

This Month:

Breast Cancer Awareness
 Built For the Border?
 Haunted Valley
 McAllen Art Walk
 NSDAR Day of Service
 Kelsey Medina Auction
 Favorite Birding Season
 Edingburg Boys & Girls Club
 Providing Help Creating Hope

IN PRINT, ON-LINE & ON FACEBOOK

The Valley Spotlight

**FREE
 TAKE ME HOME**

October 2015

The Little Paper You'll Want To Keep & Share

Vol. 2 No. 5

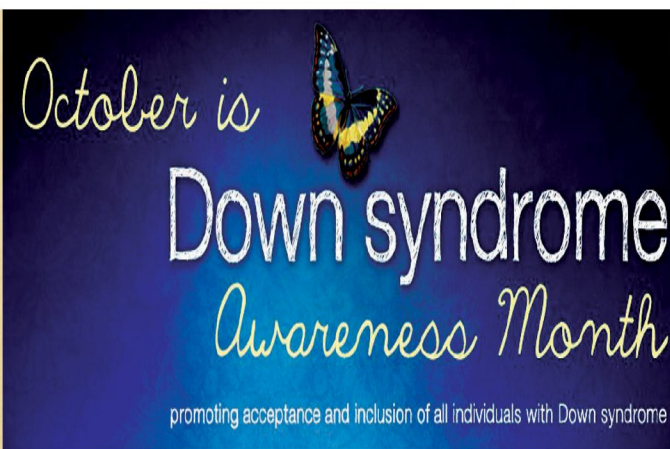


I Love This Time Of Year!

Fall is such a wonderful time here in the Rio Grande Valley. Cooler temperatures begin to replace the hot Dog Days of Summer. Fishing is great. Butterflies are appearing everywhere. Migratory birds are making their appearances.

With more than enough rainfall our yards are lush and green. Sunrises and Sunsets provide a spectacular view. Fall Festivals and Events provide us with lots of things to do. The Gulf waters are the perfect temperature for swimming.

Life in the Valley is Grand!



Haunted History of The Rio Grande Valley

The Valley boasts its share of unexplained mysteries and hauntings.

In tribute to Halloween, lets take a look at a few examples. Believe it or not ...



The 1906 Queen Isabel Inn, originally called the Point Isabel Tarpon & Fishing Club, was visited by President-Elect Warren G. Harding in November 1920. Despite some remodeling from hurricane damage in 1933 and 1967, the inn remains the area's oldest business and hotel. Witnesses say disembodied footsteps are sometimes heard coming from the lobby when no one is there.



The 1918 Renaissance Casa De Palmas Hotel is said to be haunted by the ghost of an elderly lady who appears in the basement. Another female apparition has been seen wearing a black veil. Police officers were once called to check on a strange woman walking around on one of the building's towers, and they found themselves trapped inside. The phones have been known to behave strangely in the building as well.

At the Shary Mansion, the ghost of former owner Mr. Shary has been seen walking across the road from the cemetery he was buried in and sitting on the front porch in a rocking chair.



In the 1920s at the historic Yacht Club Hotel, Olga Mae Keyhorn was visited by the spirits of friends who were killed when their yacht burned. To this day, Olga's freinds Telly and Mary still continue to appear from time to time.



Pink Positive



Breast Cancer Foundation

The RGV Zumba Fitness community is united by committed and passionate instructors who give a great deal of their own time to make a difference for others.

Join Hostess Kelsey Medina and her Zumba friends as they honor the Heroes, Survivors, Fighters and pay tribute to the ones who have lost the battle to this horrible disease.

Melissa Flores Cruz lost her battle to Breast Cancer leaving behind three small children.

Shirts will not be provided as Kelsey is trying to raise as much money for the family without extra expenses.

Kelsey is asking all participants to dress as their **Favorite Super Hero or Wear Pink.**

Your \$10 donation is also a **Chance to Win a Michael Khors Watch** donated by the #GreaterTogether Fossil team.

Pink Positive Breast Cancer Foundation will be donating two mammograms.

Join Kelsey and

Zumba for the Cause at Fantasyland Skate Center

1001 N. Jackson Road McAllen Texas.

For tickets contact Kelsey Medina at **956-460-4983.**



9th Annual Weslaco Hoop for Hope Boy's Basketball Tournament

Sat., Oct. 10 & Sun., Oct. 11
at Weslaco High School
1005 W Pike - Weslaco

FEATURING a ZUMBATHON
Saturday morning at 8 am

Make it a Family Affair
Come Out and Support Hoop for Hope!

Proceeds raised will benefit local Cancer patients, the Pink Positive Breast Cancer Foundation and provide scholarships for High School Seniors whose families have been affected by Cancer. For more information contact Weslaco Panthers Coach Gabe Valdez at 956-463-1024

ZUMBA FOR THE SUPERHEROES



hosted by Kelsey Medina in memory of

Melissa
Florez Cruz



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Community Day is FREE for All on Saturday, Oct. 31 from 9 AM - 2 PM

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All activities are based at the National Butterfly Center
3333 Butterfly Park Dr., Mission, Texas 956.583.5400



October 31 - November 3, 2015
www.TexasButterflyFestival.com

For more information call or visit www.NationalButterflyCenter.org



McAllen Art Walk

On the *First Friday of Each Month*,
from *September through May*,
Galleries from Business 83 to Pecan
stay open from 5 - 9 pm for the *Art Walk*.

