

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Big Buck Contest announces official sponsor

By Karol Garcia
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

As Cola Blanca Big Buck Contest hunting season is underway, the Laredo Chamber of Commerce announced the sponsorship from Sames Chevrolet on Wednesday.

The Cola Blanca Big Buck Contest is an annual anticipated event for many hunters from Texas and Mexico to enjoy as a family tradition.

According to Cola Blanca, the contest began as an effort from Laredo Chamber of Commerce to develop a program that would not only honor hunting and the rich traditions that come with it but would also highlight the City of Laredo and Webb County as a premier South Texas hunting destination.

The contest has been held for around 35 years, becoming a tradition for many hunters, with white tailed deer hunting season beginning at the start of October.

After the idea started, it



Courtesy Photo

As Cola Blanca Big Buck Contest hunting season got underway, the Laredo Chamber of Commerce announced the sponsorship from Sames Chevrolet on Wednesday, Nov. 30.

evolved into a tradition for many hunters that not only bring families together but also bring benefits economically.

President & CEO of the Laredo Chamber of Commerce Gabriela Morales expressed that this collaboration helps bring even more participation and benefits for the contest that collaterally will help Laredo's economy.

"We are extremely excited about this partnership," Morales said. "We know that Sames Laredo Chevrolet has been very active in our community sponsoring several other organizations and endeavors that help the quality of life in Laredo and education for the youth."

Morales said that on average, about 400 hunters registered for the an-

nual contest, brining tourists to town for hunting purposes.

"This activity stimulates the economy by visitors spending nights in Laredo, putting heads in beds and also providing that positive domino effect our region needs," Morales said. "Visitors have gotten an excellent experience from being in Laredo, from dining, hunting

in this area, so we want to continue to provide that experience for them and with this partnership, we will be able enhance our footprint."

Justin Jacaman, a committee member for Cola Blanca Big Buck Contest, encouraged the community to participate and stated that this collaboration will make the contest bigger.

"It is a huge honor for the Cola Blanca Contest to partner with Sames Chevrolet and help us expand our footprint, to recruit more contestants and bringing more people to Laredo."

Jacaman states that it is very important to continue with the contest, as it brings a lot of excitement to hunting. It also features children, grandparents and parents getting involved ensuring more years of continuing this tradition while creating relationships between locals and visitors from the state or even out-of-state.

"We're thankful for the new partnership, and we

look forward to future growth and expanding the contest in positive ways for the community, for Laredo, and for all," he said.

Trent Stricker, general manager of Sames Chevrolet, echoed Jacaman as he believes this is a very important partnership and the outdoor activities, and hunting help families enjoy some time together.

"It's a wonderful feeling to support this contest getting the children involved and keeping this tradition going where the families can take their time with their friends, their children and bond while having a contest," Stricker said. "It's what people need to do to get away from the stress of life and step back and enjoy, and this is one of those things that strike."

For more information about Cola Blanca Big Buck contest, visit cola-blanca.com or call 956-722-9895.

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GROUNDBREAKING HELD FOR MANADAS WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT



The City of Laredo held a groundbreaking ceremony Wednesday for the Manadas Wastewater Treatment Plant. The project located at 8310 Tejas Loop will process 4.75 million gallons of water per day and is part of a plan to decommission and close the Zacate Creek facility.

Jason Mack/Laredo Morning Times

CUELLAR

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mately, rail traffic stoppage could result in \$2 billion daily losses to the American economy through a culmination of backed up cargo, shipment delays, and canceled commuter rail services. Adopting the Tentative Railroad Agreement is critical to preventing our economy from coming to a grinding halt."

The shutdown would be especially impactful in Laredo which is the top railroad freight gateway in the country. With 25 trains crossing on average each day and each train carrying approximately \$5 million to \$10 million worth of goods, Laredo would account for up to \$250 million, or 12.5%, of the estimated \$2 billion in daily losses to the American economy.

"It is rare for Congress to get involved in things like this. It has been a while," Cuellar said. "Just think about it, we have issues with supply chains and we've got issues with inflation, imagine stopping all trains?"

"Trucks can't do it all by themselves. It would be a total disaster right before Christmas."

Those numbers are expected to grow in the near future as Kansas City Southern held a groundbreaking Oct. 31 announcing a \$100 million project funded by the company to construct a second international railway bridge. The new bridge will create an increase of approximately 21 trains per day, and it has an estimated completion date of October 2024.

"Railroad workers are crucial to the 28th District of Texas," Cuellar said. "At the Texas-Mexican Railway International Bridge in Laredo, an average of 25 trains per day cross the border, making it the busiest railroad freight gateway in North America. The goods that flow between this railway provide motor vehicles, retail goods, and appliances for American consumers."

In September, the White House helped broker a tentative deal at the U.S. Department of Labor between the railroads and the rail workers' unions. However, multiple rail labor unions have since shot down that agreement. There contract dispute involves approximately 115,000 rail workers and railroads such as BNSF, CSX, Kansas City Southern, Norfolk Southern, Union Pacific and others. Absent an agreement from all 12 rail labor unions ratifying contracts or an intervention from Congress, a strike could begin by Dec. 9.

The vote passed 290-137 Wednesday and now heads to the senate. If it passes in the Senate, Biden will be able to sign it into law.

"Without the certainty of a final vote to avoid a shutdown this week, railroads will begin to halt the movement of critical materials like chemicals to clean our drinking water as soon as this weekend," Biden said.

"Let me say that again: Without action this week, disruptions to our auto supply chains, our ability to move food to tables, and our ability to remove hazardous waste

from gasoline refineries will begin."

Cuellar pointed out how President Biden and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi going against the unions to support the Tentative Railroad Agreement speaks volumes to the severity of the situation.

"Biden is very pro-union, and Pelosi is very pro-union. It puts them in a very difficult situation, because not all the unions are on board," Cuellar said.

"To go against unions for some of the Democrats like the president and the speaker, it means a lot. They are putting the good of the country first."

The Railway Labor Act passed in 1926 provides Congress with the ability to force railway workers back to work through a resolution. The Tentative Railroad Agreement would include 24% raises and \$5,000 in bonuses. Some of the unions voting against the deal cited the lack of paid sick leave.

"The Tentative Railroad Agreement provides great benefits for the many hardworking railroad workers that put food on our grocery shelves, medicine in our pharmacies, and make our economy the best in the world," Cuellar said.

"These benefits include a 24% raise in wages, no changes in copays, deductibles or coinsurance costs, some time off for routine, preventative and emergency medical care, and protecting the two-man crew. I support these provisions, and I will continue to fight for more benefits for railroad workers, including paid sick leave."

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Happy Hour



COYUTLA
Restaurant

LUNES A DOMINGO | 4PM A 10PM

Margaritas, Piña Coladas y Mix Drinks
empezando

\$4.50



22oz Draft Beer

\$4.50

4120 SAN BERNARDO | 956-724-1000

