

LOCAL

# MUD, TEAMWORK, PURPOSE

Participants will tackle muddy obstacles at Laredo Mud Fiesta 2.0 on March 28.

PAGE A2



STATE

# CHICKPEAS GROWN IN MOON DIRT

Texas researchers team up via Reddit to grow chickpeas in simulated moon dirt.

PAGE A4



SPORTS

# EARLY CLASH MAY SHAPE 30-6A RACE

District 30-6A baseball begins with two-game series between Alexander and United South.

PAGE B1

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Dylan Baddour/Inside Climate News

Corpus Christi faces an imminent water crisis after a decade of city government failures, according to several former officials.

## After a decade of missteps, Corpus Christi careens toward water catastrophe

By Dylan Baddour  
INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS,  
FOR THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

CORPUS CHRISTI — The imminent depletion of water supplies in Corpus Christi threatens to cut off the flow of jet fuel to Texas airports and other oil exports from one of the nation's largest petroleum ports, triggering potential shockwaves through energy markets in Texas and beyond.

Without significant rainfall,

Corpus Christi is headed for a "water emergency" within months and total depletion of the system next year, according to the city's website. "The impacts are going to be felt tremendously through the state, if not internationally," said Sean Strawbridge, former CEO of the Port of Corpus Christi Authority, the nation's top port for crude oil exports, in a 40-minute interview Thursday. "This should be no surprise to anybody. We were talking about this over a decade

ago." Other current and former officials, alarmed at what they call a lack of preparations, have suggested the potential for an economic crisis involving mass layoffs, disruption of fuel supplies and billions of dollars in emergency spending to avoid an evacuation of the city.

Strawbridge, who now lives in Houston, laid the blame on city leaders, citing "their lack of experience, their lack of knowl-

*Water continues on A5*

## Oil prices jump, markets slide as Iran names new supreme leader

By Jon Gambrell,  
Jamey Keaten  
and Samy Magdy  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Oil prices surged and stock markets slid Monday after hard-line Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei was chosen to succeed his late father as Iran's supreme leader. His appointment, and new strikes on regional oil infrastructure, signaled that Iran was digging in 10 days into the war launched by the United States and Israel.

The war has choked off major supplies of oil and gas to world markets, led foreigners to flee from business hubs and

prompted millions to seek shelter as bombs hit sites including military bases, government buildings, oil and water installations, hotels and at least one school.

Khamenei, a secretive 56-year-old cleric, is only the third supreme leader in the history of the Islamic Republic. He has close ties to the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, which has been firing missiles and drones at Israel and Gulf Arab states since his father, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who had ruled since 1989, was killed during the war's opening salvo.

The appointment suggests Tehran is not close to giving up on what it considers a fight for

the Islamic theocracy's survival.

### Government supporters pour into the streets

Thousands poured into a central square in the capital, Tehran, and other locations in a show of allegiance to the new supreme leader, waving flags and shouting phrases like "Death to America" and "Death to Israel." "America and Israel: You've failed, and you will drown in the swamp you are stuck in," said Abbas Ali Saeedipoor, one of the demonstrators.

Iranian authorities have long encouraged public shows of support for the Islamic Republic while violently cracking down

*Iran continues on A3*

## Man charged after crash kills 5-year-old

By Maria Ruiz and  
Jose De La Rosa  
STAFF WRITERS



Ramirez

A Rio Bravo man was arrested Saturday after crashing into a parked vehicle, killing a 5-year-old girl and injuring another person, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Troopers responded at about 12:29 a.m. March 7 to Margarita Lane inside the city limits of Rio Bravo for a crash involving multiple vehicles. Webb County sheriff's deputies and Rio Bravo firefighters also responded.

A 2015 Dodge passenger car traveling east on Margarita Lane allegedly failed to control its speed and struck a parked 2018 Nissan SUV facing west outside a residence. The impact pushed the Nissan backward, causing it to strike a parked Ford pickup and an enclosed utility trailer near the same residence, DPS said.

A child passenger in the Nissan SUV was transported to a hospital in Laredo and later pro-

nounced dead due to injuries sustained in the crash. She was identified as 5-year-old Jasmine Nicole Arce by family members in social media posts.

The female driver of the Nissan SUV was also transported to the hospital, where she remained hospitalized in stable condition as of Monday afternoon.

The driver of the Dodge was identified as 28-year-old Cesar Armando Ramirez of Rio Bravo, DPS said. Ramirez was booked into Webb County Jail on charges of manslaughter and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Jail records show Ramirez remained held as of Monday afternoon on a combined \$700,000 bond.

Ramirez was separately arrested in June 2025 on two

*Crash continues on A3*

## Webb County sees \$3.5M in savings through energy efficiency program

By David Gomez Jr.  
STAFF WRITER

Webb County officials say energy efficiency improvements across county facilities have generated millions of dollars in savings over the past several years.

Representatives from Schneider Electric presented an update on the county's energy savings program, which has focused on improving efficiency in government buildings through lighting upgrades and other infrastructure improvements.

According to the representatives, the county has recorded about \$3.5 million in reconciled savings through November 2025, exceeding the program's guaranteed savings benchmark of about \$3.1 million. The initiative includes an annual savings guarantee of about \$473,396, officials said.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Rosaura "Wawi" Tijerina said the company conducts audits and studies to identify ways the county can lower energy use and reduce utility costs.

"They do studies to see how

*Savings continues on A3*



David Gomez Jr./Laredo Morning Times

Pct. 4 Commissioner Ricardo Jaime on March 9, 2026, at the Webb County Courthouse.

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