

# Hampton Inn, car catch fire

By Cesar G Rodriguez  
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

A local hotel along with a vehicle caught on fire in north Laredo, according to first responders.

Laredo Fire Department crews responded to the Hampton Inn on 7903 San Dario Ave. for a reported structure fire.

First responders said they encountered a five-story structure with its

south exterior actively burning along with a mid 2000's Infinity Crossover.

Crews extinguished the flames. A search of the building revealed all people were accounted for. The fire remains under investigation.



Zach Davis/Laredo Morning Times

Pictured is the aftermath of a fire at Laredo's Hampton Inn at 7903 San Dario Ave. on Monday, June 13, 2022.

## Laredo Chamber of Commerce moving in August to McPherson location

COURTESY OF THE LAREDO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Laredo Chamber of Commerce signed closing documents on 5702 McPherson Road Suite# 8 A&B, on June 9.

After several months of searching and evaluating offers from private and public sector for the Laredo Chamber's long-term home, the final decision was made, and an offer presented to the property owners of 5702 McPherson Road Suite# 8 A&B.

On Feb. 16, the Chamber issued an open solicitation to the community to submit letters of interest after reaching an agreement with the Laredo Independent School District. As the oldest and strongest business organization in the city, the Laredo Chamber has been housed at 2310 San Bernardo Avenue for over 45 years. This esteemed organization, founded in 1915, represents essential industries, ranging from financial institutions and retailers, to transportation, logistics and service providers.

The future for the Laredo Chamber of Commerce in this new building is bright. As the organization has enhanced its service delivery with programs catered exclusively for small and local businesses, this new location allows for greater benefit of becoming a Laredo Chamber of Commerce member.

The plan is to build on the existing legacy and continue to be the anchor for high-level meetings with international dignitaries, trade-related engagements and enhance business development in the area. Staple programs such as Business Development Certification, Business Spotlight, Cola Blanca Contest, School Bell Awards, Youth Leadership Laredo, Bola Blanca, Vision Conference,



Courtesy/Google Maps

Pictured is the Laredo Chamber of Commerce's Building located at 2319 San Bernardo Avenue.

Women in Leadership, G13, B2B matching, the execution of certificate of origins, and notary services will continue to take place at the McPherson property starting Aug. 1, 2022.

"These are exciting times for the Laredo Chamber of Commerce, and our stakeholders," said Gabriela Morales, President & CEO of the Laredo Chamber of Commerce. "We know this new chapter will bring plenty of opportunities

for the business community."

"Our new location will open doors to even more collaboration and community engagement with businesses in Laredo, Webb County, and beyond," added Mike Marasco, Chairman of the Board of Directors.

### About the Chamber

Founded in 1915, the Laredo Chamber of Commerce is Laredo's and Webb County's longest running business organi-

zation. Headquartered at 2310 San Bernardo Ave. since 1974, the Laredo Chamber has been an advocate for the local business community for over a century. With almost 700 members representative of every industry in the community, the Laredo Chamber is accredited with 5 stars by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Only 200 chambers out of 7,000 across the country are accredited by this organization.

## TAMIU's 'Fresh Start 2.0' erases over \$352K in debt for students

COURTESY OF TAMIU

Texas A&M International University students who were enrolled for the Summer or Fall 2021 semesters and have an outstanding TAMIU student account balance will find that it has been erased and they are debt-free. These are balances owed to the university and do not include loans owed to third parties.

Dubbed "Fresh Start 2.0," it's a second offering of a previous program that wiped away over \$1 million in outstanding student account balances from Spring/Summer/Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 for over 700 students. That program and this new offering are made possible by federal funding through CARES, CRRSA and ARP Acts designed to help students affected by COVID-19.

TAMIU president Dr. Pablo Arenaz said he hopes Fresh Start 2.0 will encourage beneficiaries to continue their higher education journey.

