.m. hasta medianoche. Entrada 10 dólares. Disfrute de los grupos Los García Brothers, Bernardo y sus compadres, Rodney y Los Cucuy's y Los Amores. Mayores informes al 956-722-9948.

La Sociedad Genealógica Villa San Agustín de Laredo invita a su reunión mensual que contará con la presencia de Joe Arciniega quien presentará "Visit with a Maker of Texas: José Miguel de Arciniega", a las 3 p.m., en la segunda planta de la Biblioteca Pública de Laredo, Joe A. Guerra. Mayores informes con Sylvia Reash al 956-763-1810.

Viernes 28 de febrero

Laredo International Fair & Exposition en su 57ava edición en los terrenos de L.I.F.E. Puertas abren a las 8 a.m. hasta medianoche. Disfrute la música de Kinfux Kix García y Rick Treviño. Entrada 25 dólares. Informes 722-9948.

EFEMÉRIDES

24 de febrero, 1845— El Presidente de EU, John Tyler, firma resolución, ya autorizada por el Congreso Americano, aceptando la anexión de Texas.

1890— En Laredo, la "Logia Masónica No. 4 Tribu Yaqui Mejorada Orden de los Pieleros Rojas" inicia organización de festejos especiales con motivo del natalicio de George Washington.

1927— Rompen los sellos de clausura del periódico "El Porvenir" y personas se introducen a la oficina. Entonces, Eutimio Cisneros, ordenó la clausura, decomiso de muebles y prohibió la circulación de El Porvenir y el arresto de sus representantes. Integrantes de El Porvenir de Monterrey viajaron a la frontera y lograron arreglar el problema.

1928— Se intensifica la siembra de algodón en mayor escala en la orilla de Río Grande, lado de Nuevo Laredo, México. Se levantan buenas cosechas en el rancho "La Esmeralda" de Donaciano Echavarría Lozano, en el Ejido El Carrizo, en el rancho "San Francisco" de Paulino y Jesús Canseco, en el rancho "La Cruz" y en el "Canelo".

1939— Todas las calles entre Independencia y Pino Suárez, quedan dotadas de tubería de agua.

1943— En la banqueta del Hotel Plaza, Jorge Pasquel Casanueva, mata de siete balazos al Agente de Migración Jesús Vaca Ávalos. Luego huyó rumbo a Laredo. Retorna y es detenido en el Kilómetro 26.

1962— El Secretario del Trabajo de Estados Unidos, Arthur Goldberg, fijó el mínimo de un dólar por hora, como jornal de los braceros mexicanos en los Estados del Norte del País, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota y Wisconsin.

En memoria de Carlos Treviño Treviño

EDUCANDO EN PARALELO

A toda acción corresponde una reacción

Por Zelidéh López

ESPECIAL PARA TIEMPO DE LAREDO

Pronto entraremos en el mes de marzo. Un mes para crear y consolidar. Toda la naturaleza se prepara para preservar la especie. Otro mes intenso para nuestros hijos. La antelasa de un mes de procreación es la forma en la que cierras el mes anterior. Revisemos que está pasando en la vida educativa y de crecimiento

de nuestros hijos. Por lo pronto, es importante tomar en cuenta que los generadores de las emociones más intensos acaban de hacer su arribo durante el mes de febrero. Esas emociones y los resultados no se apagan de un día para otro y puede ser que tus hijos estén por pasar una desilusión porque el noviazgo, que empezó con la motivación de un día especial, se termine y la vida les dé un revés.

Un corazón roto es tan importante como un divorcio o una muerte. El cerebro sólo identifica una pérdida. Los niños pueden caer en depresión o tristeza crónica. Perder la confianza o creer que no valen lo suficiente. Los chicos son muy crudos y lastiman fácilmente, porque no miden las consecuencias de sus actos y sus palabras. Si una chica quiere terminar con el amigo con derechos y no sabe cómo hacerlo, lo lastimará o dirá cosas que lo lastimen, para que no intente buscarla más. Los niños, por su parte, suelen reemplazar a las chicas fácilmente y crear conflictos entre ellas o tener dos o más al mismo tiempo. Todo, como una respuesta a sus valores, sus creencias y lo que cree que vale. Ejemplos tomados de casa.



López

Si eres una mamá, que dice, "que amarren a sus gallinas porque su gallo anda suelto", la enseñanza que transmite es que el macho tiene derechos y las hembras deben esperar o pelear por él. En la preparatoria existen muchos pleitos entre chicas que se disputan al "macho alfa". Un chico que destaca en el deporte, generalmente. Todo eso es normal y responde a las hormonas, los

neurotransmisores y los aprendizajes previos. En la adolescencia, suelen comportarse en reptiliano (defensa) o mamífero (emociones), ya que la corteza cerebral tarda más tiempo en madurar.

El asunto es ¿qué estamos haciendo los adultos para ayudar en la construcción de la autoestima, de la personalidad, del carácter y todos los aspectos que determinan la calidad humana? Los modelos más poderosos, como hemos dicho, son padres y maestros. Si ellos no han entendido el poder cuántico que existe en el interior de un ser humano, de nada vale lo que hagan, los resultados serán más de lo que ya tenemos.

Embarazos tempranos o no deseados, autismo, hiperactividad, bajo rendimiento académico, problemas de comportamiento, disturbios emocionales, suicidios, divorcios, madres solteras, asesinatos, narcotráfico, feminicidios, infanticidios y me puedo seguir con una larga lista de "cidios". El embarazo debe ser un proyecto de vida que inicie en la adolescencia y que esté acompa-

ñado de una verdadera orientación vocacional y un enfoque personal y único. Las personas aprendemos a través de las emociones, las experiencias y por el entorno inconsciente. Tenemos un cerebro plástico que puede cambiar todos los días y mejorar minuto a minuto. Los científicos han podido comprobar que cada día en tu cuerpo, una de cada cinco células se torna cancerosas. Tu sistema inmunológico pelea y las elimina. Piensa en esto... en una semana docenas de células cancerosas han sido eliminadas de tu cuerpo. En un año miles de millones de células cancerosas fueron destruidas por tu sistema de defensa. Significa que tu cuerpo (cerebro y sistema nervioso), te ha defendido y te ha salvado de morir miles de millones de veces. Te pregunto ¿qué haces por tu cuerpo todos los días en reciprocidad? A toda acción, corresponde una reacción o respuesta igual o de mayor magnitud.

Vivimos de acuerdo con nuestros pensamientos, creencias, costumbres, cultura, emociones y reacciones. La realidad la con-

nipular la ayuda de Ucrania en 2019 y no protegerá nuestras elecciones en 2020".

Una investigación de casi dos años dirigida por el fiscal especial Robert Mueller concluyó que una operación sofisticada del Kremlin trató de sembrar división en Estados Unidos en la campaña electoral de 2016. Funcionarios de inteligencia han advertido que Rusia está haciendo lo mismo en este año electoral.

Desfile de WBCA (Washington's Birthday Celebration Association) and yendo a otros eventos WBCA también en la ciudad", dijo Lanier. Algunos otros deberes que Lanier ha completado como princesa incluyen aparecer en varios festivales y celebraciones en San Antonio, así como representar el gran espíritu y tradición de Laredo. Uno de los eventos que se avecinan es un desfile durante la Fiesta en San Antonio.

DESFILE

Viene de la página A6

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Sin embargo, la princesa y el jefe notaron que estaban extremadamente emocionados por el desfile del sábado, al que señalaron como el evento principal.

"Estoy muy emocionada por el desfile del sábado, ya que vamos en el caballo, y podemos ver a todos conmigo y mi escolta y la corte y todos nosotros juntos. Estamos muy emocionados", dijo Lanier.

La madre de Sciaraffa, Olympia Sciaraffa, también estaba muy entusiasmada con el evento y contenta de que su hijo tuviera la oportunidad de ser jefe por elección de Lanier.

"Comenzamos desde abril pasado y anunciaron en La Posada el año pasado que él sería el jefe cuando Stacy Lanier eligió a mi hijo", dijo. "Entonces comenzamos a ordenar nuestros materiales y nos reunimos con la mesa directiva, y eligieron los colores que deseaban y comenzó luego el diseño".

Aunque señaló que el proceso para formar parte de la corte real es extenso y lleva tiempo, cree que al final vale la pena y agradece a Lanier y su familia por elegir a su hijo para representar al jefe este año.

"Ni siquiera puedo expresar con palabras cómo me siento, especialmente cuando lo vi aparecer en el concurso, ya que es inexplicable lo que sientes", dijo. "Estoy muy orgullosa de él y recibí muy buenos cumplidos del consejo ... definitivamente fue un jefe maravilloso este año".

En cuanto al personal escolar en la escuela, también estaban contentos de que el jefe de este año sea uno de los suyos.

"Recuerdo que nuestro Jefe Guerrero Sagrado era un estudiante aquí en el Colonel Santos, caminaba por los pasillos, y fue un muy buen estudiante y siempre lo ha sido", dijo la directora de la Escuela Primaria Colonel Santos Benavides, Adriana Vela. "Era un estudiante directo, muy involucrado y, como directora y educadora, me siento muy orgullosa de ver a mis alumnos ser miembros es-

truyes cada día con tus palabras y pensamientos. Haz consciente tus procesos y potencializa las bendiciones que has recibido a través de tus dones, tus capacidades y tu misión de vida. Luego haz lo mismo, con tus hijos o tus alumnos.

Utiliza lo que la vida te da y, dale a cada mes del año la oportunidad de convertirse en una herramienta de aprendizaje y enseñanza. Sé tú y déjate guiar por tu interior. Recuerda, como es adentro es afuera y de la llenura de tu corazón habla tu boca. Tu poder cuántico es ilimitado. Si la vida te da limones haz limonada y visualiza el bumerang del karma, para que lances bendiciones y recibas satisfacciones. Hasta el próximo mes, el mes de la creación.

Cada día importa, lo que hagas, digas y siembras, será la cosecha de toda una vida.

Zelidéh López es licenciada en Educación y posee una maestría en Español. Ella está en www.facebook.com/meduccion/ y en "Radio a Domicilio" en Stereo 91.

SANDERS

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eso... Ellos lo filtraron".

El mandatario acusó a Adam Schiff, presidente del Comité de Inteligencia de la Cámara de Representantes, un demócrata de California, de filtrar información de una sesión clasificada. Schiff fue uno de los principales promotores del juicio político contra Trump.

"Schiff y su grupo lo filtraron a los periódicos, co-

mo siempre", dijo Trump. "Deberían investigar a Adam Schiff por filtrar esa información. No debería estar filtrando información de inteligencia. Deberían investigar a Adam Schiff."

El legislador demócrata dijo que la acusación de Trump era falsa.

"Buena desviación, señor presidente. Pero sus falsas afirmaciones no engañan a nadie", tuiteó Schiff. "Usted recibió la ayuda de Rusia en 2016, trató de ma-

SENADO

Viene de la página A6

Republicano John Cornyn.

"No encajo como candidata porque no tengo el dinero, pero al mismo tiempo si tuviera el dinero, encajaría con el resto de ellos ya que soy un abogado, trilingüe, yo he vivido en varios países y sé hablar bien", dijo García. "Sin embargo, no soy ese candidata ya que no obtuve la postulación, sino que decidí ir por la tarifa de presentación de 5.000 dólares y postularme".

Teniendo en cuenta su falta de recaudación de fondos o notoriedad, señala que, como senadora, se preocuparía por sacar el dinero de la política, llevar la verdadera reforma migratoria integral a la vanguardia y tener un debate real sobre la atención médica, que es una de sus principales preocupaciones.

"Mi hija nació con un defecto cardíaco en España. Debido a que sucedió en España, no fuimos a la banarrota, y estoy muy agradecida de que su gobierno haya brindado un millón y medio de dólares en tratamiento", dijo García. "Entonces, comencé una organización sin fines de lucro. Me convertí en "mamá" por esa experiencia ... y desde entonces he trabajado tratando de mostrar por qué la atención médica de este país no funciona y se puede cambiar".

Señaló que el alto costo de la medicina, que incluía incluso medicamentos simples como el tratamiento de piojos que necesitaba para su hija, cuesta entre 300 y 500 dólares. Su familia y otros amigos en la escuela de su hija tampoco tenían el dinero.

Durante su travesía, García cruzó a Nuevo Laredo en un esfuerzo por encontrar medicamentos más baratos y demostrar que el precio de los productos farmacéuticos en los Estados Unidos es astronómicamente más alto. Tenía un argumento al encontrar la medicina que necesitaba para su hija a solo 3.50 dólares en México y no los 500 dólares que le cobra-

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Annie "Mamá" García, candidata al Senado por Texas.

ban en Texas.

"Quiero lo mismo que encontré en España. No quiero que los padres tengan miedo de llevar a sus hijos a la sala de emergencias o que tengan que esperar hasta que cambie su seguro para que tengan que esperar a que el nuevo deducible sea considerado", dijo García. "No quiero que las personas paguen en el punto de servicio (o) sufran debido a condiciones preexistentes. Y todos están cubiertos e incluidos".

Para García, brindar atención médica a todos es lo moral. Sin embargo, tampoco está de acuerdo con que el modelo Medicare para Todos sea la mejor opción a implementarse.

A García le gustaría evaluar los planes de otros países que tienen atención médica para todos y luego incorporar lo que funciona del sistema estadounidense para tener una solución coherente. Esto eliminaría el modelo con fines de lucro y abordaría el hecho de que 40.000 personas mueren anualmente debido a la falta de atención médica.

"La atención médica es algo que va a afectar la vida, pero también afectará económica y socialmente, ya que las personas ya no permanecerían en los trabajos que odian debido al seguro de salud", dijo García. "Se mudarán a donde quieran trabajar, la productividad aumentará y tendremos una sociedad mucho mejor y más feliz".

En general, su mensaje no es solo llevar la aten-

telares de la comunidad".

Otros maestros presentes en la ceremonia también felicitaron a Sciaraffa por el reconocimiento y por ser parte de la familia de la realza.

Esta no es la primera vez que el jefe o cualquier otro miembro de la corte real son de la escuela, de acuerdo a Vela.

"Hemos tenido personas de la corte real que son estudiantes de la escuela primaria Colonel Santos a lo largo de los años, por lo que es muy bueno verlos regresar. Y se los digo a los estudiantes para que puedan hacer esa conexión y saber que en unos años también pueden hacerlo", dijo Vela.

Varias distinciones harán que el reconocimiento de Sciaraffa y Lanier sea muy diferente este año. Sciaraffa señaló que usaría un nuevo color que nunca antes se había usado.

"Todo está hecho a la medida", dijo. "Es el primero también que el que usaremos una chaqueta. Es un poco pesado, pero al final vale la pena. Una de las cosas que más me gustó de esta experiencia es conocer a todas estas personas y formar un vínculo real con ellas".

Tanto la princesa como el jefe también alientan a cualquier otro niño o estudiante interesado en participar en los eventos o en la corte real en el futuro, que simplemente lo hagan ya que es una gran experiencia. La escuela también trata de preparar a los estudiantes para tales roles en su vida.

"Tratamos de enseñarles e inculcarles que es parte de esta tradición de WBCA que sirve como celebración precursora aquí en la escuela Colonel Benavides, porque queremos inculcar en los niños el amor no solo por su país y el estado, sino también por la comunidad y la comunidad donde viven", dijo Vela.

Señaló que cualquier estudiante interesado en participar en tales eventos debería tener buenas calificaciones, estar dispuesto y ser capaz de retribuir a la comunidad con horas de servicio y simplemente estar dispuesto a aprender y querer participar.

Por lo tanto, a los estudiantes se les enseña sobre WBCA y otras tradiciones de Laredo en el segundo grado, dijo Vela.

"Honestamente, vale la pena la experiencia", dijo Lanier. "Podrás conocer y crear recuerdos con muchas personas increíbles y hacer nuevos amigos, y serás invitado a diferentes eventos que te ayudarán a ver muchas otras cosas. Les diría que simplemente lo hagan".

OBITUARIES & MORE

JORGE ALBERTO "SONNY" NIETO

Jorge Alberto "Sonny" Nieto passed away on Sunday, February 23, 2020 surrounded by his beloved family in Laredo, Texas at the age of 37. Funeral services are pending, for further information please call our office at 956-722-2000.

Arrangements are under the care of Agüero Funeral Home & Crematorium, 4402 E. Saunders St., Laredo, TX 78041, 956-722-2000.



AGÜERO
Funeral Home & Crematorium

MARIA JOSEFINA "JOSIE" GONZALEZ

Maria Josefina "Josie" Gonzalez, 76, passed away on Friday, February 21, 2020 at a local hospital.

Visitation will be held on Monday, February 24, 2020 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and a Vigil of the Deceased will be held at 7 p.m. in the Hernandez, Lopez and Sons, Northside Chapels, 800 Boston St. on San Bernardo Ave. Funeral services will begin departing the funeral home chapel at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 25, 2020. Holy Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. at San Martin de Porres Catholic Church. Committal services and interment will follow at the Calvary Catholic Cemetery.
www.HernandezLo-



pezFH.com

Hernandez Lopez & Sons
Funeral Chapels
723-2979

ELIDA A. GARCIA AVITU

DECEMBER 31, 1943 – FEBRUARY 21, 2020



Mrs. Elida A. Garcia, 76, entered into the presence of the Almighty in His Heavenly Kingdom on Friday, February 21, 2020 at a local hospital. She leaves behind a great legacy that will be cherished by her entire family who miss her and will keep her memory alive for generations to come.

Preceded in death by her husband: Guillermo Santos Garcia; siblings: Humberto "La Granja" Avitu, Yolanda Jimenez, Esperanza Cirlos.

Left behind to cherish her memory are her children: Olga L. Martinez, Yolanda E. Martinez, Guillermo Martinez, Rene (Maria Luisa) Garcia, Roberto Garcia, Blanca I. (Sergio de Leon) Garcia, Ricardo J. (Aileen) Garcia, Cindy (Misael) Bravo;

daughter-in-law: Dalilah Garcia; partner in life: Lamberto Gonzalez; 35 grandchildren, 75 great-grandchildren, 21 great-great grandchildren; sisters: Diana Melendez and Nora Oregon, as well as by numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

The family will receive condolences on Monday, February 24, 2020 from 4 p.m. until 9 p.m. at Joe Jackson Heights Funeral Chapels, 719 Loring at Cortez, where a Vigil for the Deceased and Rosary will be recited at 7 p.m.

Funeral procession will

depart at 8:50 a.m. on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 to St. Joseph Catholic Church for a Mass of Christian Burial at 9 a.m.

Rite of Committal and Interment will follow at the Calvary Catholic Cemetery.

You may extend your condolences to the family online at: www.joejackson-funeralchapels.com

Arrangements are under the care and direction of the funeral service professionals at Joe Jackson Heights, 719 Loring at Cortez, Laredo, TX 78040, 956.722.0001

Joe Jackson
Funeral Chapels
HEIGHTS
(956) 722-0001

DORA O. RENDON

Dora O. Rendon, 89, entered into eternal rest Friday, February 21, 2020.

She was born in La Lajilla, Tamaulipas. She lived in San Rafael (Las Tortillas). She immigrated to Laredo, Texas where she lived most of her life.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Juan Rodriguez Garcia and Feliz Rendon Garcia; daughter, Rosa Maria Rendon (Francisco) Campero; brothers, Juan Manuel Garcia and Baldeamar Garcia (Arabella), sister, Diamantina Garcia (+Antonio) Gonzalez.

Left to cherish her mem-



ory is her husband of 69 years, Pablo G. Rendon; son, Pablo G. Rendon Jr.; sisters: Abigail Garcia (+Rogelio) Delgado, Azuce-

na Garcia (Raul) Palacios; granddaughter/daughter, Rose Marie (Julian) Villanueva; grandchildren: Pablo Beau Rendon, Diana Vidal, Paco F. (Liza) Campero, Monica A. Campero, and 7 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by many friends and relatives that loved her.

