

This Month:

Veterans Day
Kids For Wish Kids
Birdy News Bits
PAWS Dog Park
Renaissance Festival
Jeepers Having Fun
Ring The Bell
Meet Me At The Manger
The Resaca City
WinterTexanInfo.com

IN PRINT, ON-LINE & ON FACEBOOK

The Valley Spotlight

**FREE
TAKE ME HOME**

November 2016

The Little Paper You'll Want To Keep & Share

Vol. 3 No. 6

Honoring Our Veterans

Past, Present and Future



The General is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at Westpoint and has commanded U.S. Army Africa as well as units of the 82nd Airborne Division and the 3rd Infantry Division. LTG Donahue has deployed multiple times to Iraq and Afghanistan. His awards include the Distinguished Service Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Legion of Merit (four Oak Leaf Clusters), the Bronze Star (three Oak Leaf Clusters) and the Combat Infantryman Badge among many others. He has also completed the Army War College, Ranger training, Air Assault school and is a Master Parachutist. LTG Donahue has ties to the Rio Grande Valley. In 2005-2006, he was the Commander of 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne, named Taskforce Devil, that deployed to Afghanistan.

The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918 marked the beginning of an armistice that went into effect between the Allied Nations and the Central Powers during World War I.

Beginning on November 11, 1919 the American people celebrated Armistice Day to honor all the veterans that served during World War I. Armistice Day eventually grew to Veterans Day and was made a National holiday to honor all of America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Veterans Day will again be celebrated this year on Nov. 11th at 10:30am at the Veterans War Memorial of Texas located at 29th Street and Galveston in McAllen. This year the keynote speaker is Lieutenant General (LTG) Patrick J. Donahue II who currently serves as the Deputy Commanding General of U.S. Army Forces Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. LTG Donahue is the highest ranking officer currently serving on active duty that we have had visit us in deep South Texas.



Veterans War Memorial of Texas
29th & Galveston - McAllen, Texas

Attached to TF Devil were elements of the 3rd Battalion, 141st Infantry of the Texas Army National Guard which is based out of the armory in Weslaco, Texas. Several hundred troops from throughout the Valley were members of 3-141 Infantry that served their country proudly in Afghanistan.

All the troops that served with 3-141 Infantry in Afghanistan are given a special invitation to attend the ceremony and visit with LTG Donahue.



LTG Donahue

All veterans, non-veterans, families, teachers, students, and other community members are encouraged to attend this November 11th to honor all veterans for their service and remember the sacrifice of those who gave their lives for our Nation. The ceremony is supported through the partnership of the Veterans War Memorial Foundation of Texas, the City of McAllen, Texas Army National Guard and local veterans organizations. Hundreds of people from throughout the area gather at this ceremony to honor all veterans that have served or are serving in all the military services of the United States.

*Authored by Dr. David Plummer (STC)
who served with 3-141 Infantry in Afghanistan.*
More info: <http://mcallen.net/veterans>

Observations On Life

by Ben Dover

November

We can find many reasons to celebrate this month. Included are Thanksgiving day, Veterans day, Election day and the end of daylight saving time. The birthstone of the month is the Topaz, and the flower of the month is the Chrysanthemum. This month also separates October and December. Now, wouldn't you call that important?

The original celebration of Armistice Day on November 11, included veterans from world wars one and two. Since that time however, many of those old veterans have passed to the great beyond. It seems to me, also that an Armistice is only as good as the integrity of its signers. I guess that is enough said on that subject. We now have added veterans to include those of recent actions. These conflicts were termed police actions, and some other designations not including the name, war. Men and women died in Korea, Viet Nam, Desert Storm and other places, but since war had not been declared, these veterans had never been classed as war heroes. Under new and existing societal designations, heroes they are, and must be considered as such.

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.

In my humble opinion, "Any time a man or woman is expected to put on a uniform, pick up a weapon and become part of a fighting force, who cares whether or not a war has been declared? They are all equally defined in my book as Heroes". Most of us who were young at the time, were expected to devote a part of our lives to the defense of our country, and its way of life. Race, creed, religion or sex had little to do with it. We all went, and some of us came back. Yes, the term Veteran's day is certainly appropriate and cherished by those of us who were there. We are all part of November 11, Veterans Day.

Let us not forget however, the importance of Thanksgiving Day. It is without a doubt one of the most important days to celebrate. We, as Americans have inherited the gifts and benevolence of our creator, and certainly owe Him gratitude unending. As an addition to this celebration, but returning to the first day of November, we might include one foreign based holiday. "El dia de los muertos" or "day of the dead", is celebrated in Mexico. Some persons living here accede to celebrate some of the foreign holidays as well.

Have a nice day...

VETERANS DAY PARADE

Marine Military Academy in Harlingen

Marine Military Academy will host its Veterans Day Parade Friday, Nov. 11 at 4 p.m. on the MMA Parade Ground. Veterans from all military branches are encouraged to attend, as they will be honored at this occasion and asked to join the MMA superintendent for the pass in review.



Nearly 100 veterans were honored at last year's parade. The public is not only welcome but encouraged to attend this event and pay respect to their nation's local heroes.

All parade-goers are encouraged to participate in the flag retirement ceremony to follow the parade. MMA's battalion-size parades are always held in front of the historic Iwo Jima Monument, a symbol of American pride for veterans and civilians alike. Although bleacher seating is available, parade-goers may bring lawn chairs. MMA is located at 320 Iwo Jima Blvd., off Loop 499 and next to Valley International Airport in Harlingen.

For more information call (956) 421-9225.



Kids For Wish Kids is a popular program because it is managed by kids. The program allows K-12 students to raise funds and help grant wishes for kids with life-threatening medical conditions.

Students are responsible for the program from brainstorming fundraising ideas and developing plans of action, to seeing the ideas come to fruition.

Teachers and parents often serve as advisors, but ownership of the project belongs solely to the kids involved. Kids and teens choose an idea for a fundraiser and then organize and manage their project from start to finish.

