

Stories
For
and
About
the
People
of
The Valley

IN PRINT, ON-LINE & ON FACEBOOK

The Valley Spotlight

FREE
TAKE ME HOME

April 2016

The Little Paper You'll Want To Keep & Share

Vol. 2 No. 11



**South Texas Attracts Birders From
All Around The World ... page 3**



**The Laurie P. Andrews PAWS Center
Opening Soon ... page 8**



**Make-A-Wish® Rio Grande Valley
Helps Make Dreams Come True
For Valley Families ... page 4**



**April 18 is Patriots' Day
Honoring All Who Have Fought
For Our Freedom ... page 9**



**United Way of South Texas
VITA Program Stimulates
Local Economy ... page 5**



**Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge
Offers Many Opportunities For
Valley Residents ... page 12**

The Hard Working Hungry

by Omar I. Rodriguez, Manager of Communication & Advocacy

Having a job or even two doesn't always mean there will be food on the table for Valley residents. In a recent study the U.S. Department of Labor has found that the average Hidalgo County worker earned \$624 a week and Cameron County workers earned only \$614 a week.

With the national average for 2015 being \$825, we can easily see that the Valley is one of the lowest paying regions of the country. Even taking into account our cost of living, it is still a struggle for many Valley families to set aside money for education or emergencies. A Business Week report has already established that 50% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck. With news like this, our community has to realize that the face of hunger has changed since the recession of 2008. We see more working families, single parent families and those hit by

medical and financial misfortunes seek out food assistance.

That's why the Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley is critically needed for families living in poverty and those that sometimes don't make ends meet on \$614 a week. And remember, that's the average. Summer is one of the most difficult times for families. With children out of school and missing out on free or reduced breakfast and lunch, a family can expect to buy cheaper foods to make dollars stretch.



We don't need to let this happen. Help the Food Bank RGV feed our Valley families with donations of funds, food or your time.

Find out more today at:
www.foodbankrgv.com
 or call (956) 682-8101.



Spiritual Gifts That Help Focus Our Attention on Jesus Christ The Savior Of The World

Bibles, Rosaries, Prayer Cards, Novenas, Children's Books, Medals, Divine Mercy, Pamphlets, Crosses, Necklaces, Rings, Italian Made Religious Articles, Handmade Religious Wooden Niches, Handmade Decade Rosaries

We can also order any item from our supply companies that sell thousands of items for weddings, quinceneras, funerals, anniversaries, prayer groups & religious conferences.

Come visit our Grotto built in 1953-54
 The 1st Marian Year instituted by Pope Pius XII

Come Shop, Stay & Pray

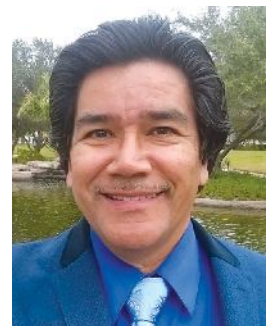
First Communion Gifts NOW IN STOCK ..

TRUNK SHOWS AVAILABLE

CALL 956-241-1967

Bring this ad for a 10% discount off your purchase!

Dances - Reunions
Retirement Communities - RV Resorts
Dinner Music - Special Events
 Call **956-241-1967**
 to book Carlos
 for YOUR EVENT TODAY!
 Available Statewide Year 'round



Carlos R. Canas
Over 35 years experience!
Singing Only the Very Best Oldies!
 American Standards - Country Classics - 50s Rock & Roll
 Easy Listening - 40's - 70's

The Valley Spotlight

is published by

Created Images and More

305 E Los Ebanos
 San Juan, TX 78589
 956-782-2413
www.RGVaff.com

Rod Graham
 956-457-8600
rod@RGVaff.com

April 2016 issue Vol. 2 No. 11
 © 2016 all rights reserved

True Tales of a Valley Birder

by Keith Hackland (alamoinn@aol.com) photo credit: Keith Hackland

Germans Bird South Texas

It may have occurred before today, but if it did, I don't know about it – a birding tour of South Texas by a tour group from Germany. We have the privilege of hosting this tour for a remarkable group of birders who all speak German. How many of us can do that while we bird South Texas. The tour has its own co-ordinator, an excellent birder and a teacher with a PhD in Biology. He also translates for the group from the English spoken by our guide, Michael, or myself as assistant guide.



Birding in the Woods of South East Texas

We met the group at Houston airport, arriving on two different airlines. Very friendly folks, even after their 13 to 15 hour flights from Germany, travel across eight time zones that tests the mettle of the toughest travellers.

Texas has 640 species of birds recognized for listing purposes. The tour is here for 13 days. How many species will they see, considering that they are here in late March, after wintering species have departed and before most of the spring migrants arrive. The number of species seen depends on how good the birders and guide are at identification and at locating good birding spots, and how many hours are spent in the field each day. A good count for this trip would be 160 species.

After escaping the magnetic force of George Bush International Airport and navigating thick Houston traffic, we stopped for the night in the Woodlands, aptly named for the woods we planned to visit on our first day. That night the group was excited at the prospect of birding a new area in a new country, and started their list with seeing Great-tailed Grackles.