A visitation will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Gamez & Sons Funeral and Cremation Services where a rosary will be recited at 7:00 p.m.

A cremation will be held at a later date.

The family would like to express their utmost gratitude to her caretakers: Lulá, Gladys & Yaya & to Dr. Armando Hinojosa for the caring attention given to Dora while under their care.

To send flowers to Dora O. Rendon's family, please visit our floral section.

G
GÁMEZ & SONS
Funeral and Cremation Services

MELCHOR CORONADO GONZALEZ

Melchor Coronado Gonzalez born February 5, 1940 in Matehuala, San Luis Potosi, beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend passed away peacefully on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at the age of 80 in Laredo, TX.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Escolástica Gonzales Coronado and José Coronado, brothers and sisters, Ignacio Coronado Gonzalez, José Angel Coronado Gonzalez, Maria Coronado Gonzalez, Apolinar Coronado Gonzalez and Dolores Coronado Gonzalez.

Mr. Coronado is survived by his spouse Dolores Coronado, together they had a beautiful family and is survived by his children Patricia (Michael) Ursem, Adriana (Eddie) Scutchfield, Eduardo (Lori) Coronado, Jose (Denise) Coronado, Susana Coronado, Melchor (Lisa) Coronado Jr., and Jose Manuel (Edna) Lopez and his brother and sisters Rosario Coronado Gonzalez, Guadalupe Coronado Gonzalez and Luis Coronado Gonzalez. He is also survived by numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and



other relatives.

Visitation will be held Monday, February 24, 2020 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Agüero Funeral Home and Crematorium, 4402 E. Saunders St., Laredo, TX 78041. A rosary will be recited at 7 p.m.

Interment will follow at the family plot in the Jardin De Los Angeles in Nuevo Laredo Tamps., Mexico.

Arrangements are under the care of Agüero Funeral Home & Crematorium, 4402 E. Saunders St., Laredo, TX 78041, 956-722-2000.

AGÜERO
Funeral Home & Crematorium

UN study: One of every three Venezuelans is facing hunger

By Jorge Rueda and Christine Armario

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CARACAS, Venezuela — One of every three people in Venezuela is struggling to put enough food on the table to meet minimum nutrition requirements as the nation's severe economic contraction and political upheaval persists, according to a study published Sunday by the U.N. World Food Program.

A nationwide survey based on data from 8,375 questionnaires reveals a startling picture of the large number of Venezuelans surviving off a diet consisting largely of tubers and beans as hyperinflation renders many salaries worthless.

A total of 9.3 million people — roughly one-third of the population — are moderately or severely food insecure, said the World Food Program's study, which was conducted at the invitation of the Venezuelan government. Food insecurity is defined as an individual being

unable to meet basic dietary needs.

The study describes food insecurity as a nationwide concern, though certain states like Delta Amacuro, Amazonas and Falcon had especially high levels. Even in more prosperous regions, one in five people are estimated to be food insecure.

"The reality of this report shows the gravity of the social, economic and political crisis in our country," said Miguel Pizarro, a Venezuelan opposition leader.

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has been largely reluctant in recent years to invite international organizations to provide assessments of the nation's humanitarian ordeal, though the World Food Program said it was granted "full independence" and collected data throughout the country "without any impediment or obstruction."

"WFP looks forward to a continuation of its dialogue with the Venezuelan government and discussions that will focus on the way

forward to provide assistance for those who are food insecure," the agency said in a statement.

There was no immediate response to the findings by Maduro's government.

The survey found that 74% of families have adopted "food-related coping strategies," such as reducing the variety and quality of food they eat. Sixty percent of households reported cutting portion sizes in meals, 33% said they had accepted food as payment for work and 20% reported selling family assets to cover basic needs.

The issue appears to be one that is less about the availability of food and more about the difficulty in obtaining it. Seven in 10 reported that food could always be found but said it is difficult to purchase because of high prices. Thirty-seven percent reported they had lost their job or business as a result of Venezuela's severe economic contraction.

Venezuela has been in the

throes of a political and humanitarian crisis that has led over 4.5 million people to flee in recent years. Maduro has managed to keep his grip on power despite a push by opposition leader Juan Guaidó to remove him from office and mounting U.S. sanctions.

Maduro frequently blames the Trump administration for his nation's woes, and his government has urged the International Criminal Court to open an investigation, alleging that the financial sanctions are causing suffering and even death. The nation's struggles to feed citizens and provide adequate medical care predate U.S. sanctions on the Venezuelan government.

In addition to food, the survey also looked at interruptions in access to electricity and water, finding that four in 10 households experience daily power cuts. Four in 10 also reported recurrent interruptions in water service, further complicating daily life.

Italy rushes to contain Europe's first major virus outbreak

By Luca Bruno and Frances D'Emilio

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CODOGNO, Italy — Italy scrambled Sunday to check the spread of Europe's first major outbreak of the new viral disease amid rapidly rising numbers of infections and a third death, calling off the popular Venice Carnival, scrapping major league soccer matches in the stricken area and shuttering theaters, including Milan's legendary La Scala.

Concern was also on the rise in neighboring Austria, which halted all rail traffic to and from Italy for several hours after suspicion that a train at its southern border with Italy had two passengers possibly infected with the virus on board, authorities said. Austria's interior ministry said it had been informed by Italy's railway company that two passengers had fever and stopped the train at the Brenner crossing before it could enter Austria.

However, just before midnight Austria's Federal Railways announced on Twitter

the ban had been lifted. Austrian Interior Minister Karl Nehammer said the two people suspected of being infected with the virus on the Eurocity 86 train from Venice to Munich had tested negative and the train would be allowed to continue on its way, according to the ORF broadcast network.

The decision to call off Venice Carnival was announced by Veneto regional Gov. Luca Zaia as the number of confirmed virus cases soared to 152, the largest number outside Asia.

"The ordinance is immediately operative and will go into effect at midnight," said Zaia, whose area includes Venice, where thousands packed St. Mark's Square. Carnival would have run through Tuesday.

Road blocks were set up in at least some of 10 towns in Lombardy at the epicenter of the outbreak, including in Casalpusterlengo, to keep people from leaving or arriving. Even trains transiting the area weren't allowed to stop.

Buses, trains and other forms of public transport —

including boats in Venice — were being disinfected. Zaia told reporters. Museums were also ordered to shut down after Sunday in Venice, a top tourist draw anytime of the year, as well as in neighboring Lombardy, which, with at least 110 confirmed cases, is the epicenter of the viral outbreak.

Authorities said three people in Venice have tested positive for the viral disease known as COVID-19, all of them in their late 80s and who were hospitalized in critical condition.

Other northern regions with smaller numbers of cases are Emilia-Romagna and Piedmont.

Italy's first two cases were a Chinese tourist couple, diagnosed earlier this month and reported recovering in a Rome hospital.

The death on Sunday of an elderly woman, who was already suffering from cancer when she contracted the virus, raised the nation's death toll to three, said Lombardy regional official Giulio Gallera.

Authorities expressed frustration that they haven't

been able to track down the source of the virus that is spreading in the north and which surfaced last week when an Italian man in his late 30s in Codogno became critically ill.

"The health officials haven't been yet able to pinpoint 'patient zero,'" Angelo Borrelli, head of the national Civil Protection agency, told reporters in Rome.

At first, it was widely presumed that the man was infected by an Italian friend he dined with and who had recently returned from his job, based in Shanghai. But when the friend tested negative for the virus attention turned to several Chinese residents who frequent the same café visited by the stricken man. But Lombardy Gov. Attilio Fontana told reporters they all tested negative too.

So for now, Borrelli indicated the strategy is to concentrate on closures and other restrictions to try to stem the spread in the country, which already had taken measures early on in the global virus alarm that included banning direct

flights from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macau. Italy has also tested millions of airport passengers arriving from other places for any signs of fever.

"Worry is understandable, panic, no," Premier Giuseppe Conte told a state TV talk show host, who informed him that four bottles of disinfectant hand gel, which normally sell for a few euros a piece, were being hawked for 200 euros on the internet. The interview was conducted by phone in a studio without an audience after authorities requested that the public not be allowed in for health concerns.

Gallera told reporters in Milan that schools, museums, discos, pubs and theaters would stay closed for at least seven days. But restaurants in Milan and other Lombardy cities outside the main cluster area can still operate since, unlike at concerts and other entertainment venues, in eateries "people are not congregated in one place and there is space between tables," Gallera said.

Lombardy's ban on public events also extended to Masses in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation. Venice also was forbidding public Masses, while in Milan, the city's iconic Gothic cathedral was closed to visitors. School trips inside Italy and overseas were banned.

But in the south, thousands turned out for a visit by Pope Francis in the port city of Bari. The pontiff shook hands with many of the faithful.

In Lombardy, a populous region which includes the country's financial capital, Milan, nearly all the cases of COVID-19 were in the countryside, mainly in Codogno and nine neighboring towns. In those towns, only grocery stores and pharmacies were permitted to open, and people weren't supposed to enter or leave the towns.

Dispensers of hand disinfectant were being installed in trains run by the state railways, which also said it was supplying its crews with masks and disposable gloves.

OIL & GAS REPORT

US gas prices steady at \$2.53 per gallon over past 2 weeks

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAMARILLO, Calif. — The average U.S. price of regular-grade gasoline remained steady at \$2.53 per

gallon over the past two weeks.

Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg of the Lundberg Survey said Sunday that the price at the pump averages

9 cents higher than it was a year ago.

The highest average price in the nation for regular-grade gas is \$3.54 per gallon in San Diego.

The lowest average is \$2.06 in Jackson, Mississippi.

The average price of diesel is \$2.98, down three cents.

Wastewater becomes better option for oil companies in West Texas

By Sergio Chapa
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Oil field wastewater is more often being used for drilling and fracking operations in places such as Texas' Permian Basin, experts say, helping to preserve freshwater and to solve one of the industry's persistent problems.

Millions of gallons of water are needed to bring into production a single well for horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing. The amount of wastewater brought back up from a well during its lifetime can be several times as much.

Oil companies are finding, however, that wastewater used instead of purchased freshwater or brackish groundwater not only preserves a natural resource but can also improve production.

"Some companies say they get better results with reused water," said Josh Adler, CEO of the Houston oil field water tracking company Sourcewater. "It's the same water from the formation. You're basically taking something out of the ground and putting it right back where it came from."

The Permian Basin, once a prehistoric sea, holds trillions of gallons of hypersaline water underground with oil and natural gas reserves. In the western end of the shale play, known as the Delaware Basin, as many as five to 10 barrels of saltwater come out of the ground for every barrel of crude oil produced.

In a pair of studies released this month, scientists with the University of Texas at Austin Jackson School of Geosciences and three other universities studied how much wastewater eight major U.S. shale basins produced and



Courtesy Solaris Water Midstream

Oil companies are finding that wastewater used instead of freshwater or brackish groundwater can improve production.

then analyzed options for recycling and reusing that water.

Researchers determined that oil and natural gas wells from those eight shale basins produced more than 160 billion gallons of wastewater in 2017 — enough to fill more than 242,000 Olympic-size swimming pools.

Fracking operations in the lifetime of the Permian Basin will require 2.85 trillion gallons of water, researchers said, but will produce an estimated 10.4 trillion gallons of wastewater.

That wastewater contains hydrocarbons, chemicals, salts and sometimes even radioactive contaminants, making it too expensive to clean for agriculture or municipal purposes.

Most oil field wastewater

is injected deep underground at sites known as saltwater disposal wells. Researchers determined that reusing that water for hydraulic fracturing is the most cost-effective and sustainable option for the industry.

"Recycled water will almost entirely replace the use of groundwater soon," Adler said. "How soon? Within five years. That's about the amount of time it will take for everybody to get used to the practice."

But even if all hydraulic fracturing operations switch to reused water, the industry will still need saltwater disposal sites because of the sheer volume of wastewater produced in places such as the Permian Basin.

Herb Chambers, CEO of the Houston oil field water

pipeline company EVX Midstream, said the recent wastewater studies have come out at a time when his company's customers are asking for more water recycling services. Chambers said one of his company's customers recently signed a deal that will expand its water recycling and reuse across the entire basin.

"Our basinwide gathering system functions as a reuse and recycling distribution network for all of our producer customers," Chambers said. "We're committed to helping producers develop energy in the most sustainable way. We're excited at our customers' response to embrace reuse and recycling."

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NextDecade / Courtesy Photo

Artist rendering of NextDecade's proposed Rio Grande LNG export terminal at the Port of Brownsville.

LNG opponents sue feds over two Port of Brownsville permits

By Sergio Chapa
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Opponents of the liquefied natural gas industry have sued a federal agency that issued permits for a controversial LNG export terminal at the Port of Brownsville and a related pipeline.

In a petition filed before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, the Sierra Club, the City of Port Isabel and four other opponents are asking a federal judge to review and overturn permits issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for Rio Grande LNG and the Rio Bravo Pipeline.

No court hearing has been set in the lawsuit. FERC officials issued a permit for the controversial projects in November and then denied a request by opponents to reconsider the agency's decision.

Citing safety and environmental concerns, opponents of the projects said that Rio Grande LNG will become the largest polluter in the Rio Grande Valley, an impoverished region along the U.S./Mexico border.

"FERC has consistently ignored concerns about how Rio Grande LNG and

other fracked gas facilities would harm already-marginalized Latinx communities in the Rio Grande Valley," Sierra Club organizer Rebekah Hinojosa said in a statement. "This fracked gas export facility would devastate our local economy and subject our families to dangerous pollution, and it's unacceptable that FERC has refused to take these threats into consideration."

However, supporters of the projects say they will reduce flaring in the Permian Basin of West Texas by creating a market for natural gas that would otherwise be burned off. Designed to export 27 million metric tons of LNG per year, the plant and pipeline will also bring billions of dollars of private investment to the impoverished region, generate thousands of construction jobs and hundreds of high-paying permanent jobs.

Rio Grande LNG is owned by Houston liquefied natural gas company NextDecade. Canadian pipeline operator Enbridge has entered a deal to buy the Rio Bravo Pipeline from NextDecade.

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Natural gas flaring is off the charts

By Sergio Chapa
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

The oil and natural gas industry practice of flaring, or burning surplus natural gas from oil wells, has reached volumes not seen in Texas since the 1950s, a new report released Tuesday by Railroad Commissioner Ryan Sitton revealed.

During the 1950s, an oil boom outpaced pipeline construction prompting companies to burn off a record 815 million cubic feet of natural gas per day in 1953.

A similar situation is taking place now. Without enough pipelines to move natural gas to market and thousands of oil wells producing it as a byproduct in the Permian Basin of West Texas and elsewhere around the state, oil companies burned an estimated 650 million cubic feet of natural gas per day in 2018 — more than double the 268 million reported a year earlier.

The amount of natural gas burned daily in 2018 would have been enough to supply nearly 4 million U.S. homes for a single day. And at current market prices, it would have also generated \$1.3 million of revenue per day or roughly \$475 million

over one year's time.

Sitton, one of three elected commissioners overseeing the state agency regulating the oil and natural gas industry, told the Houston Chronicle that he released the report to provide concrete data about the issue and to help environmentalists, companies, regulators and landowners develop solutions. Those solutions range from building more pipelines and gas processing plants to shutting in the wells with the worst flaring rates to asking OPEC to step up production or setting flaring goals that companies would need to hit.

"Everybody talks about flaring levels being higher for the past couple of years, but just using total flaring volume is a pretty poor data point," Sitton said. "The insight into what these numbers actually mean and what they tell us takes a unique skill set."

Taking publicly available data on the agency's website, Sitton compared the amount of natural gas a company flared to the amount of crude oil the company produced from November 2018 to October 2019 to create a flaring intensity score. That index, he said, can be used to measure how well companies and the state are perform-

ing with regards to flaring.

With an average of nearly 23.4 million cubic feet of natural gas burned per day during that one-year period, Exxon Mobil led all others in the amount of gas burned off. But Exxon produced more than 181,000 barrels of crude oil per day in the same time, giving the company a relatively low flaring intensity score of 0.13 in Sitton's report.

Exxon Mobil's score was much lower than the 2.93 received by Oklahoma City-based Continental Trend Resources, which produced 62 barrels of crude per day from its wells in the Texas Panhandle and burned off 181,000 cubic feet of natural gas per day — making the company the most flaring intense company operating in Texas.

In a statement, Exxon Mobil said the company is working to reduce its numbers even further. "We are making significant investments in gathering, processing and natural gas pipelines to enable resource development and reduce flaring intensity," the company said.

Irving-based Pioneer Natural Resources is considered to be the top oil producer in Texas, producing more than 360,000 barrels of crude per day. With the

company's wells flaring 7.7 million cubic feet of natural gas per day, Pioneer received a 0.02 flaring index score. As a general practice, Pioneer does not put an oil well into production until natural gas gathering pipelines are in place.

As a whole, Texas flared 410 million cubic feet of natural gas per day during the one-year period of Sitton's report and produced an average of 4.4 million barrels of crude oil per day, meaning that the entire state had an index score of 0.09, lower than other oil-producing states such as North Dakota and oil-producing nations such as Iran, Iraq and Russia.

"I'm not putting the spotlight on anybody, this is all publicly available data," Sitton said. "All I'm doing is the analysis and saying these are results."

Sitton is releasing the report independently of the agency and his two fellow commissioners on the Railroad Commission of Texas, the state agency that regulates the oil and natural gas industry. That move, he said, was done to sidestep the politics of his fellow commissioners, release the data to the public and begin a fact-based public debate on how to handle the issue. Elected to office in 2014,

Sitton is up for re-election this year to a six-year term. The Friendswood Republican faces one challenger in the Republican primary. Four Democrats, two Libertarian Party candidates and a Green Party candidate also are making a run at Sitton's seat. Some of those candidates say the release of the report was timed to boost Sitton's election effort.

"I started this analysis five or six months ago, before any of those candidates filed for office, so that's a pretty weak political claim," Sitton said. "But I'm not surprised; that's what weak political candidates do."

Chrysta Castañeda, a Dallas energy attorney among the four candidates seeking the Democratic Party nomination, called the Railroad Commission race the most important environmental race in the United States this year. Over the past seven years, the Railroad Commission has not denied any of the more than 27,000 requests for flaring permits that came to the agency for review.

"The report unsuccessfully attempts to reframe the issue to take scrutiny away from Sitton's poor decisions on flaring," Castañeda said.

Environmentalists are open to the dialogue. Colin Leyden, with the Austin office of the Environmental Defense Fund, said the report echoes previous figures and reports about flaring issued by the Washington-based environmental group. The Railroad Commission, he said, has the authority to handle the issue through its own rules, regulations and permits without the Texas Legislature needing to pass new laws.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, Sitton's report received endorsements from pro-industry groups such as the Texas Oil & Gas Association and the Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association.

"Oil and gas is an industry defined by innovation and results," TIPRO President Ed Longanecker said in a statement. "TIPRO looks forward to continuing its work with partners and stakeholders on realistic solutions, collaboration and innovation to reduce emissions. Cleaner operations, facilities and products all are part of this sector's commitment to responsibly develop our nation's energy resources."

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FROM THE COVER & MORE

BOND

From page A1

Mia said that they will be submitting more projects to the Texas Water Development Board because they can save so much money this way. He noted that this is a state-subsidized revolving loan fund; any interest the board ac-

crues goes right back into the fund.

When the board approved the loan, the city expected the interest rate would be about 0.87%, Mia said.

The city was able to show the board the Utilities Department's credit rating, cash in reserve and recent rate increase for water and wastewater users,

which is how the board landed on this low interest rate, Mia said.

"We were so happy," he said.

With the annual 5% increase to water and waste water rates, the city plans to finance \$178 million in new infrastructure in the coming years. The Manadas Creek Plant is their first priority.