Contact the Rio Grande Valley Make-A-Wish® chapter to get started with some of these projects:

Sell Spirit Chains

Coordinate A Superstars For Wishes Event

Sell Candy-Grams

Hold Student/Teacher Games

Have A Penny War

Host A Dance Marathon

Pie-In-The-Face

Announce A Dress-Down Day

To learn more about Kids for Wish Kids success across the country, visit www.wish.org and click on *ways to help*. then *fundraising*.

To get more information about how your school or organization can give hope, strength and joy to children with life-threatening medical conditions, contact:

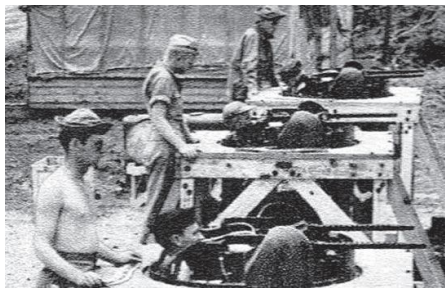
Make-A-Wish® Rio Grande Valley
 One Park Place. Ste. 405
 McAllen, TX 78503
 956-686-9474
www.riograndevalley.wish.org

November is designated National Aviation History Month Valley Trivia



On April 20, 1915 Byron Q. Jones and Lt. Thomas D. Milling were shot at as they were flying their Curtiss "Jenny" (pictured above) on a mission to scout the forces of Pancho Villa who were in Matamoros.

This was the first time that an American pilot was fired upon during an aerial combat mission.



Harlingen Army Air Field, site of Harlingen Army Gunnery School, was located at the site of present day Valley International Airport.

During the Korean War the base was used as a navigator-training school



On March 9, 1929, Charles Lindbergh piloted a Ford Trimotor 5-AT-B-12 from Mexico City to Brownsville. This was the inaugural flight of the first international route of Mexicana de Aviación after control of the company had been taken over by Juan Trippe of Pan Am.



In 1942 the San Benito Airport was used as a base by Unit 12 of the Civil Air Patrol as they continuously patrolled the coast. They were cited as playing a big part in assisting the Navy in eliminating the U-boat threat in the Gulf.

Love of Christ ELCA Lutheran Church

**November
Worship Service
11AM**



**December
Worship Service
8AM & 11AM**

**'Friendship and Coffee'
at 10:15**

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

LEARN TO FLY in the World's Most Popular Aircraft



Call to schedule your \$100 Introductory Flight
McCREERY AVIATION Flight Academy

MAC
 McCREERY AVIATION CO., INC.
686-1774

J.F. "Mac" McCreery first became aware of the Rio Grande Valley during WWII while serving as a gunnery instructor for the U.S. Army Air Corp at Harlingen Army Air Field in Harlingen, Texas. He opened a small flight school at Central Valley Airport in 1946. In 1948, Mac and his wife Ardath moved to McAllen, TX and the McCreery Aviation Company was established at what is now McAllen Miller International Airport. Mac's son Bob is the current president of McCreery Aviation Company, a sprawling Fixed-Base Operator (FBO) that includes 148,000 sq. ft. of hangars, offices, FBO terminal, 550,000 sq. ft. of ramp space and a 15,000 sq. ft. hangar on the site of the original 1948 FBO offices.

The Valley Spotlight

is published by
 Created Images and More
 1320 W Frontage Rd. #355
 Alamo, TX 78516
www.RGVaff.com

contact:
 Rod Graham ... 956-457-8600
rod@RGVaff.com
 November 2016 issue
 Vol. 3 No. 6
 © 2016 all rights reserved

Online at www.rgvaff.com/spotlight ... Find Us and Like Us On Facebook

True Tales of a Valley Birder

by Keith Hackland (alamoinn@aol.com)

Birdy News Bits for November 2016



WHEN: November 2 - 6

WHERE: Municipal Auditorium Complex
1204 Fair Park Blvd., Harlingen, TX

MORE INFO: www.rgvbf.org

November is a big month in the Valley for birders because it offers really great birding, and that is why the 22 year old Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival is held in early November annually. The Festival attracts hundreds of birders to its field trips, talks, and trade show. It also brings over eighty of the country's top birding guides to the Valley to lead the popular field trips.

For local residents the trade show 'Birders Bazaar' and talks are a big draw. Over one hundred exhibitors draw thousands to the trade show where birding and outdoor gear, birding opportunities, art, photography, books, travel, and birding destinations from around the world are showcased. There is no entrance fee, but there should be, because it would be a bargain at \$20 with all the great exhibits.

In the exhibit hall and a part of 'Birders Bazaar' Jonathan Wood will have his impressive collection of raptors on display, and as a falconer he puts some of the birds through their paces twice daily, flying them over the crowd as he speaks about their natural history. He is not only a licensed falconer, but he also rehabilitates raptors, and so those he has on show are rescue birds that cannot survive in the wild. Come see his birds.



SOUTH TEXAS GUIDE TO BIRDING

Edited by Nancy Millar and Published by South Texas Nature, this *where to bird* in South Texas book is just out and is available free at participating chambers of commerce across the Valley and at the Alamo Outdoor Store (956-782-9912).

With site research by Mary Gustafson and featuring the photography of Clay Taylor, Steve Sinclair, and Raul Delgado, it provides information and maps of the best birding hot spots in twenty counties throughout the Valley and along the coast all across South Texas. Pick up a copy while they are available.



A Variegated Flycatcher showed up for the first recorded time in Texas at the Birding and Nature Center on South Padre. It was discovered on September 28, and stayed for some ten days. It is the seventh U.S. record for this tropical species. Birders flew in from around the U.S. to see it and it made the news in "The Monitor" and other newspapers. I was one of the lucky birders to see it, and as it turned out, one of the last three birders to see it before it departed for a new destination. Sunday evening two birders watched it with me at its usual locale in front of the Birding and Nature Center from 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm. It was active and catching lots of bugs, preparing for the next leg of its secret journey.



On the railing of the blue water tower close by a Peregrine Falcon hung out, but they generally chase down and eat ducks and larger birds than this small flycatcher, and they do not hunt at night. So I am sure the Variegated Flycatcher simply moved on down the flyway.

