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HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

Laredo marks Veterans Day with annual ceremony and parade.

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Ex-Border Patrol agent fights conviction

Man appealing life sentence in killings of lover, toddler

By Malena Charur
STAFF WRITER

More than two years after he was convicted of killing his lover and their 1-year-old son at Father McNaboe Park, former U.S. Border Patrol supervisor Ronald Anthony Burgos-Aviles was back before the courts last week as the 8th Court of Appeals in El Paso heard oral arguments in his capital murder case.

Burgos-Aviles, who was sentenced in 2023 to life in prison without parole, is seeking to

overturn his conviction and be granted a new trial.

The defense team is arguing that several errors occurred during his trial, including the removal of his original attorney, denial of a venue change and admission of disputed evidence.

The state, represented Wednesday by Webb County District Attorney Isidro R. “Chilo” Alaniz and members of his team, urged the appellate court to uphold the jury’s verdict.

Alaniz said the appeal focuses on alleged errors made dur-

ing the 2023 trial — including how the proceedings were handled, the judge’s instructions and the application of the law.

“He has the right to appeal if he is not satisfied with the decision,” Alaniz said. “From my perspective as a prosecutor and attorney for the state, I believe everything will turn out favorably for the state.”

He added that he remains confident the conviction will stand, noting that District Judge Joe Lopez “took great care to hold hearings, analyze

Appeal continues on A3



David Gomez Jr./Laredo Morning Times
Former Border Patrol supervisor Ronald Anthony Burgos-Aviles at his double-murder trial in 2023. He was found guilty.



Photos by David Gomez Jr./Laredo Morning Times
Laredo Mayor Dr. Victor Trevino works with City Secretary Mario Maldonado, District IV Council Member Rick Garza and city public information staff to sort out the number of public comments Friday.

‘We are here to negotiate’

City outlines border wall policy, insists it can’t stop build

By David Gomez Jr.
STAFF WRITER

City leaders held a special meeting Friday aimed at clearing the air for residents concerned about possible border wall construction along Laredo’s riverbanks, confirming that while the federal government plans to move forward, the city’s role will center on negotiation, transparency and protecting local interests.

Laredo Mayor Dr. Vic-



City leaders held a special meeting Friday on possible border wall construction.

tor Trevino opened the session by acknowledging the growing unease surrounding federal discussions and reaffirmed the city’s intent to keep residents informed.

“The federal government will build this wall whether we say yes or no,” Trevino said. “We are here to inform the public that we are here to negotiate.”

He emphasized that no vote or decision would

Policy continues on A10

Nonprofit warns of barrier plan’s impact on river

By Maria Ruiz
STAFF WRITER

As the city recently received notice of a renewed federal plan to expand the southern border wall, Laredo environmental advocates are warning of the cultural and environmental damage it could bring.

Laredo is one of 21 cities along the Texas-Mexico border expected to be impacted by the reintroduced wall proposal — a renewed push by the Trump administration to secure the border. That figure excludes smaller

communities and unincorporated areas also likely to be affected.

The Rio Grande International Study Center, founded to protect and preserve the Rio Grande-Rio Bravo, said Laredoans “are river people” — rooted on land chosen strategically for its access to the river, a resource now deeply tied to culture.

“To permanently cut off our access to the Rio Grande — our community’s very source of life — is to cut us off from our historic ecological and cul-

Wall continues on A10

Booming housing communities come with hidden costs

By Megan Kimble
STAFF WRITER

When Sandra Wilson sold her townhouse near downtown Dallas and moved to Josephine, a small city 40 miles outside the metroplex, she looked forward to quieter streets and cheaper taxes.

Then she got her first property tax bill. “I came unglued,” she said.

Wilson, who is 71 and retired, was aware when she bought her new

home that it was in a municipal utility district, or MUD, and that she would have to pay a special tax. But what she didn’t know was how much that tax would be — more than \$2,400 annually, double what she paid to the county — nor that she would be charged it essentially indefinitely.

Lawmakers and developers have sold municipal utility districts as a

Districts continues on A6

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