

This Month:

Conjunto Festival
 VITA Project
 ANGEL TREE
 Trick or Whatever
 Texas Butterfly Festival
 Restoring Wildlife Habitat
 Imelda Gonzalez Farmers Ins.
 Hawks, Hawks and More Hawks

IN PRINT, ON-LINE & ON FACEBOOK

The Valley Spotlight

**FREE
 TAKE ME HOME**

October 2016

The Little Paper You'll Want To Keep & Share

Vol. 3 No. 5

21st Annual Texas Butterfly Festival



Join Us For Community Day

Saturday, October 29 ... details on page 9



Photo by Ayissa Sandoval

**Preserving The Valley's
 Natural Wildlife Habitat
 25th Annual Rio Reforestation**
 October 15th, 2016 read more on page 4



The Narciso Martinez Cultural Arts Center is an organization dedicated to the preservation, promotion and development of the rich, cultural heritage of the Mexican American community in the visual arts, music, theater, dance and literary works.

The Narciso Martinez Cultural Arts Center is hosting the 25th Annual Conjunto Festival

October 21, 22, & 23, 2016
 225 E Stenger St. - San Benito, TX

The Texas-Mexican conjunto, a genre of música norteaña, has evolved since the turn of the century as an important musical form developed by Texas-Mexican working-class musicians, who adopted the accordion, the main instrument in conjunto music, and the polka from nineteenth-century German settlers in northern Mexico.

The conjunto grew out of the cultural links between Texas and northern Mexico at the end of the nineteenth century, when inexpensive one-row accordions became readily available. Tejano musicians took up the accordion as a solo instrument and used it at rural social events such as the fandango, a combination of dancing, eating, gambling, and other merriment, which remained a part of Tejano working-class life to the end of the nineteenth century. In the late 1890s the musicians began to pair the accordion with the tambora de rancho (a homemade goatskin drum) and later the bajo sexto (translating as "sixth bass"—an acoustic twelve-string version of a bass guitar).



Narciso Martínez has been called the "father" of the modern conjunto for promoting the accordion and the bajo sexto and for his unparalleled creativity as an accordionist.

Martínez became a wizard of the two row accordion in the 1930s and was known as "El Huracán del Valle" ... "The Hurricane of the Valley" for his musical virtuosity.

In January 1992 Martínez released 16 Éxitos de Narciso Martínez ... "16 Hits of Narciso Martínez", his last recording, on the R y R Record label in Monterrey, Nuevo León, shortly before he passed away in San Benito on June 5, 1992.

Come and Enjoy This Celebration of Mexican-American Heritage with performances by the following groups:

La Clica, Los Morales Boyz, Rio Jordan, Los Garcia Bros, Los Fantasmas Del Valle, Palmview High School Conjunto La Tradicion, Mando y La Venganza, Los Angeles del Sur, Flavio Longoria y los Conjunto Kingz, Los Monarcas de Pete y Mario Diaz, Boni Mauricio y Los Maximos, Grupo Inevitable, Chano Cadena y Su Conjunto, Gilberto Perez y Sus Compadres, Ruben Garza y La Nueva Era Musical and Ruben De La Cruz y Su Conjunto

For complete details online go to:
<http://nmcacsanbenito.wixsite.com/nmcacsb/events>
 or contact Soledad A. Núñez at 956-244-0373

October is Adopt A Shelter Dog Month



Please
Adopt
Me

Some Good Reasons to Adopt a Shelter Dog

Buying a pet can easily cost \$500 to \$1,000 or more. Adoption costs range from \$50 to \$200, depending on whether the pet comes from the city shelter or a rescue group that has spent money on boarding, vets and grooming.

You're getting more for your money if you get a mixed breed. Based on the well-established principle of "hybrid vigor," a mixed-breed animal is likely to live longer and cost less in vet bills than a pure breed. Many purebred dogs are prone to developing health problems ranging from breathing difficulties to hip dysplasia to an enlarged heart.

A pet purchased from a pet store is a complete unknown. When you adopt, especially from a rescue group, you know what you are getting because the group has a history on the animal. The rescue group will also help you through the familiarization period because they are invested in providing a good home for that animal.

When you adopt a pet, you are saving a life. When you buy a pet you are supporting an industry that thrives on short-changing the welfare of animals. Puppy and kitten mills, which sell to pet stores, are in business to make a profit, so they churn out puppies and kittens as fast as they can. These animals are often in ill health and have problems like poor socialization skills due to lack of human companionship and genetic defects due to inbreeding.

If you adopt, you get your choice of any age. Though puppies and kittens are cute and cuddly, they can also be a handful. An adult or older pet may be a better fit for you. For example, adopting an adult dog who's already house-trained and knows basic cues is often much easier than adopting a puppy, who must be taught these things.

You get just as much love, if not more. An adopted pet is every bit as loving, intelligent and loyal as a purchased pet, even if you get an adult or older animal.

For all of these reasons, adopting rather than buying is pretty much a no-brainer.



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Vol. 3 No. 5

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11AM

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prior to the Service.