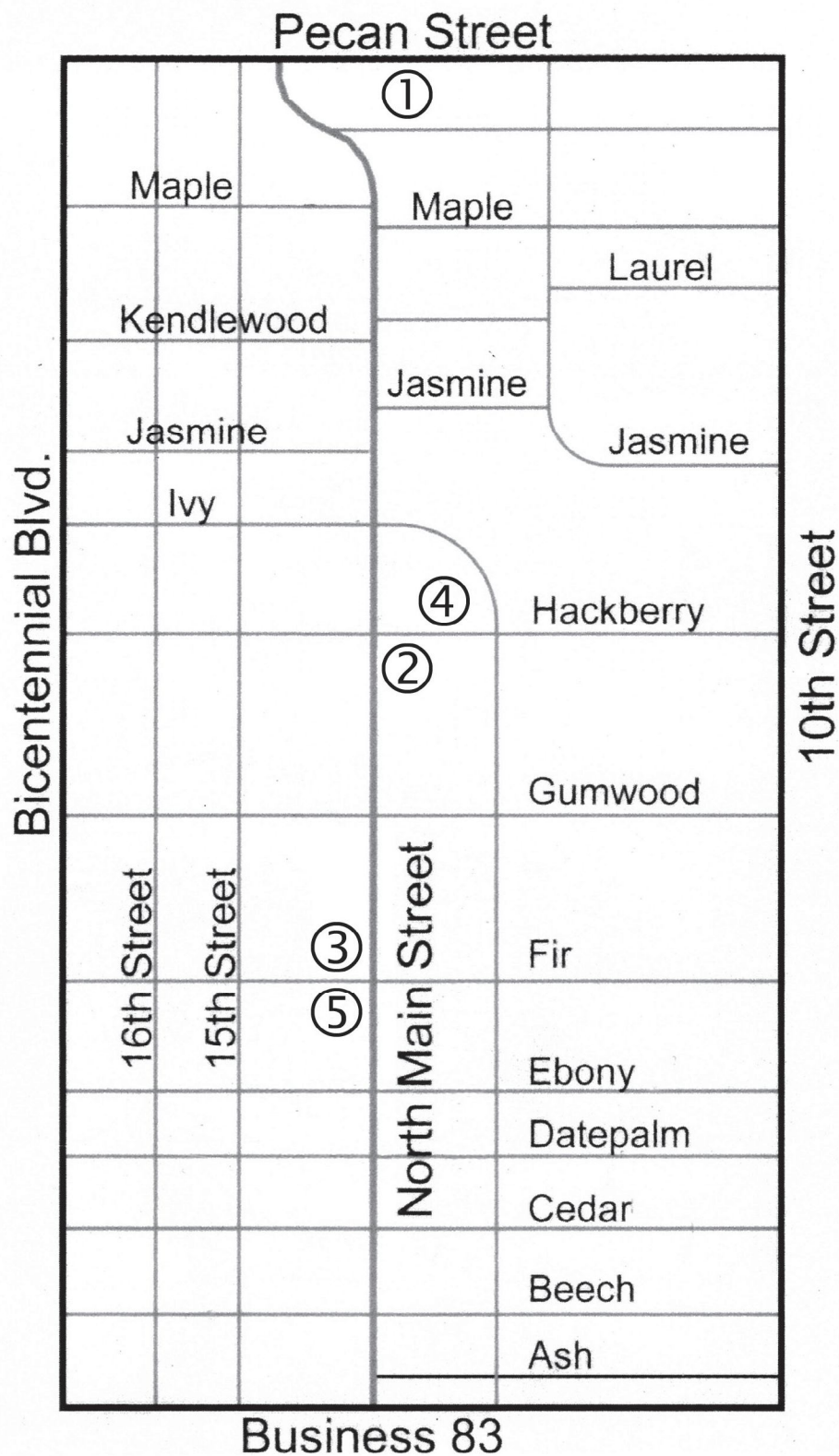
Meet Local Artists & Enjoy
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You are invited to stroll Main Street
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Some of the galleries offer
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Galleries display paintings, prints, sculpture,
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For more information on the Walk
contact **956-249-3534**



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Art Lessons at Art Studio By Design

True Tales of a Valley Birder

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

My Favorite Birding Season

When is the best time to bird the Valley?

This is a common question from birders outside the Valley. It is also one of the most difficult to answer.

My own favorite time is November and December. For one thing it is cool and I feel the call to go hiking. Better than that, the fall migrants are moving through, and winter birds are showing up for their stay in the Valley. Best of all, there are lots of birds in fun flocks. Done with breeding (spring and summer) and molting (late summer), they are wearing their sharp duds, looking good, and just wanna have fun.

Birds just wanna have fun in fall and early winter because this is when they have no particular responsibilities. They are visible everywhere in the Valley. They hang out at feeders. They perch out in the open and call. They perform antics, hopping, jumping and flapping. They fly high then dive, and zoom from tree to tree. If there is water around they may take a very splashy and flashy bath.

Today is a typical early fall day. Just this afternoon I watched a Great Kiskadee in the front yard. It sat on the top of a yard light, calling. Then it flew onto a stair rail.

Two Yellow-fronted Woodpeckers sat on upstairs railings and stared down at it, their heads poked forward and eyes bulging, challenging it. A red squirrel on the roof peered down at the scene to watch the confrontation. Watch how birds play in your yard.



Fall is a great time to get out there, and visit some of the great birding hot spots around the Valley.

In McAllen there is Quinta Mazatlan and McAllen Botanic Gardens.

Mission offers Bentsen RGV State Park, Mission Nature Park, Anzalduas County Park and the National Butterfly Center.

Edinburg Wetlands is exciting.

Close to Alamo is Santa Ana NWR, and in Alamo on Business 83 at 8th Street is the Main Street Central Park area where I live, and where we have a list of over 180 species.

Weslaco offers Estero Llano Grande State Park, Frontera Audubon Thicket and Valley Nature Center.

Harlingen has Hugh Ramsey Park on the Arroyo Colorado, and Brownsville has Sabal Sanctuary and Las Palmas State Park. South Padre Island has Laguna Atascosa NWR close by, and on the island the Birding and Nature Center, Convention Center, and Sheepshead Lots.

One of the secrets of finding good birds in the Valley is to visit any woodland or wetland area. So, for example, most city and county parks are excellent. Most cemeteries are excellent and every city, town, and village has a cemetery. Water processing lagoons are great, and there is an excellent one at La Feria Nature Park.