SENATE

From page A1

healthcare to all is the moral thing to do. However, she also does not agree on the Medicare for All model being the best choice to implement.

Garcia would like to assess plans from other countries that have healthcare for all and then incorporate what works from the American system to have a cohesive solution. This would do away with the for-profit model and address the fact 40,000 people die annually due to lack of healthcare.

"Healthcare is something that is going to affect lives but also affect economically and socially as people will no longer stay in the jobs that they hate because of health insurance," Garcia said. "They are go-

ing to move where they want to work, productivity will increase and we will have a much better and happy society to live in."

Overall, her message is not to just bring to the forefront healthcare or show that someone can run for office just because they can, but rather showcase that one individual can accomplish a lot if they set their minds to it.

"The only people who don't follow the rules are those who govern us; yet, they create the very same rules that we must be governed with. We must have people that follow the rules so we can change laws," Garcia said.

Garcia wants to reshape what happens in the country and the state. Although her best polling has been at five to six percent in most polls, according to the can-

didate, she does believe that she has the chance of winning the nomination by causing a run-off between her and any of the other candidates.

In the end, she states that even if she does not win the nomination, she will support the eventual Democratic nominee for the seat she is trying to win as she sees no other alternative other than leaving the country if things gets worse.

"The reason I did this is because I truly believe that we are in a last gasp here," Garcia said. "However, I will be helping other Democratic candidates get elected, but honestly I have my doubts of what to do following this election. It depends on how bad the situation gets here. However, I will do anything I can to get John Cornyn out."



Danny Zaragoza / Laredo Morning Times

Princess Pocahontas and Chief Sacred Warrior portrayed by Stacy Allison Lanier and Ryan Joshua Sciaraffa lead the Princess Pocahontas Court on Feb. 14 during the Princess Pocahontas Media Night at the Guadalupe and Lilia Martínez Fine Arts Center Theater.

PARADE

From page A1

Washington's Birthday Parade on Saturday morning.

"I am very honored to be Princess Pocahontas because not only do I get to represent an amazing organization, but I also get to represent Laredo coming out at the WBCA Parade and going to other WBCA events as well in the city," Lanier said.

Some other duties that Lanier has completed as princess include appearing in several festivals and celebrations in San Antonio as well representing the great spirit and tradition of Laredo. One of the events still upcoming is a parade during Fiesta in San Antonio.

However, the princess and the chief noted they were extremely excited for Saturday's parade which they pointed out is the main event of them all.

"I am really excited about Saturday's parade as we are on the horse, and we get to see everyone with me and my escort and the court and all of us together. We are so excited," Lanier said.

Sciaraffa's mother Olympia Sciaraffa was also very excited about the event and content that her child got the opportunity to be chief by Lanier.

"We started since last April, and they announced at La Posada last year that he was going to be the chief as Stacy Lanier chose my son," she said. "So afterward we start ordering our materials and get together with the board, and they get to pick the colors that they want and the designing then begins."

Although she pointed out that the process to become

part of the royal court is extensive and takes time, she believes it is worth it in the end and thanks Lanier and her family for choosing her son to represent the chief this year.

"I can't even put into words how I feel, especially when I saw him come out in the pageant, as it is just unexplainable what you feel," she said. "I am very proud of him and got very good compliments from the council ... he was definitely a wonderful chief this year."

As for school faculty, they are also content that this year's chief is one of their own.

"I remember our Chief Sacred Warrior was a student here at Colonel Santos, walking down the hallways, and he was a very good student and always has been," Colonel Santos Benavides Elementary School Principal Adriana Vela said. "He is a straight-A student, very involved, and as a principal and educator, I feel very proud to see my students to be stellar community members."

Other teachers present at the ceremony also congratulated Sciaraffa for the recognition and being part of the royalty family.

This is not the first time that the chief or any other members of the royal court are from the school, according to Vela.

"We have had people from the royal court who are ex-Colonel Santos students throughout the years, so it's just very good to see them come back. And I tell the students so they can make that connection and know that in a few years they can also make it," Vela said.

Several distinctions will make Sciaraffa and Lanier's

recognition much different this year. Sciaraffa points out that he will wear a new color that has never been used before.

"It's all custom made," he said. "It is the first also that we will use a jacket. It's a little bit heavy, but it's worth it in the end. One of the things I liked more about this experience is getting to know all these people and form a real bond with them."

Both the princess and chief also encourage any other child or student interested in participating in the events or the royal court in the future to just simply do it as it is a great experience. The school also tries to prepare students for such roles later in their life.

"We try to teach them and instill in them that's part of this WBCA tradition which serves as a precursor celebration here at Colonel, because we want to instill in the children the love for not only their country and the state but also for the community and the community where they live in," Vela said.

She noted that any students interested in participating in such events should have good grades, be willing and able to give back to the community in service hours and to simply be willing to learn and want to participate.

Therefore, students are taught about the WBCA and other Laredo traditions in the second grade, Vela said.

"Honestly, it is worth the experience," Lanier said. "You will get to meet and make memories with many amazing people and get to make new friends, and you get invited to different events which helps you get to see many other things. I would tell them to just do it."

Moderates hustle to blunt Sanders' momentum after Nevada win

By Alexandra Jaffe and Meg Kinnard

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Bernie Sanders' commanding Nevada caucus victory made him a top target for his Democratic rivals and a growing source of anxiety for establishment Democrats worried that the nomination of an avowed democratic socialist could cost the party in November.

The win solidified Sanders' front-runner status as the race turned to Saturday's presidential primary in South Carolina. The Vermont senator was trounced in the state by more than 40 percentage points in 2016, but he is hoping that his success in diverse Nevada will prove to black voters in South Carolina that his campaign has broad appeal.

Any momentum that Sanders gains in South Carolina could be devastating to former Vice President Joe Biden, who is looking to the state for a commanding victory that can keep his candidacy alive through Super Tuesday. The March 3 contests will unfold in 14 states and award one-third of the delegates needed for the Democratic nomination.

With time running short, moderate Democrats grew increasingly nervous Sunday that Sanders' call for a political "revolution" would drive voters away from the party, both in the matchup against President Donald Trump and in House and Senate races.

"I think it would be a real burden for us in these states or congressional districts that we have to do well in," South Carolina Rep. Jim Clyburn, the House majority whip and the top-ranking black Democrat in Congress, said Sun-

day on ABC's "This Week."

Prominent Democrats expect Clyburn will endorse Biden this week. The congressman said he'll back a candidate on Wednesday — after the next Democratic debate — and pointed to the impact a Sanders nomination would have on House districts Democrats flipped to take control of the House in 2018.

"In those districts, it's going to be tough to hold on to these jobs if you have to make the case for accepting a self-proclaimed democratic socialist," he said.

Sanders' campaign argued he will bring in new and infrequent voters — largely progressives, young people and voters of color — who have been alienated from the process and seek a drastic overhaul of Washington, not merely trying to oust Trump.

He successfully relied on that coalition Saturday to dominate his Democratic rivals in Nevada, pulling far ahead of Biden, the second-place finisher, and Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, who came in third. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren landed in fourth, while Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar and California billionaire Tom Steyer were in a close race for fifth as the Nevada Democratic Party continued to tabulate results.

Sanders celebrated the win in Texas, a top Super Tuesday prize and a state that Democrats see trending their way thanks to a growing Hispanic population and opposition to Trump in the suburbs.

Sounding like a candidate who had already secured the nomination, Sanders told thousands of cheering supporters who filled a basketball arena on

the campus of the University of Houston that he would win in the state both next month and next fall.

"If working people and young people of this city, black and white and Latino, gay or straight, if our people stand together, come out to vote, we're going to win here in Texas," he said.

Sanders was announcing a plan to provide universal, government-funded child care until age 3 and universal pre-kindergarten programs after that. In an interview with "60 Minutes" that aired Sunday night, he said he'd pay for it using part of the proceeds from his previously announced wealth tax, which would be levied annually on fortunes worth more than \$32 million.

Sanders' new status was clear as most of his rivals sharpened their focus on him.

On Sunday, Buttigieg ripped Sanders' for his massive and often combative online following, saying the nominee's job "is to call people into our tent, not to call them names online."

Speaking to a crowd of thousands gathered in a high school football field in Arlington, Virginia, Buttigieg said Democrats should nominate someone who will focus on "mobilizing, not polarizing the American majority."

"Politics will be fierce sometimes, but it is not just combat," he said.

But some Democrats were worried that the new focus on Sanders may be too little, too late. For months, as several Democrats jockeyed to become the chief alternative to Sanders, they largely attacked each other on debate stages and in ads while taking relatively few punches at the Vermont senator.

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Newcomers find Rockets' offense an easy fit

Covington, Carroll and Green filling roles early
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Monday, February 24, 2020 | SECTION B | LAREDO MORNING TIMES

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

Teams battling for playoff positions

LBJ Wolves are first in District 29-6A with 13 points, Martin second in 29-5A behind Flour Bluff

By Garrett Kroeger
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

With the midway point approaching rapidly within District 29-6A, the five local soccer teams in the league are battling for playoff positioning. All five the Laredo programs in 29-6A rank No. 1-5 in the district standings.

The LBJ Wolves are currently atop the league

standings as they are 4-0-1 with 13 points in district action this season. The Wolves are coming off a 3-1 win over Nixon Friday in which Omar Merla scored twice while Luis Valdez had the other. The win marked the Purple & Gold's 150th district victory as a program. They look to widen their lead as they play at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday against United South at

the SAC.

LBJ hasn't messed around in league play this year as they are only one of two teams with a positive goal differential in district competition. The Wolves' goal differential is plus-10 in 29-6A action while Alexander is the other team with a positive with a plus-8.

Nixon and Alexander are tied for second with nine points each. The Mustangs (3-3-0 District 29-6A play) have had a solid year beating the likes of Eagle Pass, Del Rio and defending **Soccer continues on B2**



Danny Zaragoza / Laredo Morning Times

Henry Costilla and LBJ are currently first in District 29-6A with 13 points.

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL:
UNITED LADY LONGHORNS



Courtesy of United athletics

United's Krizia Perez was recently named to a prestigious watch list as a rising star.

United's Krizia Perez named to watch list

By Clara Sandoval
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

United volleyball player Krizia Perez had a sensational freshman season as she helped the Lady Longhorns claim the District 29-6A title and received many postseason accolades.

Perez continues turning heads as she was recently named to a prestigious watch list as a rising star by the Triple Crown National Invitational Tournament in Kansas City, Missouri. The Triple Crown tournament is a competitive event that has teams from across country competing for the overall title.

"It is an honor for her and for us because she is not only representing our school, United, but the city of Laredo," United head coach Lety Longoria said. "From day one I have seen Krizia grow in the mental part of the game. She is having fun with her club

team and enjoying working hard."

Perez joins only 88 volleyball players to be named to the 14-18 list. Each division has over 100 teams.

Perez competes in the 150-year-old division and there 128 teams with 10 players each at the event. Only 24 girls from the 15-year division were named to the list and Perez was one of two girls from Texas to be honored.

"I was one of the few Texans as it was me and one more girl from San Antonio," Perez said. "I was the only one from San Antonio Magic that was recognized."

Scouts from the Magazine Prep Volleyball attend national tournaments, report on teams playing and identify individual athletes that stand out in order to be placed on the list. It is tough to be named as it only consists of the best vol-

Perez continues on B2

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL: **NIXON MUSTANGS**

Dynamic Mustangs ready for playoffs

Nixon has averaged 95.5 points per game over the last six contests, plays PSJA North Tuesday

By Garrett Kroeger
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

The way Nixon played throughout the second half of its district schedule was what head coach Pete Solis envisioned the Mustangs to be this year. A team that can score at will and withstand any opponent's best shot.

"We played for a good while during the summer and in summer leagues, but they don't count," Solis said. "I knew we had the capability to go on one of those streaks that can be crazy. It just so happens that we are on one right now."

In the second half of league action, Nixon's offense found its groove. The Mustangs averaged 95.5 points per game in their last six regular season games. They faced everyone's best effort.

Nixon almost, once again, went perfect in the last six games of district like it did last year. It's lone slip up was a 90-89 loss to United on a last second block. After the one-point loss, the Mustangs defeated LBJ 106-91, who was fighting for a playoff spot. Nixon followed up the 100-plus performance with a 97-90 win over United South, who was also battling to get into the postseason. Then the Mus-

Nixon continues on B2



Danny Zaragoza / Laredo Morning Times

Bryan Garcia and Nixon open the postseason at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday against PSJA North.



Cuate Santos / Laredo Morning Times file

LISD, St. Augustine set to play ball

The three LISD programs along with St. Augustine are set to open the new Veterans Field Monday. Cigarroa will play St. Augustine at 4:15 p.m. while Martin and Nixon face one another at 7.

TRACK & FIELD

Local track teams continue to perform well

By Clara Sandoval
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

The track and field season continued as local teams had a solid weekend.

Alexander, Cigarroa, LBJ, Martin and Nixon all competed at the Juan Antonio Saenz Relay in Zapata while United along with the Alexander girls' squad participated at the 7th Annual McAllen ISD Relays.

The Lady Mustangs won a meet for the first time since 2011, according to

head coach Toby Tobias, after scoring 142.5 points at the Juan Antonio Saenz Relay.

"Beyond blessed to have an opportunity to work with an amazing group of young ladies," Tobias said. "This is a great team win as we get ready for Border Olympics. Special thanks to all our Mustang family for their endless support, especially Coach Ruben Castillo. We will enjoy this team win and get back to work on Monday."

Nixon picked up plenty of points in the relays as it won the 4x200-meter and the 4x400-meter relay (Ana Meza, Alyssa Guerra, Marcela Rodriguez and Sofia Cabello). The 4x100-meter relay (Guerra, Meza Julissa Sanchez and Viviana Caballero) placed third.

Cabello won the 400-meter dash (1:03) while Marcela Rodriguez (300-meter hurdles, 48.28; long jump 16-3.5) and Jada Perez (high **Track & Field continues on B2**

Scoreboard

Monday, February 24, 2020 | PAGE B2 | LAREDO MORNING TIMES

BASKETBALL

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	42	15	.737	—
Toronto	39	17	.696	21/2
Boston	35	22	.614	7
Philadelphia	35	22	.614	7
Brooklyn	26	29	.473	15
New York	17	39	.304	24 1/2
Southwest	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	36	20	.643	—
Orlando	24	32	.429	12
Washington	20	35	.364	15 1/2
Charlotte	19	37	.339	17
Atlanta	17	41	.293	20
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	48	8	.857	—
Indiana	33	24	.579	15 1/2
Chicago	20	38	.345	29
Detroit	19	39	.328	30
Cleveland	15	41	.268	33

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	36	20	.643	—
Dallas	34	23	.596	21/2
Memphis	28	28	.500	8
San Antonio	24	32	.429	12
New Orleans	24	32	.429	12
Northwest	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	39	18	.684	—
Utah	36	20	.643	21/2
Oklahoma City	35	22	.614	4
Portland	25	32	.439	14
Minnesota	16	39	.291	22
Pacific	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	43	12	.782	—
L.A. Clippers	37	19	.661	6 1/2
Sacramento	23	33	.411	20 1/2
Phoenix	23	34	.404	21
Golden State	12	44	.214	31 1/2

Saturday's games

Sacramento 112, L.A. Clippers 103
Brooklyn 115, Charlotte 86
Atlanta 111, Dallas 107
Phoenix 112, Chicago 104
Miami 124, Cleveland 105
Milwaukee 119, Philadelphia 98
Houston 120, Utah 110

Sunday's games

L.A. Lakers 114, Boston 112
Toronto 127, Indiana 81
Denver 128, Minnesota 116
Oklahoma City 131, San Antonio 103
Chicago 126, Washington 117
New Orleans at Golden State, late
Detroit at Portland, late

Monday's games

Atlanta at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Miami at Cleveland, 6 p.m.
Milwaukee at Washington, 6 p.m.
Orlando at Brooklyn, 6:30 p.m.
New York at Houston, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Utah, 8 p.m.
Memphis at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

NCAA College Basketball

Men's Basketball

AP Top 25 (Week 17)

	Rec.	Pts	Prv
1. Baylor (48)	23-1	1559	1
2. Gonzaga (14)	26-1	1518	2
3. Kansas (1)	22-3	1434	3
4. San Diego St.	26-0	1404	4
5. Dayton	23-2	1294	6
6. Duke	22-3	1285	7

7. Maryland	21-4	1194	9
8. Florida St.	21-4	1088	8
9. Penn St.	20-5	1024	13
10. Kentucky	20-5	1011	12
11. Louisville	21-5	837	5
12. Villanova	19-6	824	15
13. Auburn	22-3	818	11
14. Oregon	20-6	742	17
15. Creighton	20-6	718	23
16. Seton Hall	18-7	672	10
17. West Virginia	18-7	552	14
18. Colorado	20-6	501	16
19. Marquette	17-7	404	18
20. Iowa	18-8	254	21
21. Butler	19-7	242	19
22. Houston	20-6	237	20
23. BYU	21-7	188	—
24. Arizona	18-7	102	—
25. Ohio St.	17-8	95	—

Others receiving votes: Texas Tech 92, Michigan St. 87, Michigan 83, LSU 55, Rhode Island 39, Virginia 32, Cincinnati 14, Stephen F. Austin 14, Illinois 12, N. Iowa 9, Utah St. 8, Florida 6, Rutgers 6, ETSU 5, Saint Mary's (Cal) 4, Richmond 3, Tulsa 3, New Mexico St. 2, SMU 2, Arizona St 1, Wright St. 1.

Friday's games

No games scheduled

Saturday's games

No. 3 Kansas 64, No. 1 Baylor 61
No. 23 BYU 91, No. 2 Gonzaga 78
UNLV 66, No. 4 San Diego State 63
No. 5 Dayton 80, Duquesne 70
No. 6 Duke 88, Virginia Tech 64
No. 8 Florida State 67, N.C. State 61
No. 10 Kentucky 65, Florida 59
No. 11 Louisville 72, North Carolina 55
No. 12 Villanova 64, Xavier 55
No. 13 Auburn 73, Tennessee 66
No. 14 Oregon 73, No. 24 Arizona 72
TCU 70, No. 17 West Virginia 60
UCLA 70, No. 18 Colorado 63
Providence 84, No. 19 Marquette 72
Memphis 60, No. 22 Houston 59

Sunday's games

No. 25 Ohio State 79, No. 7 Maryland 72
Indiana 68, No. 9 Penn State 60
No. 15 Creighton 81, No. 21 Butler 59
No. 16 Seton Hall 81, St. John's 65

Women's Basketball

AP Top 25 (Week 17)

	Rec.	Pts	Prv
1. South Carolina (27)	24-1	747	1
2. Baylor (2)	23-1	713	2
3. Oregon (1)	24-2	700	3
4. Stanford	23-3	620	8
5. Louisville	23-3	611	9
6. UConn	21-3	605	5
7. Maryland	22-4	557	10
8. UCLA	21-3	554	7
9. Mississippi St.	22-4	516	6
10. N.C. State	22-3	481	4
11. Arizona	21-4	460	12
12. DePaul	24-3	413	13
13. Gonzaga	25-2	337	15
14. Kentucky	19-5	320	18
15. Oregon St.	19-6	311	11
16. Texas A&M	20-5	307	16
17. Florida St.	20-5	269	14
18. Northwestern	22-3	263	19
19. Iowa	21-5	203	17
20. South Dakota	24-2	167	21
21. Arizona St.	18-8	143	22
22. Arkansas	20-5	128	23
23. Missouri St.	21-3	122	24
24. Indiana	20-7	87	20
25. Princeton	19-1	52	—

Others receiving votes: TCU 30, Florida Gulf Coast 15, LSU 6, Tennessee 5, Cent. Michigan 3, Stony Brook 3, Fresno St. 2.

