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LAREDOAN RUDY GONZALEZ TAKES OVER TAMIU GOLF PROGRAM



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Laredo Morning Times

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

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THE OUTLET SHOPPES

Boost in funding

City, county paying for advertising, lot construction

By GABRIELA A. TREVIÑO
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

As an economic incentive, the City of Laredo and Webb County will contribute sales tax revenue over the next 12 years toward the El Portal outlets, otherwise known as the Outlet Shoppes, a project that officials hope will rejuvenate the downtown area.

A City Council meeting was held Monday to amend the economic development agreement

with El Portal Center. The agreement initially had a 10-year term. Webb County officials also met to agree to their participation in the funding of the project, which is expected to cost more than \$100 million.

Originally, the city was investing \$9 million for promotion and advertisement over a 10-year period. Now, however, the period has been extended to 12 years and the city will contrib-



Courtesy photo

This artistic rendering shows the plans for the Outlet Shoppes, a project that officials hope will rejuvenate the downtown area.

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GATEWAY

Health center CEO retires

Treviño built clinic from the ground up

By PHILIP BALLI
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

After 48 years of service, Miguel Treviño, chief executive officer for the Gateway Community Health Center, is handing over the reins.

Elmo Lopez Jr., former CEO of Doctors Hospital and chief executive officer of McAllen Medical Center, has been tapped to serve as the new CEO of Gateway.

Since 1966, Treviño, who said he came from humble beginnings, has strived to ensure the accessibility of health care to everyone.

It was these humble beginnings that drove Treviño to begin his career helping migrant farm workers with the then-Laredo-Webb County Health Department.

The splitting of the migrant health program from the health department in 1989 marked the beginning of the nonprofit organization of Gateway Community Health Center.

Treviño, who was serving as coordinator of the migrant/urban health initiative grant program, was named the CEO of Gateway.

In 2001, Gateway opened the Henry Bonilla Healthcare Facility, its clinic in South Laredo. Four years later, Gateway opened an urgent care clinic to benefit individuals who did not have access to health care or couldn't afford to go to a private facility, according to Treviño.

"Here the emergency rooms are costly and the wait periods are too long," Treviño said. "We opened the clinic for our patient population as well as the general public at a very affordable cost."

In 2006, Gateway opened its doors to the main clinic, an \$11 million venture made possible through the New Market Tax Credits Program at 0 percent interest for seven years, according to Treviño. The building housing the clinic was recently renamed after

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LAREDO POLICE \$50K scam report

Man claimed to be a priest, took money

By CÉSAR G. RODRIGUEZ
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

A man who claimed to be a priest from a Northwest Laredo church scammed a person out of \$50,000, according to police.

The complainant went by the Laredo Police Department headquarters Monday at 2:52 p.m. to report the alleged incident. He told police he had made loans to a man who claimed to be a priest and

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LAREDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Photos by Cuate Santos | Laredo Morning Times

LCC student Iris Guerrero read an excerpt from "American Psycho" as she participated in the student-led readings from challenged or banned books Tuesday afternoon at LCC.

BANNED BOOKS CELEBRATED

LCC celebrated Banned Books Week on Tuesday at the Fort McIntosh Campus. Students read excerpts from banned or challenged books, such as Sapphire's novel "Push," "American Psycho," Stephen King's "It," Isabel Allende's "Paula" and Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland." The reading was hosted by the Harold R. Yearly Library and featured students reading from a variety of texts that have been challenged or banned from libraries and schools across the nation. Another Banned Books Week Read Out will be hosted Thursday at the LCC South Campus library.



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TODAY'S FORECAST



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LMT CARRIERS DONATE TO UISD STUDENTS



Photo by Danny Zaragoza | Laredo Morning Times

Laredo Morning Times home delivery carriers were recognized Tuesday for their donation of \$1,595 to the students of United ISD. These funds were collected by the carriers themselves, who went door-to-door to sign up new newspaper subscription customers. The carriers then decided to donate a portion of the subscription proceeds to UISD students. The proceeds will be used to buy school supplies and uniforms. Pictured from left are Victor Velasco, LMT district manager; Cesar Martinez, circulation manager; Bill Green, publisher; Eduardo Zúñiga, associate superintendent for student support services; Adriana Devally, general manager; and Aaron Gonzalez, district manager. The carriers have been collecting the money since July.