Fall is a great time to start a feeding program in your yard. It is easy to set out a flat surface 3 to 4 feet above the ground and drop a little seed onto it each morning. Or purchase and hang a bird feeder. The birds will find it.

Provide only enough so that they will eat it all in a few hours and finish it before dark (so there is none left for rats or possums). Soon the birds will know that is your treat spot, and they will start waiting for you to come out and load it.

We have birds that fly to our window and look inside to see if we are there when the food runs out. If they see us inside they wait for us to bring the food to them.

Especially easy to do in the fall, people can get to know their yard birds, just as the birds know who lives there. Resident birds recognize you as one of the people from your house.



Birds that live around your house immediately know when a stranger comes by. They trust residents who are kind to them, but they do not trust strangers.

Water, in a hot dry climate, as we typically have, is more important to birds than food. Take a trash can lid and set it off the ground 3 to 4 feet up on a stand or table. Place a few bricks or stones under it to balance it well. This makes an instant bird bath. One can also purchase bird baths. What is important is to wash it out every two days, and to keep it filled with 1 to 2 inches of water, not too deep. A bird bath becomes a bird magnet. All species of yard birds will visit, drink a little, and splash a lot.

Birds eat and drink in the morning and evening. So that is also a great time to watch for them. On cool days they can be active throughout the day. On hot days they believe in siesta time.

The Fall is ahead.

Enjoy our rich Valley birds.

Share some seed and water with the birds.



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Photo Credit Reid & Pam Allen



A Story of Hope by Alma Seong

The mission of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley is to help improve the quality of life in the community we live in by providing help and nurturing hope to individuals and families experiencing an emergency crisis in their lives.

Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley (CCRGV) and all catholic charities through the US, are committed to help end poverty in America by addressing and responding to the core issues of poverty and in a more direct way offering services that help families achieve self-sufficiency and independence.

Here is the story of one individual whose life was positively changed through assistance provided by CCRGV. We will use a pseudo name, in order to protect her privacy.

In April of this year Stacey, a middle aged woman, called CCRGV from a hospital.

She explained that after months of hospitalization she would be released that same afternoon but had no place to go and nowhere to stay. She was afraid of what would happen because she had no one to turn to for guidance and help. Due to her physical limitations caused by a viral infection she was unable to return to a shelter where she had previously been staying.

She would be leaving the hospital in a wheelchair with very limited means of movement and would need housing to accommodate her condition.

The CCRGV caseworker immediately called a landlord and was able to assist Stacey in finding a one bedroom apartment through the rapid rehousing program. With no source of income and knowing that she couldn't work, CCRGV assisted her with



Hermelinda Garcia assists a client at the Brownsville CCRGV office.

three months of rent.

CCRGV also aided her with a hospital bed, bedding, extra clothes, pots, pans, a small TV, toiletries, and hygiene products, which had all been in-kind donations. Additionally, she was provided with canned food items through the food pantry program. After receiving this help from CCRGV, Stacey has come a long way, her health is improving and she is now able to walk with the use of a walker. Also, she has secured a job as a telemarketer and will begin working from home soon. Stacey has remarked how extremely thankful she is to CCRGV for all the help she has received. She added that she truly felt understood during this very traumatic period in her life. She concluded that the CCRGV staff had been very kind to her and helped her settle her worst fears.

If you would like to help make a difference in someone's life by donating to CCRGV, please make a check payable to Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley. Then mail the donation to the following address:

Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley
P.O. Box 1306
San Juan, Texas 78589-1306

On the memo or note part of the check please write "Regular Donation"



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Constable Martin "Marty" Cantu has raised the level of Service, Professionalism, Leadership and Community Involvement since taking office in January 2013.

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His leadership provides the Professional, Transparent, Effective Law Enforcement Service the Community can depend on and be proud of!

Hunger Lingers After the Holidays

by Omar I. Rodriguez

Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas are the big three events I look forward to each year. New Years, not so much; reminds me of taxes and ironically, old acquaintances. But in the food bank and charitable world, the holidays mark a time of increased volunteerism and donations from generous people, schools, organizations and businesses.

It is definitely a time to remember those less fortunate.

I've attended some beautiful interdenominational events throughout the years representing the Food Bank RGV. Many faiths acknowledge the need and the simple rewards of helping those in need.

It's time honored and cherished as a reflection of who they are and the strength of their faith.

The Food Bank RGV deeply appreciates our volunteers and donors. Their work has gone very far in helping us feed the 40,000 plus people we feed on a weekly basis.

But as you sit down with family this holiday and think about your blessings, take a moment to add a reminder on your phone.



Maybe it's a reminder to volunteer at the food bank around Easter or send a donation over before summer vacation.

Hunger doesn't take a break for many working families that need food assistance from the Food Bank RGV. Some clients are self-employed and work is infrequent; others lose their seasonal jobs after the holidays are over. Many simply do not have the funds to buy quality food after they've paid their bills.

Then there are the disabled and the seniors who simply are unable to work. We want to be able to feed people when they need help at the Food Bank RGV

... all year long.

So, please, remember that we need your help. We'll be waiting for you in spring, summer and of course next holiday season! And before you get too busy, have a happy Halloween, Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!

For more information, visit: www.foodbankrgv.com or call (956) 682-8101.



COME TAKE A TOUR OF THE FOOD BANK!

724 N Cage Blvd. - Pharr, TX
Oct. 6, 8, 14 & 16
 Call Omar to reserve your spot!
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Help Support Community Awareness
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Jeep Night at The River

by Alyssa Cavazos

Music billowed through the air September 10 as Jeepers and their guests gathered for “Karaoke Night” at this month’s Jeep Night. Singers of all ages showcased their talent with an array of genres.

Pre show consisted of a barbecued dinner provided by Burns Motors. It was a beautiful and serene evening. Although lightning lit up the distant sky it did not put a halt on the fun and festivities.