Friday's games

No. 3 Oregon 93, California 61
No. 4 Stanford 63, No. 15 Oregon State 60
No. 8 UCLA 70, Washington State 62
No. 11 Arizona 85, Utah 69
No. 12 DePaul 87, Georgetown 69
No. 21 Arizona State 65, Colorado 59
No. 23 Missouri State 76, Evansville 62
No. 25 Princeton 66, Harvard 45

Saturday's games

No. 2 Baylor 101, Oklahoma 69
No. 6 UConn 66, UCF 53
No. 13 Gonzaga 64, Pepperdine 50
No. 18 Northwestern 82, Wisconsin 66
No. 19 Iowa 100, Penn State 57
No. 20 South Dakota 77, South Dakota State 67
No. 24 Indiana 75, Minnesota 69
No. 25 Princeton 87, Dartmouth 55

Sunday's games

No. 1 South Carolina 67, No. 14 Kentucky 58
No. 5 Louisville 79, Pittsburgh 47
Washington 74, No. 8 UC 68
Alabama 66, No. 9 Mississippi State 64
Colorado 50, No. 11 Arizona 38
Villanova 76, No. 12 DePaul 58
No. 15 Oregon State 76, California 63
No. 16 Texas A&M 84, Auburn 54
Georgia Tech 65, No. 17 Florida State 62
Utah 75, No. 21 Arizona State 71
Florida 83, No. 22 Arkansas 80
No. 23 Missouri State 82, Indiana State 58

FOOTBALL

NFL

Calendar

Feb. 24-March 2: NFL scouting combine, Indianapolis.
Feb. 25: First day for clubs to designate franchise or transition players.

March 10: Deadline for clubs to designate franchise or transition players before 3 p.m. EDT.
March 18: Free agency, trading periods begin, 3 p.m. EDT.

March 29-April 1: Annual league meeting, Palm Beach, Fla.

April 17: Deadline for restricted free agents to sign offer sheets.

April 23-25: NFL draft, Las Vegas.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Atlantic	63	39	12	12	90	208	159
Boston	62	40	17	5	85	221	171
Tampa Bay	63	32	23	8	72	220	210
Florida	62	32	24	6	70	217	212
Buffalo	62	29	25	8	66	182	193
Montreal	64	29	27	8	66	194	195
Ottawa	62	21	30	11	53	164	212
Detroit	64	15	45	4	34	130	240
Metropolitan	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	62	38	18	6	82	218	190
Pittsburgh	61	37	18	6	80	201	168
Philadelphia	62	35	20	7	77	206	183
N.Y. Islanders	61	35	20	6	76	176	164
Carolina	61	35	22	4	74	201	172
Columbus	63	30	19	14	74	162	163
N.Y. Rangers	61	33	24	4	70	203	188
New Jersey	61	24	27	10	58	167	210

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Central	63	36	17	10	82	200	174
St. Louis	61	36	18	7	79	212	166
Colorado	62	36	20	6	78	167	159
Dallas	64	32	27	5	69	193	191
Winnipeg	61	30	23	8	68	195	196
Nashville	61	29	25	7	65	186	197
Minnesota	62	27	27	8	62	182	197

LOCAL CALENDAR

HS BASEBALL

4:15 p.m.
St. Augustine vs. Cigarroa at Vets Field
7 p.m.
Martin vs. Nixon at Vets Field

HS SOCCER

7:30 p.m.
United vs. Alexander at SAC

TV

BIATHLON

Noon
NBCSN — IBU World Championship:
Women's 12.5km Mass Start, Antholz-Anterselva, Italy (taped)

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

6 p.m.
ESPN — Louisville at Florida State
ESPN — West Virginia at Texas
8 p.m.
BTN — Nebraska at Illinois
8 p.m.
ESPN — Oklahoma State at Kansas

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)

6 p.m.
ESPN2 — Duke at North Carolina
State
FS1 — Baylor at West Virginia
8 p.m.
ESPN2 — Oregon at Stanford

MLB

Noon
MLBN — Spring Training: Baltimore

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Pacific	63	33	22	8	74	202	191
Vegas	61	33	22	6	72	203	187
Vancouver	61	32	22	7	71	194	190
Edmonton	63	32	25	6	70	187	196
Calgary	65	31	26	8	70	181	174
Arizona	62	26	32	4	56	159	203
San Jose	61	24	30	7	55	156	191
Anaheim	62	24	34	6	50	154	199
Los Angeles	62	24	34	6	50	154	199

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Saturday's games

Buffalo 5, Pittsburgh 2
Philadelphia 4, Winnipeg 2
New Jersey 3, Washington 2
N.Y. Rangers 3, San Jose 2
Montreal 3, Ottawa 0
Mntrreal 3, Tampa Bay 3
Nashville 4, Columbus 3, So Vegas 5, Florida 3
Vancouver 9, Boston 3
Colorado 2, Los Angeles 1, SO

Sunday's games

vs. Philadelphia, Clearwater, Fla.

NBA

Noon
ESPN — Kobe Bryant Memorial Service
6 p.m.
NBATV — Atlanta at Philadelphia
9:30 p.m.
NBATV — Memphis at LA Clippers

SOCCER

1:20 p.m.
FS2 — Bundesliga: Union Berlin at Frankfurt
1:55 p.m.
NBCSN — Premier League: West Ham at Liverpool

TENNIS

4 a.m.
TENNIS — ATP/WTA: Dubai-ATP, Santiago-ATP, Doha-WTA
2:00 p.m.
TENNIS — ATP/WTA: Dubai-ATP, Santiago-ATP, Doha-WTA
4 p.m.
ESPN — ATP: Abierto Mexicano, Acapulco, Mexico
3 a.m.
TENNIS — ATP/WTA: Dubai-ATP, Santiago-ATP, Doha-WTA
4 a.m. (Tuesday)
TENNIS — ATP/WTA: Dubai-ATP, Santiago-ATP, Doha-WTA
5 a.m. (Tuesday)
TENNIS — ATP/WTA: Dubai-ATP, Santiago-ATP, Doha-WTA

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball

American League

BOSTON REDSOX: Claimed RHP Phillips Valdez off waivers from Seattle.
SEATTLE MARINERS: Agreed to terms with OF Rymer Liriano on a minor league contract.

NIXON

From page B1

tangs ended the year with an 87-74 victory against Alexander, who had a chance to clinch a share of the District 29-6A title with a win.

“After our tough loss to United, we came back confident,” senior guard LJ Herrera said. “We wanted to learn more. We built more chemistry with one another. We communicated more and we were able to take constructive criticism.”

Solis is adamant that all he knows is how to coach 10 players. He can't fathom only using seven or eight players. He considers coaches who can utilize that small of a rotation a genius.

“I don't know how to coach

eight guys or even seven guys,” Solis said. “Here in Laredo, we have coaches who know how to coach seven or eight guys. I think they are masterminds. Me, I'm only good at coaching 10 guys. That's what I'm good at.”

For nearly two months, Solis and the Mustangs didn't have the luxury of utilizing 10 players throughout their rotation. When one player came back healthy, Nixon would lose another athlete to injury. It was a cycle that frustrated and limited the Green & Gold.

The Mustangs started the year at less than 100% — that's what Solis credited Nixon's slow start, too. Once the Mustangs got healthy, they went on a 16-win streak that was ended by Edinburg Vela on Dec. 20.

Nixon competed in three

tournaments and won two of them — the Border Olympics and New Braunfels tournament. The only event it didn't win was the Kingsville Holiday shootout. The Mustangs lost in the championship game against now No. 20 Los Fresno 62-58. Yet, Nixon was without starters Bryan Garcia and Jonathan Garcia in the defeat.

Another example of how different the Mustangs are with a full, healthy lineup is their two district contests against Alexander. Herrera missed the first league matchup against the Bulldogs due to a concussion and Nixon fell 54-41. Herrera played in the second district contest against Alexander and the Mustangs won.

“We have 10 guys now and we can go five in, five out,” Solis said. “We weren't able to

go five in, five out at times this season.

“Once we got 10 guys, it is easy for me to pull out the philosophy and run the system. We can put up points and tire out teams a little bit more. That's our game plan. Everyone is going to hang with us. The first quarter is going to be close. The second quarter is going to be close. The third quarter will too. The key is the final quarter is where they wear out and we take advantage of that.”

The hot-handed Mustangs now enter the postseason with the mindset of reaching yet another Elite Eight and hopefully getting over the hump and make it to state this season. Nixon opens the playoffs at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday against PSJA North — a team it beat ear-

lier this year 77-72 — at La Grulla High School in Rio Grande City.

“We feel good heading into the playoffs,” junior forward Bryan Garcia said. “This is our time.”

“We have been hitting a lot of shots lately. We have been playing good defense. And we are executing more.”

Nixon is finally healthy. It has found its groove offensively and is ready to get the post-season started as it hopes to make yet another deep run.

“I wish we had the playoff game (last) Friday. That's how good I feel,” Solis said. “We should be really fresh on Tuesday.”

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SOCCER

From page B1

league champion United.

As for the Bulldogs (3-2-0), they have had a solid district season too. Yet

SPORTS

Astros to ask more of Zack Greinke in 2020

By Chandler Rome
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — The decision haunting Houston baseball fans for four months hasn't hounded Zack Greinke. In the seventh inning of the World Series' seventh game, with the Astros ahead by a run in their home ballpark, Greinke was yanked with the tying run aboard. He was untouchable for six innings, the best showing of his still-brief Houston tenure.

"Let two guys get on base, and that was just kind of how I was used ever since I got to the team," Greinke said Saturday.

Greinke's arrival in July gave the Astros a third big-name starter behind workhorses Justin Verlander and Gerrit Cole. Rarely, though, was the six-time All-Star relied upon for a long outing.

Greinke threw more than six innings only thrice in 10 regular-season appearances as an Astro. He tossed more than 95 pitches just five times. A wide division lead and the two flamethrowers who preceded him allowed the tactic to work.

After Greinke's arrival on July 31, the Astros' lead in the American League West never got lower than 6½ games. Cole and Verlander were embroiled in a head-to-head race for the American League Cy Young Award. If both were pitching well, former manager A.J. Hinch didn't want to show a preference, so both were permitted to pitch deep.

Greinke appeared on a different plan, one that manifested itself in Game 7 against the Washington Nationals. He had yielded only one baserunner before Anthony Rendon struck a one-out



Karen Warren / Houston Chronicle

Zack Greinke threw more than six innings only thrice in 10 regular-season appearances as an Astro last year.

solo home run in the seventh. A walk to Juan Soto — aided by a questionable call on a 2-1 change-up — ended Greinke's night. The Nationals scored five times after his departure, beginning the Astros' brutal offseason.

"I just (pitched) my five innings, six innings and let the bullpen do the rest," Greinke said. "That's kind of how I was being used. It was kind of expected."

Expectations will be altered in 2020 for the enigmatic 36-year-old righthander. Greinke is now elevated to Verlander's co-ace in a rotation that must cope with Cole's absence and absorb uncertainty in the fourth and fifth spots.

Allowing Greinke to operate with a longer leash is nothing new. He has thrown at least 200 innings in five of his last six seasons. In 23 starts with Arizona last season, Greinke threw more than six innings 12 times.

Pitching deep is impossible without pitching well. Greinke reported to his first Astros spring training 10 days later than his fellow pitchers and catchers. He has a noted disdain for the monotony of spring.

Manager Dusty Baker gave Greinke's odd timing his blessing, but skepticism exists even from Greinke that he will be at full strength for the start of the regular season.

Last year, when he reported to Diamondbacks spring training two days behind his fellow pitchers, Greinke endured a wretched beginning. After his first four starts, Greinke wore an ERA of 5.79. Opponents had an .866 OPS against him and struck eight home runs in 231/3 innings.

"I just try to get healthy (in spring training) and try to get all my pitches working, about like a start or so before the season," Greinke said. "That's in a perfect

world. Sometimes over the last couple years, I've been not quite ready even when the season starts. But it just happens."

During his hiatus, Greinke worked out at Orlando-based Rollins College, "did some running" and threw a few bullpen sessions. On Sunday, his first full day in camp, Greinke faced Yuli Gurriel, Alex Bregman, Carlos Correa and Garrett Stubbs in a well-attended live batting practice session. Correa took him deep to left field, after which Greinke grumbled, "Aw, man." Stubbs stung a few balls, too.

"He can pitch. He can really pitch," Baker said. "He can get all his pitches over at any time. He reminds me of the modern-day Greg Maddux. He doesn't have high velocity, but he has high control and savvy of how he wants to pitch and what he wants to do."

Greinke's one stated spring training goal is to solve the regression of his slider. He's thrown the pitch at least 16 percent of the time in each of the past four seasons. In 2016, opponents hit .191 against it. In 2017, it induced a 44.5 percent whiff rate.

Last season? The slider was knocked around for a .308 batting average. It generated a swing and miss just 27.2 percent of the time.

"Hopefully, I could get it better. But more importantly, (I'm) just trying to keep the other pitches as good as they were the last couple years and not let them get worse," Greinke said. "If the slider could get better at the same time, that'd be nice. But it's probably not going to happen."

Adjusting his batting stroke has helped prospect Jones better utilize his power

By Chandler Rome
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Taylor Jones threw a mean two-seam fastball, one that ran substantially, hovered in the high 80s and was wicked on college hitters who couldn't pick up the baseball from Jones' wiry frame. He threw almost 100 innings during two seasons at Gonzaga, alternating time between the mound and occasional designated hitter duties.

But some time during his junior year, Jones had a revelation. His swing, though still so very raw, was in sync. Hitting came easier. Extra base hits piled up and Jones' natural athleticism shined at first base. The allure of playing every day overtook appearing once or twice a week.

"I transitioned and said 'I don't want to pitch anymore,'" Jones said this week.

"I always had a passion for being a position player and playing every day."

Now, Jones towers over almost everyone in the Astros' spring training clubhouse but eschews any other attention. He stands 6-foot-7, forecasted as the first baseman of the not so distant future.

Most mornings, the 26-year-old breakout prospect squeezes his long frame into a folding chair at his corner locker and scrolls through an iPhone. He repeated the routine Saturday before facing three-time Cy Young winner Max Scherzer in the team's Grapefruit League opener.

"Obviously, being close (to the major leagues) and being in Class AAA all last year and playing well, you get excited because the next step is the big leagues," Jones said. "I just have to keep doing the same thing I've been doing and then they make the decisions at the end of the day. If I can just go out and do what I do, the rest will take care of itself."

Jones traveled a circuitous route onto the Astros radar — from high school basketball player to pitcher and, now, versatile infielder. A swing fix found previously untapped power. Natural athleticism allowed the club to try him at different positions, key for Jones' chances at eventually cracking the major league roster.

Of the 125 Class AAA games Jones started last season, 15 were at third base. Thirty others were in the outfield. His athleticism is natural and his frame affords absurd reach on balls in the gap or deep in the hole.

"We got video of him ranging long ways," said Class AAA manager Mickey Storey. "We play in



Karen Warren / Houston Chronicle

The organization's top power prospect Taylor Jones is the Astros' projected first baseman of the not-too-distant future.

the shift a ton — lefthanded pull shift — and I got a chance to move him from third to the (shortstop) spot and I never felt the need to. Being as long as he is, he's able to cover a pretty good amount of range."

Jones is the latest in a long line of Astros minor leaguers who've been asked to increase their versatility. For Abraham Toro and Myles Straw, their request was the final step before a call-up.

"Very impressive the first couple of weeks," Houston bench coach Joe Espada said. "I'm excited to see more. He's going to get an opportunity to open some eyes here this spring."

As Yuli Gurriel enters his final season under club control, the organizational first-base depth is depleted. Former top prospect AJ Reed was put on waivers last year. Seth Beer went to Arizona in the Zack Greinke deal. Yordan Alvarez is a left fielder — if he ever plays defense at all.

Kyle Tucker experimented at first base during the minor league season, but acknowledged this week he "hasn't really been working much" as an infielder lately. When Tucker was, Jones was the man he emulated.

"He's one of the best first basemen in (minor league) baseball," Tucker said. "And he rakes."

Houston added Jones to its 40-man roster this winter — the only other primary first baseman on the roster. Addressing the position during the offseason is almost a given, but Jones' stellar recent production offers a reassuring internal option.

"To me, the (major league) opportunity was there last year," Storey said. "I know there were

some who were on board with me and it just didn't work out."

Manager Dusty Baker will utilize the first few weeks of spring training to better learn the "kids," those prospects with an opportunity to affect the major league club at some point this season. His Saturday lineup was littered with them — from ballyhooed prospects Jeremy Peña and Cristian Javier to major league experienced youngsters Garrett Stubbs and Straw.

Jones is in neither category. The team selected him in the 19th round during the 2016 draft. He finished his first full season of affiliated ball with a .634 OPS. He struck out 101 times in 365 at-bats. Rediscovering his swing during the following season supplied hope.

"He kind of started to figure out that he's a strong guy, has great plate discipline and his swing decisions are really good," Storey said. "Just kind of control what you can control and let the rest take part

In the hitter-friendly Pacific Coast League, Jones slugged .501 and struck 50 extra-base hits last season. He became a mainstay in Storey's everyday lineup, after the manager acknowledged in a face-to-face meeting months earlier that at-bats may be difficult to earn.

"He's probably one of the hardest working guys we got — puts in serious amounts of time in the cage and he's always a pro," Storey said. "The evolution of Taylor Jones, credit goes to him. He's taken what we've been able to give him and absorb it and run with it and kind of develop his own deal. His understanding

of hitting has really blossomed."

Jones entered professional baseball as a self-diagnosed "steep hitter," someone who popped up too many hittable pitches and bounced others into the ground. In college, he wiggled his bat during his pre-pitch setup. His hands were sometimes centered. The commotion caused an uneven swing, rushed decisions and poor pitch selection.

Work with organizational hitting coaches Ben Rosenthal and Troy Snitker solved Jones' problems. His swing is now flatter, enhancing his ability to get behind and drive the baseball. He hardly moves his bat before a pitcher delivers.

"If I'm not moving prior as much, I have less time to get on plane," Jones said. "Making movements to start to be on plane makes everything quicker and everything more simple. It helped with decision making. Now I have more time in my load to get the fastball or offspeed pitch. I think it all correlates."

With the swing changes implemented, Jones hit 22 home runs last season. He had 33 in the three years of professional ball that preceded it. Just this week, MLB Pipeline labeled Jones as the team's top power prospect.

"There was still some questions on the bat last year," Storey said. "Everyone knew he could play first base, but now it's like 'Oh, he can play third, he can play left, he can hit.' It's a much easier situation for him to break through this year. And I don't see how it doesn't happen, honestly."

SPORTS SHORTS

LMT Sports Desk
Hotline

Please email Sports@LMTOnline.com with any score reports, team or program information, athletic fundraisers, tournaments, etc.

All score reports must be made by 9:30 p.m. by email to be published the following day. They must include final results of games and team records.

For announcements, please include the who, what, when (include specific end date) and where along with contact information to be published. No handwritten, phoned in or dropped off announcements will be published; **they must be emailed** and have all the necessary information in paragraph form, not in a PDF or picture.

Send us your pictures!

We want to publish pictures of Laredoans enjoying different sporting events. From supporting your local team to photos of athletic or outdoors action, email your pictures to Sports@LMTOnline.com by Sunday afternoon and they could be featured in Tuesday's 956 Sports Unlimited.

Texas seeks revenge on WVU

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas seeks revenge on West Virginia after dropping the first matchup in Morgantown West Virginia (19-8, 7-7) vs. Texas (16-11, 6-8)

Frank Erwin Special Events Center, Austin, Texas; Monday, 7 p.m. EST

BOTTOM LINE: West Virginia goes for the season sweep over Texas after winning the previous matchup in Morgantown. The teams last faced each other on Jan. 20, when the Mountaineers outshot Texas from the field 51.4 percent to 35.8 percent and had 10 fewer turnovers en route to a 97-59 victory.