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True Tales of a Valley Birder

by Keith Hackland (alamoinn@aol.com)

Thousands Of Hawks

This was not the first time we in the Valley have seen hawks flying overhead, but yesterday and today were different . . .

It started at 9 am yesterday. Charlie, my daughter's pseudonym, photographed a kettle of hawks moving south east over Alamo. We counted 200 hawks in that kettle.

A kettle is a mass of hawks circling overhead on a thermal, a rising column of warm air that acts as an elevator, carrying birds to its top. A kettle can sometimes rise tens of thousands of feet, though typically are lower. To ride a kettle the birds set their wings and hold them in position, while they circle around the thermal, relaxing, as the rising air elevator lifts them up high. When the elevator stops, the birds peel off and glide for miles and miles on their route, watching for another thermal. Once one bird finds a thermal, others spot it there and join it, until there are hundreds circling up, visible for tens of miles to their acute eyesight. This enables them to travel on an average day about 70 miles with very little effort. This was not an average day. They probably travelled over 100 miles. For them it is free air travel, something humans have yet to master . . . *smart birds!*



Other kettles came through during the day, but I did not wait outside to count them. As the sun heats the earth, thermals rise higher and faster. As the birds are lifted higher and higher, at some point in the middle of the day the birds become invisible, and can be seen only through binoculars.

At 4:30 pm we had a guest, Rick, checking into the hotel (Alamo Inn B&B), and when I went to welcome him he was standing in the parking area. He called me and said "Look up!" There was a kettle of hawks, then another, and another. Behind us were more, all headed south. I counted ten kettles in forty minutes. They were about the size of the one Charlie photographed.

That was two thousand hawks!

We noticed the thermals were moving south, en

mass. We also saw some birds streaming, simply riding the wind. This was the first norther this fall, blowing south, the same direction of the birds' travel, at up to twenty miles an hour.

I had work to do so I went back to my desk. At 6:30 pm our birder friend Pat called. She said "Go outside and look up!" I did. There were kettles of hawks on every side, moving south over Alamo. At any given time I was surrounded by six kettles. I watched and photographed and counted them until dusk at 7:30 pm.

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Pat joined me and we noticed that many birds settled for the night in big trees all around us.

I thought about what we saw. About every ten minutes six kettles passed by, as more showed up. About thirty six kettles passed by from 6:30 to 7:30, 36 kettles of 200 birds each is 7,200 hawks. I looked back towards the golden sunset, and through the dusk saw another kettle in the distance.

So in one hour and forty minutes I must have seen over 9,000 hawks. But there were 10.5 hours when we believe kettles were passing by. Now here is where, with a little speculation, it gets interesting. Kettles of hawks moving through all day, at the rate of 3,000 per hour (2,000 per forty minutes), from 9 am to 7:30 pm, makes a total of 31,500 hawks. That is at a single viewing point in the Valley.

On the Santa Ana Tower, Rick from Florida and Norma and Rodrigo from Mexico City watching hawk migration.



If we consider a viewing point can see about ten miles, and the Valley is say 100 miles east to west, there could be ten viewing points, and so 315,000 hawks may have moved over us yesterday.

After 7:30 pm as I headed in, I ran into another guest, Paul, who was out looking for night hawks. Paul had seen some kettles I missed. He told me that they spent the day at the hawk watch site in Corpus Christi at Hazel Bazemore Park. There a team of experienced birders count the hawks flying by, using binoculars and scopes, from the vantage point of a bluff. He heard that the count for yesterday September 27 there was 120,000 hawks. I read that the one day record, a very rare event there, over the past 15 years, is 350,000 hawks.

This morning we were out at 9 am and there were hawks rising all around us in Alamo, flying to thermals, and gliding south in kettles. It was like the previous evening. Wow. We made our way south to Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, and climbed their 40 foot tower. There we watched in awe as large kettles of hawks drifted by, until about noon, when they ended.

What was so different yesterday and today was the huge numbers of hawks. Why? Probably the steady wind headed south from the three day norther. This was an unforgettable event.

Almost every hawk close enough to identify was a Broad-winged Hawk, en Espanol, Busardo Aliancho. At 15 inches tall they are our smallest buteo (a type of hawk), showing their paddle shaped wings as they glide. They are inconspicuous and solitary in summer, nesting in central to eastern North America, feeding on small mammals, reptiles, and insects. In the fall and spring they migrate in huge numbers. We believe there are about 1.7 million Broad-winged Hawks in North America where they nest, and in the fall head back home to southern Mexico and northern South America.



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11AM Sundays

Bible Study - English

Sunday 9:30AM

Bible Study - Spanish

Tuesday 7:00PM

*Everyone is
Welcome!*



Rio Reforestation 25th Anniversary

Saturday, October 15, 2016

By Christine Donald
Outdoor Recreation Planner Santa Ana NWR

Fall is right around the corner, and for me, this signifies that it is time again for the Annual Rio Reforestation event.

This year, 2016, marks the 25th year that the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge has hosted this annual event.