"The university has been the fortunate recipient of federal funding to help students impacted by COVID-19. Fresh Start 2.0 enables us to eliminate qualified students' TAMIU student account balances so that they can return to their studies debt-free and worry-free. We project that we'll help 288 students to the tune of approximately \$352,437. With no business office hold, these students can continue their degree pursuit," Arenaz said.

Fresh Start 2.0-eligible students were notified of their TAMIU debt-free status via their Dusty e-mail account beginning Monday, June 13, 2022. Outstanding TAMIU student account balances erased range from small amounts up to \$5,420. Students can verify their new status online via the university's Uconnect portal, choosing "Pay My Bill," then selecting "My Account."

"This is another way we can restore some sense of breathing room. We hope that students will see this as a 'fresh start'... a way to begin anew, take a deep breath and renew their journey to their degree," Arenaz explained.

He added that as students return to the university this Summer or Fall, a broad spectrum of additional financial support is available.

"We have been able to robustly build our available student financial assistance and will work with all students to identify and explore all options to help them earn their

degree. We've even added an online tool, TAMIU FundsFinder, to help students find both on and off-campus scholarships from their smartphone," Arenaz added.

He also noted that just last week The Texas A&M University System's Board of Regents announced there would be no tuition increase at TAMIU and all 11 A&M System campuses. The Board said it is focused on "making a college education affordable for all Texans."

"These are troubling times for all families. The nation is moving towards Pandemic recovery, but the additional impact of inflation is troubling for all. TAMIU's founding mission provides our motivating anchor: we are here to bring higher education to underserved and economically-challenged communities. With our Board's and Chancellor John Sharp's support, we will continue to provide the accessible, affordable and exceptional education our students and their families deserve. We will manage our costs, and make sure that our mission is delivered, and changes lives daily," Arenaz said.

He said TAMIU's Summer and Fall registration is already underway and the university's and System's commitment to no tuition increases helps parents plan their student's path forward.

Additional undergraduate and graduate student support programs, part of the #Comeback Programs for resuming students, are also available. Funded by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, these grants provide scholarships and repayment of previous semester balances. All are designed to help students complete their degrees. Information on #Comeback Programs is available at <https://go.tamiu.edu/comeback>, or by calling the university's Office of Outreach and Pre-College Programs at 956-326-2270, emailing [outreach@tamiu.edu](mailto:outreach@tamiu.edu), or visiting offices in the Senator Judith Zaffirini Student Success Center, Suite 138.

TAMIU's Fall 2022 plans are focused on a return to a full and vibrant on-campus experience for all students, faculty, and staff at the 300-acre northeast Laredo campus.

Additional information is available online at [tamiu.edu](http://tamiu.edu) and on the university's social media channels Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, and YouTube.

2022

UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

IS HOLDING A  
JOB FAIR

UISD IS LOOKING TO HIRE:

- BUS DRIVERS AND MONITORS
- CUSTODIANS
- CAFETERIA WORKERS
- GROUNDS CREWS
- HVAC MECHANICS
- ELECTRICIANS
- PLUMBERS
- CONSTRUCTION WORKERS
- LIBRARIANS
- TEACHERS
- TEACHER AIDES
- AND CAMPUS CLERKS

AT ELIAS HERRERA  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
8800 McPherson

Tuesday, June 14

From 1 to 5 P.M.

Apply Now

YOU CAN COMPLETE AN  
APPLICATION ONLINE BY GOING TO

[WWW.UISD.NET](http://WWW.UISD.NET)

OR CALL 473-6273  
FOR MORE INFORMATION



WE ARE UNITED  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

U BELONG  
EVOLVE  
ACHIEVE

Celebrate Father's Day  
at La Posada Hotel!



LIVE MUSIC &  
DOOR PRIZES

OMELET STATION, MENUDO,  
BARBACOA, PANCAKES  
AND MUCH MORE!  
COFFEE & TEA INCLUDED.

KIDS 6-12 ADULT  
\$9.99 \$23.99

\*PLUS TAX & 18% SERVICE FEE

RESERVATIONS ONLY. 956.753.4454

RESERVE NOW BY SCANNING  
WITH YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA

