



Laredo Morning Times staff file

With the school year starting next week, shoppers will be taking to The Outlet Shoppes at Laredo and other locations throughout the city to take advantage of the tax-free weekend.

## The Outlet Shoppes at Laredo kicks off tax-free weekend

COURTESY OF THE OUTLET SHOPPES AT LAREDO

The Outlet Shoppes at Laredo announced details of its annual back to school promotions and tax-free weekend, scheduled for Friday, Aug. 5-7.

Plans to celebrate this significant savings weekend include three days filled with sales, promotions, activities and special events.

The festivities kick off on Saturday, Aug. 6 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with the Back to School Bash with Radio United, where the first 400 guests will receive a backpack filled with school supplies.

The Back to School Bash with Radio United includes live entertainment and exciting giveaways, including a free iPad giveaway every 30 minutes.

Saturday will also see free COVID vaccines at the upper-level Food Hall starting at 10 a.m. and a Back to School Slime Fest featuring slime activities, vendors and more starting at noon.

Over the last five years, The Outlet Shoppes at Laredo has become a favorite shopping destination for South Texas and Northern Mexico. The center has become an integral part of the Laredo community by partnering with numerous civic and nonprofit organizations. It has hosted unique community events such as the recent Sister Cities Festival, various cultural events, farmer's markets and educational activities.

The Outlet Shoppes at Laredo's tax-free weekend hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday.

## Cuellar shares condolences after death of Indiana congresswoman

By Jorge A. Vela  
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

Indiana Rep. Jackie Walorski, 58, died in a car accident on Wednesday afternoon along with two of her staffers.

Reactions and tributes to the congresswoman who has served since 2013 have been pouring in, with Laredo's Rep. Henry Cuellar among those who have shared his condolences.



Walorski

Cuellar states that he met Walorski in 2012 when she was elected to her congressional seat. He calls her a vibrant, good woman that always had a smile and worked with a good attitude.

"I knew her. She was a very good lady that we lost, and apparently we also lost her communications and district director with her (during the accident)," Cuellar said. "I must say that it is sad losing her, as she was so nice. A very nice individual, as every time I would see her on the floor, she would say, 'Hi.' She was just a very, very nice individual."

Cuellar said that even though she was from an opposing party, their working relationship was "very good." They did not see each other too often -- members of Congress usually work more closely with the members of the committees they are a part of -- but Cuellar said that every time they did meet, they greeted each other courteously.

"I can tell you that on the floor, she was always the friendliest person. She always had a smile on her face and always had a nice thing to say, even though how partisan it is in D.C.," Cuellar said. "She was one of the good ones, would always say hello and always reach you with a smile. That is how I will remember her, as a very civil, nice lady, and it is unfortunate that we have lost her."

Cuellar said traveling is a big part of a member of Congress' job, as they must travel constantly from their district to Washington D.C. but also within their district, such as Cuellar from Laredo to San Antonio, Duval, Jim Hogg, McAllen and elsewhere in District 28.

"When you get to D.C., you then start again traveling, traveling and traveling, and that is some of the situation that is part of the job," Cuellar said. "You have to do it because you visit your district, you have to campaign and go announce things, and that is the way it has to be."

Cassy Garcia, the Republican nominee for Congressional District 28 who is currently running against Cuellar, also expressed her condolences. She said it was a troubling development, and the fact that other individuals of her staff were also killed in the tragedy made it that much worse.

"I am saddened to learn of the passing of Rep. Jackie Walorski, Zachary Potts and Emma Thomson," Garcia said. "Rep. Walorski served our country honorably in Congress and was a champion for veterans and the unborn. We pray for the families of everyone involved in this tragedy."

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# Laredoans asked to vote on design of new downtown monument sign

By Zach Davis  
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

Laredo Main Street has a plan to bring a new landmark to downtown, and it is asking for Laredoans to help decide on the design.

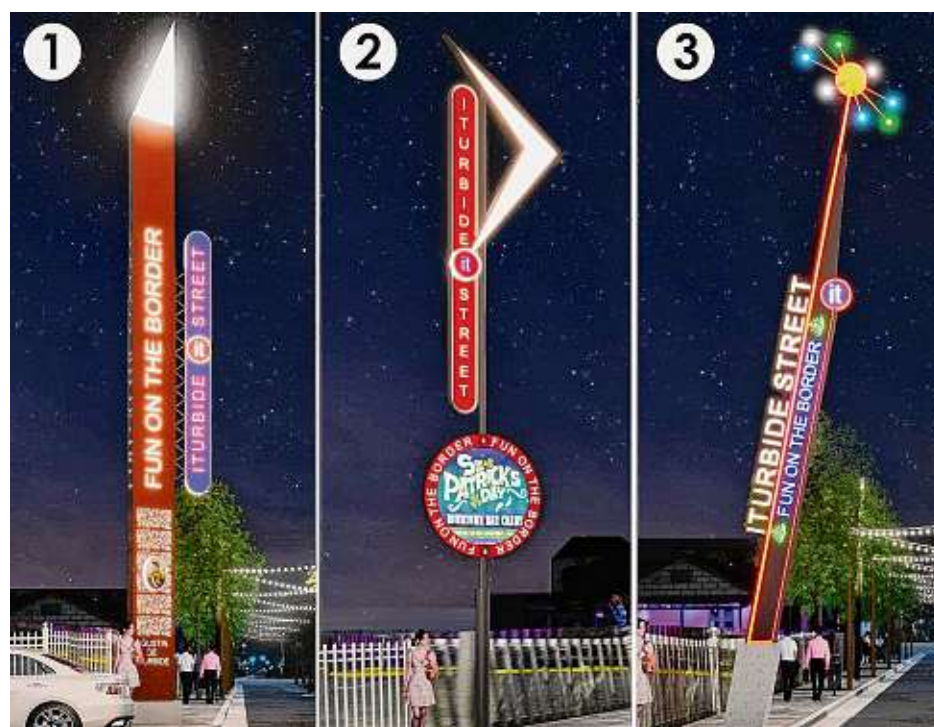
On Wednesday, Laredo Main Street unveiled plans to bring a monument sign to the area.