Even though it takes a lot of hard work and planning, this is one of my favorite events and I look forward to it every year. I know that what comes as a result of this event is priceless and makes it worth every bit of effort put forth.

Every year hundreds of volunteers come out to participate in this event. They come in groups from schools, universities, scout troops, local families, churches, environmental organizations and many others from neighboring communities. By planting native plants into areas that often were originally cleared for farming, business, or residences; these volunteers are giving back to the land by restoring a natural habitat for area wildlife.

It is a wonderful event and fun for me to watch. I enjoy seeing everybody, young and young at heart, out planting and knowing that all of their hard work will benefit our local wildlife. This event can have a healing effect, especially for the youth who too often seem disconnected from nature.



Photo by Ayissa Sandoval



Photo by Ayissa Sandoval

So here's your chance to get out there and get your hands dirty, feel the earth between your fingers and enjoy the outdoors with lots of other folks. There is no better way to get our young people involved than by giving them a purpose and a chance to make a difference in the future of our Valley.

We need 1,000 volunteers to help plant 23 acres with trees and shrubs. If you want to help us in restoring wildlife habitat; bring a shovel, old clothes and shoes, sunscreen, a hat and a willingness to donate some time.

The event is Saturday, October 15th

From 8 am to 11 am we will be planting in the fields. Environmental tables are open beginning at 10:30 am. Hotdogs, chips, drinks, and cake will be served for lunch starting at 11 am.

For those that come out and help out on our 25th Anniversary there will also be some extra goodies for you (While supplies last).

You can fill out an online application to participate by going to:

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/lower_rio_grande_valley/
Click on the link for Rio Reforestation which is found on the main web page. Scroll down the page to get registration forms.

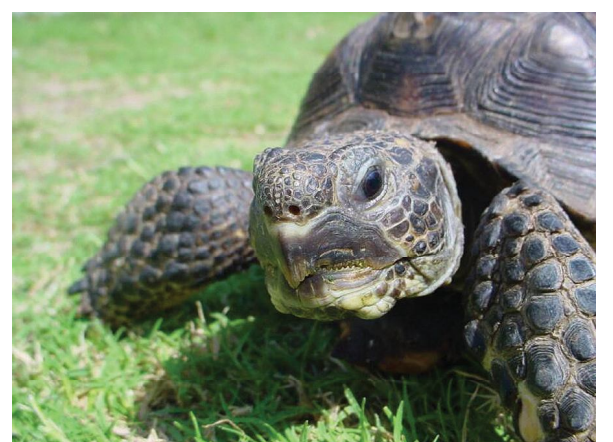
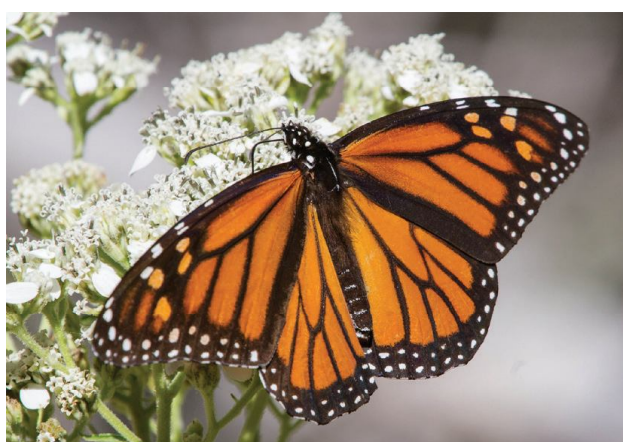
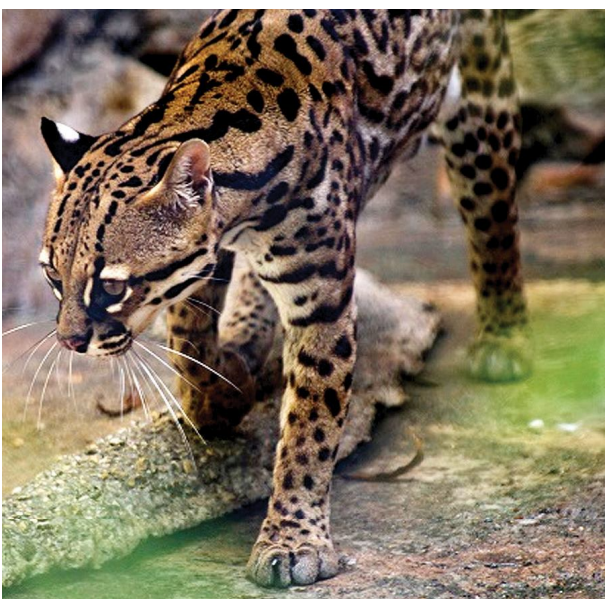
You can also register on the day of the event as well or I can email registration forms to you.

Just send me a request at:

Christine_donald@fws.gov

Here is a directional map to the planting site. There will be U.S. Fish & Wildlife Staff to guide you directly to the site.

I hope to see you there!