Jon Corya started off the night with his rendition of Alan Jackson’s “Little Bit-ty”, while infant daughter joined him on stage, making it a tough act to follow.

But as the night went on both children and adults went on stage, showcasing their voices to the crowded venue. Lee Ann Womack and Michael Jackson were sung by two incredibly talented kids ready to win the competition for their parents. They were definitely the head turners of the night. Jesse Pena sang his rendition of Garth Brook’s classic “Friends in Low Places” getting the audience hyped. Lou Bar sang several songs as well, keeping him neck and neck with Jon Corya, who also kept the crowd entertained with several performances.

As the night came to an end, the Calaveras were able to select a winner for “Karaoke Night”. Jon Corya managed

to wow the judges and the crowd and take home the award for his dad “Big Lew” Corya. Congratulations to all our Jeepers and participants for being great sports and showing us their artistic sides. All eyes were on you and you made it an unforgettable night.

Join us next month, October 9 at 7pm for our Halloween themed Jeep Night “Jeepers Creepers”. Please make note that for next month’s Jeep Night we will be meeting at Sofie’s “SS” Saloon located on South 10th St. in McAllen. Award will be given for best costume and Halloween themed Jeep and its occupants.

For any questions feel free to contact “Big Lew” Corya with Burns Motors at 956.984.4433

From the Doctor’s Desk

by Dr. Audrey Jones, D.O.

Flu, Flu Season and Flu Vaccines

The timing, severity and length of the flu (influenza) season changes from year to year. Some years are light flu seasons with little spread and few deaths. Other years the flu season infects more of the population and there are a greater number of deaths.

Flu season generally occurs from October to May, but flu cases have been known outside that window. The peak time for flu in the United States is December to February.

Avoid catching flu:

- ▶ Have a flu shot each fall early
- ▶ Wash hands regularly
- ▶ Avoid touching your (or anyone else’s) mouth and eyes
- ▶ Avoid people who are ill with the flu.

Avoid spreading flu: People ill with the flu should call in sick to work, to avoid infecting co-workers.

Caring for flu victims: People caring for a loved one with the flu should follow good hygiene guidelines. Wash hands often. Do not touch your mouth or eyes. Keep the area where the ill family member is residing as clean as possible. Make sure they get the medical care that is needed.

Flu vaccine is recommended for everyone over the age of 6 months and should be taken before the end of October. Often the vaccine is available well before October and it is a good idea to get it early. Flu vaccinations are available at most local pharmacies and physician’s offices.

Vaccines come in several forms:

- ▶ Injected into the muscle
- ▶ Injected into the superficial layers of the skin
- ▶ Given by a jet injector
- ▶ Given as a nasal spray

Flu vaccine that protects against four flu viruses is called quadrivalent vaccine, and the vaccine that protects against three viruses is called trivalent.



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Persons developing symptoms of the flu should see a medical provider at the earliest possible time.

Flu symptoms may include some of the following:

- ▶ Congestion
- ▶ Cough
- ▶ Muscle aches
- ▶ Fever and chills
- ▶ Nausea and vomiting

Persons with flu symptoms may or may not have the flu. To find out, visit a medical provider as soon as possible. The provider may diagnose flu from the cases being seen every day at the clinic, or may run a test to determine if it is flu.

There are medications available that are antiviral and can be prescribed for the flu virus. These agents can reduce the severity and length of the infection. They can also be given to family members as a preventive measure to either prevent the flu infection or reduce the severity and length of infection.

AHEAD OF THE CURVE

Do you know what your children are doing after school? Most people would answer that question with “home watching television”. At Boys & Girls Clubs everywhere kids are provided with much more than entertainment activities. A fact many in the general public may not be aware of. Many have either been a club kid or have children who have been club kids. Alumni recall playing pool on Saturdays and spending hours by the pool lounging or swimming all summer long; however, things have changed. Boys & Girls Clubs of Edinburg RGV is setting the pace for future trends in club programming through the organization’s mission to open doors to greater futures.

So What Do We Do?

The club takes children and provides training in academics that are vital to our future and shape our everyday experiences. When the Board of Directors incorporated the Five Key Elements for Positive Youth Development they were guiding the organization to maintain focus on research-based theory of change. This effort was meant to increase the impact on the young people in the community. With the assistance of the National Youth Outcomes Initiative Survey the board decided to narrow the focus to three key areas: Academic Success, Healthy Life Styles and Good Character & Citizenship. With the focus of the organization decided, Sabrina Walker-Hernandez, Chief Professional Officer, honed in on programming that incorporated the key areas and which would create excitement and interest in children. Boys & Girls Clubs of Edinburg RGV has found the perfect mix of traditional club programs such as Power Hour (homework help), Smart Moves, and Brain Gain with new innovative clubs such as Robotech,

First Lego League, Immersion Mentoring and Maker Camp. Most of the innovative programming centers on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). “We are opening the minds of the kids we serve to areas that will provide them with the best professional opportunities. We are doing this in such a way that they see how much fun STEM can be,” says Walker-Hernandez. Parents show excitement with the club offerings because they see the value in nurturing the educational experience in fun ways.

About the Club

Boys & Girls Clubs of Edinburg RGV has five neighborhood after school sites; The Legacy Center (702 Cullen St. - Rogers & Expway 281), Fountain Annex Center (1210 E. Kuhn Street), Sam Risica (900 S. Sugar Road), San Carlos (Hwy. 107 & 86 Street), and Brewster Longhorn Unit (located in Brewster School).

Transportation is provided after school to two of our club locations from twelve Edinburg CISD schools. Club members from elementary schools LBJ, Cano-Gonzales, Gorena, Travis, Zavala, Truman, Villarreal, Monte Cristo and middle schools BL Garza and Barrientes are transported to the Legacy Center.



Club members from San Carlos and JFK elementary schools are transported to the San Carlos unit. Transportation cost is \$75.00 per semester or \$120.00 for the school year.

In addition, a walking program is offered for our club members from Robert E. Lee elementary to the Sam Risica La Posada Unit and from Austin elementary to the Fountain Annex Center.