STEPPING UP: The Mountaineers are led by Oscar Tshiebwe and Derek Culver. Tshiebwe has averaged 11 points and 9.3 rebounds while Culver has recorded 10.4 points and 8.7 rebounds per game. The Longhorns have been led by Matt Coleman III and Courtney Ramey, who have combined to score 23 points per outing. **MIGHTY MATT:** Coleman has connected on 41.2 percent of the 97 3-pointers he's attempted and has made 4 of 11 over the last five games. He's also made 78.6 percent of his free throws this season.

UNBEATEN WHEN: Texas is a perfect 6-0 when the team records eight or more steals. The Longhorns are 10-11 when they steal the ball fewer than eight times.

STREAK STATS: West Virginia has lost its last five road games, scoring 65.4 points, while allowing 75.8 per game.

DID YOU KNOW: The West Virginia defense has allowed only 61.5 points per game to opponents, which is the 13th-best mark in the country. The Texas offense has produced just 64.6 points through 27 games (ranked 293rd among Division I teams).

Red Sox put former AL MVP Pedroia on 60-day injured list

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) — The Boston Red Sox placed second baseman Dustin Pedroia on the 60-day injured list Sunday, further putting in doubt whether the former AL MVP will play again.

The Red Sox made the move while claiming right-hander Phillips Valdez off waivers from the Seattle Mariners.

The 36-year-old Pedroia has played just nine games over the last two seasons. The four-time All-Star has spent the time trying to recover from an injury he sustained when Baltimore's Manny Machado slid spikes-high into his left knee in May 2017.

Pedroia has two years and \$25 million remaining on his contract.

Earlier this month, new Boston manager Ron Roenicke said Pedroia wouldn't report to spring training with the rest of the position players.

"When a guy just ages and then he's not as good, that part's easy to see. But not a guy who has an injury and because of it has not been able to perform," Roenicke said at the time. "That part is really difficult."

This was the third straight spring the Red Sox were hoping Pedroia could return to the lineup. They signed infielder Jose Peraza to a one-year contract in December, and Michael Chavis also plays second base.

Pedroia is the longest-tenured player on the Red Sox roster. He was AL Rookie of the Year when Boston won the 2007 World Series, was AL MVP and the next season and helped the Red Sox win another title in 2013.

Pedroia had surgery after the 2017 season and admitted to rushing back the next year. He played in only three games in late May before going back on the injured list as the Red Sox posted a franchise-record 108 wins and another crown.

Last season, Pedroia played just six games. Over the winter, the Red Sox said Pedroia had incurred a "significant setback" in his comeback bid.

Pedroia is a four-time Gold Glove winner with a career .299 batting average, 140 home runs and 725 RBIs.

The 28-year-old Valdez made his major league debut last season. He was 0-0 with a 3.94 ERA in 11 relief appearances for Texas. The Mariners claimed off waivers from Texas in November.

LMT Comics

GARFIELD

I AM SO SLEEPY...

Z

NOW BACK TO BEING SLEEPY

THE WIZARD OF ID

ABRACADABRA!

NOPE. STILL NOTHING

I DON'T THINK MAGIC IS GOING TO SOLVE THIS ONE...

VERY WELL

THAT'S WHEN SCIENCE TAKES OVER!

SHOE

MY GIRLFRIEND DUMPED ME. I WANT YOU TO PUT A CURSE ON HER.

WASN'T DATING YOU CURSE ENOUGH?

B.C.

PILLOW FIGHT!

YEE-HAW!

I WARNED YOU GUYS ABOUT THIS...

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

SHALL I POUR?

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO LET IT BREATHE!

I SAY WE KILL IT NOW!

BABY BLUE

WHATCHA WORKING ON, HAMMIE?

SCHOOL PAPER

WE HAVE TO CHOOSE A SPIRIT ANIMAL AND WRITE ABOUT IT.

I'M GOING WITH "STINKBUG."

MAJESTIC.

SALLY FORTH

ARE YOU SURE THIS TRIP WITH JACKIE IS SUCH A GOOD IDEA?

SERIOUSLY, TED, WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

TWO OCCASIONALLY ESTRANGED SISTERS, A REMOTE CABIN, WORD OF AN APPROACHING SNOWSTORM. IT HAS ALL THE MAKINGS OF A BLUMHOUSE FILM.

IT'LL BE FINE! BESIDES, YOU DON'T SEE ME WORRYING ABOUT YOU AND HILARY.

THAT'S BECAUSE WE'LL BE MORE LIKE A 1990 CHRIS COLUMBUS MOVIE.

YEAH, WELL, "HOME ALONE" ASIDE, IF YOU BURN AN INTRUDER'S SKULL WITH A BLOWTORCH THEY WILL PROBABLY SUE.

BEETLE BAILEY

I'M SO BEAT, I CAN BARELY STAND!

THAT'S TOO BAD, I WAS GOING TO GIVE YOU A PASS TO TOWN FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK

OH, REALLY?!

...AFTER YOU DO GUARD DUTY

DILBERT

THE ONLY WAY TO SUCCEED IN THIS COMPANY IS BY WORKING HARDER THAN EVERYONE ELSE.

WOULDN'T THAT MEAN ONLY ONE PERSON IN THE COMPANY CAN BE SUCCESSFUL?

I MIGHT NEED TO REETHINK MY MOTIVATIONAL MESSAGES.

MAYBE SAVE THOSE FOR YOUR DUMBER EMPLOYEES.

ZITS

JEREMY, CHECK THIS OUT...

WHAAT?

I MADE A BODYBUILDING APP.

CAN ANYBODY USE IT?

NOT YET. I'M STILL WORKING OUT THE KINKS.

BLONDIE

BOSS, I'M AFRAID THE MORALE IN THE OFFICE IS AT AN ALL-TIME LOW

OH, THAT ISN'T GOOD, MY BOY

I KNOW EXACTLY HOW TO HANDLE A SITUATION LIKE THIS

GUESS WHO HAD TO LEAD A PEP RALLY AT THE OFFICE TODAY?

SLYLOCK FOX

Count Weirdly claims he is selling 50 pearls, one from each of the 50 giant clams he says he randomly harvested from coral reefs in the South Pacific. Slylock Fox told the animals not to shell out money. Why?

BALDO

SERGIO, IF YOU WANT TO TAKE OFF YOUR WEDDING RING...

AND FOREVER FORGET YOUR BEAUTIFUL ROSA AND THE ETERNAL LOVE YOU TWO SHARED...

THAT'S YOUR DECISION.

TIA CARMEN...

THAT IS NOT TRUE!

BREAKING CAT NEWS

I brought all the stakeout essentials

Sunglasses.

Coffee.

Fake mustaches.

HECK YISSSS.

HI AND LOISE

I CAN'T SLEEP.

CAN YOU GET ME SOMETHING WHILE YOU'RE UP?

NOT MANY HUSBANDS SERVE THEIR WIVES "MIDNIGHT SNACKS IN BED."

PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN

Book report's due tomorrow. You done with yours?

Nope. I'll do it tonight.

Really? I'm done before the nerd girl?

The idea that nerds don't procrastinate is a total myth.

That's a nerdy thing to say.

Everyting I say is a nerdy thing to say.

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

KAHUNA HIG ARMS AND LEGS. WOW.

THAT'S JUST PLAIN WEIRD

KAHUNA, HOW DO YOU FEEL? CAN YOU WALK?

KAHUNA WEAK.

YOU HAVE TO MAKE IT TO KAPOPU FALLS. THE WATER WILL RESTORE YOUR MAGICAL POWERS

KAHUNA TRY.

I THINK WE FOUND ROCK BOTTOM.

AND IT'S NOT PRETTY.

PEANUTS

HERE YOU GOT AN OFFICIAL LETTER.

OOO! I LOVE OFFICIAL LETTERS!

AT LEAST YOU KNOW THAT IT'S NOT A TRAFFIC CITATION.

DOGS NEVER GET TRAFFIC CITATIONS NOR JURY DUTY

THAT'S WHAT IS KNOWN AS "SMALL CONSOLATION!"

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

I WANT TO WORK HARD AND BE RICH.

HOW COME?

BECAUSE WHEN YOU'RE RICH, ALL YOUR WORRIES GO AWAY.

NO THEY DON'T. IN FACT, SOMETIMES YOU GET NEW ONES

MY LIFE OF SLOTH HAS BEEN VALIDATED.

BARNEY

I'LL BE USIN' A LOCAL ANESTHETIC FER THIS, SNUFFY !!

LOCAL ?!

WHO GOT THAR STILL BACK UP AN' RUNNIN' ?!

FAMILY CIRCUS



2-24
©2020 by Jeff Keane. All rights reserved. www.keane.com
"Being a grandma must've been boring before us kids came along."
By Jeff KEANE

DENNIS THE MENACE



2-24
©2020 by Dennis Lee. All rights reserved. www.dennislee.com
"Well... Jack found a GIANT in his beanstalk. See the problems vegetables can cause?"

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

	7	5	4		3			
		9	2	1	7			8
	2		7		4	9		
	6	2		9	5	8	7	
5		8				9		6
	7	9	6	1		5	2	
	1	6		8			4	
2		3	1	4	9			
	8		7	6		1		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

2	5	9	3	4	6	8	1	7
3	8	7	9	1	5	4	6	2
4	6	1	8	7	2	9	5	3
5	3	8	7	9	4	1	2	6
6	9	4	2	3	1	7	8	5
1	7	2	6	5	8	3	4	9
9	2	6	4	8	3	5	7	1
8	1	3	5	6	7	2	9	4
7	4	5	1	2	9	6	3	8

HINTS | BY HELOISE

Dear Readers: Today's SOUND OFF is about returns at department stores:

Dear Heloise: Working in retail has taught me how rude some people can be when they try to return an item that was a gift. I wish the public understood that I must follow store policy. If you've used the cookware, we won't take it back. If you wore the prom dress, wedding dress or bridesmaid dress, we won't take it back. Believe me, we know if it's been worn or not.

We will cheerfully take back a number of things, but all that wedding china you registered for is yours. If the store gives you a store credit instead of cash, please don't argue with the staff or management. We don't write the return guidelines, we just follow them. Shouting at the salesperson won't solve the problem. If you need to return an item, please take it back to the store where it was bought. -- Tibby D. in Detroit

Dear Readers: Here are some new uses for apple cider vinegar:

* To wash fruits and vegetables.

* As a weed killer.

* As a hair rinse: 1 part apple cider vinegar to 1 part water to remove product buildup.

* To trap fruit flies, pour into a cup and add some dish soap.

-- Heloise

HOCKEY STICK HELP-ER

Dear Heloise: I have found a clever way to retrieve an item from my pickup bed without having to climb up and in. I use a hockey stick, bought cheaply at a thrift store, to



reach out and snag the item and pull it toward me. The stick stays permanently in the pickup bed for quick access when needed. -- Larry F., Salem, Ore.

TIMESHARE ALERTS

Dear Heloise: Having trouble getting out of a timeshare investment? Contact a resort management company or perhaps a timeshare developer to see if you can get help unloading that obligation. You might want to discuss a "deed back" that can help you get rid of your timeshare. However, please be very suspicious of scammers who promise to get owners out of their timeshare for an upfront fee. They usually target elderly people and demand thousands of dollars for services that they never perform. -- Taylor H., Norman, Okla.

Dear Heloise: I've taught school for many years, and I would like to encourage parents to take time out and help their younger children to read. Find books that are a little above their child's reading level, be patient and help them learn to enjoy reading. My father taught me to read the Sunday funnies when I was 4 years old, and my mother taught me phonics to sound out difficult words. They made it fun. Learning to read well at an early age helps a child achieve better comprehension of the written word and opens a world of knowledge for them. -- Violet H., Boca Raton, Fla.

LOCKHORNS



"REGARDING THE LAST QUARTER... THAT'S WHAT WE'RE DOWN TO."

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-24 CRYPTOQUOTE

XMM QXVKJ LXI X CKJNKHV

SKSBJR XGY WI NBJKPKJ

VJRWGA VB AKV TXHU VB

QLKJK WV QXI. — VBGW

SBJJWIBG

Saturday's Cryptoquote: A BUDGET TELLS US WHAT WE CAN'T AFFORD, BUT IT DOESN'T KEEP US FROM BUYING IT. — WILLIAM FEATHER

Ripley's Believe It or Not!

"FORNICATION"
IS THE SCIENTIFIC TERM FOR THE EMANATION THAT SMALL INSECTS ARE CRAWLING OVER YOUR SKIN.

IN 1877, AUSTRIAN SURGEON CARL NICOLADONI PERFORMED THE FIRST TOE-TO-THUMB SURGERY BY CONNECTING A MAN'S HAND TO HIS FOOT AT THE BASE OF THE GREAT TOE. AFTER SPENDING SEVERAL WEEKS RECOVERING, HE DECIDED TO IMPROVE THE CONNECTION BY REMOVING THE SKIN BETWEEN THE TOE AND THE FOOT.

IN 2008, A 13-YEAR-OLD BOY IN FLORIDA WAS ARRESTED FOR "EXCESSIVE FARTING" DURING CLASS.

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 42 — voce
 - 1 Media mogul
 - 6 Herring's kin
 - 10 Italian "You're welcome"
 - 11 Macaroni shapes
 - 13 Folded meals
 - 14 Ouzo flavor
 - 15 Wedding words
 - 16 Black goo
 - 18 Sgt.'s superior
 - 19 Autos built to show new designs
 - 22 Bullfight cry
 - 23 Not recorded
 - 24 Inclines
 - 27 Swiss cheese features
 - 28 Old Atlanta arena
 - 29 Poker prize
 - 30 Recital setting
 - 35 Had lunch
 - 36 Stick up
 - 37 Even score
 - 38 Soda bottle size
 - 40 Conjure up

DOWN

- 1 Eye-related
- 2 Madrid museum
- 3 Scout's job
- 4 In the past
- 5 Backpackers' stopovers
- 6 Begin
- 7 Attila, for one
- 8 John Adams' wife
- 9 Merit
- 12 Hearing and smell, for two
- 17 Gorilla, for hand
- 20 Like a dunce cap
- 21 Dress material
- 24 Village residents
- 25 State of mind
- 26 Bening of "Bugsy"
- 27 Activity centers
- 29 Old hand
- 31 Mistake amends
- 32 Make amends
- 33 Was fond of
- 34 Lusty looks
- 39 Seventh Greek letter
- 41 Compete

T	E	T	E	L	I	N	K	
C	O	R	E	S	A	R	O	A
A	P	O	R	T	T	E	R	R
B	E	D	M	A	T	E	W	A
I	K	E	T	A	X	R	A	T
T	A	S	S	E	L	E	E	S
		A	S	K	I	N		
D	R	E	I	S	C	O	W	L
R	A	N	L	A	T	E	E	A
E	G	G		H	O	T	D	A
A	L	I	V	E		R	A	P
M	A	N	I	A		A	L	O
N	E	E	D			Y	E	N

Saturday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10					11			12
13					14			
15			16	17			18	
19		20				21		
22						23		
24	25	26			27			
28					29			
30			31				32	33
34							37	
35			36					
38		39			40	41		
42						43		
44						45		

HOROSCOPES BY FRANCIS DRAKE

ARIES

(March 21 to April 19)
This is a fabulous day to research anything because you have a lot of mental energy, plus you're very keen to explore the past. Expect excellent results for your efforts!

TAURUS

(April 20 to May 20)
Today you can expect to have a dynamic discussion with someone younger, someone from the past or perhaps an old friend or contact from a group or organization. You might help this person with their future goals, or vice versa.

GEMINI

(May 21 to June 20)
An important discussion with an old boss, parent or someone in authority you haven't seen in a while might be beneficial today. This person might encourage you to get back on track.

CANCER

(June 21 to July 22)
You find it easy to study history, philosophy and matters related to the past today. You're curious and keen to learn as much as you can.

LEO

(July 23 to Aug. 22)
This is a great day to plow through old details regarding insurance issues, taxes, debt and shared property. First, organize your papers, because once you've done this, you're halfway there.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)
Ex-partners and old friends are back in your world again. Today a discussion might help you finalize something or bring something to a closure. It's time.

LIBRA

(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)
Even though you're gung-ho to work hard today, you will encounter delays, misplaced paperwork,

missed appointments and confused communication. Grin and bear it.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
Old flames and ex-lovers might be back on the scene. This can always be touchy and threatening. Dress well to boost your confidence.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
Family discussions about old matters and old business will go well today, because people are ready for this. You might talk to a relative you haven't seen in a while.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
Car problems, transportation problems and mixed-up communications are par for the course right now. Ironically, you have something you want to say but you are plagued with delays.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
Checks might be late in the mail because money delays are likely now. On the upside, this is a good time to correct past financial errors. Do what you can.

PISCES

(Feb. 19 to March 20)
Despite your eagerness to communicate to others and get things done today, you are plagued by delays, cancellations and misplaced items. This can be maddening, especially when you're busy!

YOU BORN TODAY

You are gentle, compassionate and intuitive. You care and want to be able to benefit others. Finally, this year your hard work will start to pay off! Simplify your life and focus on how to build solid foundations. Work with purpose. Physical exercise will be important, which is why you should explore enjoyable physical activities. Birthdate of: Rashida Jones, actress; Tea Leoni, actress; Anson Mount, actor.

ADVICE | DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: My son is engaged to a young woman I'll call Carla. They are currently living with my husband and me to save money and pay off bills. They fight often. Because of this, my husband and I were not excited when they flippantly announced their engagement and also flippantly announced their wedding date recently. I just said, "That's nice" or "congratulations."

I don't dislike Carla, and I would be truly OK if they could make each other happy most of the time. But because of their arguing and unresolved issues, I do not have confidence in their relationship.

I think they may ask us for money to help with wedding expenses, and unfortunately, I feel it would be throwing money away. How awful is that? Advice? — UNENTHUSED MOM IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR MOM: If you are asked to chip in for the wedding expenses, consider making it conditional. Tell your son and Carla that you are deeply concerned because of the amount of fighting you see they do, and if they will agree to premarital counseling, you will be glad to help them.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have two grown sons. We work full time and are financially secure.

The conundrum: We have one grandchild who will soon turn 1. I asked my daughter-in-law for gift ideas because I know she already has more than enough clothes and toys. My daughter-in-law promptly responded that they will soon be needing a new car seat, and that she'd also like a nice running stroller.

They both have good jobs. They can easily afford such items. Now I feel that if we don't produce one of these as



a gift, she'll think we're cheap, but honestly, I consider such things to be simply items parents should be responsible for if they can afford them. I really would like to get our grandbaby something unique that will withstand the test of time. Now I wish I hadn't asked! — REGRETFUL INQUIRING GRANDMA

DEAR REGRETFUL: You may wish you hadn't asked, but you did. While you're not obligated to give the gifts your daughter-in-law asked for, in the interest of family harmony, it would be a good idea to give her one of the necessities she requested. And in the future, DON'T ASK!

DEAR ABBY: In my work, the department I'm responsible for has employees working in various locations throughout the U.S. I want to have an annual picnic at my home to show appreciation to my team. The problem is, I do not have the budget to pay for travel for employees who work in remote offices. Should I not invite these remote employees? Should I invite them but inform them that their travel won't be reimbursed, or just not have the picnic at all? — NOT ENOUGH IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR NOT ENOUGH: Rather than invite workers from all over the country to a celebration you know they won't be able to attend, consider having a small gathering at your home for the locals. Send gift cards for the favorite restaurants of the employees in distant locations. It would be thoughtful and generous and would cost far less than subsidizing travel expenses.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Gilgeous-Alexander leads Thunder past Spurs

By Cliff Brunt
ASSOCIATED PRESS

OKLAHOMA CITY — San Antonio Spurs coach Gregg Popovich was surly, even by his standards, during his postgame media session.

It was easy to see why. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 22 points and 13 rebounds, Steven Adams added 21 points and 14 rebounds and the Oklahoma City Thunder rolled past the Spurs 131-103. It was Oklahoma City's largest victory margin ever against San Antonio.