Up at 6 am and on the road before 8 am, our first morning was spent exploring local woodland, where we found plenty of species, including the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker and Red-bellied Woodpecker. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker made its appearance and we all listened to and craned our necks to see a Brown-headed Nuthatch, as it effortlessly moved up a Loblolly Pine, mostly behind the tree from us.

Cedar Waxwings and Pine Siskins entertained us all. Leaving the woods with over twenty species, we tracked down a U.S. specialty, Burger King, and introduced our new friends to American fast food.

In the afternoon we drove through Houston, but not the easy way. My Garmin navigation device tricked us into driving onto the toll way. We had to go through four toll gates, something that took us way too long. We had to drive through the “Cash - change made” lanes, and that day it took 15 to 20 minutes each time.

Just before 5 pm we made it to our destination, Brazos Bend State Park, where we birded until sunset. The park was full of spring break families, and also some great birds. We saw possibly two hundred Little Blue Herons, an attractive bird that is usually seen alone.



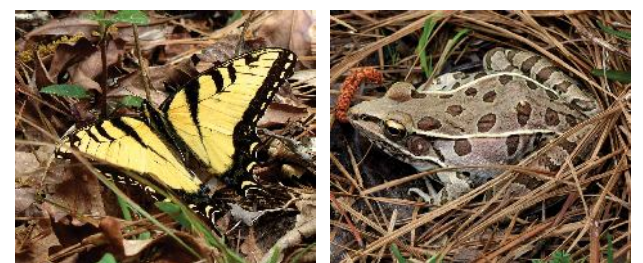
This American Bittern was hard to miss. Usually a really shy, camouflaged bird with the habit of hiding in the cattails, this sighting satisfied everyone. One of our group used his very impressive professional camera equipment to photograph each new bird. He would not count it as properly seen until he had a good photo of the species. He is a serious photo-listener, a challenging way to count species.



As the sun set we managed to pull folks away from this great park, and hit the road. As assistant guide I drove the cargo van, filled with travel bags and suitcases. At dusk as we navigated the county roads, Michael, driving the passenger van behind me, flashed his lights a few times, and then u-turned and headed back. Dutifully following, until they pulled over and stopped, I looked for a bird they must have found, but could not see it. Later I found out that it was a Great Horned Owl, resting in a tree close to the road. Imagine spotting that from a van you are driving at 60 miles per hour. It takes a great eye to accomplish that. Michael has a great eye. Our stop at a local eatery for supper was appreciated by all, and at 11:30 pm we reached Refugio and our hotel.

Back up at 6 am we hit the road and stopped to bird along a creek, where we were rewarded with Carolina Chickadees, and a Great Peewee, a rare visitor from Mexico. There were also Ladder-backed and Golden-fronted Woodpeckers. The habitat here in Refugio is of great interest. Here deep South Texas tropical trees like Cedar Elm and Anacua mix with East Texas oaks. This is about as far East as the tropical trees occur. By mid-morning we had to hit the road again and head for the coast.

Stay with us in next month's issue for this birding trip and follow the Germans on tour.



This Tiger Swallowtail and Leopard Frog were extra bonus sightings during our excursion.



Lower Rio Grande Valley Birding & Outdoor Store

Birding Guides * Birding Books, Maps, & Gear * Dealers in Binoculars and Scopes
Amazing RGV Nature Art of Grover Terry Beaman * Pajaro Hip and Shoulder Packs
Bird graphics by Gerald Sneed on mugs, caps, t-shirts, tote bags * Moving Mobiles
South Texas Cook Books * Gifts for Outdoor Types * Field Trips * Workshops
Custom Tours * Consulting

We're open when it suits you
Call ahead and set up your time to browse
956-782-9912

We accept credit cards



Alamo Inn B&B, Birding & Outdoor Store * 801 Main St, Alamo, TX 78516
Photo Credit Reid & Pam Allen



Make-A-Wish® Rio Grande Valley Grants a Wish of a Lifetime for Valley Resident

by Lynette Montalvo

On March 15, 2016, Oscar Galvan and his family returned from a trip to Disney World, where he enjoyed an adventure in the Magic Kingdom for his first time. Arriving at the Valley International Airport, Oscar held a big smile and was full of excitement as he talked about his experience.

The 10-year-old Brownsville resident received the free weeklong trip to Orlando, Florida from Make-A-Wish Rio Grande Valley Chapter, part of a national nonprofit that grants wishes to children 2 1/2 - 18 yrs. old with life threatening medical conditions.



Oscar said the trip will be something he will never forget. He said his favorite part was going on all of Disney's attractions. "I got to ride on all the rides, and I went on some of them a lot too," Oscar said with a big smile.

Oscar's family members also saw how delighted he was to have gone on the trip. "He really enjoyed his time at Disney, and I'm very happy," Karla, Oscar's mom said. "Oscar's wish came true and I can see it on his face." All details had been pre-arranged, and the trip had gone off without a hitch.



"The whole idea of granting this wish was to give Oscar and his family a break from worrying about his leukemia and to give Oscar the strength, hope, and joy he deserves." Ava Sandlin, Executive director of Make-A-Wish Rio Grande Valley said. "It's a stress on the whole family and getting to grant wishes is what I love about my job!"

