



Uvalde Leader-News

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ONE SECTION, 22 PAGES

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PETE LUNA/LEADER-NEWS

Lights from a Uvalde Police Department patrol cruiser light up the area outside Big Al's Sports Bar after three people were shot. The incident occurred early Friday morning.

Sports bar shootout leaves three injured

Three men were airlifted to University Hospital in San Antonio after a distraught customer shot a local bar owner and patron early Friday morning. The gunman was also shot. Uvalde Police were dispatched to Big Al's Sports Bar, which is located

at 1104 W. Main St., at approximately 12:49 a.m. Friday for a report of shots fired. Witnesses say the gunman was Juan Alvarez, 70, who had allegedly been kicked out of the bar

late Thursday night. Alvarez returned with a gun and shot Alonzo Garcia, 50, who owns the bar, and Pedro Treviño, 58. Neither police nor witnesses said who shot Alvarez. The three men were airlifted to University Hospital in San Antonio.

According to a hospital representative, Alonzo was later released in stable condition while, as of Friday afternoon, Treviño and Alvarez were in critical but stable condition. No charges have been filed and an investigation is pending.



Congressman Will Hurd talks politics

Elected 'morons' caused former spy to seek office

KIM EAGLE
STAFF WRITER

Every other Thursday, one of Congressman Will Hurd's staff members does a rain dance for the 23rd district of Texas. It is a fun way for his team to blow off steam and at the same time show support for the counties they represent.

The anecdote came during a speech Thursday at Southwest Livestock Exchange, as Hurd makes his way around south and west Texas, visiting the counties he represents.

Hurd represents the largest congressional district in Texas. It encompasses 29 counties, two time zones, and 825 miles of the Texas/Mexico border.

Hurd was born and raised in San Antonio and attended Texas A&M University where he majored in computer science. "I always say I was more of the M than the

A in A&M," Hurd said. After graduating, he went straight into the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) where he was an undercover officer for nine years.

'I was the guy recruiting spies and stealing secrets.'

Will Hurd
U.S. Congressman

He spent his time in Washington D.C., New York, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India.

"I was the guy recruiting spies and stealing secrets," he said. "But I also had to report to members of Congress. After doing that for nine-and-a-half years, I realized most of them were morons. So I decided to do something about it. My mama said, 'You're either part of the problem or part of the solution,' so I ran for office."

While his first attempt
PLEASE SEE **PROBLEMS**, PAGE 22

Is Uvalde home to Food Pantry of the Year?

The Uvalde Food Pantry was has been nominated by the San Antonio Food Bank as Food Pantry of the Year. The local organization will be recognized at the Golden Apples Awards Banquet on March 26, in New Braunfels. Board president Tru Hiatt said, "We are really honored by this nomination but it is all due to the community support and our volun-

teers." The Uvalde Food Pantry, which is located at 211 S. Evans St., serves more than 500 families each week. Families who receive benefits including food stamps, Medicaid or WIC automatically qualify for the food program. Food distributed includes canned goods, rice, beans,

PLEASE SEE **HUNGER**, PAGE 20



KIM EAGLE/LEADER-NEWS

M'Liss Graham, CTE teacher at Uvalde High School, goes through a brochure with an incoming freshman and his father Wednesday evening during a course fair held in Harvey Kinchlow Gymnasium.

Eighth-graders get glimpse of UHS courses

KIM EAGLE
STAFF WRITER

It was time to see if the fish could swim Wednesday evening as incoming freshman students and their parents were invited to a course fair highlighting the different classes offered at Uvalde High School under the Foundation High School Plan for the 2015-2016 school year.

The orientation process for the soon-to-be high schoolers began March 6 when Morales Junior High School students were given a tour of UHS by administrators. Registration is scheduled for April 6-10. On Wednesday, parents gathered in the cafeteria for a PowerPoint presentation explaining the new
PLEASE SEE **LEARNING**, PAGE 20

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AREA DEATHS | PAGE 5

'Lecho' Gonzales Jr.
Luis P. Villarreal

2015 TO DATE	3.14
2014 SAME PERIOD	0.98
2013 SAME PERIOD	1.80
111 YEAR AVERAGE	2.96
EDWARDS AQUIFER	824.1
PREVIOUS LEVEL	824.1
2014 SAME PERIOD	834.4



OBSERVED INSIDE

	HIGH	LOW	RAIN		
SUN	58	48	0.15	CLASSIFIEDS	18-21
MON	63	53	0.11	VIEWPOINT	14-15
TUES	70	52	0.00	LIFESTYLES	4-5
WED	67	48	0.00	SPORTS	8-10
THURS	74	47	0.00	FARM	11
				KNIPPA	12-13
				UTOPIA	13

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PROBLEMS: Hurd's negative opinion of Congress hasn't changed in past nine weeks

FROM PAGE 1

at public office was unsuccessful, his second try this past November earned him a congressional seat

as he beat out incumbent Pete Gallego as representative of the 23rd district.

He has been on the job for nine weeks and is a part of the Homeland Security Committee and chairman of the Information Technology Subcommittee.

"I've had a pretty negative opinion of Congress for the last 20 months while I was running," he said. "That opinion hasn't changed much."

But that doesn't stop him from fighting on the issues that are important to his constituents.

He touched on national security issues such as Iran and terrorist group ISIS during his speech.

"They are a danger to our country and we need to do everything we can to eliminate them," he said about ISIS, adding that a nuclear Iran is not an option.

He talked about the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and how he stands with landowners when it comes to trying to redefine navigable waterways.

"Now I am not a conspiracy theorist... but the only reason to want to get on a dry creek bed is to get on your property. And that is unacceptable."

He mentioned helping veterans, especially making sure they get the benefits they deserve in a timely manner.

Locally, he said the biggest issues for Uvalde are water and the community health center approaching a fiscal cliff. He said he wants to make sure that places like Community Health Development, Inc.

in Uvalde are able to continue to provide services to their patients.

Hurd fielded questions from the audience that ranged from losing influence in Iraq, funding for the military and defense, securing the border, and how the use of executive orders are making Congress irrelevant. Hurd said the United States can't let Iran gain influence in Iraq.

"Look, the Iranians are fighting ISIS 'cause ISIS is a problem to them. But the enemy of our enemy is still our enemy. ISIS is a threat to everyone - a threat to the Egyptians, a threat to the Jordanians, a threat to the Turks. And these are the people we should be working with to be our boots on the ground.

"Let's continue to bomb them. We have the greatest Air Force... we need to continue to put pressure on them."

Also during his time in Uvalde, Hurd took a tour of Southwest Livestock Exchange and talked to



KIM EAGLE/LEADER-NEWS

Congressman Will Hurd (left) addresses the crowd during a speech on Wednesday at Southwest Texas Livestock Exchange.

farmers and ranchers about agricultural issues they feel are important to the area.

KEAGLE@UVALDELEADERNEWS.COM, 830-278-3335



KIM EAGLE/LEADER-NEWS

Melody Speer (left) and Congressman Will Hurd (center) listen as Elby Hutto of Utopia tells a story. The conversation took place Thursday at Southwest Livestock Exchange in Uvalde.

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