The school year program began on August 24 and will end on May 6, 2016. The after school program hours are Monday – Friday, 3:30 pm - 8:00 pm . On all ECISD holidays and teachers work days the Legacy Center is open 7:30 am – 5:30 pm. All other sites are open 1:00 pm – 5:30 pm. Registration cost is \$20.00 for the school year. Membership is not limited by residency and is open to any child regardless of address.

This fee includes a membership card, access to homework assistance and tutoring, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), arts & crafts, computer lab with

internet access, game room with Wii gaming system, daily dinner courtesy of a partnership with RGV Food Bank Kids Café and Child & Adult Care Food programs, full day service for Winter/Spring Break Camps, and many more activities and programs. Membership is open to all youth ages 6-18. Registration forms can be completed at the administration office located at 702 Cullen Street (Rogers & Expway 281). The administration office is open 7:30 am to 5:30 pm Monday-Friday. Applications can also be accessed on www.edinburgkids.com.

Since 1969, the Boys & Girls Club has played an integral role in the Edinburg community, providing daily programs and services to over 18,000 young people. If you would like to learn more about our scheduled activities call 956.383.2582 or visit our website www.edinburgkids.com.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Edinburg Rio Grande Valley is a proud City of Edinburg partner and a United Way of South Texas Agency.

by Sabrina Walker-Hernandez, Chief Professional Officer and Monica Pena, Director of Resource Development and Marketing with Boys & Girls Clubs of Edinburg RGV



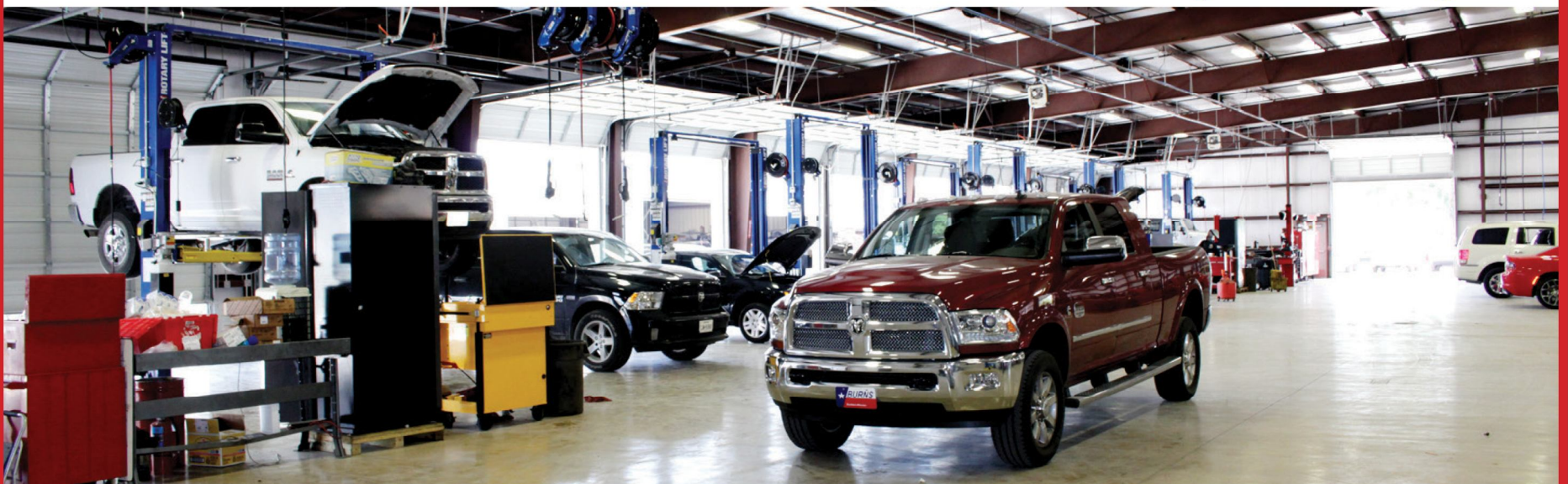
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Welcome Back Winter Texans!



Come check out our new service department ready to serve you!



Our goal is to have ALL renovations done before you leave this spring!