The Make-A-Wish Foundation believes that wishes are an important part of the overall care and treatment of children and that each wish offers the opportunity for a joyous, life-changing experience, as stated on the organization's website.

For more information on how to make wishes come true, call the Make-A-Wish office at (956)-686-WISH (9474).

Oleander Acres 1st Responders Toy Donation

The 1st responders of Oleander Acres held its annual fundraiser. The men of the park served biscuits and gravy to 100 of the residents and guests. There also was a homemade quilt raffled off. The money raised goes to support the 1st responders program and also made possible a gift of toys and books to the Rio Grande Valley Children's Hospital, Pediatrics floor.

The gifts were presented by Mari Carr, Anne Gregory, and Judy Baston on March 17th.



Pictured left to right:
 Lupe Silva (Clinical Manager)
 Anne Gregory
 Evelyn Aguado RN
 Alejandra DeLeon RN
 Caroline Aguino RN
 Delia (Unit Clerk)
 Mari Carr
 Judy Baston



Oleander Acres
 Winter Texan RV Resort
 2421 S. Conway Ave.
 Mission, Texas
 956-585-9093
www.oleanderacres.com

Love of Christ ELCA Lutheran Church

Worship Service
11AM



Please join us for
 'Friendship and Coffee' at 10:15
 prior to the Service.

Corner of
 Border & Third Street
 in the facilities of
 Faith Lutheran Church
 Weslaco, TX
 956-447-1337
www.loveofchrist.net

United Way VITA Program Stimulates Local Economy

5.3 Million Dollars returned to local families

United Way of South Texas proudly funds and administers an important program that provides free income tax preparation services to thousands of local families. The support of our donors and the following charitable local corporations makes this possible: AEP Texas, BBVA, Frost Bank, HEB, IRS, Lone Star National Bank, Magic Valley Electric Co-op, McAllen Chamber of Commerce, Security Service FCU and Wells Fargo. Families and individuals with household incomes of \$54,000 or less in 2015, are eligible to benefit from the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. The income level is determined by the IRS annually.

Approximately 175 United Way volunteers have been working diligently at 12 sites that serve families in Hidalgo & Starr Counties. Most sites will close after the first week of April, however, you may call United Way for information about 2 locations that will remain open through April 14th. To date, over 2,300 families have been served, with total income tax returns of \$5,513,400. In addition, we estimate that we have saved these individuals approximately \$354,151 in preparation costs.



Pictured Here Left to Right:
Mr. & Mrs. Heredia, clients, Marlen Ramirez, VITA Supervisor and Bruce Ramirez, VITA Volunteer

Sites are located throughout United Way's two-county service area. Per IRS reports, the following totals can be reported by geographic areas: Mid Valley, \$722,858, Pharr-San Juan-Alamo/Edinburg, \$740,894, McAllen/Mission/La Joya, \$3,370,878 and Starr County, \$678,770.

Families use their returns and the money they save by utilizing the free

service for many purposes, including paying their home taxes, children's college tuition, opening savings accounts and medical bills.

If you have questions about the VITA program, please contact Beth at 956-686-6331. United Way of South Texas supports over 30 non-profit agencies in our community that serve a minimum of 285,000 local residents.

	1	5		2	4
4		2	3	1	
	9	8	6	1	7
5	6		8		
		3	6	5	8
8	3		2	9	6
	2		6	4	3
	8	4	9		1
	3	1			6

Sudoku No.: 11623

EASY

	8			3	1
			3	4	2
	6			5	8
5				9	3
	3				2
			6	7	
			2		
	7	9	4		5
		1	5		

Sudoku No.: 60542

MEDIUM

				9		6
5	6		1	4		
	7	4				3
4	5		8	3	9	
		7	2			8
2			4			5
					7	
1	6		5	9		8
	2		1	5		9

Sudoku No.: 30250

HARD

Fill in each square with one digit, using only the numbers one through nine | Numbers cannot repeat within an individual box of nine squares
Numbers cannot repeat down a column | Numbers cannot repeat across a row

Coats & Tails

*Professional Dog Grooming
at Competitive Prices*

1615 N. 11½ St. in McAllen
(Off Pecan, West of 10th St.)
956-648-2416 Linda Utberg



Flea & Tick Dip ∞ Dog Sitting

Bring this ad with you

and get a **FREE Flea & Tick Dip**
with the purchase of a bath or grooming

“Your Pet’s Comfort is Our Priority!”

Paws and Claws Pet Resort

call to arrange a **FREE TOUR**
of Our Facilities



990 S. Tower Road ... Edinburg, TX 78542 (956) 384 - 9301
Mon - Fri, 9 am - 6 pm Sat, 9 pm - 12 Noon ... Sun, 3 pm - 6 pm
www.pawsandclawsgv.com pawsandclawsedinburg@gmail.com

“It is not what I like, it is what “Sully” the border collie likes. He gets the best of care ...”
“Our dogs always love staying at Paws and Claws ... we appreciate all you do to make them feel so comfortable!”

The Valley Spotlight says ...

We appreciate our Winter Texan friends!



Thank you for coming,
travel safely and we will see you next Fall!

APRIL is ...

- National Humor Month
- International Guitar Month
- Keep America Beautiful Month
- Lawn and Garden Month
- National Poetry Month
- National Pecan Month
- National Welding Month
- Records and Information Management Month
- Stress Awareness Month
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month

The Mind Is A Terrible Thing To Waste

An 80 year old couple were having problems remembering things, so they decided to go to their doctor to get checked out to make sure nothing was wrong with them. When they arrived at the doctor's, they explained to the doctor about the problems they were having with their memory. After checking the couple out, the doctor tells them that they were physically okay but might want to start writing things down and make notes to help them remember things. The couple thanked the doctor and left. Later that night while watching TV,

the old man got up from his chair and his wife asks, "Where are you going?"

He replies, "To the kitchen." She asks, "Will you get me a bowl of ice cream?" He replies, "Sure." She then asks him, "Don't you think you should write it down so you can remember it?" He says, "No, I can remember that." She then says, "Well I also would like some strawberries on top. You had better write that down cause I know you'll forget that." He says, "I can remember that, you want a bowl of ice cream with strawberries."

She replies, "Well I also would like whipped cream on top. I know you will forget that so you better write it down." With irritation in his voice, he says, "I don't need to write that down I can remember that." He then fumes into the kitchen. After about 20 minutes he returns from the kitchen and hands her a plate of bacon and eggs. She stares at the plate for a moment and says, "You forgot my toast."

We're Almost Done!



Our NEW SHOWROOM is expected to be open for your convenience in mid- May

**The Rio Grande Valley's
#1 NEW
Chrysler, Dodge, Ram
and Jeep dealer is here
to assist you with all of
your automotive needs.**



Burnsmotors.com

SINCE 1948 - SHOP ONLINE

956-984-4433



RAM



Jeep

The Laurie P. Andrews PAWS Center

Finally, the long awaited opening of the new adoption and education facility, an extension of Palm Valley Animal Center, is about to happen!

The Laurie P. Andrews PAWS Center is having the final touches applied and preparing to transition all adoptions from PVAC to PAWS in the next few weeks.

Of course, PVAC will continue to serve as the municipal and public intake facility as well as the location to locate lost pets, PAWS will become the site for most of our events, educational programming, and of course, adoptions.



In addition, we would love to show you our new education department and share with you ways we are working to educate children on the proper care and treatment of companion animals.

While we know finding a new family friend will be the goal of many who visit PAWS, we also want you to spread the word to your friends and social media contacts.

The service provided by PVAC and PAWS is certainly a community effort, from the building of the new facility, financial support, in-kind donations and volunteers we will all need to continue to work together to curb the large number of stray and abandoned companion animals in the Rio Grande Valley.

Please keep your eyes and ears open as we will be making an announcement soon regarding our grand opening/ribbon cutting as well as special upcoming events.

We are beginning a new chapter in the history of the Center and are excited to experience continued improvement on behalf of those in our care.

Tim Ousley - Executive Director - Palm Valley Animal Center

Beginning April 7th, those looking to adopt a companion animal will need to make the exiting trip to 2451 N. US Expressway 281 in Edinburg.

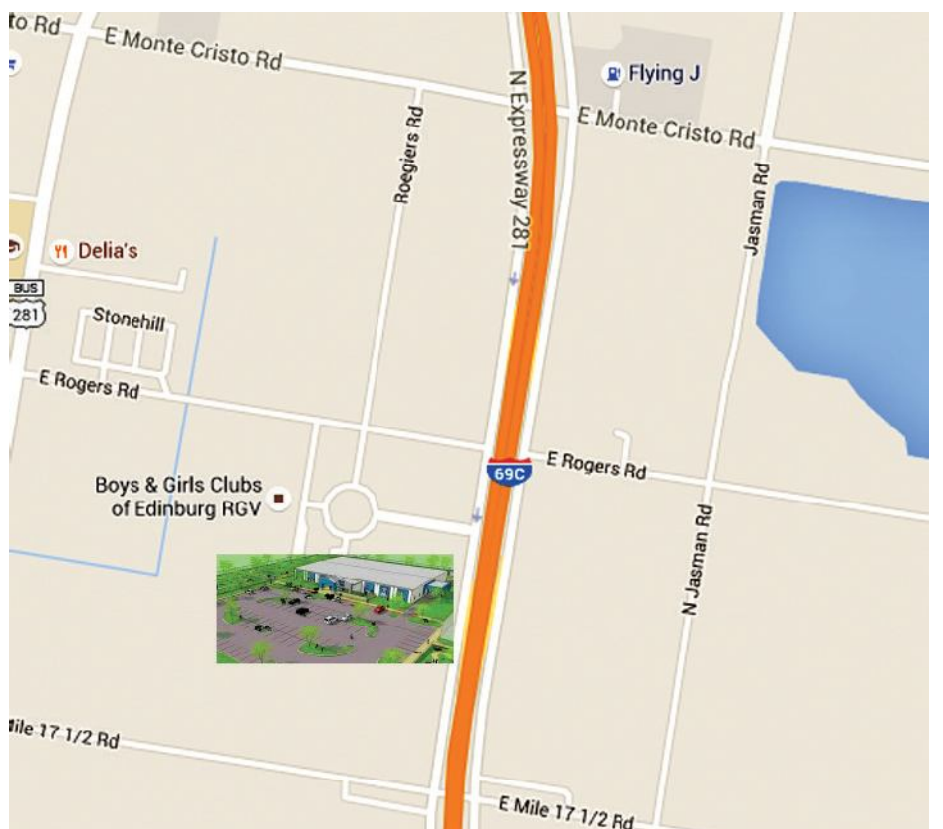
The new location is on the South bound service road of 281, about one mile South of Monte Cristo, directly in front of two IDEA Schools and the Edinburg Boys and Girls Club.

Maps will be available at PVAC to make it a little easier for those who are making their first trip and are looking for a new best friend for their family.

Once you arrive at PAWS you will be in for a special treat.

We intend for your adoption experience to be one of joy and ease as you enter this new 28,000 square foot facility.

Our adoptable pets will be housed in excellent kennels and display areas, and of course our staff will be there to assist you from the beginning as you select your new forever friend.



**By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here once the embattled farmers stood,
And fired the shot heard round the world.
Emerson, "Concord Hymn"**

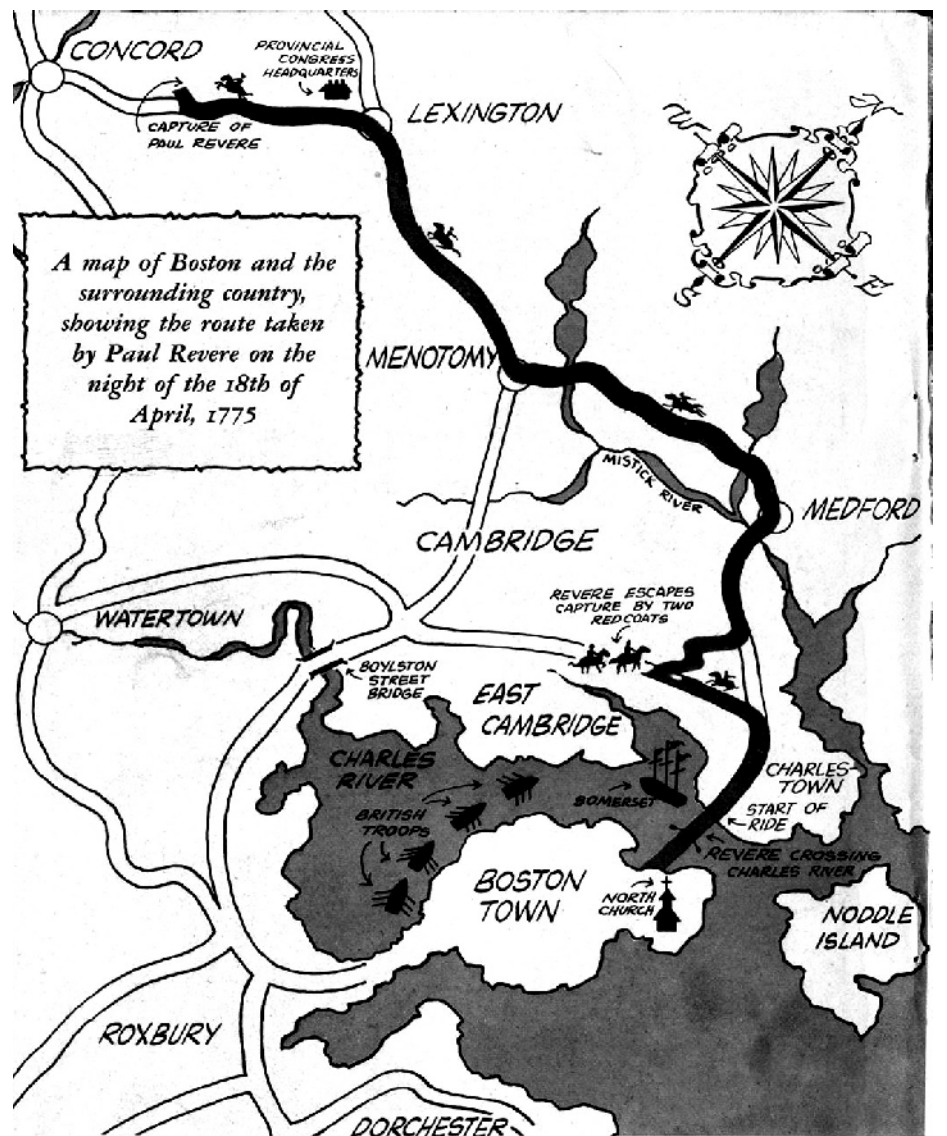


Patriots' Day was first proclaimed in Massachusetts in 1894 by Gov. Frederic T. Greenhalge. It was established on April 19, commemorating the date of the Battles of Lexington and Concord in 1775. It also marked the first bloodshed of the American Civil War in the Baltimore riot of 1861, during which four members of the Massachusetts militia were slain and 36 injured. The dual commemoration, Greenhalge explained, celebrated "the anniversary of the birth of liberty and union."

**Listen, my children, and you shall hear - Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-Five: Hardly a man is now alive
Who remembers that famous day and year. . .**

Thus begins the poem *Paul Revere's Ride* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow commemorating these events. In 1774 and the Spring of 1775 Paul Revere was employed by the Boston Committee of Correspondence and the Massachusetts Committee of Safety as an express rider to carry news, messages, and copies of resolutions as far away as New York and Philadelphia. On the evening of April 18, 1775, Paul Revere was sent for by Dr. Joseph Warren and instructed to ride to Lexington, Massachusetts, to warn Samuel Adams and John Hancock that British troops were marching to arrest them. After being rowed across the Charles River to Charlestown, Paul Revere borrowed a horse from his friend Deacon John Larkin. While in Charlestown, he verified that the local "Sons of Liberty" committee had seen his pre-arranged signals. Two lanterns had been hung briefly in the bell-tower of Christ Church in Boston, indicating that troops would row "by sea" across the Charles River to Cambridge, rather than marching "by land" out Boston Neck.

Revere had arranged for these signals the previous weekend, as he was afraid that he might be prevented from leaving Boston. On the way to Lexington, Revere "alarmed" the country-side, stopping at each house, and arrived in Lexington about midnight. As he approached the house where Adams and Hancock were staying, a sentry asked that he not make so much noise. "Noise!" cried Revere, "You'll have noise enough before long. The regulars are coming out!" After delivering his message, Revere was joined by a second rider, William Dawes, who had been sent on the same errand by a different route. Deciding on their own to continue on to Concord, Massachusetts, where weapons and supplies were hidden, Revere and Dawes were joined by a third rider, Dr. Samuel Prescott. Soon after, all three were arrested by a British patrol. Prescott escaped almost immediately, and Dawes soon after. Revere was held for some time and then released. Left without a horse, Revere returned to Lexington in time to witness part of the battle on the Lexington Green.



Our American Spirit of Freedom Will Not Be Broken

When two pressure cooker bombs exploded during the Boston Marathon on Patriots' Day 2013, terrorists around the world probably thought that the American public would cower in fear at the thought of similar acts being carried out in the future.



In reality, just the opposite has occurred. Not only will the Boston Marathon continue but Americans have grown stronger in their commitment and efforts to wipe out terrorism throughout the world. One inspiring story of resilience is that of Adrienne Haslet-Davis, a professional ballroom dancer, who had only attended the 2013 Boston Marathon to check out what the race was all about. After having her left leg amputated below the knee as a result of injuries sustained in the bombing, Adrienne is quoted as saying "I refuse to be called a victim. I am not defined by what happened in my life. I am a survivor, defined by how I live my life."



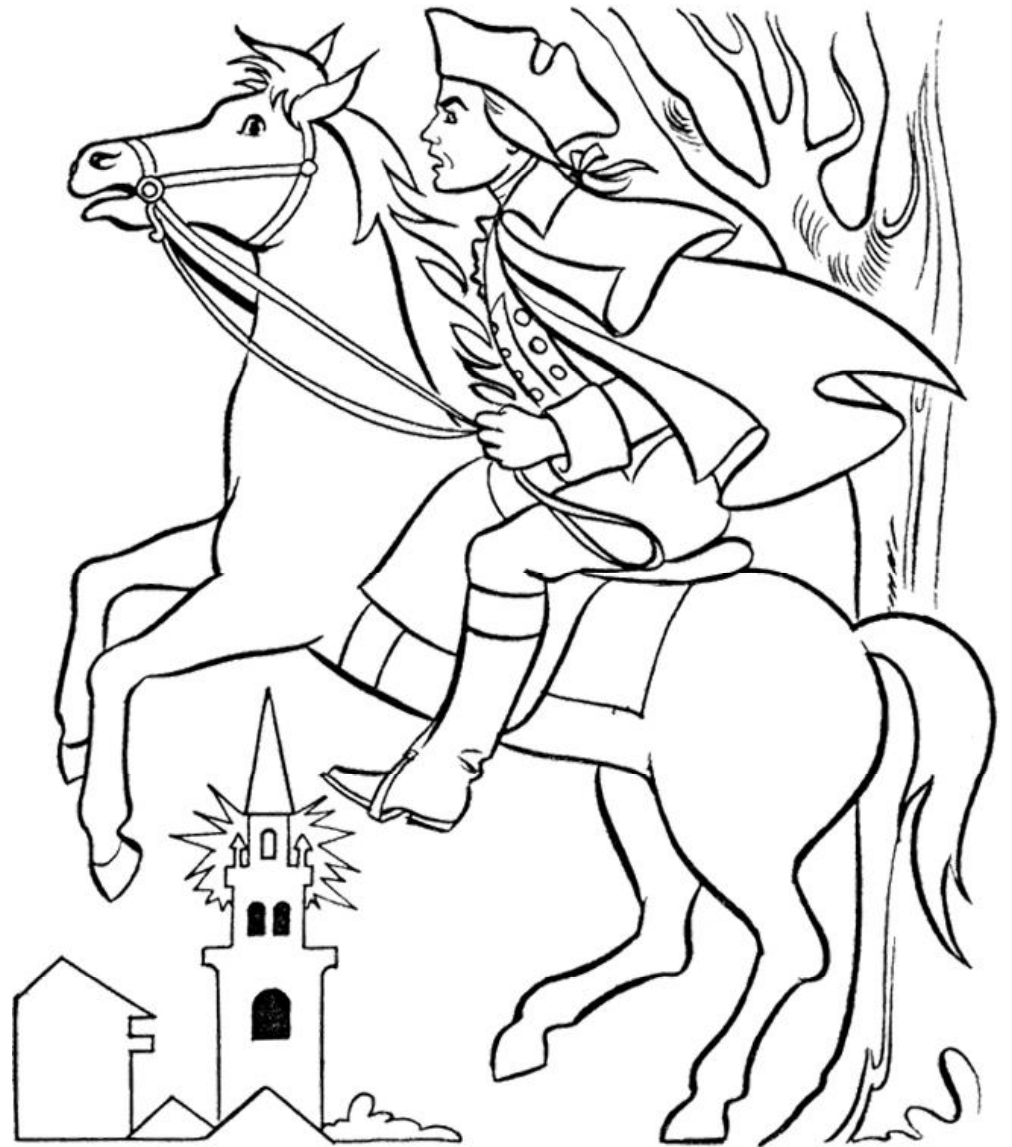
After much therapy and determination Adrienne has returned to her dancing career and says "On April 18, 2016 I will run along with my #AdrienneStrong team. We will run and raise funds for Limbs for Life, which is such an amazing organization for amputees."