Popovich interrupted reporters mid question and gave terse answers. About a minute into the session, Popovich asked, "Are there any other questions that are going to amaze me, because I've got to talk to my boss."

There were no further questions. Luguentz Dort, a rookie who is on a two-way contract, scored 15 points on 6-for-6 shooting for Oklahoma City. Chris Paul added 12 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds to help the Thunder win for the 12th time in 15 games. Eight Oklahoma City players scored in double figures — a first for the team since moving from Seattle in 2008. The Thunder had seven players in double figures on Friday in a win over Denver.

"We are playing unselfishly, and that's what Coach (Billy Donovan) is telling us to do," Thunder guard Dennis Schroder said. "Just moving the ball, and people had great shots or (sometimes) good shots, you know, then passing the ball for a great shot. It's just amazing to see."

The Spurs shot just 37% from the field. Rudy Gay scored 14 points and Marco Belinelli added 13. DeMar DeRozan was held to 11 points and LaMarcus Aldridge scored just eight — both well below their averages.

The Spurs led 45-36 in the second quarter before the Thunder went on a 16-0 run. Oklahoma City led 61-55 at halftime behind 13 points from Dort.

The Thunder opened the second half on an 8-2 run, and the Spurs called a timeout. The Thunder continued to roll and outscored the Spurs 37-18 in the third quarter to take a 98-73 lead. The Thunder shot 66.7% in the quarter while the Spurs shot 23.8%.

Early in the fourth quarter, Adams passed behind his back to Schroder, who lobbed the ball to Adams for a one-handed throwdown that gave the Thunder a 104-77 lead.

It was a tough loss for a Spurs team that was coming off a solid win at Utah on Friday.

"We have been playing well, but after that first half, it just looked like they didn't have any juice," Popovich said. "And in the second half, we were behind the eight ball in a lot of different ways."

Newcomers find Rockets' offense an easy fit

By Jonathan Feigen
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

SALT LAKE CITY — The Rockets trailed the Lakers by one hour after Robert Covington had joined them and immediately found himself in the rotation and in the spotlight. Russell Westbrook was at the point, with Covington on the wing to his left and Lakers forward Kyle Kuzma in position to contest any shot Westbrook set up Covington to launch.

Then, as Westbrook began a quick move to his left, Thabo Sefolosha came up from the near corner, setting a screen for Covington, who moved sharply toward the corner Sefolosha had vacated with Kuzma powerless to stop him.

Barely moments passed from Westbrook's pass to Covington's catch-and-shoot 3, with execution too flawlessly precise to be stopped.

This was not a play called from the bench. If it were, Covington would likely not have had time to learn it. To Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni's way of thinking, he might have had to slow down to check his memory rather than just flow naturally into the swished 3.

That is typical Rockets, how their offense is designed to operate. It is also how veterans, from Covington at the trade deadline to Jeff Green last week, can step in and play effectively the day they arrive.

After six games with the Rockets, Covington has not, he said, just become accustomed to how their offense works. He was from the start.

"To me, with this style, I was familiar with these guys coming in, understanding the schemes," Covington said. "I'm very much familiar with our schemes and everything. It makes it an easier transition. You know the scheme, where the (defensive) attention is going to be. It's about being at the right place at the right time."



Eric Christian Smith / Associated Press

Forward Robert Covington (33) has made his share of 3-pointers since joining the Rockets.

Where teams typically will run roughly 25 plays per game, the Rockets might use approximately a dozen, including out-of-bounds plays after timeouts.

There are sets, positions on the floor or even screens (now off the ball or in dribble hand-offs rather than in pick-and-roll) that start possessions. But generally, where other teams run plays, the Rockets play with principles.

There are positions where players are expected to be, with James Harden frequently directing teammates into corners or to clear out based on the defense he sees in front of him.

D'Antoni's logic is that opponents can't learn what the Rockets are doing and take it away because even the Rockets don't know until it has already been done. But that philosophy has also helped Covington and Green integrate quickly, as it presumably will DeMarre Carroll.

"They don't have to remember plays," D'Antoni said. "They're not thinking. They know, more or less. Just go where you need to go. Now it's just catching and shooting and playing, not thinking what system are we going to run. Most of it is just transitional basketball, getting to spots, and it's easier to pick up."

"A lot plays (teams typically run), there are four or five movements. When you start thinking, your game goes (down). Until you get in that groove, you can't concentrate on the game. Right now, you can just concentrate on the game."

The Rockets have long played that way, with Harden and Westbrook empowered to create off the dribble, a style that puts a premium on spacing that sends shooters to the corners and wings. If there is ball or body move-

ment, it starts after the top scorers get the ball, rather than to get it to them, simplifying the movements for everyone around them if there is any movement at all.

As with everything else the Rockets do, that has been even more the case since their move to play without a center and almost no pick-and-rolls, once the start of most possessions in D'Antoni's offense.

"We space the floor and just have to put ourselves in the right position," Covington said. "We have a good feel for how we want to play. It's hard to guard five guys out. Normally, you have one guy in, two guys in sometimes with pick-and-roll teams. With five out, a lot of bigs aren't used to playing like that. It kind of puts a fog in their head. We've just got to keep building off it."

"With so much attention on James and Russ, I've got to make sure I'm in the right spot at the right time and put myself in position to be good for myself and teammates in general. Sometimes, you don't need a shot. You need to swing, swing it. Overall, we've been moving the ball really well, and guys are knocking down shots really well."

In their two-game road trip coming out of the All-Star break, the Rockets sank at least 20 3-pointers in consecutive games for the first time this season, moving to 9-0 when making at least 20 3-pointers and 21-2 when scoring 120 points heading into Monday's game against the Knicks.

Rather than needing to take a step back with the addition of newcomers, the Rockets have surged, in part because of an offensive ride easy to hop aboard.

"It's team basketball," Green said. "We know who our go-to guys are, we share the ball, and we love when everybody is aggressive. And we take the shot that's there. And when we're going, it's a beautiful thing."

Laredo Morning Times CLASSIFIEDS

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1711 Monterey Ave. 1Bd, Completely Remodeled, Tile throughout the Apartment. Water, Gas & All appliances Incd. \$550 Rent \$250 Dep (956)251-6932

2Bd/2Ba, 1519 Ryan Near LMC, water paid, w/d htps, 1,000 sq. ft. L.A. (956)324-6729

2Bd Apt, 217 W. Bustamante, \$750. Rent, \$700 Depo, A/C, Fridge & Stove Housing OK. (956) 753-8888

Apartment for Rent 2BD, 1BA, Washer & Dryer hookup, Water bill included, Central Air. (956)712-2527

Centrally Located 1 & 2 Bdrms Apts AVAILABLE Starting at \$590 mo. gated, all tile, water paid W/D included (956) 898-1699

El Paisano Patio Apartments 5910 San Bernardo 722-8153 1, 2, & 3 Bdrm. Apts. North N 35 Location Student School Bus Pickup Swimming Pools Close to Mall, Close to Restaurants, Water Paid Dep. \$150.00 Restrictions Apply

APARTMENTS FOR RENT 91

PROMOTION 1/2 off on 1st month rent 2 and 3 bedrooms, North Laredo, fridge, stove, w/d htps, water paid. New CAH. Call (956) 712-2527

Apts for Rent 1 or 2 bdrms, call for info 722-2491 Mon - Fri 9am -6pm, 1616 Calle del Norte Apt #48 PROMOTION HALF OFF ON FIRST MONTH RENT ON 1 BEDROOMS ONLY!!

1, 2, & 3 Bd. APTS. Also 3 Bd., 2 Ba HOMES for Rent. For more Information Call: (956) 722-2084

1610 Hibiscus Circle Studio Apt, Bdr, Kitchen, & bathroom, pool. All Bills Paid. \$475 per month Call (956) 645-9036

HOMES FOR SALE 61

*Coldwell Banker 8507 Callow Ct Pool, 3 Bedroom, 5 full bathrooms, Maids Quarters (956)693-8181

HOMES FOR SALE 61

602 Minuteman Dr. 3bd/2bths, w/Palapa patio, \$125,000. (956) 701-0457 or (956) 701-4696

HOMES FOR SALE 61

4.5 Acre Ranch in Las Lomas, with 2bdm, 1 bth home, electricity/septic tank, siding ceiling thru-out, pond and plenty brush on hill, \$130,000, Owner Finance. (956)754-5850

HOMES FOR SALE 61

4bd, 3ba HOUSE for SALE in Las Lomas. Property sits on 2 acres, cleared off and fenced. Also includes a decorative entrance, cabana for hosting parties, carport and water storage system. \$245,000. Call Mike with Laredo Real Estate Group. (956) 337-1391

HOMES FOR SALE 61

302 Lake Clark New beautiful rock and stucco home located in a corner lot in Lakeside Subdivision. This home utilized only top of the line fixtures and quality materials. Foam insulated, marble, granite and many extras. 2 car garage. 4 bedrooms with one that can be converted into a bedroom or office. 4-1/2 restrooms, 3,599 s.f. \$475,000. Possible Owner Finance, if interested text 956-815-8279

Thornton Ranch Sales

- Hwy. 359 - 10 Acres W/Buildings, 2Mi. East of Lp 20. \$900,000.
- Zapata County- 1,113 Acres Farmland, River & Hwy Frontage, House, Barn. \$2,750 per Ac.
- LaSalle/McMullen Counties- 587 Ac. Turn Key, Tanks, Deer. \$2,495/Ac. (All or Part) SOLD
- Dimmit County 345 acres rear Catarina, high fenced, elect, H2O, \$2,650/ac
- Webb County - 111 acres, deer, brush, close to Laredo \$2,550/ac. REDUCED
- Boerne - 3.74 acre building lot, views, BIRD, gated. \$260,000

For more information Call at (956) 740-4849. See all details at Thorntonranchsales.com.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT 91

PROMOTION 1/2 off on 1st month rent 2 and 3 bedrooms, North Laredo, fridge, stove, w/d htps, water paid. New CAH. Call (956) 712-2527

Apts for Rent 1 or 2 bdrms, call for info 722-2491 Mon - Fri 9am -6pm, 1616 Calle del Norte Apt #48 PROMOTION HALF OFF ON FIRST MONTH RENT ON 1 BEDROOMS ONLY!!

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1610 Hibiscus Circle Studio Apt, Bdr, Kitchen, & bathroom, pool. All Bills Paid. \$475 per month Call (956) 645-9036

HILLSIDE APTS. 200 W. HILLSIDE RD. 1 & 2 BDRM. TOWNHOUSES AVAILABLE SWIMMING POOLS. LAUNDRY ROOMS, NEXT TO CLARK ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL, ONE BLOCK FROM MALL WALKING DISTANCE TO HEB AND RESTAURANTS. WATER PAID. 727-3132

** BILLS PAID! ** Las Brisas 904 Jasent 2 - 3 Bdrms Duplex. Great Location! Home Locators 956-722-2211

APARTMENTS FOR RENT 91

Efficiency 1Bdrm. Apt. 1417 Juarez, Utilities Pd \$600 monthly (956)251-9117 NO PETS!

ONE MONTH FREE RENT La Quinta Townhouses Still searching for a place to call home? Make La Quinta Townhouses your new home! 1828 E. Price 655-722-7238 Spacious 2 & 3 Bedrooms Available. Close to Schools, HEB, Hospital, Restaurants and Shopping Centers 10% discount for Police Officers

PROMOTION 1/2 off on 1st month rent 2 and 3 bedrooms, close to mall del Norte, fridge, stove, w/d htps, water paid. New CAH. Call (956) 712-2527

Now Leasing Apartments 2Bd/1Bth & 1Bd/1Bth AVAILABLE 1404 Calle del Norte Rd. 4009 N. Seymour Ave. 919 Bustamante St. 106 W. Price St. 2701 San Salvador St For More Information Contact: 956-220-2563

**S. Laredo Apt. 2bd, 1be \$550/Mon+ \$300/Deposit Water, Fridge & Stove (956) 337-1675

**Studio; Fixer Upper 1bd as is; Secluded w/ use of boat ramp \$12/month San Ygnacio R1 Park ONLY 22 Miles away (956)763-1320

UNFURNISHED APARTMENTS 91

1207 E Hillside 2bd/2bth, Ref. Stv. W/D hookup Water Pd, Close to Elen Sch. \$900/mo, \$450/dep (956) 285-3775

3006 B Corpus Christi St 2Bd Duplex, 1 Bth, Stove, Refr., C/A/H. \$700/Mon. & \$550/Dep (956) 726-4553

HOUSES FOR RENT 91

**** Liveable Fixer Up prr. Secluded Home, private gate, 2Bd/2Ba, W office room, sundeck free use of boat ramp \$450, at San Ygnacio R1 Park. (956) 763-1320

HOUSES FOR RENT 97

**Hillside Neighborhood
3/2/2, 1,800 SqFt.,
Freshly remodeled, Sprinkler System front and back, great neighbors, No Pets Allowed \$1,675/Mth + Dep of \$1,000. Water & Yard Maintenance Incl. (956) 763-6844

LEGALS 250

COMMERCIAL RENTALS 120

1 Acre Yard / Office for rent, ideal for trucking company. Pan American Blvd Call (956)740-5420

LEGALS 250

COMMERCIAL RENTALS 120

ANYONE ONE WILLING TO SHARE OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE SPACE ON MINES RD AREA. FOR MORE INFO. PLEASE CONTACT MR.RODRIGUEZ. (956)744-8719 SERIOUS INQUIRES ONLY PLEASE.

HELP WANTED 122

HELP WANTED 122

IGA International
We are hiring CDL Drivers with urgent need. Apply in person at 269 Sulfur Mine Rd. Laredo TX, 78045. (956) 725-7303. Come join our team now!

HELP WANTED 122

HELP WANTED 122

NURSES ON WHEELS, INC HOSPICE IS SEEKING ONE FULLTIME RN AND ONE ON CALL FOR EVERY OTHER WEEK MONDAY TO SUNDAY APPLY IN PERSON AT 6423 MCPHERSON RD, STE 16 LAREDO, TX 78041 956-791-8365

HELP WANTED 122

HELP WANTED 122

CAREGIVER NEEDED JOB FOR 5 DAYS A WEEK AND 5 HOURS PER DAY WAGES IS \$22.5 PER HOUR
For more details about the position, Contact (emsaysanchez@gmail.com)

PETS & SUPPLIES 128

PETS & SUPPLIES 128

2 Males Brindle Boxer Puppies for Sale \$200. ea (956) 693-9021

1-F German Sheppard Puppy, 5 weeks, \$150 Pure Yorkie Puppies, 2 male, tails clipped, 4 weeks, \$200 (956) 701-2191

Adorable Yorkies, Tiny Teddy bear faced, \$700 each. Parents on Site. (956)286-6209

BABY Geese \$20ea, Chicks - \$5ea. Young white leghorn Chickens-\$25ea, Young Large Black Chickens-\$30ea, Very Good Egg Layers, Large White Ducks-\$20ea www.thewaylaredo.com (956) 949-6834

Great Pyrenees/ Anatolian Shepherd 7wks. Live stock guard dogs. \$225 For Sale (956)206-3499

Pure Siberian Huskys for sale, 6 wks old, 1st shots given, 4 female, 1 male, Parents on sight for viewing, Call or txt (956)337-4588

PETS & SUPPLIES 128

PETS & SUPPLIES 128

Goldendoodles and Bernedoodles Pre-trained puppies & Service dogs. PTSD dogs, Service, ESA, Therapy, and Autism. (509)710-7998. DogologyNW.com

PETS & SUPPLIES 128

PETS & SUPPLIES 128

ARTICLES FOR SALE 136

1.5 TO 5 TON A/C CONDENSER/OUTSIDE UNIT STARTING @ \$250 (956)333-0528

Adult Pampers For Sale, 72 Count Box. \$15.00. (956) 220-1108

Antiques&collectibles. coins,old bottles,bird cages,head vases, stamps,military items, petrified rocks, fum., sports figures, tin-metal toys, glass ware, collectible glasses, beer signs, pecans. 2619 Salinas 1-6p.m.333-7699

Complete dining room set Lg. Table 2 extensons, & 8 chairs together w/ China Cabinet & Glass Shelves \$450 OBO (956) 740-9273 Call after 3 PM

LG Washer & Dryer, Brand New 3mths old, Stainless Steel. Value \$4,000, asking \$1,500 (956) 286-2288

Mattresses, Colchones tamaño, King desde \$125 - \$240 llamar (956) 898-2201 or 2717 Santa Clara

Mesquite Fire Wood Above 3 bags \$3.66 ea., more then 50 bags special price. (956) 334-4013 or (956) 480-9490

Para Mi Sala - Vendo Television Sony 65" con mueble lateral Color Gris \$450. Inf. (956)774-0464

Washer, Dryer & Freezer for sale please contact @ (956)334-9137

PUBLICATION POLICY
Publisher reserves the right to edit or reject copy to comply with policy of newspaper.

ERRORS AND CORRECTIONS
Corrections of errors by the newspaper may be called in any day during business hours and will be corrected for the following day, except Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.

ERROR RESPONSIBILITIES
The Laredo Morning Times does not assume any responsibility for an ad beyond the cost of ad itself. We are responsible only for the first incorrect insertion of an ad. Advertisers are advised to check their ad immediately after it appears in the paper and report at once any error found. Notice of errors must be given before second insertion of claims or extensions will be recognized.

AD CANCELLATIONS
An ad may be cancelled for the next following day during business hours daily, except on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.

OMISSION OF ADS
The Laredo Morning Times shall not be liable for any damages or loss that might occur from error or omissions in advertisements as printed in excess of the amount charged therefore in case an ad fails to appear, no liability shall exist on the part of The Laredo Morning Times, except that no charge shall be made therefore.

HELP WANTED 122

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LEGALS 250

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HOUSES FOR RENT 97

107 Ridgnore lane 78041 Rent \$1,100. OR Sale \$120,000 (956)744-4868. 1,100 SqFt.

314 W. Montgomery Front, 2bd,1ba, CAH, \$700 rent + dep. NO PETS, Call 281-450-1549

COMMERCIAL RENTALS 120

1 Acre Commercial Lot w/Office for 18 Wheelers Co. on Hwy 59 near Loop 20 Call (956) 724-6978

LEGALS 250

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MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT 112

8604 Superior, Lot 8, 2bed/1bath, CAHm frige, stove \$750/mo, \$300 dep. 1yr lease 956-744-6465 or 956-724-4566

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OFFICE SPACES FOR RENT 118

9320 Mines Road- FM.1472 425 sq.ft. 620 sq.ft. FOR INFORMATION CALL 956-722-8021

COMMERCIAL RENTALS 120

1 Acre Commercial Lot w/Office for 18 Wheelers Co. on Hwy 59 near Loop 20 Call (956) 724-6978

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OFFICE SUITES FOR RENT

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TRUCKS FOR SALE 198

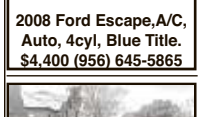
2003 Pickup Chevy, King Cab, 8Cyl, A/C, \$3,500. (956) 726-8565 - 536 Valdez St.