Observations On Life by Ben Dover

Trick or Whatever

There is a great amount of data available related to the history of Halloween. It seems most of the early celebration was initiated by the Celts prior to 1745. Then it seems the holiday was adopted, although quite altered, by the Christian world community. A myriad of variations including many types of costumes and other parties occurred as the result of differences in the world's societies and beliefs.

Unchristian and even pagan ceremonies have been associated with this celebration as well. Certain Christians have included this date, *The eve of All Souls Day*, into their number of religiously based holidays. No mystery is associated with the Christian celebration, since the name, itself is a combination of the two words, "Holy, or Hallowed and Evening". All forms of societies can take partial credit for the varied styles and those holiday's being proliferated and carried on.

Masks and carved pumpkins, paper black cats and bats today are found to be required apparatus and apparel obtained by our youngsters on this day. The reason for the costume, or carved Jack-O-Lantern, is also a mystery to me. But then I am no longer considered young by any measure. Many of us old timers have a hard time understanding such sophistication of practices, I guess. "A little source of hilarity there".

This is truly a holiday for little ones. In reality, these little tykes work harder getting a piece or two of candy than many of us who spend hours of preparation and getting them ready to travel from house to house.

"Trick or Treat" is not an imposed threat. I must laugh a little when I imagine what trick can be played by a four year old whose mom or dad is waiting out on the sidewalk, assuring that their little ones do not fall victim to harm.

Goblins, Ghosts, ghouls, witches, political aspirants and other types of guys and gals are among the masked costuming worn by these wonderful little participants. Bad guy's are only part of the costuming available however. Pirates, dancers any other imaginable category of role aspirant apparel can be found available for a price from many local stores.

A pleasant memory of Halloween returns when I recall my own experiences, asking for "Trick of Treat" while living in California. It seems we would all walk around to local neighbors, each of us having a coffee cup and knocking at doors with our treat requests.

Wow!

You'd be amazed at what can be put into a coffee cup!!! Have a nice day....



About Ben Dover

I hope readers of the this paper will enjoy my offerings. I have been a writer of articles found in free press papers for about thirty years.

My given name is Ben Raiche. My alias, however is Ben Dover. My writing style is primarily identified as human interest, and is intended primarily for senior citizens.

If you have a short story to tell in five hundred words or less that folks might like to read, send it to me at this paper. This is no guarantee every one can be printed, but at least we can find out who you are and wish each other a nice day. My email is Benmagnolia3@gmail.com.



Make a Difference this Holiday Season!



Ways You Can Participate in our Angel Tree Program:

REFER PARENTS from needy households to our facility for registration. Registration will be by appointment on October 10-14 and October 17-21.

at The Salvation Army :

1600 N. 23rd St.

McAllen, TX 78501

ADOPT AN ANGEL(S). Once parents have registered their children, we create paper angels. Each paper angel represents a child and will contain their wish and needs list, age and gender. Community members can adopt angels (purchase gifts for a child) starting November 3. Unwrapped gifts are due to The Salvation Army by Dec. 2. Please call 956-682-1468 for more information about adopting angels.

VOLUNTEER! Help us sort toys and prepare for distribution days. We will need help on the following days: Nov. 22- 23; Dec. 6-9, 12-15.

Please email:

Eloise.Montemayor@uss.salvationarmy.org
or call Eloise at 956-682-1468 to sign up!

Our Angel Tree Program

**provides holiday gifts of new clothing
and toys to thousands of
needy children (newborn - 12 years old)
living in Hidalgo County.**

Jeepers Having Fun

by Alyssa Cavasos

Jeep Night for September was held on the second Thursday of the month. It has become a familiar scene, month to month, at Sofie's 'SS' Saloon. Various Jeep Clubs are in attendance including Texas Jeep Crawlers, South Texas Rebels, Texas Off-Road Republic, and South Texas Jeeps. The Calaveras also join in from time to time. The Sponsor of Jeep Night is Burns Motors who also provides dinner for our attendees each month. Jeep Night usually lasts for several hours, with people arriving at around 7pm. The atmosphere at Jeep Night is one of relaxation and entertainment. The night is usually over in what seems like the blink of an eye, leaving those in attendance anticipating next month's Jeep Night.

At the center of it all is the reason Jeep lovers decided to congregate in the first place. It is due to their beloved Jeeps. Jeeps are one of the first known four-wheel drive vehicles in the United States. They have been in around since the 1940's, being first produced for military purposes. That may be part of the appeal of being a Jeep owner. Jeeps were not made for civilians until several years later in 1945, by Willys. The Jeep brand has been sold to various companies, but ultimately it has ended up in the hands of FCA US LLC, also known as Chrysler.



The biggest appeal of being a Jeep owner is its undeniably impressive off-road capability. This is mostly seen in, but not limited to, the Wrangler and Wrangler Unlimited models.

For those who are not as daring, Jeep also carries various models, including the Grand Cherokee, Cherokee, Compass, Patriot, and the newest addition the Renegade.

Owning a Jeep is a class all on its own. Jeep owners develop an indisputable relationship with their cherished Jeeps which most people would not understand. And that is why we have Jeep Night.

Jeep Night powered by Burns Motors is typically held on the second Thursday of each month, unless changes are made beforehand.

Next month's Jeep Night will be held on October 13th at Sofie's 'SS' Saloon located at 6801 S 10th St in McAllen, Texas. Information on Jeep Night and other events held by our Jeep Clubs can be found on our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/RGVJeepNight

You can also get in contact with Burns Motors' Big Lew at (956) 984-4554 or via email: biglew@burnsmotors.com



Eddie and his wife June are shopping in their local supermarket. The husband picks up a case of Heineken and puts it in their cart. 'What do you think you're doing?' asks June. 'They're on sale, only \$15 for 24 cans Eddie replies. 'Put them back, we can't afford them' demands the wife, and so they carry on shopping. A few aisles further on along June picks up a \$30 jar of face cream and puts it in the basket. 'What do you think you're doing?' asks Eddie. 'It's my face cream. It makes me look beautiful,' replies the wife. Her husband retorts: 'So does 24 cans of Heineken and it's half the price.' The next thing he heard on the supermarket PA system was: 'Clean up on aisle 19, we have a husband down.' Eddie never knew what hit him.



The Ones That Got Away

After a Tuesday fishing on the River Test, near Southampton in Southern England, Trevor is walking from the pier carrying two brown trout in a bucket. He is approached by a Water Conservation Officer who asks him for his fishing license.

Trevor replies to the environmentalist, 'I was not fishing and I did not catch these brown trout, they are my pets. Every day I come down to the water and put these fish into the water and take them for a walk to the end of the pier and back. When I'm ready to go I whistle and they jump

back into the bucket and we go home.

The officer, obviously, does not believe him and he reminds Trevor that it is illegal to fish without a license. The fisherman turns to the warden and says, 'If you don't believe me then watch, 'and he throws the trout back into the water.

The warden says, 'Now whistle to your fish and show me that they will jump out of the water and into the bucket.'

The fisherman turns to the officer and says, 'What fish?'

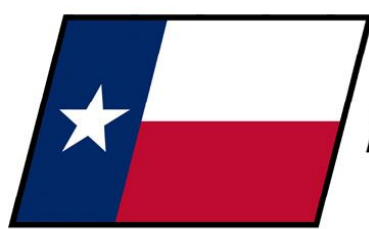


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Community Volunteers are Needed Now!

Last year the United Way of South Texas had 300 volunteers (high school students and adults) who participated in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.

To volunteer, register at Volunteerssotx.org or call 956-686-6331 and attend one of the following orientation sessions.

Introduction to VITA Training Schedule:

Dates:

- Tuesday, October 4, 2016
- Tuesday, October 11, 2016
- Tuesday, October 18, 2016
- Thursday, October 20, 2016
- Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Time:

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Location:

United Way of South Texas
113 W. Pecan Blvd.
McAllen, Texas

The EITC/VITA Community Project of Hidalgo - Starr (VITA Project) provides the only free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program serving low to middle income working families in Hidalgo and Starr counties. This program will open its doors in various locations around the Hidalgo and Starr County areas late January or early February.

United Way Board of Directors, BBVA Compass, Frost Bank, H.E.B., Lone Star National Bank, Magic Valley Electric, IRS, McAllen Chamber of Commerce, Security Service Federal Credit Union, Texas Regional Bank and Wells Fargo are among the companies that are sponsoring the VITA/TCE Program.

United Way of South Texas wants to reach over 250,000 low to moderate income workers with information about tax benefits, refunds, and free tax services in 2016.

Join the team doing meaningful work for our residents, join VITA.

Contact:

- Eslibeth Perez: eperez@unitedwayofsotx.org
- Marlen Ramirez: mramirez@unitedwayofsotx.org
- Thelma Garza: tgarza@unitedwayofsotx.org

Or Call 956-686-6331

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

VITA



United Way of South Texas

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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

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

Sudoku No.: 10708

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

Sudoku No.: 36414

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

Sudoku No.: 61475

All About The Butterflies

Preparations are well underway for the 21st Annual Texas Butterfly Festival, in Mission, Texas. This very special event featuring educational workshops and expert-guided field trips for novices and enthusiasts, alike, continues to evolve as it grows in popularity and renown. Last year, festival organizers welcomed visitors from twenty-eight states and five countries for three full days of outdoor adventure.

Founded by the City of Mission and organized for many years by the Greater Mission Chamber of Commerce, the Texas Butterfly Festival is now hosted by the National Butterfly Center, whose members and volunteers pitch in to make sure registrants are exposed to the best butterflying the Rio Grande Valley has to offer.

“This is our fourth year operating the Texas Butterfly Festival,” explains Marianna Trevino Wright, executive director of the National Butterfly Center. “When the city manager approached us about becoming the permanent home for the event we leapt at the opportunity. It’s a natural fit for us and a chance to invite everyone with any interest in butterflies to come out for an enormous celebration, at least once a year.”