For Kids Only

No matter how old you are!

Have Fun and Learn
while you solve these puzzles and
practice your coloring skills

On the night of April 18th and 19th, 1775 Paul Revere makes his famous Midnight Ride to Lexington to warn Samuel Adams and John Hancock that the British are marching to arrest them. Along with William Dawes and other riders, he warns the countryside of the British march. He witnesses the “shot heard ‘round the world” as fighting breaks out in Lexington.



In the puzzle to the left, find these words associated with the American Revolution

E C N E D N E P E D N I E
 I L B I R B A T T L E N J
 Y E J Q O Y X K I R Q C H
 H X B H B Y I B E Z L O L
 U I K E R J E Z Y G I N H
 K N J O I R N G P S Q C L
 M G Y M T R L Y S T T O L
 I T W Y T Y A N B O X R X
 L O M F I Z R W C I B D G
 I N L E S S A C I R E M A
 T W J J H Z U M T T L D M
 I U E Q A K R F Z A R V B
 A X G T N B A W M P U T Z

- PATRIOTS**
- LIBERTY**
- BRITISH**
- CONCORD**
- LEXINGTON**
- BATTLE**
- INDEPENDENCE**
- AMERICA**
- MILITIA**
- WAR**

FROM THE INSIDE OUT

By Marge Flados

How we walk tells a great deal about us: our age, our physical condition, our mental state, our station in life and how we regard ourselves among our peers or superiors.

How odd that it should be so. From our first faltering steps, we walk in our unique way, some shuffle, swagger, mince or tromp.

Children walk confidently, placing their feet without thought to safety or misstep because they know that if they fall, the chances are good their bones won't break as a result.

Interestingly my very first memory is of a misstep on a stairwell and the resulting tumble to the bottom of the steps, the pain in my head and my mother's comforting arms as she tried to ease it.

When I worked as a nurse in an acute care hospital, I could easily detect who was the doctor and who was the tech as they walked down the hall, side by side in three-quarter length white lab coats. I didn't need to see their identifying badges, to know which was which. How?

The walk.

A friend who had traveled to Russia over a dozen times told me she learned a strange and wonderful thing about being a citizen of this country. She was riding in a taxi cab in Moscow, some years before Glasnost and Gorbachev's dissolution of the U.S.S.R.

She spoke fluent Russian and during her ride in the taxi, the driver mentioned the fact that there were more Americans seen on the streets of Moscow than in the past. Then he pointed and said, "See

there is one over there." She said, "How do you know that person is an American? He looks to me like he could be Russian."

He answered, "You can tell Americans by the way they walk."

"The way they walk?"