Currently there is a juvenile Crimson-colored Grosbeak hanging out at the Sheepshead Road wooded lots on South Padre Island. Guests who flew in from Georgia saw it this evening. This is a tropical bird that shows up quite often in the Valley. It enjoys wild fruits, such as the yellow berries on the Potato tree that grows in protected areas around the Valley.



A juvenile Northern Jacana, a wader, is being seen at Pintail Lake at Santa Ana National



Wildlife Refuge south of Alamo. It is another tropical bird that shows up regularly in the Valley and is popular with visiting birders, and with its black, red and yellow markings it easily noticed.

What are vagrants?

Birds migrate and young birds explore, leading them sometimes into new territory, where birders call them vagrants, because they are rare or unusual visitors.

The Valley is one of the top spots for vagrants in United States. When there are more birders out there more vagrants are discovered, meaning that there are doubtless more vagrants around than we know.

Every November the RGV Birding Festival brings over 80 of the county's top birding guides to the Valley to lead its tours, and consistently every year this is the time when many vagrants are discovered by the guides. So stay tuned for more unusual birds in November.



801 Main St. - Alamo, TX 78516

Tel. 956.782.9912

Email: alamoinn@aol.com

www.alamoinnbnb.com

We provide everything needed by birders



People's Covenant Church

800 South Standard
San Juan, Texas 78589
Tel. 956.787.1034

Worship Services
11AM Sundays

Bible Study - English
Sunday 9:30AM

Bible Study - Spanish
Tuesday 7:00PM

Everyone is Welcome!



"There is an unreasonable joy to be had from the observation of small birds going about their bright, oblivious business"
Grant Hutchison

About 160 pet lovers filled the dog parks at The Laurie P. Andrews PAWS Center on Oct. 13, to commemorate the opening of Edinburg's first off-leash dog park areas. That morning, about 60 guests joined the staff from The Laurie P. Andrews PAWS Center and City of Edinburg employees for a ribbon cutting ceremony inaugurating the parks at 10 a.m.

The parks are divided into a large dog area (over 25 pounds) and a small dog area (under 25 pounds) right next to The Laurie P. Andrews PAWS Center, located at 2451 N. U.S. Expressway 281. The parks feature water fountains (for dogs and their owners), dog waste dispensers, community benches and plenty of space for dogs to run and play. Hours of operation are from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

"Having an off-leash public access dog park in Edinburg is another step in the right direction for this community, including our canine residents," said Tim Ousley, executive director. "Providing a gathering place for animal lovers, especially those living in apartments or homes with small yards, is a very beneficial quality of life issue for people and pets. The park also opens up opportunities for socialization of pets and people, giving everyone the chance to get outside and meet others."

Rules and regulations for the parks are posted at the entrance of each park. Some of the key rules park visitors must follow include making sure dogs display current registration, license and vaccination tags. Dog owners are liable for any damages and/or injuries caused by their dogs. Dog handlers are responsible for picking up and disposing of all their dogs waste. Dog handlers must be over the age of 16. Dogs must not be left unattended and no more than two dogs per handler are permitted. No children under the age of nine allowed in the parks.

For accidents and/or incidents, the public is urged to call Edinburg Animal Control at (956) 383-7411. For emergencies, call 911.

After the ribbon cutting ceremony, a "Yappy Hour" promoting the parks was held from 6 to 8 p.m. for those who were not able to attend the grand opening.



The event featured beverages for pets and their humans, treat bags, toys and giveaways. There was also a pet costume contest for small and big dogs. "Best in Show" winners took home a bag of treats with toys, gift certificates and a deluxe dog bed.

Yappy Hour marked the first of many fun events to come at The Laurie P. Andrews PAWS Center to bring the community and pets together.

"The parks are a great way for our community, animals and humans alike, to come together," said Marisela Gonzalez, education coordinator. "We hope to have events in the future to incorporate people and their dogs for fun events like movie nights, more Yappy Hours and other dog friendly events."



For more information on the dog parks or services offered at The Laurie P. Andrews PAWS Center, please call (956) 720-4563, visit the website pvaonline.com or visit the center in Edinburg. Hours of operation are from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday and Tuesday; closed Wednesday; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Coats & Tails



**Professional Grooming
at
Competitive Prices**

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

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!"

Our ADVERTISERS make it possible for you to enjoy The Valley Spotlight every month. Please be sure to tell them ...

You saw it in The Valley Spotlight!

You have found yourself surrounded by armor clad horsemen, hawkers in the streets, ribbons and flags waving in the wind, the sound of bells, lutes and ocarinas in the air, the lilt of foreign accents, the smell of cooking foods and flowers ...

Are you dreaming?
Have you been transported back to the time of King Arthur?



IMELDA GONZALEZ AGENCY
 956-223-4580

Auto • Home • Life • Business

NOW SERVING YOU IN ALAMO!

As your local Farmers® agent in Alamo, TX, I help customers like you identify the insurance coverage that best fits your needs. This process is straightforward and personalized to help make you smarter about insurance. I have the knowledge and experience to help you better understand your coverage options; whether that's auto, home, renters, business insurance and more. Give me a call and I'll be happy to answer any questions you might have.

501 N Alamo Rd. Ste. B - Alamo, TX 78516
 igonzalez2@farmersagent.com



No ... you are at the 1st Annual Castlegard Renaissance Festival!

New to the RGV, the Castlegard Renaissance Festival holds its grand opening on the weekend of **December 3rd & 4th.**

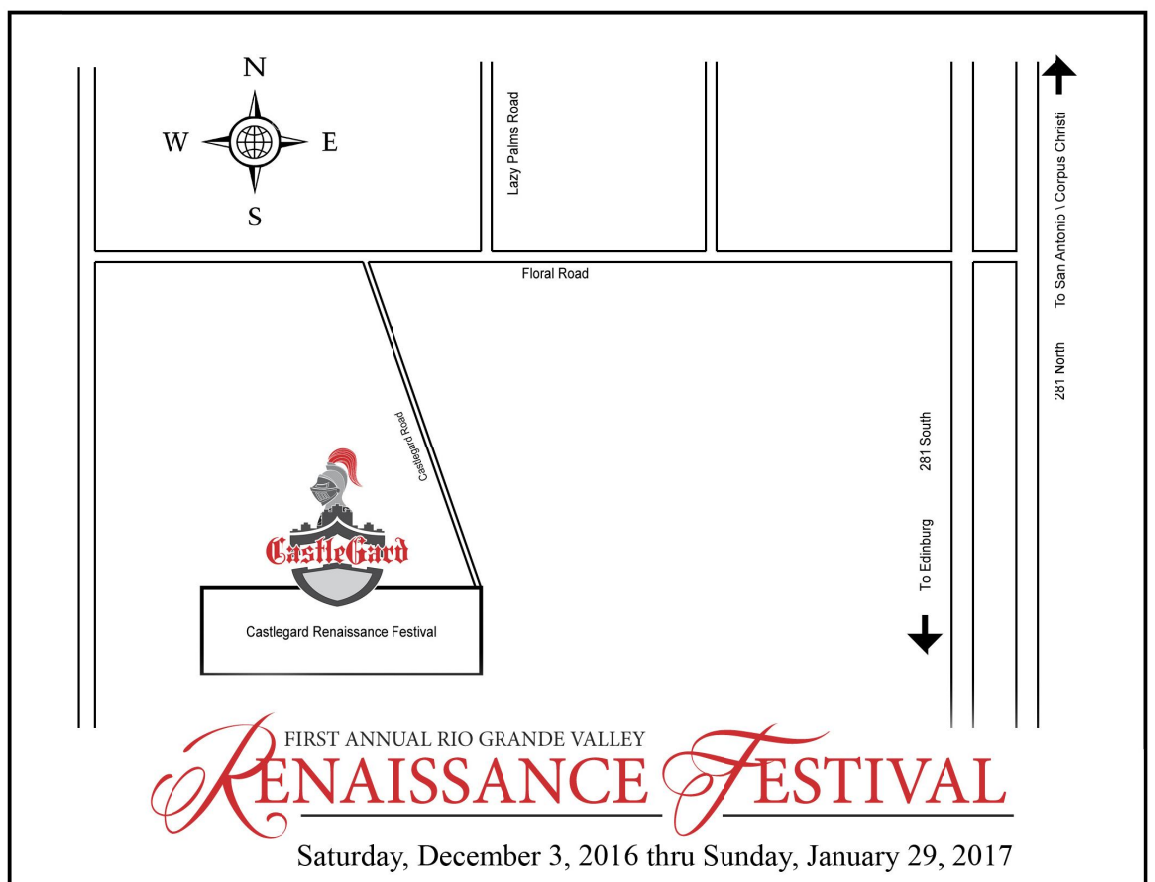
The festivities continue every weekend throughout December and January.

Located on an expansive 40 acre spread of land in a nice rural setting at Floral Road, Edinburg, TX, this festival is sure to rival any other Ren Fest in the country!

Castlegard Festivals Inc. has gone all out to provide the very best in festival entertainment and activities. Ten stages will be presenting performers such as: Don Juan and Miguel, The Jousters, Wine and Alchemy, The Vodca Family, Draiku Ariel Show, Splatter Time Players Mud Show, Ded Bob Show and many, many more top quality acts.

Come hungry because there will be Turkey legs, Sausage on a Stick, Corn on the Cob, Beer, Wine, Thorin Mead & Hard Cider for you to enjoy as you take a fantastical trip back in time.

Visit www.castlegard-fest.com for more details and ticket information.



CASTLEGARD RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL

FIRST ANNUAL RIO GRANDE VALLEY
RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL

Saturday, December 3, 2016 thru Sunday, January 29, 2017

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

COOL-AID

Air Conditioning and Refrigeration
 A/C not working?
 Ice machine suddenly out of order?
Call COOL-AID
956-784-2496

We Are Ready To Help You Any Time On Any Day!
 Residential & Commercial Sales, Service And Installation
 Service For Commercial Refrigeration Equipment
We Are Licensed And Insured For Your Peace Of Mind!

www.coolaidairconditioning.com coolaidrefrigeration@gmail.com

“Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine to the mind.”

Luther Burbank

Jeepers Having Fun!

by Rod Graham (covering for Alyssa Cavazos)

On October 13, Jeep Night attendees anticipated the arrival of a new member, Olivia Emmanuelle Garza, to be born on Saturday, October 15th. In celebration of this blessed event the theme of the night was Diaper Night. Alyssa Cavazos created Olivia's first jeep, crafted from diapers and pacifiers. Olivia is the first born child of Manny Garza and Nayeli Guerra. Nayeli's parents, Ramon and Aydee, were present as well. All are members of Texas Jeep Crawlers and as a matter of fact, it was at a Jeep Night event on December 2015 that Manny and Nayeli first met. Everyone present extended their best wishes to this young family and Big Lew, from Burns Motors, offered a prayer asking God's blessing on them and their new daughter.



A special welcome was also extended to a couple who will hold the record for coming the farthest to attend Jeep Night for a long, long time. Olaf and Ursula came all the way from Wolfsburg, Germany, that's going to be hard to beat! Now to be perfectly honest, they did not leave Germany with the express idea of attending Jeep Night. Olaf and Ursula have been living out their dream of touring the United States since 2010. At first they shipped their German Motor Home to the US and then flew over to catch up with it.

They have come a couple of times each year ever since.

Eventually they sold their motor home in Germany and bought one here. Over the past few years they have traveled all across the US. This year they wound up here in the Valley at Victoria Palms in Donna. There they came across a copy of The Valley Spotlight and saw the story about Jeep Night. It so happens that their towed vehicle is a Jeep so they decided to come and join the festivities. We hope you come again Olaf and Ursula!

Last but not least, Jeepers had a clown costume judging contest. The winner was Jesse Pena of the Texas Off Road Republic.

We assure you that these clowns, no matter how scary looking, were thoroughly vetted by Jeep Night's security officer Timmy.

As always, Jeep Night was sponsored by Burns Motors who provided great food for all to enjoy.

Jeep Night takes place on the second Thursday of every month at Sophie's 'SS' Saloon, unless there are mitigating circumstances.

November's Jeep Night is planned for November 10th.

Be sure to check out our page, www.facebook.com/RGVJeepNight, to get all of the information about Jeep Night and other Jeep Club events. You can also get in contact with Burns Motors' Big Lew at (956) 984-4554 or via mail: biglew@burnsmotors.com



An older, tired-looking dog wandered into my yard. I could tell from his collar and well-fed belly that he had a home and was well taken care of. He calmly came over to me, I gave him a few pats on his head; he then followed me into my house, slowly walked down the hall, curled up in the corner and fell asleep. An hour later, he went to the door, and I let him out. The next day he was back, greeted me in my yard, walked inside and resumed his spot in the hall and again slept for about an hour. This continued off and on for several weeks.

Curious, I pinned a note to his collar: 'I would like to find out who the owner of this wonderful sweet dog is and ask if you are aware that almost every afternoon your dog comes to my house for a nap.'

The next day he arrived for his nap, with a different note pinned to his collar: 'He lives in a home with 6 children, 2 under the age of 3 ... he's trying to catch up on his sleep! Can I come with him tomorrow?'



Juan Diego Academy invites you to their 6th annual Gala on Saturday, November 5th at 6 pm at the school campus located at 5208 S. FM 494 in Mission, TX.

Nautica is this year's Gala theme. Proceeds from this year's event will go towards the expansion of the math & science building. Funds will also be used for the continued growth and development of our academic and extracurricular programs.

For more information on Gala tickets or sponsorships, call the school at (956) 583-2752.

Pictured here are Juan Diego Academy students with a few of the items that will be available at the Gala's Silent and Live auctions.

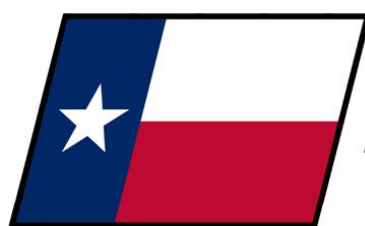
Welcome Back Winter Texans!



THE BIG STORE

Come and See
What We've Been Doing
While You Were Gone!

The Rio Grande Valley's
#1 NEW
Chrysler, Dodge, Ram
and Jeep Dealer



Burnsmotors.com

THE BIG STORE



956-984-4433

10 REASONS YOU SHOULD RING THE BELL

1. It's fun!

This is a great way to celebrate the holiday season. You get to be right in the midst of the holiday bustle. Get creative – dress up, sing songs, bring your friends!

2. You'll spread Christmas cheer.

The Red Kettle bell is an iconic sound of the season. You'll put people in the Christmas spirit! If you're up for it, you can even use the time to check caroling off your list of festivities.

3. You'll be part of changing lives.

The Salvation Army of McAllen provides food, clothing, shelter and other social services to those in need. Last year The Salvation Army served more than 75,055 hot meals; assisted over 16,042 Hidalgo County residents with social service; provided 13,299 unduplicated nights of lodging through our Emergency Shelter; gifted 2,092 children with toys through our Angel Tree Program; and cooked 107,896 bowls of soup for refugees.

4. The money you raise directly impacts your community.

All donations made in Hidalgo County stay in Hidalgo County. By helping raise funds through a Red Kettle, you're a neighbor helping neighbors. Encourage "Red Kettle Days" for your business, civic organization, church or neighborhood and make a difference in the lives of real people in our community!

5. It's easy!

No experience required. With as little as four hours of your time and the wonderful support from participating stores, you can be part of our Salvation Army Bell Ringing Team! You can be an individual volunteer bell ringer or a group that volunteers any day, Monday through Saturday between 10AM-8PM, starting November 12 through December 24. For those who cannot commit to a whole day of bell ringing, half day shifts are allowed as long as they start at 10AM or end at 8PM. Locations include Sam's Club, Walmart, Walgreens, Bealls, Big Lots, Hobby Lobby, JCPenney, and some La Plaza Mall entrances (food court, main entrance, Dillard's, JCPenney, Macy's).



6. It's the perfect opportunity to wear a tacky Christmas sweater.

After hanging in your closet all year, it's time for the annual debut. Dressing up makes bell ringing more fun, and might get some extra smiles out of Christmas shoppers.



7. "Make new friends, and keep the old."

You'll get to meet lots of new people as you invite them to donate to your red kettle. Add to the fun by asking friends and family to ring a bell with you. You can even make it a new tradition!

8. Channel your competitive side.

For you goal-oriented types, it's easy to see how your work is paying off as your Red Kettle fills up! See how many people you can convince to give to your Red Kettle.

9. Take advantage of the cool winter air!

It doesn't stick around for long. Dust off those winter coats and sip on some cider or hot cocoa.

10. Be part of a legacy.

The Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign has been a Christmas tradition since 1891. Salvation Army Captain Joseph McFee set out a kettle to raise funds to feed the hungry in San Francisco. Now Red Kettles can be found all over the world in places like Japan, Chile and countries in Europe.

Sign up Today to be a Bell Ringer!

If you are interested in volunteering as a bell ringer please call us at 956.682.1468 or email eloise.montemayor@uss.salvationarmy.org

We invite you to partner with us in helping others. For more information about our programs and/or partnership opportunities, please call us at 956.682.1468. We are located at 1600 N. 23rd St. McAllen, TX 78501. To give a monetary donation, you may send a check payable to The Salvation Army of Hidalgo County to the following address: PO Box 4766, McAllen, TX 78502. Thank you!

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

Sudoku No.: 13610

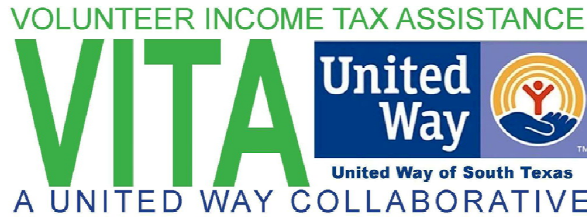
2				7				8
5	8		2		9			
7		4						2
6	5		7			4		
	3				8		9	
		7		3	4	6		
	7		9	8		3		
	9						5	
		6			3		7	

Sudoku No.: 39313

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

Sudoku No.: 64620

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



The VITA/TCE Community Project provides the only **FREE Volunteer Income Tax Assistance to low/middle income working families earning \$54,000 or less.** VITA opens its doors in January/February with 12 locations in Hidalgo and Starr Counties.