The pilot project of the nonprofit North American Butterfly Association (NABA), the National Butterfly Center was established in Mission, Texas, on the banks of the Rio Grande River, because this area of the country has a greater volume and variety of butterflies than anywhere in America. It’s a little known fact that approximately 700 butterfly species may be found in the United States, and over 300 hundred may be seen in the Rio Grande Valley.

“Dr. Jeffrey Glassberg, founder of the North American Butterfly Association, began leading butterfly tours to deep south Texas more than twenty years ago,” states Wright. “It was then that he connected with the president of the chamber of commerce and other community leaders. He let them know how unique this region is and what an incredible natural treasure they have in the Valley’s great diversity of butterflies. As a result, the Texas Butterfly Festival and the National Butterfly Center have both blossomed in Mission.”

The center anchors the NABA Section of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Wildlife Conservation Corridor, which includes a National Wildlife Refuge tract and Bentsen-RGV State Park. Altogether, these three properties comprise over 2,000 acres of nature preserve. People often ask how the National Butterfly Center, more than any other place, has become home to so many butterflies. Max Munoz, director of operations, asserts there is a simple formula for their success. “Each butterfly species is intimately tied to specific plants,” states Munoz. “These plants are the hosts for immature butterflies, or caterpillars. Butterflies will only lay eggs on the appropriate hosts for their young, so that when larvae emerge they have all they need to complete their lifecycle and do not have to go in search of suitable food. If you want to attract butterflies, you must plant both host and nectar plants, so butterflies have appropriate breeding and feeding areas. At the National Butterfly Center, our enormous collection of wild and cultivated native plants, both host and favored nectar, actually lure butterflies here.” The knowledgeable staff of the center cultivates 60-80 species of native plants

for sale to the general public, so private citizens, municipalities and commercial landscapers may all have access to plants that belong in the Rio Grande Valley, but may be difficult to find commercially; plants that are drought-hardy and designed to support native wildlife including other insects, birds and reptiles.

During the Texas Butterfly Festival’s free, open house event, known as Community Day at the National Butterfly Center, staff and volunteers will be present to lead visitors of all ages in fun and instructional activities ranging from Basic Butterfly Gardening to Butterfly Identification for Beginners, a guided Bird Walk & Talk, a Butterfly Brew demonstration and more. Community Day will take place on Saturday, October 29, from 9am - 2pm, and everyone is invited to join in the enjoyment of our exceptional bounty of butterflies.

Those who may wish to participate in more intensive activities should register for the full festival, which also serves at the NABA Biennial Members’ Meeting, this year. To ensure your seat for the full slate of educational sessions, excursions, banquets and speakers, one must reserve space in advance at ...

www.TexasButterflyFestival.com before embarking on three days of exploration that showcases secret gardens and public parks, renowned places and hard-to-find hot spots, from Falcon Dam to South Padre Island.

The speakers for this year’s festival and meeting include an expert in the study of the evolution and adaptive behaviors of butterflies in the genus *Heliconius*, an award-winning wildlife photographer, and a post-doctoral fellow who is currently tracking Painted Ladies across five continents, on what may be the longest



TEXAS Butterfly Festival

Join Us for
Community Day
Saturday, October 29
9 am - 2 pm

**FREE FUN FOR EVERYONE
AT THE**



3333 Butterfly Park Drive
Mission Texas 78572

NationalButterflyCenter.org

migratory path of any living creature on the planet. Entertainment will feature the brilliant, all-female Mariachi Mariposa, and the freshest flavors of the Valley will be prepared and served by the talented culinary artists of the Rio Grande Valley Chapter of the Texas Chef’s Association. Guests may also knock out their holiday shopping at our colorful artisan’s mercado.

Join us for the spectacle that is butterfly season in the Rio Grande Valley, and see for yourself why USA Today declares, “Mission, Texas is the butterfly capitol of the USA.” Each year the festival produces “chase” butterflies in the form of U.S. Record or ultra-rare sightings, so visitors have come to expect an encounter with an exotic, tropical stray, like the Blue-studded Skipper or Zebra Cross-streak. To learn more about how you may join in the fun, check out the full schedule of free events and paid activities at www.texasbutterflyfestival.com, or call 956.583.5400, today.

The National Butterfly Center is committed to ‘Growing Connections’ between people, plants, and the winged wonders that pollinate and propagate all that grows around us. We do this through educational and environmental initiatives that cultivate meaningful understanding of the processes that create sustainable ecosystems. The Center is open to the public, for visitors and members, seven days/week.

To learn more about the National Butterfly Center, and how you can join us, visit www.nationalbutterflycenter.org, or call 956.583.5400.

Your annual membership or charitable gift impacts the beauty of our community and helps preserve the biologically diverse, natural treasures of deep South Texas.

For Kids Only

No matter how old you are!