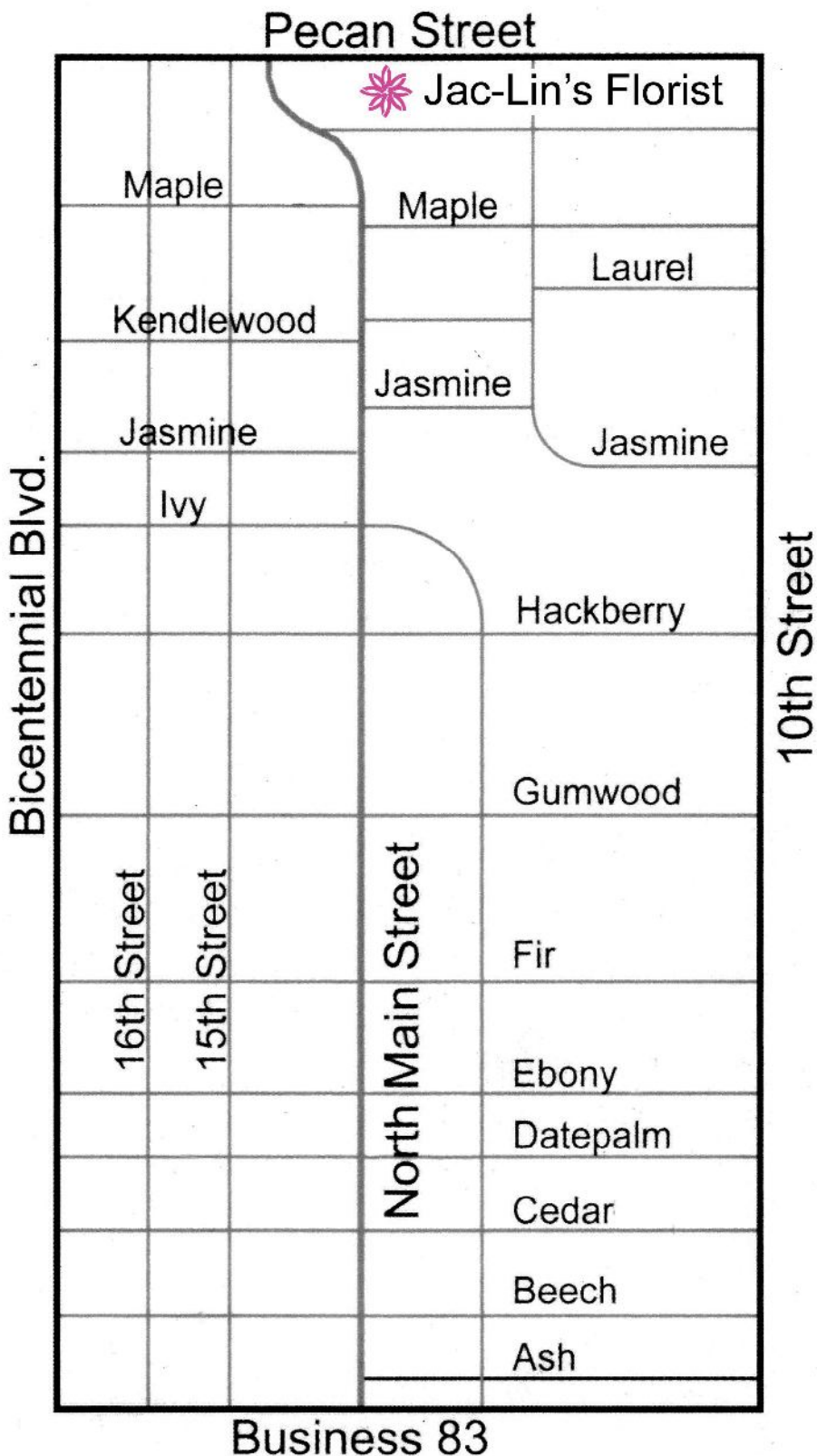
"Yes", he said, "They walk free".

She told me she had traveled widely but had never realized that free people walk differently, but since that time she began to see that it was true.

Free people walk free.

How interesting to learn that how we Americans walk sends a message to others. How we walk is the physical evidence we show the world about who we are. Americans walk free!

May it be forever.



Jac-Lin's
FLORIST & Art Gallery



Jacque Hull, Owner
jaclins.florist@gmail.com
www.jaclinsflorist.com

1209 Pecan Blvd.
McAllen, TX 78501
800-880-5253 | Fax: 956-686-7035

956-686-5252

Jac-Lin's Florist and Art Gallery
is on the *McAllen Artwalk* trail.

Come and enjoy the evening while you walk through the McAllen Art District and meet local artists.

The final Art Walk of the season is on Friday, May 6 .. 5 - 9pm

Advertise in The Valley Spotlight
Call 956-457-8600

Spring Is Hinting At Us

by Laura M. de la Garza - Park Ranger

As I walk around the refuge with the scents of Spring tickling my nose, I can see budding leaves emerging and hear birds calling. Spring is always an exciting time for me and my family. My kids especially love to see the differences in the seasons and enjoy the outdoors so much more during this time.

With such great weather this winter, it has been an amazing time to get out and enjoy the birds and experience countless hours of exploring the outdoors.

Santa Ana is a great place to bring your little ones to explore and learn about the many facets of the flora and fauna of the Rio Grande Valley. As busy as we get with work and our daily chores, we can sometimes forget that life can be enjoyed so much more when we spend time outdoors with Mother Nature.

As Mothers, we want the best for our kids and this is the best time of the year to explore our National Wildlife Refuges. Here at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, our local families can enjoy a wide variety of family friendly spring programs. We will be conducting these programs on Saturdays 9:00-10:00 am and on Sundays 2:00-3:00 pm.

So the next time you and your family find yourselves close to Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge open your mind and get your spring on! You can be sure the kids will be outdoors and engaged.



Side Note:

Laura M. de la Garza is the Park Ranger for Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge in Alamo, Texas.

The refuge is located 7 miles south of Alamo on FM 907 about ¼ mile east on Military Hwy.



The refuge is open from sunrise to sunset and the visitor center is open from 8-4 daily. For more information please call 956-784-7500.

www.facebook.com/SantaAnaNWR

Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge
 3325 Green Jay Road
 Alamo, Texas 78516
 956-784-7545