Companies sponsoring the VITA/TCE Program are as follows:

United Way Board of Directors, AEP Texas, BBVA Compass, Frost Bank, H-E-B, Internal Revenue Service, Lone Star National Bank, Magic Valley Electric Cooperative, McAllen Chamber of Commerce, Security Service Federal Credit Union, Texas Regional Bank and Wells Fargo.

United Way of South Texas' goal is to reach over **250,000 low to moderate income families** with information about tax benefits, refunds and free tax services in 2017.

Contact:

Eslibeth Perez, eperez@unitedwayofsotx.org

Marlen Ramirez, mr Ramirez@unitedwayofsotx.org

Thelma Garza, tgarza@unitedwayofsotx.org or call **(956)686-6331**

For Location Information
Call "211"

**United Way of South Texas
United Way of Southern Cameron County
United Way of Northern Cameron County**

The Children's Ministry of the Edinburg Seventh Day Adventist Church
Third Annual Dedication to Pediatric Cancer



The Children's Ministry has been dedicated to walking with The Gold and The Beautiful on Wednesday nights and performing at Texas Oncology Beacon of Light Ribbon Christmas Program.

The Children's Ministry is comprised of children ages 1 year old to 13 years old. It aims to share God's love by being a positive influence to the community. The Ministry supports Pediatric Cancer Awareness and is humbled to be partners with The Gold and the Beautiful. It is in this spirit that this year's Christmas musical, presented by the Children's Choir, will be lovingly dedicated to children and their families who are facing a courageous fight with cancer.

The play, titled "Meet Me at the Manger", is a fun-filled story that illustrates how the gifts of the wise men are relevant today, and of God's desire for us to have a heart of gold.

The Christmas musical will be held on Saturday, December 10, 2016 at 6 pm in the Multi-Purpose Building located at 602 W. Wisconsin Rd. in Edinburg, TX.

Meet you there! ... Lana De Leon



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.

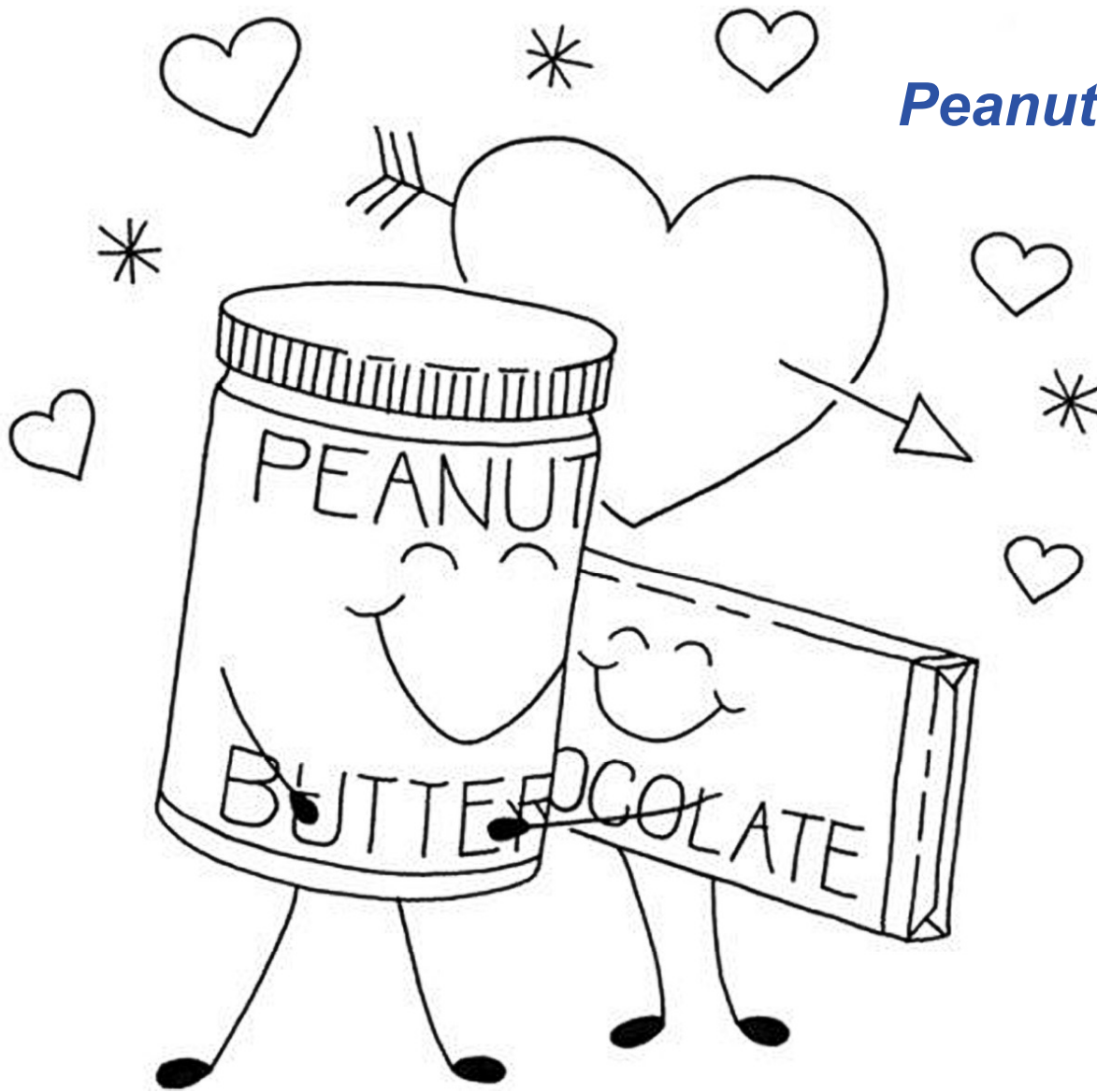


VOLUNTEER!
Help us sort toys and prepare for distribution days. We will need help on the following days:
Nov. 22- 23; Dec. 6-9, 12-15
Please email:
Eloise.Montemayor@uss.salvationarmy.org
or call Eloise at 956-682-1468 to sign up!