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late businessman and philanthropist Fernando A. Salinas.

Treviño said one aspect of Gateway that he is most proud of is the dedicated board of directors.

"Since October 1989, we have had a quorum every single month," Treviño said. "Without our excellent board of directors, we couldn't have gone very far."

The board consists of 15 members, half of whom are users of the clinic, as per federal stipulations.

The mission and vision of Gateway has remained resolute since Treviño began with the migrant health program in 1966: to provide and promote quality care for everyone.

In 2009, Gateway expanded its service area to Jim Hogg and Zapata counties when it was given the responsibility to operate and manage the clinics in those counties.

After dedicating nearly half a century of his life to providing care for uninsured or underprivileged individuals, Treviño said he has developed close relationships with patients.

"A lot of people are either uninsured, don't have access to care, can't afford care or do not qualify for the marketplace, or Obamacare," Treviño said. "The career I've had helping these people has been excellent. I'm going to miss not only the staff, but the patients."

"Once you've shown dedication to the profession of helping the less fortunate, those people hold a special place in your heart, as well as the doctors and staff."

One of the biggest challenges facing Gateway now is a shortage of primary care providers, Treviño said.

To overcome this challenge, Treviño said Gateway is working with the

University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio.

"If they will start a medical school in San Antonio, Gateway is going to be one of the places where the residents come to train," he said. "It has been proven that where residents train, 80 percent of them stay there."

Treviño said he would have retired four years ago had it not been for the plethora of ongoing projects.

"There will forever be projects," Treviño said. "I think the new CEO that is coming on board has a very good handle on this; he is a seasoned executive in the health care industry."

Treviño said he intends on spending time with his grandchildren, one of whom — a 4-year-old — recently underwent heart surgery.

(Philip Balli may be reached at 728-2528 or pballi@lmtonline.com)

CRIME | Continued from Page 3A

turing their horse patrol and many of their Homeland Security assets

■ Customs and Border Protection Office of Field Operation & Port of Entry, which will feature their community outreach and recruitment efforts

■ Texas Department of Public Safety with safe driving tips and information on how to become a trooper

■ Laredo ISD Police Department and Crimestoppers with information on how they are working to keep LISD students safe and drug-free

■ United ISD Police Department with information on how they work to keep UISD drug and gang-free

"I want people to be proactive and also, partners in fighting crime in our community," Balli said. "I don't mean I expect them to put themselves in harm's way, but rather, to be the law enforcements' eyes and ears on the ground. I especially want our community to encourage our youth to turn to law enforcement, instead of to distrust them, to fear them as a punishment."

"They are here to protect us. So, turn on the porch

light, come out, meet your neighbors, talk to local law enforcement officials, have fun and fight crime!"

Additionally, a myriad of City of Laredo departments, including: 3-1-1; 9-1-1; El Metro; Environmental Services/Keep Laredo Beautiful; Laredo Public Library; Parks & Leisure Services; and Solid Waste Services will be on hand answering questions about the various programs and services they offer.

Laredo Community College; Laredo Crimestoppers; Literacy Volunteers of Laredo; NeighborWorks; Ruth B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center; Texas Travel Information Center; and Upbring Foster In Texas will also be on hand giving information about how they help to serve the community.

Business partners for the event include AT&T; Crickert Wireless; Direct Auto & Life Insurance; Imagine My Smile Dental; Laredo Lemurs; Smoothie King; State Farm Agent Manuel Gomez III; and United Health Care. They will be handing out fun trinkets and information about how they also work to keep the community safe and healthy.

Thanks to some community grants from H-E-B and Target, attendees can expect hot dots, nachos, snacks, water and more. They will be free of charge. The DJ stylings of Guerra Communications DJ Wacko will keep the crowd entertained. Various contests for prizes, including a raffle for a couple of bikes, courtesy of Target, and other door prizes, will be given away throughout the night.