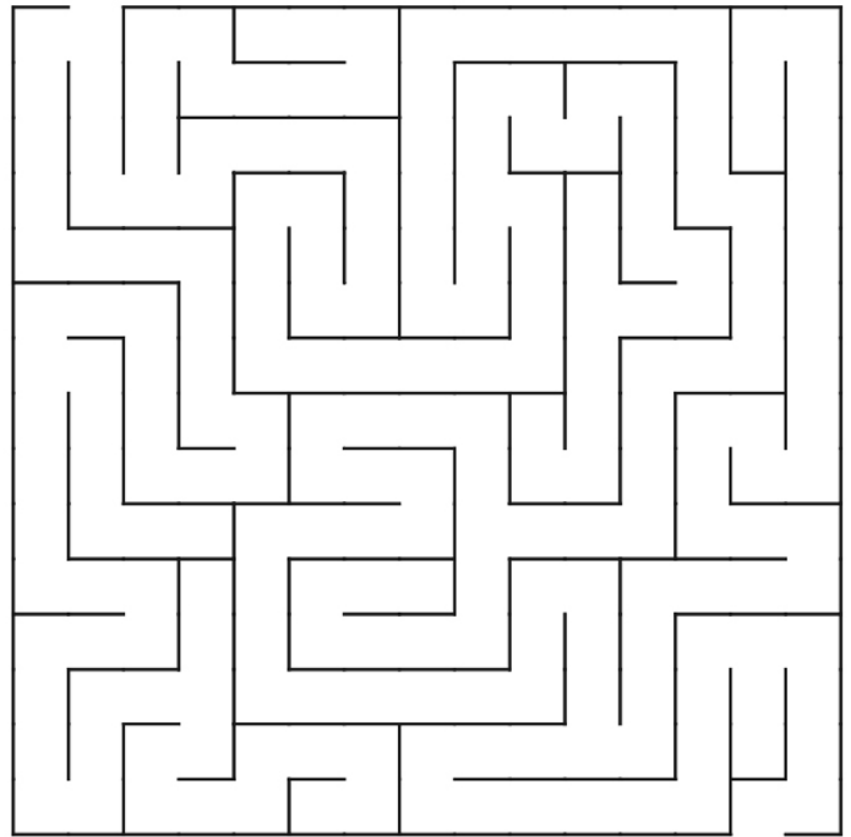


Have Fun and Learn
while you solve these puzzles and
practice your coloring skills

It was early October 1492, and thirty-three days since he and his crew had left the Canary Islands, off the Atlantic coast of Africa. Now they saw branches and sticks floating in the water. They saw flocks of birds. These were signs of land. Then, on October 12, a sailor called Rodrigo saw the early morning moon shining on white sands, and cried out. It was an island in the Bahamas, the Caribbean sea.



Can you help Columbus navigate safely through this maze to meet the Arawak Indians?



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

Arawak men and women emerged from their villages onto the island's beaches and swam out to get a closer look at the strange big boat. When Columbus and his sailors came ashore, carrying swords and speaking oddly, the Arawaks ran to greet them, bringing them food and water as gifts.



In this puzzle, find the words shown at the right which are associated with Christopher Columbus' discovery of the New World.

- | | |
|-------------|----------|
| ARAWAK | NATIVES |
| BAHAMAS | OCEAN |
| CURRENTS | SAILING |
| DISCOVERY | SAILORS |
| EXPLORATION | SHIPS |
| GOLD | SPAIN |
| INDIES | SPICES |
| NAVIGATION | TREASURE |

The Changing Season

By Raul Garza Jr. ... Park Ranger Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge

If you take a walk down Chachalaca Trail you can see the season is changing once again. The sun is rising in a different position almost daily; it is casting noticeable shadows on the trails of Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge. A sure sign that fall is nearing, and migrant birds have begun to make their journey through the Rio Grande Valley, south into Mexico and South America again.

Soon visitors from across the globe will be arriving strapped with binoculars, scopes and cameras in hand to see the spectacle of overwintering birds in the Thorn scrub, Riparian forest and on the wetlands. More than just cooler temperatures, the winter months also bring a chance to spot a cool rare vagrant from Mexico, like the Rose-throated Becard, Northern Jacana or even the Crimson-collared Grosbeak.

Fall migration is amazing because it sets a marker for a time of year when our lakes are full of bird life with ducks and other water fowl.

They come here looking for a place to call home for the winter. During that time of year, as you walk down the trail to one of the lakes you can hear the commotion filled with quacks, cackles, squeaks, and chatter.



Some of the other sounds like the flutter of wings and splashing of water might spark your interest, maybe even to choose a bench and sit there quietly while watching the wonders of migratory wetland life.

Although any day is a great day to visit Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, our winter here is one of marvel and awe, sure to bring you back year after year just like the birds that come to visit us!

In a blink of an eye the heat will return, beckoning spring and our feathered friends to say goodbye; but only for a short time when the seasons begin to change.



Speaking Of Changing Seasons ...

by Rod Graham

Here in the Valley, the cooler temperatures of last few days have been a welcomed relief from the one hundred degree plus days we have experienced all summer! This serves as a reminder that our friends from the North will soon be joining us.