For Kids Only
No matter how old you are!

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

**November is
Peanut Butter Lovers Month**



Did You Know?

More than half of the American peanut crop goes into making peanut butter.

U.S. presidents Jimmy Carter and Thomas Jefferson were peanut farmers.

It takes about 540 peanuts to make a 12-ounce jar of peanut butter.

Americans eat around 700 million pounds of peanut butter per year (about 3 pounds per person).

An average American child eats 1,500 PB&J sandwiches before graduating from high school.

In the puzzle at the right, find these delicious ways to enjoy peanut butter:

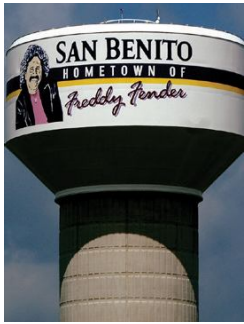
- APPLES
- BANANAS
- BREAD
- BROWNIES
- CANDY
- CELERY
- CHOCOLATE
- COOKIES
- CRACKERS
- FUDGE
- ICE CREAM
- JELLY
- PANCAKES
- PIES
- PRETZELS
- WAFFLES

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

Please Remember: Some people have severe allergic reactions to peanuts. Always ask their parents before sharing your peanut butter treats with your friends!

The Resaca City

Hidden away in the middle of the Rio Grande Valley metroplex, San Benito, Texas is oft overlooked by locals as well as Valley visitors. As we zip along the interstate it is easy to just pass it by without much thought. Sure, we have all noticed that water tower with country music legend Freddy Fender's picture emblazoned upon it and we must realize that San Benito was the place of his birth. But, is that all there is to The Resaca City?



Let's see ... San Benito is also home to about 50 restaurants offering authentic homemade Mexican food as well as several seafood restaurants and BBQ places. Affordable prices at these restaurants will be a pleasant surprise along with more than generous portions of the hearty fares they offer.

There is a three mile long Walking Trail winding along the Resaca de Los Fresnos in San Benito which allows visitors a chance to view many of the birds, butterflies and water mammals which are native species of the Valley. Kennedy Park on North Resaca Drive is popular spot with birders.



Here you may see many of the over 484 different species of birds found in the Rio Grande Valley. Some avid fishermen try their luck in these resacas where one might catch largemouth bass, a variety of panfish, catfish and alligator gars. From time to time you may see kayakers fishing or just getting their exercise paddling around.



Let's get back to Freddy for a moment. Freddy Fender was born, Baldemar Huerta in San Benito during the late 1930s. In 1947, at the age of 10, he made his first appearance on radio, singing a current hit "Paloma Querida", on KGBT in Harlingen, Texas. At 16, he joined the Marines for a three year hitch. After his discharge, he started playing Texas honky tonks and dance halls. Two of his first records, Spanish versions of Elvis' "Don't Be Cruel" and Harry Belafonte's "Jamaica Farewell" on Falcon Records went to Number One in Mexico and South America in 1957. In 1959, Hollywood called him, not to act but to sign to Imperial Records, the label of such greats as Fats Domino. In hopes of reaching the gringo audience, he changed his name, taking Fender from the headstock of his electric guitar, and picking Freddy simply because it was alliterative. You can find out much more about Freddy's career at the Freddy Fender Museum located at 210 E. Heywood Street.



The Narciso Martinez Cultural Arts Center, located at 225 E Stenger Street, hosts the memorabilia of The Father of Conjunto, El Huracan del Valle - "The Hurricane of the Valley", Narciso Martinez. He was the first widely successful conjunto recording artist, making hundreds of recordings of mostly instrumental dance tunes

emphasizing the melody side of the accordion and leaving the bass parts to his bajo sexto player, Santiago Almeida. They began playing local dances and festivals around Brownsville and Raymondville in the late 1930s. San Benito hosts an annual Conjunto Festival in October.

Other festivals and events include; Texas Independence Recreation Day, several kinds of runs and walks around the resaca during the year and monthly Market Days. Also found in downtown San Benito is La Villita Dance Hall. Dating back to the 1920s, this dance Hall is still a venue for Tejano, Norteno & Conjunto music.

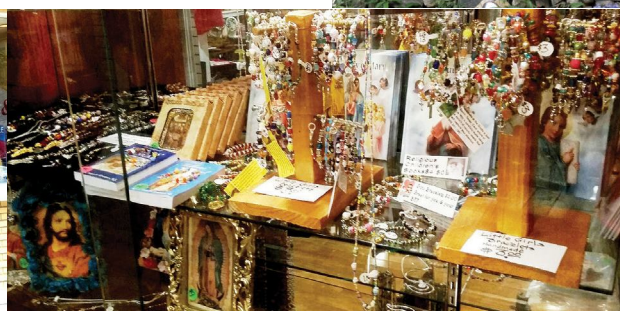


Downtown San Benito circa 1920s

So the next time you are zipping down the freeway south of Harlingen, stop in at San Benito to take a look around and have a bite to eat. Better yet, plan a family day to walk the resaca trails, enjoy the wildlife and explore the museums which are an integral part of the history and culture of the Rio Grande Valley.