**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

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RAM



Jeep

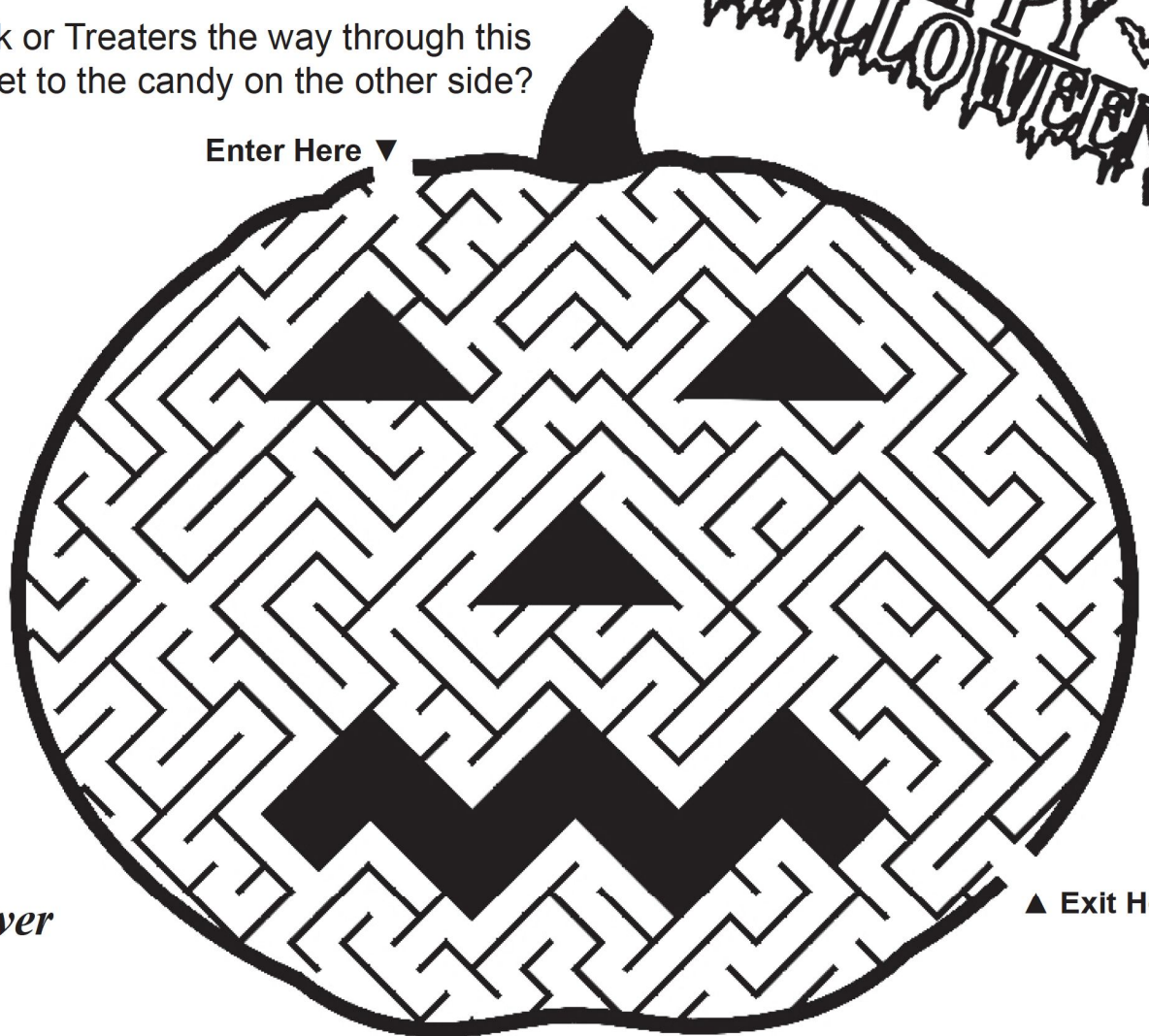
For Kids Only

No matter how old you are!

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

Can you show these Trick or Treaters the way through this Jac-O-Lantern maze to get to the candy on the other side?

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



*Remember Kids,
Always stay in groups and never
get into a stranger's car!*

Find these words in the puzzle below:
**CANDY, COSTUME, GHOST, GOBLIN,
HALLOWEEN, NIGHT, PARTY, PUMPKIN,
SCARY, TREAT, TRICK, WITCH**



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



HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Meet some of your favorite Bible characters for a safe trick or treat adventure. We have hot dogs, candy and lots of fun for everyone. Our cars are decorated so they don't feel left out of the fun. Our pastor fights the whale for the candy he distributes. Of course Noah will be there with his menagerie (and pooper scooper) - come check us out.
 First United Methodist Church - 1101 Doherty, Mission, TX on October 31 from 5 until 7 pm.



VOLUNTEERING IN SOUTH TEXAS IS NOW EASY!

United Way of South Texas is excited to share that a new opportunity to connect volunteers with meaningful service projects right here in South Texas has arrived!

It's called Volunteer South Texas (www.volunteersotx.org) and, best of all, it's Free!

Over the past several years, we have seen our cities, non-profit agencies, faith-based organizations and thousands of individual volunteers come together to offer humanitarian relief to Central American refugees and disaster relief to South Texas families affected by flooding, windstorms and other natural disasters. Building on that spirit of teamwork and service, United Way of South Texas believes it is time for South Texas to build a network of passionate volunteers to meet our communities' needs.

Are you an individual or team that wants to impact lives in South Texas by volunteering? Do you want to browse what needs exist and then register to volunteer to fill a specific need and/or to be automatically notified when volunteer opportunities arise around your passions?

Are you a non-profit organization, school or governmental institution (cities, counties, etc.) that wants to easily advertise volunteer opportunities, in-kind needs, and special events to our communities?

Do you want the whole process to be user-friendly and web-based; one that can be accessed from your computer, smart phone, etc.?

Log on to www.volunteersotx.org or click on the Volunteer Now button on the Volunteer Now Page of the United Way of South Texas website. Then sign up as a User (prospective volunteer) or sign up your Agency (one that needs to recruit volunteers).

Please join United Way of South Texas in its mission to "improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of our community to advance the common good."

For more information or to receive help registering as a User or as an Agency on the Volunteer South Texas (www.volunteersotx.org) website, please call United Way of South Texas at 956.686.6331.

Let's connect thousands of South Texas volunteers to meaningful service projects right here at home!

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**

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at Competitive Prices*

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



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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.pawsandclawsvrgv.com pawsandclawsvrgv@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!"

Carlos R. Canas

Over 35 years experience!

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- Dinner Music
- Special Events
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Call **956-241-1967**
to book Carlos
for **YOUR EVENT TODAY!**

Available Statewide Year 'round

CBP RGV Recruitment Office Is Open For Business

Are You BUILT FOR THE BORDER?

As a part of the National Frontline Recruitment Initiative, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is accepting applications in the Rio Grande Valley for positions in the offices of Field Ops, Air and Marine and Border Patrol. Rio Grande Valley Border Patrol Sector's goal is to obtain over 3000 applicants by May of 2016



Supervisory Border Patrol Agent Jose A. Tijerina and Border Patrol Agent Christopher P. Wiest answering questions from interested applicants at South Texas College in McAllen, TX

Supervisory Border Patrol Agent Jose Tijerna tells the story of his recruitment.

"In July 1999, I was attending my English class in South Texas Community College. My professor explained and issued out the assignment for the weekend. My assignment was to create a one page report about the border. I walked out of the classroom and one of my classmates advised me that several Border Patrol Agents were recruiting at the student center on campus.