The highlight of the event has come to be the Mascot Dance Off, which begins around 7 p.m. immediately after the official opening ceremonies. This contest features some pretty stiff competition from McGruff (Laredo PD); Sparky (Laredo Fire Department) Officer Pat (CBP); Knight (Imagine Dental); Pancho (Laredo Lemurs); Huggie (Webb County District Attorney's Office); Billy Crime Fighter (LISD PD and Crime Stoppers); Berry (Smoothie King); Safety Sam (United ISD); Sgt. Pride (Webb County Constable Harold Devally); Deputy Pal and Eddie Eagle (Webb County Sheriff's Office), respectively.

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ute \$12.3 million.

Gary J. Skoien, president and CEO of Horizon Group Properties, the project's developer, attended the City Council meeting Monday to request the additional \$6.6 million for the completion of the project.

Council members Roberto Balli, George Altgelt, Charlie San Miguel, Juan Narvaez, Esteban Rangel and Rudy Gonzalez Jr. voted to approve it after City Manager Jesus Olivares said he had worked out a deal with Webb County, ensuring that the county would provide half of the additional cost, or \$3.3 million.

The project is broken down into two phases. In the first phase, about 335,000 square feet of retail space will be constructed near international bridge I, featuring 80 retail shops. In the second phase, developers will add another 100,000-square-foot building to house 25 shops.

Skoien said the mall project is unique to the company due its location.

"We usually build on cornfields or vacant lots. ... Here, frankly, it's kind of cool," Skoien said.

"To offset some of the money (the city is) giving us, we agreed that they wouldn't improve all the (parking) lots until they are needed," Skoien told Laredo Morning Times after the meeting.

The bargain was that the city would have until the second phase of construction to improve or build additional parking

Originally, the city was investing \$9 million for promotion and advertisement over a 10-year period. Now, however, the period has been extended to 12 years and the city will be contributing \$12.3 million. The county will contribute \$3.3 million.

facilities to accommodate consumer traffic around the outlet mall.

The space is currently equipped with 16,000 parking spaces, including about 500 parking spaces underneath the building, according to Skoien.

However, additional development is expected to occur in the area along with construction of the outlet mall, which would call for more parking.

"The developer will be able to finalize the outlet mall. ... As Mr. Olivares was saying, the construction costs came out to be much higher than expected," Rosario Camarillo Cabello, City of Laredo finance director said. "It's the anchor to live up downtown all over again."

Olivares said the stores at the mall will generate a certain amount of sales tax revenue when they open.

He said the city will commit to putting the same amount of revenue

they receive from those stores into advertising for the mall and its stores via billboards, newspapers, TV stations and radio stations.

The deal has not been finalized, however.

"Contracts still need to be drawn up," Cabello said. "It's an over \$100 million investment."

The Outlet Shoppes is scheduled to open in fall 2016. The project will create about 1,200 permanent jobs, 1,000 construction jobs and 1,600 seasonal jobs, Cynthia Collazo, deputy city manager, said in June.

Demolition is set to occur in about three to four weeks, according to Skoien.

"If the county hadn't stepped in, I think this project would have been put on hold again," City Councilman Juan Narvaez said.

(Gabriela A. Treviño may be reached at 956-728-2579 or gtrevi-no@lmtonline.com)

PRIEST | Continued from Page 1A

dressed like one, said Investigator Joe E. Baeza, LPD spokesman.

Reports state the alleged priest wore black long sleeve shirts with a white collar under his shirt.

The man claimed to be

a priest at San Judas Tadeo Church by Albany Drive and Bristol Road, off Mines Road, states the police report.

"As per the victim, the suspect borrowed about \$50,000 from him in small loans, using different ex-

cuses as reasons for the need for the money," Baeza said.

The case was turned over to detectives for an investigation.

(César G. Rodriguez may be reached at 728-2568 or cesar@lmtonline.com)

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