The sign would be positioned on the corner of Iturbide Street and San Ursula Street. Voting will conclude Aug. 8 at midnight. To vote, find this story at lmtonline.com and click the embedded link.

There are three very different designs locals will be able to choose from. Each has the words "Iturbide Street" and "Fun on the Border" worked into them in different ways.

Laredo Main Street said that all monument signs have programmable LED lights that can change sequence.

The first design featured is the simplest, featuring a wide dark red pillar that unlike the other two focuses more on the



Courtesy/Laredo Main Street

Laredo Main Street is asking locals to pick the new monument sign that will be coming to downtown on the corner of Iturbide and San Ursula Street.

motto than the street name. This option prominently features the history around Agustín de Iturbide, the Mexican army general and politician who the street is named after due to him having a major role in the Mexican War of In-

dependence in 1821. The second and third each focus more on featuring "Iturbide Street" in large letters. The second is red and has more of a retro theme. It also has a circular LED screen which will be able to be customized to

have different logos or messages. The third is orange and is a more modern design which actually slants so that its top will be over the road and passing cars.

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## Regresa a Laredo campaign hopes to bring in shoppers

By Jorge A. Vela  
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

From Friday through Sunday, tax-free weekend will arrive. But it won't just be about a chance for locals to shop, as big traffic is expected to come into the city from Mexico other areas in Texas as they spend money in Laredo.

Due to this convergence, one of the oldest business organizations in the Gateway City wants to use the opportunity to promote many local businesses.

The Laredo Chamber of Commerce is working diligently on a campaign known as Regresa a Laredo, where they are not just asking shoppers to travel and shop in Laredo, but they are also promoting local businesses where people can shop, grab food to go or dine in a restaurant.

Gabriela Morales, President and CEO of the Laredo Chamber of Commerce, said the campaign will feature coupons and good marketing and will help bring more people to local services and products that are in the Gateway City.

"Regresa a Laredo is a seasonal campaign to empower local businesses while stimulating the economy in the South Texas region," Morales said. "With the school year quickly approaching, our city anticipates an increase of Mexican consumers starting this month."

Morales said that with tax-free weekend starting, they have come in contact



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with media far away from the city in efforts to reach the large numbers of people that travel to Laredo.

"The Laredo Chamber of Commerce wants to maximize this opportunity and promote Laredo and Webb County businesses within the northern part of Mexico, targeting the demographic which has historically chosen Texas for their shopping needs," Morales said. "For these purposes, we have contracted a space in the Sierra Madre publication with a circulation of 30,000 printed copies in the Monterrey metropolitan area and 60,000 distributed digitally."

Morales said the strategy of Regresa a Laredo focuses on partnering with the business community in the retail, restaurant, lodging and entertain-

ment sectors to package a series of coupons, discounts and perks. This will hopefully lead to visitors choosing Laredo over other cities in South Texas.

Additionally, Morales said right now offers a good opportunity for the shopping season before school starts to be the biggest on record since the pandemic began as the borders are once again reopened.

"It is anticipated that we'll see an increase in retail this year compared to the year prior, given that this year the border is open to non-essential travelers and there is

more in-store activity this year than in 2021," Morales said.

Morales said Regresa a Laredo campaign should not just be something that outside visitors take advantage of. Locals will also be able to use coupons and other offers that are available at a time when inflation is at an all-time high.

"Since inflation is at a 40-year high, it is encouraged that not only international travelers, but also Texas residents take advantage of the coupons on tax-free weekend," Morales said.

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TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

NuStar Logistics, L.P., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for an amendment to and renewal of Air Quality Permit No. 20801, which would authorize modification to and continued operation of a Laredo Refined Products Terminal located at 13380 South Unitec Drive, Laredo, Webb County, Texas 78045. Additional information concerning these applications is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.



### La Terraza Café

& CANTINA RESTAURANT

## Your Choice

**Tripitas Sizzling for 2 People \$19<sup>99</sup>**  
w/ Charro Beans & Tortillas

**Parrillada for 2**  
**Beef & Chicken**  
**Fajitas w/ all trims**

**20 - Jumbo Fried**  
**Shrimp Platter for 2**  
**w/ Fries and Salad**

*Live Music Outdoor Terraza Patio*  
*Fri & Sat Night | Sunday's Tardíada's*

**Happy Hour on all Beer**  
**Buckets & Cocktails 2x1**  
4pm to 10pm

11am-3pm | 601 E. Calton Road | 956-717-5945