"I immediately headed to the student center to get information for my report. In the student center, the agents assisted me and explained to me their patrol duties. The agents shared stories about their Border Patrol careers and told me how exciting their jobs were. I knew then what I wanted to do with my future. I wanted to become a Border Patrol Agent.

"I graduated from the Border Patrol Academy in September 2000 and have held many positions during my tenure. The Border Patrol is a career filled with many opportunities ranging

from patrolling the border to performing checkpoint operations or being a member of the All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Unit.

"I currently serve as a Supervisory Border Patrol Agent recruiter.

"I've had the opportunity to attend various recruiting venues throughout the country. I enjoy assisting interested applicants, because I was in their position several years ago.

"This career has opened many doors and opportunities for me. I take pride in wearing the uniform and the commitment that I have to serve and protect this country."

CBP's Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske says "We are recruiting applicants of the highest integrity and moral character to become members of the CBP workforce. We are looking for candidates who want to serve and protect this country and who meet the rigorous employment standards of the CBP officer position." An applicant for the CBP officer position

must be a U.S. citizen and a resident of the U.S. for the past three years; must be referred for selection prior to their 37th birthday (or a preference eligible veteran, or have prior civilian federal law enforcement experience); and have a valid driver's license.

In addition, applicants must pass an entrance examination, medical examination, physical fitness assessments, video-based test and/or structured interview, drug test, background investigation and polygraph examination.

CBP offers a unique opportunity for veterans to continue serving their country in an environment that appreciates the hard-earned knowledge, skills and abilities veterans gain through serving on the front lines. Nearly 30 percent of CBP employees are military veterans.

For selected candidates, CBP offers paid training to fully prepare them for an exciting career in federal law enforcement, the opportunity to serve our country, and a competitive salary and benefits package.

CBP is an equal opportunity employer and encourages women and minorities to apply so that the agency can create a workforce that reflects the diversity of America.

For more information on the CBP officer position, visit www.cbp.gov/careers.

To apply for the CBP officer position, applicants must have an active USA Jobs account and complete an online application at www.usajobs.gov.

For more information regarding making application in the RGV call 956-289-4800 or 956-289-4947 or email: RGV-HQ-RECRUITMENT@cbp.dhs.gov

Be sure to leave a call back phone number and your email address.

If you have already begun the application process, please indicate what stage of the procedure you are in.



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

WELCOME BACK WINTER TEXANS!

Fall is here and our winter visitors are returning for another season of fun. This winter season promises to be full of Great Entertainment and Activities to enjoy while you are here.

You can enjoy participating in sports such as softball, pickle ball, billiards or any of the many other sports offered by the Winter Texan Communities across the Valley.

There will be concerts, theatrical productions and other festivities at many venues throughout the RGV.

Birds, Butterflies and local Wildlife are plentiful for those of you who enjoy getting out and experiencing nature.

You can find information about all that the Magic Valley of Texas has to offer at this website:

www.WinterTexanInfo.com

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☺ like us on FaceBook ☺

Premium Cigars, Pipe Tobacco and Accessories

Sikar Tobacco Shop is a newly opened tobacco shop in the city of Weslaco located in the middle of the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Sikar Tobacco Shop opened for business on March 5, 2014. The shop provides quality, premium tobaccos for new and seasoned connoisseurs of fine cigars and pipe tobaccos. The shop offers a wonderful and enjoyable experience in domestic and imported tobaccos from Connecticut, Louisiana, Kentucky, and the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Honduras, to name a few. Our customers have an almost endless variety of aromas and flavors to choose from. The shop keeps an excellent selection of richly flavored tobaccos such as coffee, tea, chocolate, and honey. Traditional and classical tobaccos are also offered, such as Connecticut Broadleaf, Cameroon, Sumatra, and many more, in different sizes and shapes. English blends, aromatics, and familiar American blends in pipe tobaccos are also on the menu at Sikar Tobacco Shop.

Our tobacco shop is committed to providing quality, premium tobaccos for our customers, so that they may always have an enjoyable experience with the aromas and flavors they love.

Please visit Sikar Tobacco at 620 South Texas Blvd. in Weslaco, Texas.



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Premium Cigars
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Vaporizers and E-liquids
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620 S Texas Blvd. Ste. B - Weslaco, TX
956-375-2170
 facebook.com/sikar.tobacco ... twitter.com/sikar.tobacco

Rio Grande Chapter Celebrates National DAR Day of Service

by Cheyanne Zink

October 11, 2015 is the *National DAR Day of Service* celebrating the 125th anniversary of the founding of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

On this day members of the local Rio Grande Chapter will visit the residents of the Alfredo Gonzales Texas State Veterans Home, bringing them home baked cookies and a box of popcorn for their movie snacks.

While the National DAR Day of Service is one day of nationwide service, it is just an example of the work that Daughters have been completing for 125 years in communities across the nation.

We present a \$500 scholarship to our Chapter's Good Citizen Essay Winner each year and we recognize Good Citizenship at McAllen's Middle Schools with a DAR Citizenship medal.

We are active in presenting medals to cadets in the JROTC Programs.

We support the local Women's shelter each year with a clothing and teddy bear drive.

Rio Grande Chapter spearheaded the Texas DAR Plaza of Liberty at the Veteran's War Memorial with donations to date in excess of \$150,000, and plans are being organized to raise additional funds to complete the Plaza.



DAR

Daughters of the American Revolution®



Chapter Regent, Irene Quail says "We're excited to demonstrate the vibrancy and contributions of today's DAR by joining Daughters from across the country in serving our local communities as part of this National Day of Service. Our chapter, which was organized in 1929, carries out the important mission of the National Society here on the local level. Here in McAllen we serve by collecting aluminum tabs for Dustin Michael Sekula Memorial Library.

We donate the DAR Magazine "American Spirit" to the McAllen Public Library.

We visit and take treats to veterans at the Alfredo Gonzalez Texas Veteran's Home.

We are proud to carry out DAR's mission to celebrate our American way of life.