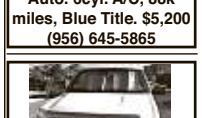
2005 Dodge Ram 1500, 4door, 6cyl, A/C/H, CD, 105K miles good cond., \$2,500. (956) 337-9559



2006 School Bus International New Motor Warranty 50 seats \$5,950.00 obo (956) 237-3337



2008 Ford Escape, A/C, Auto, 4cyl, Blue Title. \$4,400 (956) 645-5865



2008 Hyundai Tucson, Auto, 6cyl, A/C, 88k miles, Blue Title. \$5,200 (956) 645-5865



2009 Ford F-150 Crew Cab, 30K Mile, Excellent condition \$9,500. (956) 285-9921



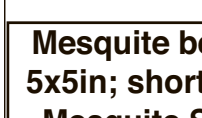
2010 Chevy Tahoe 3 A/C's, leather seats, TV, \$6,900. OBO (956) 242-9537



2010 Ford Ranger SuperCab, 6 Cyl, Auto, 4x4, New Tires, 95k miles \$5,500 OBO (956) 242-9537



2010 Toyota Tacoma, PreRunner V6, Good Cond. 69K Mi. 1 Owner, Silver, \$19,000 OBO. Auto. (956) 635-4220



2013 Chevy Silverado 4 Dr, A/C, Rim 20", 132k miles \$10,900. OBO (956) 242-9537

BUILDING MATERIALS 160

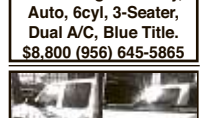
Mesquite beam approx. 5x5in; short of 8ft. \$500. Mesquite Slabs 1 inch thick, \$225 or 2 inch thick \$335 + taxes. For wood working aficionados. Only 22 Miles away in San Ygancio RV Park (See at 201 Trevino). (956) 763-1320

TRUCKS FOR SALE 198

2007 Jeep Patriot, 4 Cyl, 4x4, Buenas Condiciones. \$3,500. (956) 693-1193



2014 Nissan Pathfinder, 40K Millas, 3 Sillas, \$10,000. (956) 333-5851



2015 Dodge Journey, Auto, 6cyl, 3-Seater, Dual A/C, Blue Title. \$8,800 (956) 645-5865



2016 Chevy Silverado A/C, 63k miles, Rims 20" \$15,900. OBO (956) 242-9537



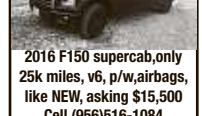
2016 Ford F-150 4Dr, A/C, Rims 20", 8CLY, 5.0 62k miles, \$15,900 OBO (956) 242-9537



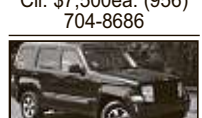
2009 Chev Silverado Cabina 1/2, Buenas Condiciones, Llantas Nuevas, 6 Cyl, \$8,500. Cell (956) 693-1193



2011 Dodge Nitro, Auto, A/C, 6cyl, 62k Miles, Blue Title. \$7,000 (956) 645-5865

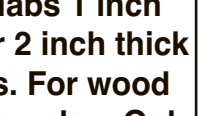


2012 Ford Expedition King Ranch, Rear View, Navigation, Camera, Sun Roof, CLEAN Title. \$12,000 (956) 744-6239



2016 F150 supercab, only 25k miles, v6, p/w, airbags, like NEW, asking \$15,500 Cell (956) 616-1084

En Pagos o Cash. 2 Pick Ups, 2009 Suzuki, 4 Puertas, 4 Cil y 2011 Ram 1500, 4 Puertas, 6 Cil. \$7,500ea. (956) 704-8686



Jeep Liberty 2008, Blue Title, \$4,500 o Mejor Oferta. (956) 333-5851

TRUCKS FOR SALE 198

Ford Ranger Supercab 1996, Motor, Transmission, Buenas Condiciones y Corre Bien. \$1,250. (956) 220-9213



PRICE REDUCED AGAIN! 2002 Jeep Wrangler, Black 2 Door, Auto., Hard Top, A/C. (956) 337-4250



2006 Nissan Altima, 4 Cyl, 149K Mi., A/C. \$2,500. (956) 324-9325



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1998 Ford Mustang, V6, excellent condition \$2,500. O.B.O. (956) 763-4626



2001 Chevy S-10, Auto, 4 cyl, A/C, 119K Miles. Blue Title. \$4,000 (956) 645-5865



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2008 Toyota Avalon XLS Touring, Blue Title. Only 65K. Current Plates, Sunroof, Leather. \$7,500. (956) 319-1121



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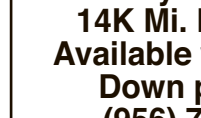


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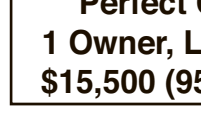
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2011 Ford Focus, 4cyl, 93K miles, Auto, A/C. \$4,500 (956) 645-5865



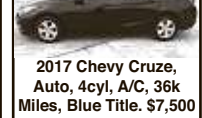
2016 Ford Focus Hatchback Titanium. Blue Title, 70 K, Smart Key, Reverse Camera, Current Plates. \$8,200 (956) 319-1121



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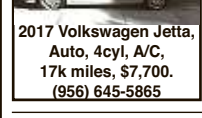
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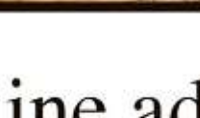


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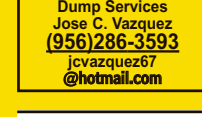
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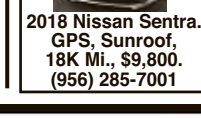
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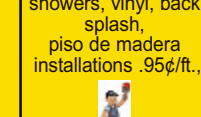
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Downtown Laredo, revisited▶

Area represents a mix of
accomplishments and
failures for business
ventures



OpEd

▲ Mario C. Canales,
independent trade
advisor & consultant

By the numbers▶

Civil lawsuits, abstracts of judgment, new
business permits and more

Business News

▶ Laredo
Chamber of
Commerce
names
Businessperson
of the Year



A note from the editor

This is an exciting issue for me because it marks a complete year, 52 issues, of the Business Journal. You have your hands on the first issue of our second volume, and to mark this full trip around the sun we're revisiting the topic of our first cover story, which came out Feb. 25, 2019 – downtown businesses.

Laredoans continue to express interest



and concern about the viability of this, the most urban, dense and historical area of Laredo. And I continue to believe

that is a good sign. We still identify with downtown. Even though people still say “no one will go,” Laredoans have shown that they will.

Although it's not as easy as that, I'm afraid. In Jorge A. Vera's cover story, downtown business owners express concern about the health of the area. A successful business in another part of town opened and subsequently closed its downtown storefront recently.

Business owners and

advocates agree that the next step for the area will have to be an increase in residential activity. If people move downtown, the industry can move beyond nightlife, as one business owner says in the cover story.

It has been such a privilege to produce the Business Journal for the past year, and I hope downtown is revisited as a topic for many more issues to come.

Best,
Julia Wallace

laredo morning times Business Journal

A publication of Laredo Morning Times

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Business Calendar

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

Laredo Association of Realtors finance and executive committee meeting. 12-2 p.m. 616 Leal St.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

Laredo Association of Realtors board of directors meeting. 9-11 a.m. 616 Leal St.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

Laredo Association of Realtors board of directors meeting. 9-11 a.m. 616 Leal St.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

Laredo Economic Development Corporation board of directors meeting. 12-1:30 p.m. LEDC boardroom, 616 Leal St.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

Laredo Economic Development Corporation board of directors meeting. 12-1:30 p.m. LEDC boardroom, 616 Leal St.

THURSDAY, MAY 7

Laredo Association of Realtors finance and executive committee meeting. 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m. 616 Leal St.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

Laredo Association of Realtors finance and executive committee meeting. 12-2 p.m. 616 Leal St.

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you know of any upcoming business events, membership meetings, or anything you would like published in the Business Journal calendar, please email editorial@lmtonline.com.

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Laredo Chamber of Commerce announces businessperson of the year

By Jorge A. Vela
Laredo Morning Times

Last Monday morning, the Laredo Chamber of Commerce announced A. A. Lic. Eduardo A. Garza Robles as the 2020 Business Person of the Year.

The announcement was made at a breakfast press conference. Garza Robles was described as a staple of the community who has both served well through his work as the founder and CEO of Grupo Uni-Trade for over 32 years, and also due to his support of giving back to the community through scholarships and athletic support.

"It is a nice gesture by the Laredo Chamber of Commerce. It helps us commit more to the goals we want to accomplish as a community. Our goal has always been to support the community as a strong social responsibility corporation such as in athletics as the stadium Unit-Trade ... and also help in the education of the community as well," said Garza Robles.

Garza Robles was chosen by the Laredo Chamber of Commerce committee, which does an analysis of which business partners and members are successful and go beyond their business duties to help provide services and charity around the city.

"Mr. Garza was definitely on top of the list," said Imelda Rodriguez, who is a member of the small business community in the Laredo Chamber of Commerce and also part of the Falcon Bank family.

"For years, we have mentioned Mr. Garza Robles as a possible businessperson of the year as he has contributed greatly to the community. It is a great honor to have recognized him, and much more for him to have accepted such award," said Arsenio Morales, who is also a member of the small business committee for the Chamber of Commerce and also law review and legal analysis for Falcon Bank.

Some of the reasons why he was chosen, according to Morales, was due to the fact that Garza Robles has done many community acts such as providing \$150,000 in scholarships to Laredo College and providing employment opportunities throughout the city for years.

Morales believes he is an example for young entrepreneurs and other business leaders to follow.

"Mr. Robles is such a dedicated person, inspiring, and he is always into helping the students as I have seen it a lot with the LULAC Awards. He is always recognizing people who work hard and also helps others to do more for the community," said Rodriguez.

Garza Robles's company,

Uni-Trade, has 500 employees throughout the region. He is also partnered with 16 companies in Mexico and has representation and businesses in Japan as well.

"We are in the logistics business since we (Uni-Trade) were born in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas ... we are in the business that highlights what Laredo is as the capital of NAFTA, which is an important entity in the global trade community. And it is a pleasure to form a small part of this immense endeavor and community," said Robles Garza.

Although confidence in the industry declined before the USMCA was passed in Congress, it seems to be growing back again smoothly, he said.

"The unpredictability that we currently live in due to the new signing of the treaty (USMCA) created some confidence issues between the partnering countries and the industry. However, once signed, we began to see once again the confidence back in the transportation industry. It will only help grow the business with Mexico – and it will grow, I assure you that," said Garza Robles.

Although Garza Robles notes that no effects of the treaty have been felt in his business and the industry in general, he does point out that he expects some repercussions from the treaty to begin by the end of the year. However, he says



Photos by Cuate Santos/Laredo Morning Times

Miguel Conchas, Eduardo Garza, Parker Neel and Pete Saenz at Laredo Chamber of Commerce Small Business Committee 2020 Distinguished Business Award Recipient Announcement.

his company is ready for such effects and changes, as the true change begins with local industry and individual entrepreneurs despite any tensions between the United States, Mexico, and global trade.

Garza Robles states that his company will continue to empower local support for the community and continue its events such as providing scholarships even if the USMCA causes some negative effects in the industry.

"It is the responsibility of each businessowner to give back to the community what it has given to us. There is truly no border and no bridges when it comes to helping the community altogether, which includes

both Laredo and Nuevo Laredo," said Garza Robles.

For his commitment to bettering the community and his audacity to continue promoting the importance of the Laredo region as a business center, members of the Laredo Chamber of Commerce fully agreed on him being given the distinction.

"We just want to thank Mr. Garza for giving us the honor of accepting this award and for also being part of the Falcon family as he is one of our board of directors," said Rodriguez.

Garza Robles will be formally commemorated and honored with the award on March 31 at the Laredo Country Club at 6 p.m.

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Bernie promises NAFTA 3.0

**BY MARIO C CANALES
INDEPENDENT TRADE
ADVISOR & CONSULTANT**

If elected President, Bernie Sanders promises to immediately begin renegotiating USMCA, the modernized free trade agreement with México and Canada. Yes, Bernie vows to renegotiate the renegotiated!

For Laredo, this can mean a return down chaos road. Not only are we not done with USMCA yet, but Senator Sanders' rise in the Democratic race to the nomination pushes his renegotiation statement into a double-downed sense of urgency.

Last month I wrote about México becoming key in 2020, but Senator Sanders' rise to the top of the polls seriously puts Laredo's interests back into the political fray. Certainty on free trade would walk right back into the front and center of a heated campaign rhetoric.

Bernie's momentum into the South Carolina primary next Saturday comes after a strong performance in Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada. After Super Tuesday on March 3rd, Sanders can easily consolidate his front-runner position, a stunning reversal to long-time favorites. It appears the Democratic party has split into two streams, one less liberal than the other: the former led by Buttigieg, Biden, Bloomberg and

Klobuchar, while Sanders and Warren lead the latter.

According to a WSJ/NBC News poll published Feb. 18, 40% of Democrats favor a more liberal candidate, while centrist candidates capture 45%-50% of preferences.

At the same time, President Trump gained a post-impeachment push to 51% approval among independents, a record high.

Bernie not only carries his own credentials, but a movement of young supporters proven skeptical of voting for any other candidate. Sanders promises to begin renegotiating the renegotiated on his first day of office. In his statement opposing USMCA, Sanders documents the agreement's failure to address climate change, which is not mentioned in the text of the agreement. However, USMCA is widely endorsed for being strong on labor, a topic he's widely embraced. Sanders has been a long-time skeptic of free trade agreements; he opposed NAFTA in 1993 and again a few weeks ago.

The following Senators also voted against USMCA:

1. Pat Toomey (R-Pennsylvania)
2. Chuck Schumer (D-New York)
3. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-New York)
4. Cory Booker (D-New Jersey)
5. Kamala Harris (D-California)
6. Ed Markey (D-Massachusetts)

7. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-Rhode Island)

8. Jack Reed (D-Rhode Island)

9. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii)

10. Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont)

Free trade is at the center of Laredo's growth. Even Mayor Pete Saenz said it from Washington D.C. after witnessing President Trump's USMCA signing, "free trade is truly the economic engine that drives our city." And he's right. Laredo has benefited greatly from secured economic integration with México.

Laredo hosts close to half of all commercial trade between México and the United States.

Bernie's promise to renegotiate the renegotiated sets Laredo's path near chaos, again. After months of hard work by many in Laredo to redirect President Trump's efforts into renegotiation not cancellation, then into securing USMCA's passage through the labyrinths of Congress, here comes another existential threat in the form of Bernie Sanders' efforts to trigger another re-negotiation process.

Sanders statement opposing USMCA:

"As the only leading presidential candidate to oppose Trump's NAFTA 2.0, I am pledging today that upon being sworn in as president, I will immediately begin renegotiating this disastrous deal to combat climate



change, stop the outsourcing of American jobs and end the destructive race to the bottom."

These thoughts go beyond threatening Sanders' rise to a potential presidency or avoiding his authentic claims for climate change. Rather, the call for action remains in Laredo. Considering the aforementioned circumstances, it is imperative to stay involved and raise our hands in the ongoing national discussions.

One must always remember the existential threats that wreaked havoc

on our community only a year ago, in the form of border closures and tariff threats. And, if it all weren't enough, next April is President Trump's one year deadline for México to "stop the flow of drugs" or else he will tariff the cars or close the border.

For Laredo to sort through all this, while at the same time hosting WBCA's Abrazo Ceremony with México, is the perfect backdrop, and ironic, in the face of so many existential threats to our socioeconomic wellbeing.

Sinatra said it best, that's life. And he was right!



Alberto Torres, Eduardo Garza and Pete Saenz at Laredo Chamber of Commerce Small Business Committee 2020 Distinguished Business Award Recipient Announcement.



Photos by Cuate Santos/Laredo Morning Times
Monica Salinas, Celina Garcia Overbo, Lupita Zepeda and Pablo Arenaz at Laredo Chamber of Commerce Small Business Committee 2020 Distinguished Business Award Recipient Announcement.



Michael Gonzalez, David Dodier, Imelda Rodriguez, Miriam Castillo and Arsenio Morales at Laredo Chamber of Commerce Small Business Committee 2020 Distinguished Business Award Recipient Announcement.



Luis Hinojosa, Gilbert Narvaez, Ruben Nevarez and Hugo Adriano at Laredo Chamber of Commerce Small Business Committee 2020 Distinguished Business Award Recipient Announcement.



Javier Peña and Gregory Alvarez at Laredo Chamber of Commerce Small Business Committee 2020 Distinguished Business Award Recipient Announcement.



Michael Gonzalez, David Dodier, Imelda Rodriguez, Eduardo Garza, Miriam Castillo, Arsenio Morales and Juan Caballero at Laredo Chamber of Commerce Small Business Committee 2020 Distinguished Business Award Recipient Announcement.

COVER STORY

Laredo downtown business sector a mix of accomplishments and failures

By Jorge A. Vela
Laredo Morning Times

Laredo's downtown is a mix of open businesses and closed shops that still display their discounts in the window. Meanwhile, nightlife in the area continues to thrive. Most of the businesses currently opening in the area are clubs and bars, while more established retail shops are having a hard time thriving. Yet, there is some hope that the trend may be changing soon.

"We have seen an increase in new business permits being pulled out in the downtown area, so I can say there has been growth in downtown," said Executive Director for Laredo Main Street Priscilla Iglesias.

She adds that these businesses tend to be more concentrated on nightlife, which has been booming along Iturbide Street.

One of these is Arturo Orozco's business, La Patrona nightclub, which is slated to open in the coming months at 1011 Iturbide St.

"We choose the downtown of Laredo as our business location because right now it's the place where people are coming when they go out at night," said Orozco.

He plans for La Patrona to be not just a club but rather one that hosts events regularly by bringing artists both internationally known, up-and-coming and local. Since Orozco and the other nightclub promoters are in talks no names could be given at the moment as they prepare for their opening.

Some other businesses that have opened in the area recently include the Downtown Drafthouse, House of Whiskey, Kolors, The Screaming Flower, some tattoo shops, and Daisy's Boutique.

"Downtown Laredo is coming to an end. I believe that a partnership must be made with the city and all the businesses in the area in order to help revitalize the area. One of these things might include bettering the public parking downtown as it has become too expensive for consumers," said Betty Sandoval, owner of Daisy's Boutique.

In an effort to sustain her business and so that the downtown area looks more alive, Sandoval rents apartments to people moving downtown, which she notes is one of the main areas of growth here. She believes almost all living spaces for rent are filled.

Iglesias shares the idea that more people need to live downtown for it to continue growing.

According to Iglesias, plans are taking shape to not just bring businesses and other investors to the area but also to bring in residential homes and units as well by the Intercity Housing Initiative led by the Laredo Housing Authority.

"We are actually planning the second annual Intercity Housing Summit, and so it is getting all of the city officials and departments heads and all other stakeholders to discuss the needs of what are the obstacles to bringing residential homes downtown to create solutions," said Iglesias.

Iglesias and Sandoval both point out that this would be beneficial to not just bring in more people but also to help sustain the businesses already in the downtown area. Restaurants, for instance, depend on people all day and not just in the nighttime to remain in business.

"Walmart isn't built first and then the houses around it. First, it is the houses around it and then the business," said Iglesias.

A tattoo shop that recently opened

in the area subsequently closed despite having successful business in other parts of the city. Gabe Rodriguez, owner of Por Vida Tattoos, said downtown is not ready for anything other than a bar scene right now.

"We have a full bar scene opening and it is awesome; however, will this allow for people to have a whole day enjoying the downtown area like in Austin where people go eat, drink, and then dine? ... Laredo does not have that," Rodriguez said.

He believes if people begin to move into the area, the city will increase lighting and security.

Iglesias agrees that there are some barriers for businesses but that her organization is doing their best to bring solutions to the problems.

Laredo Main Street is part of the effort to make downtown a designated cultural district, which is possible if the businesses in the area – from retail to entertainment and the arts – all gather together. According to Iglesias, this will allow the city to have more access to funds that the city currently does not have to better invest in the downtown area.

"It is a tourism tool that you can use. We were encouraged to apply as what's intriguing about our downtown is the historic significance that we provide to the United States. We have just so much rich history here ... and would like to see the community take advantage of it. But what is needed is a cohesive marketing plan that has not been established for the area," said Iglesias.

Laredo Main Street is also working on creating an inventory database for the 364 buildings in the downtown area to help future and potential investors and stakeholders be able to find business sites more easily online, according to Iglesias.