As soon as the first frost appears and the first snowfalls are predicted, our Winter Texan compadres start to pack up and head south to escape winter's chilly realities. Of course, the Rio Grande Valley is excited to see them return, as they will certainly bring a welcome boost to our economy. However, financial gain is not the only reason for our positive outlook on having Winter Texans here in the Valley.

Hospitals and charitable organizations appreciate the increase in volunteers that comes with their arrival. Local musicians appreciate the increase in gigs as they get to perform at local venues and resort halls for Winter Texans. Yes, our winter visitors do much to improve the quality of Valley life while they are here.

And, we appreciate them!

This is why many winter vacationers choose the Rio Grande Valley over other sunny destinations such as Florida and Arizona where they are sometimes treated as nuisances rather than guests.

So get ready, hang out the "Welcome Back" banners and prepare for another Winter Texan Season full of fun and entertainment.

ADVERTISE TO WINTER TEXANS
at
www.WinterTexanInfo.com



Rio Grande Valley
Down Syndrome Assoc.

2124 Katherine Avenue
Edinburg, TX 78539
956-314-0821
info@rgvdsa.org

During the month of October, we celebrate people with Down syndrome and make people aware of our abilities and accomplishments. It's not about celebrating disabilities, it's about celebrating abilities.

Are you an individual with Down syndrome living in the RGV?
Are you a new or expectant parent of a baby with Down syndrome?
Do you have a friend or family member who has Down syndrome?
Would like to support the activities and mission of the RGVDSA?

Visit our website at www.rgvdsa.org

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FLORIST & Art Gallery

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

956-686-5252

REGISTRATION OPEN!
stepup.rgvdsa.org

**STEP UP FOR
DOWN SYNDROME
Saturday
October 29th**

Spotlight On Local Business ...

"I strive to deliver the best value and experience to every customer. Farmers appreciates your business and we look forward to continuing to earn your confidence for many years to come." *Imelda Gonzalez*

In 1978 Venancio Alvarez moved with his wife and two children from Houston to San Juan, Texas to work in the local oil industry.

Shortly after arriving they welcomed a third child in 1979, a daughter whom they named Imelda. Imelda grew up as the "middle child", the third of five children to bless the Alvarez home. Imelda likes to say that she is "The cream of the cookie".

In 1990 Venancio moved his family to a five acre tract of land he had purchased in Alamo, Texas. Here, he and his wife brought their children up, teaching them the value of working hard to get what they wanted from life.

Middle child Imelda understood these values. She worked hard at her studies while attending PSJA schools. She graduated as a Junior Candidate in 1997 and, soon afterwards, enrolled in South Texas Vo-Tech's Licensed Vocational Nurse, LVN, program.

In 1998 Imelda married Aldo Gonzalez, whom she had known while attending PSJA High School. As Imelda was the first of her siblings to marry, their families held a large wedding ceremony for them at what was then the Pharr Community Center in Pharr, Texas. Soon, Aldo and Imelda were blessed by the birth of Ronaldo, the first of three sons.

While working for a local gym in 2001, selling memberships on a commission basis, Imelda realized that she had a knack for sales. Her success at earning good commissions, along with her natural talent for interacting with people, led her to pursue this line of work.



Imelda Gonzalez with her husband Aldo

A fellow employee, Nancy Garza, introduced Imelda to insurance sales for a supplemental only insurance company. Imelda studied diligently and soon she was awarded her license to sell Life and Health Insurance. She worked for this insurance company for several years travelling across South Texas from El Paso to Brownsville. Soon after the birth of their second child, Orlando, Imelda again put her hard study ethics to work and gained her Property and Casualty, P & C, license. She went to work for another insurance company in 2008.

Following the birth of Brandon Lee, their third son, Imelda went back to work with the insurance company she had been with before, with the ever present thought that she would one day open her own agency here in the Valley.

It was at a job fair that she met a recruiter from Farmer's Insurance. After visiting with the recruiter, she became convinced that this was the opportunity she had been looking for.

After eight months of training with Farmers Insurance, Imelda Gonzalez held the Grand Opening of her Farmers Insurance Agency office on August 1, 2016 at 501 N Alamo Rd. Suite B in Alamo, Texas.

As your local Farmers agent in Alamo, TX, I help customers identify the insurance coverage that best fits your needs. This process is straightforward and personalized to help make you smarter about insurance. My staff and I have the knowledge and experience to help you better understand your coverage options whether that's auto, home, life, business insurance and more.

*I am proud to be working for a company that makes up one of the country's largest insurers and who also provide a wide range of products that helps our customers prepare for their family's financial future. Community involvement is part of my goal, where as an agent I can offer consultations to review current coverages along with a needs analysis to help prepare for life's unexpected event. Please feel free to contact me in person, by phone, text or email. Both Farmers and I know the importance of good service and price when it comes to protecting what matters most. **Imelda Gonzalez***

NOW SERVING YOU IN ALAMO!



We All Had A Great Time At The Ribbon Cutting Party!



The Raffle Winner Was Ana Maria Ibarra from Edinburg, TX



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