All women who can document descent from a Revolutionary War Patriot are encouraged to consider the many benefits of joining. We are eager to welcome new members to our chapter, and we have volunteer genies available to help them research and complete their genealogy in order to apply for membership."

Prospective members are encouraged to visit www.DAR.org to learn more and to contact the local chapter at <http://www.texasdar.org/chapters/RioGrande/> to obtain more information about membership eligibility.



Make Plans to Attend
Veterans Day Ceremonies
 at Veteran's War Memorial of Texas
 Galveston Ave. at S 29th St. in McAllen
 on November 11, 2015



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

Sudoku No.: 16577

EASY

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

Sudoku No.: 39620

MEDIUM

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

Sudoku No.: 67210

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



Kelsey Medina

Miss Teen Texas Contestant

Private Collection & Evening Gown Auction

Fashion Show by:
Daniel Alberto Garza

Dinner \$25

October 10, 2015

6 pm - 10 pm

Entertainment By

Lauren Corzine

OMNI EVENT CENTER

106 N. 9th St. Alamo Texas

When I, Kelsey Medina, was a little girl I used to dream of one day becoming a beautiful princess with my very own crown and scepter. Little did I know that I would one day compete in pageants and wear crowns and sometimes even hold scepters! I have been involved with pageants since I was a teen and have realized that pageants are not only events you go parade a beautiful dress at but they are productions that take a lot of time, intelligence, confidence and inner beauty.

I have learned so much from the pageant world, but it has not been easy. My parents have worked hard to provide a good home and the best education they could. They are very supportive when it comes to extracurricular activities. I can list all of the activities I have been involved with which are many; from sports, clubs and pageants, but there are a few that certainly stand out in my book.

The first one and my favorite is the Keep Alamo Warm Program. It is my favorite because it involves the Alamo community and I do it with my dad, Trino Medina, a City of Alamo Commissioner.

My father and I ask for and collect blankets and heaters for the poor families in our community. We ask our friends and family, even my mom, Nellie, to donate. Last year we visited several families, one of which was Maria and her four kids. She is a single mother living in a one room apartment with a small stove and a single bed. We also visited Esperanza with her three children living in a small trailer home that had no furniture. My dad and I also visited Rosario that lived in a wooden frame home, but had three families of six living with her. It brought tears to my eyes to think that there were so many families living in this kind of poverty in my community of Alamo.

I was so happy to be able to provide some warmth to console all of these families.

My second favorite experience has to be working with Lana De Leon and her organization The Gold and the Beautiful,

a group of volunteers and advocates who walk and wear Gold for Pediatric Cancer Awareness. Through this organization I have met so many children with this dreaded disease. It certainly has been hard for me to see many of these children with no hair, frail and sick, but I am happy that I am able to put a smile on their faces if even for a short while. I met Leslie Jaramillo, a six month old Leukemia patient from Alamo. My father and I helped organize a bone marrow drive and zum-bathon at the Boys and Girls Club. With the funds raised we were able to help the Jaramillo family with travel expenses to Houston for her treatments. I got close to Leslie as did my family. It saddened me to see Leslie hooked up to all those IV's but I was glad to make her laugh and hold her in my arms. Leslie lost her battle and died a little after she turned one. It was one of the saddest days of my life.

Rest in peace my baby Leslie.

Lastly, another organization I really enjoy being a part of is the Miracle Kids Organization. Melisa Gonzales, one of my dad's good friends, introduced me and my sister, Kaitlyn, to this organization several years ago and I have volunteered with them ever since. From bowling to fishing to just sitting down to listen to them, these kids, with so many different disabilities, have proven to me that every child is a miracle in their own way. Ironically, I feel that I have learned more from them than the other way around. They have taught me that through hard work, dedication and perseverance you can accomplish anything you set your mind to.

As I aspire to become your next Miss Teen Texas USA, I reminisce on my Dad, Mom, Maria, Esperanza, Rosario, Lana, Leslie, the cancer kids, Melisa, my sister and all the miracle kids and how they have helped shape me to the young woman I am today. I have met many people in my 17 years in this world, taking a little of each one of them and giving a bit of myself. I now ask you to take this road with me as I compete to become your next Miss Teen Texas USA.

Adelante Alamo!

— The New Vision —

 **Get Out the Vote**

October 18th from 2 to 6 pm

Meet the Candidates



Adrian M. Gutierrez
For Commissioner
Place 4

Trinidad "Trino" Medina
For Mayor

Pedro "Pete" Morales
For Commissioner
Place 2

Free Food, Drinks, Entertainment

Omni Event Center | 106 N. 9th St. Alamo Texas

Political Ad paid by for by Candidates | Rudy Villarreal Campaign Manager
Dr. Marco Gutierrez Treasurer | 401 S. Alamo Rd. TX. 78616

**EARLY VOTING IS OCTOBER 19TH - OCTOBER 30TH
ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 3RD**



**Adrian M.
Gutierrez**
For Commissioner
Place 4

**Trinidad "Trino"
Medina**
For Mayor

**Pedro "Pete"
Morales**
For Commissioner
Place 2

The New Vision is not something made up by three candidates running for office but rather a community vision from all of the people that have voiced out their concerns and needs.

These include:

- Lowering Our Taxes
- Fixing Our City Of Alamo Roads
- Raising Money For Charities
- Raising Money For Scholarships
- Raising Our Minimum Wage For All City Employees
- Mandatory Competitive Bidding
- Helping Our Elderly
- Helping Our Veterans
- Maintenance Of St. Josephs Cemetery
- Pro Business
- Providing Water And Sewer
- Brush Recycling
- Attracting Winter Texans

We believe that Alamo has the potential to be

One Of The Greatest Cities In Texas!

It is our desire to help move Alamo to this standard through improvements in neighborhoods, economic development and recreational opportunities, so that Alamo is truly a community where people want to live.

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Dr. Marco Gutierrez Treasurer | 401 S. Alamo Rd. TX. 78616