"This will allow businesses and other



This 2016 file photo shows the view from Jarvis Park in downtown Laredo, looking out onto the former federal courthouse and the Hamilton Hotel.

Laredo Morning Times file



Daisy and Elizabeth Sandoval pose inside their store, Daisy's Boutique, located in downtown Laredo.

Photos by Cuate Santos / Laredo Morning Times

investors to contact us directly for us to work for them if they are interested in buying or leasing a space for business," said Iglesias.

She said that ultimately the changes that will fully revitalize the area do not just come from more businesses coming

and going, but also having a significant strategic economic plan in mind with redevelopment of the district, keeping in mind the businesses there.

"It is hard to put a timeline on things we are planning. Personally, I think in five years we will see significant change in

downtown. ... By significant change what I mean is that we will have all our partners together to invest in the areas that need investing. In the next five years, we will see new businesses coming," said Iglesias.



It's Who You Know



Celina Garcia Overbo, Eduardo Garza and Lupita Zepeda at Laredo Chamber of Commerce Small Business Committee 2020 Distinguished Business Award Recipient Announcement.



Juanita, Eduardo and David Eduardo Garza at Laredo Chamber of Commerce Small Business Committee 2020 Distinguished Business Award Recipient Announcement.



Juan Carlos Mendoza Sanchez, Dionisio J. Gonzalez de Castilla, Elia Guevara, Eduardo Garza, Natalie Hernandez, Adrian Zapata and Rafael Dueñas at Laredo Chamber of Commerce Small Business Committee 2020 Distinguished Business Award Recipient Announcement.



Jesus Lemos, Anissa and Heri Rios and Orlando Ramirez at the ribbon cutting ceremony for Main Event.



Miguel Conchas and Cesar Briseño at the ribbon cutting ceremony for Main Event.



Amanda Valle, Celina Overbo, Sandra Valdez, Lupita Zepeda, Carlos Salinas and Al Guevara at the ribbon cutting ceremony for Main Event.

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By the Numbers

Continued on page 10

Abstracts of judgment

This information comes from the Webb County Clerk's office from Feb. 17 to 21.

Texas Workforce Commission vs. Five O'clock Holdings LLC. \$18,593.43. 2/18/20

Diversified Solutions Inc. vs Texas Power Unlimited LLC. \$24,556.55. 2/18/20

Cooper Asset Superior Capital LLC vs. Fran Transport Inc. \$58,836.50. 2/19/20

DMF NYC LLC vs. Cowboys Night Club Inc. \$28,350.00. 2/21/20

DMF NYC LLC vs. Cowboys Night Club Inc. \$35,836.48. 2/21/20

State tax lien

GA Metals Inc. \$2,969.77. 2/18/20

G&G Xpress Inc. \$22,817.98. 2/21/20

Release of state tax lien

Chicos Comida Casera LLC. \$773.08. 2/19/20

Patmo Concrete LLC. \$3,776.74. 2/21/20

Jones Catherine. \$255.09. 2/21/20

Castillo Jesus. \$236.03. 2/21/20

Assumed names

Carry On Transport: Jose Villarreal. 2/18/20

Locksmith Shop: Felix Cordova. 2/18/20

Alondras Beauty Salon: Corona Medrano. 2/18/20

Alliance Realtors Group: Edna G Ibarra, Higinio Ibarra. 2/18/20

Gamez Petroleum Trucking: Baltazar Gamez. 2/18/20

Logistics Solutions de Mexico: Eduardo Duran. 2/18/20

AIM CBD: Arturo Mora Jr. 2/18/20

La Potosina: Yasmin Castillo. 2/18/20

Connies Flower y Decoration: Blanca Proa. 2/19/20

Moons Tuxedo Rental & Alterations: Rosalinda Sanchez Luna. 2/19/20

956 Car Wash: Juan Jose Rodriguez Jr. 2/19/20

JC in Bond Services: Edna Parra. 2/19/20

Bejeweled by Claudia and Rocio: Amelie Jacaman, Claudia Peters. 2/19/20

Mr Freight Logistics: Rene Molina. 2/19/20

L&A Rail Solutions LLC: Robert L Bonds Jr. 2/19/20

Rava Services LLC: Rafael Vasquez.

2/20/20

Micloyds African Mexican and Caribbean Food Store: Ayodele Michael Falade. 2/20/20

BI Ramirez Services: Blanca Ethel Ramirez. 2/20/20

Aquatek Laredo North: Lineth Gutierrez. 2/20/20

Roofing Construction & Services: Adela Guadalupe Quintero Gonzalez. 2/20/20

CJ Construction: Jesus Chaires. 2/20/20

Wolf Techs: Erick Maldonado. 2/20/20

Webb Marketing & Co: Dora Michelle Maldonado. 2/20/20

Klassic Motors: Ruben A Rosales Gonzalez. 2/21/20

Master Makeup Artist & Hairstylist Azalia Garcia: Azalia Rodriguez Ayala. 2/21/20

Huitrons Boutique: Evelyn Huitron, Olga L Huitron. 2/21/20

Los 3 Locos Seasonings: Claudia Contreras. 2/21/20

Dalary Entertainment LLC: Jose Angel Campos Camacho. 2/21/20

Rocalde Auto Sales: Roberto A Calderon. 2/21/20

New business permits
This information comes from the City of Laredo Building Development Services Department from Feb. 3 to 7.

Party Dreams LLC, 2204 Guadalupe St. 2/4/20

C.H. Riddle, LCB, 1019 Mier St. 2/4/20

Tamarindos, 2707 E Lyon St. 2/4/20

OK Taco, 2305 S Zapata HWY. 2/5/20

Crane Worldwide Logistics, 13113 Spivey Dr. 2/5/20

The Office Barber Shop, 5901 McPherson Rd. Suite 1B. 2/6/20

Chopsticks at Toyko Garden, 2515 E Del Mar Blvd. 2/6/20

Top Trenz, 5300 San Dario Ave. 2/7/20

Offices, banks

1504 Guadalupe St. \$106,000 application valuation. 2/3/20

Stores & retail

6407 Arena Blvd. \$4,837,500 application valuation. 2/4/20

5203 Bob Bullock Loop. \$385,000 application valuation. 2/4/20

Commercial driveway and sidewalk 4619 S US Highway 83. \$1,000,000 application valuation. 2/6/20

417 Boomtown St. \$2,928,000 application valuation. 2/4/20

5209 Marcela Ave. \$149,292 application valuation. 2/7/20

Certificates of occupancy

Casa De Oracion Church, 5119 Fairfield Dr. Religious worship. Owner: Julio Cesar Patino. Occupancy load: 85.

Tere Santos Real Estate LLC, 7110 Rocio Dr. Suite 7. Professional office. Owner: Maria Teresa Santos. Occupancy load: 7.

Sandy's Day Care & Learning Center #2, 120 S US Highway 83. Day care. Owner: Nayra Rodriguez. Occupancy load: 46.

Routa 35, 1308 Grant St. Retail store. Owner: Sylvia Gonzalez. Occupancy load: 13.

Laredo Pet Vet, 2101 Shiloh Dr. Suite 140. Veterinary hospital. Owner: Rebecca Rodriguez. Occupancy load: 22.

JQ Auto Sales, 401 S Meadow Ave. Auto sales. Owner: Jesus Quezada. Occupancy load: 3.

Funky Monkey Shot Bar, 1110 Lincoln St. Suite 3. Bar. Owner: Lizbeth Salinas. Occupancy load: 49.

Elotitos, 601 Shiloh Dr. Snack bar. Owner: Gau Hernandez. Occupancy load: 3 inside, 30 outside.

Civil lawsuits filed
This information comes from the Webb County District Clerk's Office, for civil lawsuits filed from Feb. 7 to 14.

United Independent School District vs. Dragonfly Aviation LLC. 406th District Court. Filed 2/6/20

United Independent School District vs. Inter American Transportation Service Inc. 111th District Court. Filed 2/6/20

United Independent School District vs. Penn Petroleum LLC. 341st District Court. Filed 2/6/20

United Independent School District vs. Texas Microgrid LLC. 49th District Court. Filed 2/6/20

United Independent School District vs. Zaro Transportation LLC. 111th District Court. Filed 2/6/20

United Independent School District vs. Cold Terminals LLC. 49th District Court. Filed 2/6/20

United Independent School District vs. Sunrise Growers Inc. 341st District Court. Filed 2/7/20

United Independent School District vs. ABC Express Inc. 406th District Court. Filed 2/6/20

Mary Ann Minas vs. Asi Lloyds Insurance Company, Wardlaw Claims Service, Liam O'Connor. 111th District Court. Filed 2/6/20

United Independent School District

vs. Trata USA LLC. 49th District Court. Filed 2/6/20

United Independent School District vs. Noble Americas Corp. 406th District Court. Filed 2/6/20

United Independent School District vs. CHG Meridian USA Corp. 406th District Court. Filed 2/6/20

United Independent School District vs. Lone Star Materials Inc. 49th District Court. Filed 2/6/20

Jorge Santos Navarro vs. Ex parte. 111th District Court. Filed 2/6/20

Bank of America NA vs. Yuridia Gonzalez. 49th District Court. Filed 2/6/20

US Bank National Association dba Elan Financial Services vs. Sergio Segura. 406th District Court. Filed 2/6/20

Wells Fargo Bank NA vs. Jorge Bustamante. 111th District Court. Filed 2/6/20

Laredo Vapor Land LLC vs. Cesar Garza. 49th District Court. Filed 2/6/20

Cesar Perez Tovar vs. Ex parte. County Court at Law 2. Filed 2/6/20

Castle Heighs Townhomes-Owners Association, a Texas Nonprofit Corporation vs. Eduardo Guzman ... County Court at Law 1. Filed 2/6/20

Absolute Resolutions Investments LLC assignee of Prosper Funding LLC (webbank) vs. Juan Guerrero ... Filed 406th District Court. Filed 2/6/20

Samuel Gomez vs. Ovidio Garza, Texan Rentals & Lease Services LLC. 341st District Court. Filed 2/6/20

OneMain Financial Group LLC vs. Guadalupe N Garcia. 111th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Luis Lozano vs. In re. 406th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

United Independent School District vs. Jimenez Motorsports LLC. 49th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

United Independent School District vs. Precision Group Energy Services Inc. 341st District Court. Filed 2/7/20

United Independent School District vs. Southwest Industrial Recycling LLC. 406th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

United Independent School District vs. Bryan's Express Inc. 111th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

United Independent School District vs. IH 35 Trucking LLC. 406th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

United Independent School District vs. Celadon Trucking Services LLC. 111th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Citibank NA vs. Alice J McCoy. 341st District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Ahern Rental Inc. vs. Jose Manuel Valdez. 49th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Laredo Independent School District, Laredo College vs. Roberto Gustavo Gonzalez. 406th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Lidia Castro de Escamilla vs. Enrique Romero. County Court at Law 1. Filed 2/7/20

Laredo Independent School District, Laredo College vs. Roberto Elizondo. 111th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Laredo Independent School District, Laredo College vs. Andrea Avelina Borrego aka ... 49th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Laredo Independent School District, Laredo College vs. Maria A Martinez. 341st District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Laredo Independent School District, Laredo College vs. Laura Alicia Garcia. 111th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Laredo Independent School District, Laredo College vs. Abraham Gonzalez ... 406th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Laredo Independent School District, Laredo College vs. Eric Hinojosa. 49th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Laredo Independent School District, Laredo College vs. Mercedes Guapo. 341st District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Laredo Independent School District, Laredo College vs. Wilfredo Sanchez. 406th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Laredo Independent School District, Laredo College vs. Jessica Isabel Garcia. 341st District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Laredo Independent School District, Laredo College vs. Jose L Villarreal, Diana G Villarreal ... 49th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Laredo Independent School District, Laredo College vs. Amadee Casso, trustee, Joel Pena ... 111th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Laredo Independent School District, Laredo College vs. Ismael Lopez, Candido Lopez ... 406th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Laredo Independent School District, Laredo College vs. Veronica Garza. 341st District Court. Filed 2/7/20

The State of Texas vs. Jason Vasquez, \$5,000 ... 49th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Nicolas Ramos vs. Warren Transport Inc., Victor Rangel. 111th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

La Bota Property Owners Association Inc. vs. Juan Vicente Ventura. 406th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

La Bota Ranch Owners Association Inc. vs. Martha Mireles. 341st

District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Laredo Independent School District, Laredo College vs. Guadalupe Morin Jr. 49th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Laredo Independent School District, Laredo College vs. Carlos Trevino. 111th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Laredo Independent School District, Laredo College vs. Amado Dominguez, Margarita Dominguez ... 406th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Laredo Independent School District, Laredo College vs. Alejandro Trevino, Maximina Trevino ... 49th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Laredo Independent School District, Laredo College vs. Juan Jose Alonso, Alicia Alonso ... 341st District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Laredo Independent School District, Laredo College vs. Heirs of Jose Ramos, dec'd ... 111th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Laredo Independent School District, Laredo College vs. Maria M Trevino. 49th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Laredo Independent School District, Laredo College vs. Thomas O'Conner Jr. 406th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Laredo Independent School District, Laredo College vs. Luciano Lopez, Maria De Lopez. 341st District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Laredo Independent School District, Laredo College vs. Evangelina C Reyna. 111th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Irma Flores vs. Rebecca Elizabeth Cantu. 406th District Court. Filed 2/7/20

Citibank NA vs. Yahaira Saito. 111th District Court. Filed on 2/10/20

Ana Salinas vs. Texas Farmers Insurance Company. 406th District Court. Filed on 2/10/20

The State of Texas vs. Jesus Hernandez, Cisneros Bail Bonds. 111th District Court. Filed on 2/10/20

Fernando Gonzalez vs. In the matter of. 111th District Court. Filed on 2/10/20

The State of Texas vs. Christopher Corpus. 111th District Court. Filed on 2/10/20

John Laurel vs. In the matter of. 406th District Court. Filed on 2/10/20

Citibank NA vs. Roel Castillo. 341st District Court. Filed on 2/10/20

Department Stores National Bank vs. Blanca Rodriguez. 341st District Court. Filed on 2/10/20

Department Stores National Bank vs. Francisca Saldana. 49th District

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Business News

Continued from page 9

Court. Filed on 2/10/20

Celica Gonzalez vs. In re., TKO Smokehouse and Spirits Inc. 49th District Court. Filed on 2/10/20

Veronica Cruz vs. United Property & Casualty Insurance Company. 111th District Court. Filed on 2/10/20
Gabriela Rivera vs. Alberto De Jesus Veliz. 111th District Court. Filed on 2/10/20

Maria De Jesus Martinez vs. Gonzalo Campos Cortez, Manuel Alejandro Rios, Laredo Transit Management. 406th District Court. 2/10/20
Steve M Eades vs. Salinas Warehouse & Distribution Inc. 49th District Court. Filed on 2/11/20

Juan J Garza Lopez, Miguella A Serna vs. Gabriela Nieto Ortega. 49th District Court. Filed on 2/11/20

State of Texas vs. Shangou Chen, Lucky Bamboo Amusement Center, \$17,200... 111th District Court. Filed on 2/11/20

San Juana Landin vs. Allstate Vehicle and Property Insurance

Company. 111th District Court. Filed on 2/11/20

Ovation Services, LLC vs. Lilia Morales, Oasis Council of Co-Owners, Inc. 49th District Court. Filed on 2/11/20

Ovation Services, Inc. vs. Sandra Rodriguez. 406th District Court. Filed on 2/11/20

Rogelio Pena vs. Asi Lloyds. 341st District Court. Filed on 2/11/20

State of Texas bs. Jose Rodriguez III, Pandora Amusement Center, \$15,700... 406th District Court. Filed on 2/11/20

State of Texas vs. Ruli Wu, Chaoquan Zeng, Gold Fish Amusement Center, \$148,000... 111th District Court. Filed on 2/11/20

TD Auto Finance, LLC f/k/a Chrysler Financial vs. Miguel Meza 406th District Court. Filed on 2/11/20

Jose Carrizales vs. State of Texas. 49th District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

Liza Lozano vs. Ex parte. 341st District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

Jose Carrizales vs. Ex parte. 406th District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

First Tech Federal Credit Union D/B/A First Tech Federal Credit Union vs. Jessica Arredondo. 49th District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

Francisco Hernandez vs. Ex parte. 341st District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

Unifund CCR LLC vs. Sergio Jesus Quintero. 111th District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

Brenda Sepulveda vs. Ex parte. 49th District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

Gabriel Rocha vs. Ex parte. 111th District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

Maria Esther Castillo, Lilliana Ivette Castillo vs. Jose Angel G Olivares. 406th District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

Roxanna Garza vs. Ex parte. 341st District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

Armando Lopez vs. Ex parte. 111th District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

Jessica Lancon vs. Ex parte. 49th District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

Elva Isabel Almanza, Aliz Yaritin Robles vs. Antonio Centeno Jr. 406th District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

Eduardo Moya vs. Federal Express Corporation, Jaime Alfaro. 406th District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

Jorge Catalani Jr. vs. State of Texas. 111th District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

Alejandro Garcia Jr. vs. Hat Creek Services LLC. 49th District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

Armando Torres vs. Texas Farmers Insurance Company. 111th District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

George Newsome vs. Texas Farmers Insurance Company. 406th District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

Collins Asset Group, LLC as successor in interest to Nationstar Mortgage LLC vs. Maria Martinez. 341st District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

Cach LLC vs. Darla Salazar. 49th

District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

Juan Javier Sanchez vs. Texas Farmers Insurance Company. 111th District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

Vanessa Ochoa vs. Alexis Bolanos, Juan Vasquez. 341st District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

David Palacios vs. In the matter of. 49th District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

Juan Gonzalez vs. In the matter of. 341st District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

United Independent School District vs. D&H Oil and Gas Services. 111th District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

United Independent School District vs. RDZ Oilfield Lease Services. 406th District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

United Independent School District vs. Fiberlight, LLC. 406TH District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

United Independent School District vs. Viasat, Inc. 341st District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

United Independent School District vs. Southcross Energy. 111th District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

United Independent School District vs. Media Networks Services USA, Inc. 49th District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

United Independent School District vs. Luca Trailer Leasing, LLC. 406th District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

Vanessa Ovalle vs. Ex parte. 341st District Court. Filed on 2/12/20

Bank of America NA vs. Erika Solis. 111th District Court. Filed on 2/13/20

Falcon International Bank vs. Juan Espinoza. 406th District Court. Filed on 2/13/20

Michael Marentes vs. In the matter of. 49th District Court. Filed on 2/14/20

Glenn Wayne Jane Jr. vs. Reynaldo Gonzalez Ramirez, Landway Carriers, Inc. 111th District Court. Filed on 2/14/20

Sen. Cruz hosts roundtable with Laredo business leaders

BY JULIA WALLACE
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz was in Laredo for a few hours on Thursday to meet with CBP and Border Patrol leadership and then participate in a roundtable discussion with local community and business leaders at the Laredo International Airport.

City of Laredo Economic Development Director Teclo Garcia said Cruz wanted to hear from locals about any issues he should be aware of. Members of the private sector asked Cruz to carry the message in Washington, D.C. that Laredo is the No. 1 inland port and has national and international significance, according to Garcia. There were

a couple dozen people in the meeting.

Cruz then held a brief press conference, where he said the biggest thing he heard was a sense of optimism and excitement about the economic boom in Texas.

“As we see more jobs, as we see wages rising, as we see poverty falling, as we see opportunity increasing – that is an exciting thing to be a part of,” Cruz said.

There was also a lot of discussion about the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, the senator noted. He congratulated the leaders in Laredo for speaking out about the benefits of robust trade between Texas and Mexico.

“I think that will produce yet more economic opportunity in Laredo, throughout Texas and throughout the country,” he said.



Mayor Pete Saenz is pictured with Sen. Ted Cruz at a roundtable discussion with local business leaders at the Laredo International Airport on Thursday. (Courtesy of City of Laredo)

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