



## Hidalgo County Commissioners Court

**Richard F. Cortez**  
*County Judge*

**David L. Fuentes**  
*Commissioner, Precinct 1*

**Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu**  
*Commissioner, Precinct 2*

**Everardo "Ever" Villarreal**  
*Commissioner, Precinct 3*

**Ellie Torres**  
*Commissioner, Precinct 4*

**OFFICE OF  
COUNTY JUDGE  
RICHARD F. CORTEZ**

**Public Affairs Division**

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## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

### **Hidalgo County welcomes Mother Goose and friends to help local children transition back to school**

**EDINBURG** – Recognizing the tough year that just passed for so many Hidalgo County school children, Hidalgo County Judge Richard F. Cortez has arranged for a visit from none other than Mother Goose who will attend several area elementary schools to help children transition back to in-class learning.

Judge Cortez is hosting ventriloquist Margaret Clauder, who travels the state of Texas to inspire kids to develop a love for books through nursery rhymes. She will visit six different school districts in Hidalgo County, beginning with Valley View ISD beginning today.

“Our greatest investment should be in our children to give them the highest probability for success.” Judge Cortez said. “Our goal should be to help these kids develop good communication skills – especially those children growing up speaking Spanish. Motivated by the desire to invest in them, we began to explore how to make the transition back to school for younger students a little bit smoother and concluded: What better way than to bring a celebrity like Mother Goose?”

So with a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts, Judge Cortez arranged for the visit from Clauder, aka Mother Goose, who has performed in front of thousands of kids in libraries all over Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

Her motivation, she said, is making learning fun, a motivation shared by Judge Cortez who wants to mitigate the fear factor that the pandemic has brought to our younger residents.

The series of 14 performances will be highlighted by two public performances on Thursday, September 23, at the City of McAllen Public Library and Friday, September 24, at the City of Weslaco Public Library. Each of the performances will follow all CDC recommended guidelines to give the children as safe an environment as possible. The public may reserve seats at the public performances through Event Bright.

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*Hidalgo County is home to one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. We provide health and justice to the over 800,000 residents of our county. We strive to be accessible and responsive to our citizens by providing excellent public service through the values of leadership, transparency, fairness, collaboration, respect and fiscal responsibility. Follow our social media feed at [www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/followus](http://www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/followus)*