The Grotto

now selling by consignment at
4 Ever Memories Antiques and Collectables
 206 E Jackson Ave. - Harlingen, TX 956-367-5992

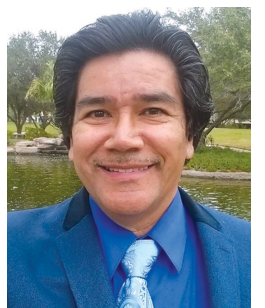


We have weekly specials on our
**Handmade Jewelry, Rosaries, Art
 and Religious Articles**
 Look for us ... Vendor #13

Bring this ad to receive
30% OFF any regularly priced item
 (VENDOR #13 ONLY)

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

AVAILABLE FOR
 Dances, Reunions, Ret. Communities
 RV Resorts, Dinner Music, Special Events
 Weddings, Funerals, Rosaries, Wakes
 and Sing-A-Longs
Mornings - Afternoons - Evenings

Call **956-241-1967** to book
 Carlos for **YOUR EVENT TODAY!**

Available Statewide Year 'round

ADVERTISE with THE VALLEY SPOTLIGHT
Call 956-457-8600

WinterTexanInfo.com

Your On-Line Source for Everything Winter Texan

Home More	Winter Texan Communities	4 SALE or RENT Classified ADS	Public Activities	Entertainer's Schedules	RGV Features	Winter Texan Bulletin Board	Games and More
------------------	---------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------	------------------------------------	-----------------------

Explore Over Two Hundred Pages of Information About The Rio Grande Valley

WinterTexanInfo.com is your *Number One Resource* for finding information pertaining to the Winter Texan Lifestyle.

Winter Texan Communities

This website is a great tool to help you become familiar with the Winter Texan Resort communities in the Rio Grande Valley.

All Resort / RV-Mobilehome Parks are listed with contact information and web addresses, where available. They are listed by city and are also plotted on maps showing their locations. This can be invaluable to you as you are planning your daily and weekly itineraries.

4 SALE or Rent Classified ADS

Buy and Sell just about anything in the classified ads section. Here you will find Mobile Homes and Park Models for sale or rent in many of the Valley's 55+ resorts.

The miscellaneous items section is open to the general public as well as Winter Texans for listing items such as golf carts, bicycles, musical instruments, electronics, tools and just about anything else you have for sale. For just \$20 your ad will be posted for a three month period.

This is one of the most viewed sections of this website, with hundreds of Winter Texans checking in every month.

Public Activities

Do you want to plan ahead for your New Year's Eve outing? Do you want to find where your favorite dance band is playing this week? Are you interested in attending or participating in music jams or karaoke?

You need look no further than the Public Activities section of WinterTexanInfo.com!

Here you will find schedules for ...

ENTERTAINMENT
DANCES

JAMS & KARAOKE

HAPPY HOURS

CRAFT SHOWS

PARK WIDE YARD/PATIO SALES

PUBLIC MEALS

Activity directors from all Winter Texan resorts are invited to submit their season's schedules for all of these public events.

At WinterTexanInfo.com we strive to keep this information as accurate as we can. However, there is always the possibility that schedules may change after they have been posted. It is a good idea to call the venue ahead to verify the information. When it is made available, we always provide the phone number for you to call.

Entertainer's Schedules

Follow your favorite entertainer and dance band by looking in the Entertainers Section. You can read about what to expect when attending their shows/dances and find out when and where they are performing. You can also post comments about how you enjoyed their performances.

Many of these Shows & Dances are open to the general public.

All entertainers who perform for the Winter Texan population of the RGV are invited to participate in this section. If you are an entertainer or dance band, not listed here, contact Rod Graham, 956-457-8600 or email rod@wintertexaninfo.com and we will get it done!

RGV Features

This section provides information about the Rio Grande Valley to help make your stay here more enjoyable. Find out about the many birding and nature refuges, wonderful museums, Mexican border towns, fishing opportunities, festivals and much more! The Rio Grande Valley is unique place with lots to offer our winter visitors.

The Winter Texan Connection Bulletin Board

This is an interactive bulletin board where you have the opportunity to post announcements about anything and everything regarding the Winter Texan lifestyle here in the Valley. The general public is invited to use this board as well as Winter Texans. Whether you are a local school, museum, art gallery or any other organization wanting to get your message out to the Winter Texans, this is the place to do so.

In addition, Winter Texan groups and clubs may post announcements for meetings, reunions, state picnics, RV club gatherings etc.

There is also the opportunity here to:

Participate in discussions on topics related to the Winter Texan Lifestyle.

Post opportunities for volunteering.

Make announcements regarding Winter Texan sporting events.

Post an inquiry about something you are looking for, or lost and found items.

Share your experiences while traveling in Mexico. And much more!

Take some time to browse through the many categories of the Winter Texan Connection Bulletin Board to see how it be helpful to you or your organization.

This is a moderated bulletin board. This means that when you post something, it goes to a moderator for consideration. As soon as it is approved it will show up on the board. This process may take up to 24 hours. We at WinterTexanInfo.com reserve the right to choose not to allow a posting for any reason.

This is not a "gripe board" so if you have something of a negative nature to say, do it politely.

This board is intended for events which occur in venues outside of the Winter Texan Resorts.

Advertising at WinterTexanInfo.com

Keeping WinterTexanInfo.com updated is a very time consuming enterprise. In order to keep it as a FREE SERVICE for Winter Texans and their Resorts to use, we offer advertising opportunities.

Banner Ads

Banner ads are an effective way to reach your prospective customers. These are the advertisements you will see along the outer edges of each page. Unlike other websites who place your ads on specific pages, at WinterTexanInfo.com your ad will show in the same position on **ALL HIGH TRAFFIC PAGES!** For more information about Banner Advertising call Rod at 956-457-8600 or email: rod@wintertexaninfo.com

Classified Ads

In the classified ads section you may list your items for sale or rent under three categories: Homes, Miscellaneous Items and Services

Your ad cost is \$20 and it stays posted for 3 months or until you request that it be removed.

This section is viewed by hundreds of Winter Texans each month.

To place a classified ad, email it to rod@wintertexaninfo.com. Be sure to word it exactly the way you want it to be posted. Payment instructions will be sent to you by email after the ad has been posted. You may include up to 6 pictures with your ad.

Why Advertise Here?

WinterTexanInfo.com is the most visible website on the World Wide Web. It shows up on page one of search engine queries regarding Winter Texans more than any other Winter Texan targeted website.

In the summer of 2016, a monthly average of 7500 viewers visited this website looking for information about the RGV as they planned their trips south. The number of visitors will expand to over 14,000 per month throughout the Winter Texan season. (based on previous statistics)

Call or Email Rod Graham today to get WinterTexanInfo.com working for YOU! 956-457-8600 ... rod@wintertexaninfo.com