



Gulf system sparks local preps

By DINA ARÉVALO  
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The Laguna Madre communities are making preparations for any potential effects of Tropical Disturbance No. 37 currently brewing in the Gulf of Mexico. The weather system is not expected to make a direct impact to the Rio Grande Valley, Port Isabel City Manager Jared

Hockema said during a phone interview Wednesday. However, officials are expecting it to bring rain and potential flooding. The City of Port Isabel began distributing sandbags at the public works building at 11 a.m. Wednesday. Sandbag distribution will continue through 5 p.m. There is a limit of six per household; proof of

See GULF, Page 9

Cities to mark 17th year since Causeway collapse

By DINA ARÉVALO  
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The cities of Port Isabel and South Padre Island will be marking the 17th anniversary of the collapse of the Queen Isabella Causeway with a ceremony to be held at the base of the Causeway in Port Isabel. The event will be held Saturday, Sept. 15 and will begin at 10 a.m. In the

event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be moved indoors to the Port Isabel City Commission Chamber located inside City Hall, 305 E. Maxan

See CAUSEWAY, Page 10

Town approves 10-year marina lease

By MARTHA McCLAIN  
Special to the PRESS

Following years of sometimes heated discussion, Laguna Vista officials have approved a 10-year lease agreement with the Laguna Vista Recreation Association to operate the Town's marina located on 3.24 acres of waterfront land. The agreement becomes effective upon execution by both parties. If approved by the LVRA, the lease agreement will run through Sept. 23, 2031. The Town Council approved the agreement which calls for a \$600 per month rental payment or

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10 acres donated for eco center

By MARTHA McCLAIN  
Special to the PRESS

Laguna Vista officials Tuesday donated 10 acres of land to Cameron County for development and operation of the planned South Texas Ecotourism Center. The governing bodies of the Town of Laguna Vista and the County of Cameron have engaged in the discussion and planning of creating a South Texas Ecotourism Center on real property located within the corporate boundaries of the Town of Laguna Vista, according to the resolution adopted by the Town Council. During discussions, County officials informed the Town of Laguna Vista

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RUNNING FOR A CAUSE



Alexa Ray | Courtesy photos

Top: Participants run on the beach during the Beach Rescue Run last Saturday morning. Bottom: Rotary volunteers await the arrival of race participants.



See RUN, Page 10

Rotary hosts 5K/ 10K to benefit first responders

By ALEXA RAY  
Special to the PRESS

On Saturday, Sept. 8, the Rotary Club of Port Isabel hosted a Run/Walk event honoring and benefiting the first responders of the Laguna Madre area. The run/walk began and ended on the beach outside of Clayton's Beach Bar and Grill on South Padre Island. This year, the Rotary Club included a 10k division along with the usual 5k

Island pay to park plan gets go-ahead

By KEVIN RICH  
Special to the PRESS

The South Padre Island City Council debated a proposed amendment to their Beach User Fee Plan to begin charging for parking near the beach. Shoreline Management Director Brandon Hill provided the background information regarding the proposal. Hill reviewed the requirement set forth by the Texas General Land Office (GLO) to provide an adequate amount of spaces in proximity to the beach in order to be able to restrict vehicular traffic on the beach itself. He explained that one parking spot must be provided for every 15 linear feet of beach that is closed to vehicles.

"The State gives us the ability to charge for that parking if we so choose," said Hill. He added that there are rules about what is acceptable to charge as well specifications on how the revenues collected can be used. "It's all framed within shoreline improvements, shoreline amenities and upkeep." Hill noted that in 2015, the City submitted a Beach User Fee Plan to the GLO that was approved. He added that in 2017, the plan was amended to reflect an accurate count of available parking spaces. Whether to implement paid parking seasonally or year-round, which parking spaces to include, and whether to charge hourly or longer term rates were the three main decisions Hill said needed to be addressed by Council. On the issue of seasonally versus year-round, Hill reported that the existing plan calls for seasonal; however, City staff no longer recommends this approach. He cited feedback

See PARK, Page 10

Yacht Club suit alleges conspiracy, fraud, negligence

Attorney for former city manager responds: lawsuit is politically motivated

By DINA ARÉVALO  
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The City of Port Isabel has filed a lawsuit against several defendants in connection with the Port Isabel Yacht Club and a failed plan to renovate or restore the beloved structure. In what Port Isabel City Manager Jared Hockema has since characterized as a "boondoggle," the plan, which first began to take shape in 2014, was for the City to purchase the Yacht Club and transform it. The plans were vast — it would be a culinary arts institute, in conjunction with

a local university or college. It would house a boutique hotel for visiting chefs teaching at the facility. It would house a museum of Yacht Club artifacts. It would be a cultural incubator and a spur for local economic development. In October 2014, amidst much fanfare, the City hosted a press conference outside the front steps of the building, with dignitaries such as U.S. Congressman Filemon Vela, who was given the honor of announcing the awarding of a \$1.2 million grant from the EDA for the project. Then, in February 2015,

See YACHT, Page 9



Dina Arévalo | Staff photographer

The front entrance of the Port Isabel Yacht Club is seen in this photograph taken on Tuesday, Sept. 11.

WEATHER:  
7-Day Forecast by NOAA  
as of 1 p.m. Thursday

Thursday  
60% T-Storm  
High: 89°  
Low: 77°

Friday  
64% T-Storm  
High: 88°  
Low: 78°

Saturday  
65% T-Storm  
High: 89°  
Low: 77°

Sunday  
30% T-Storm  
High: 90°  
Low: 79°

Monday  
55% T-Shower  
High: 91°  
Low: 78°

Tuesday  
40% T-Storm  
High: 91°  
Low: 79°

Wednesday  
65% Rain  
High: 92°  
Low: 77°



# BNC celebrates World Shorebirds Day

**By ALEXA RAY**  
Special to the PRESS

The state-of-the-art South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center (BNC) kicked off a celebration of “World Shorebirds Day” this past Saturday. World Shorebirds Day is an annual event that is recognized by researchers, naturalists and bird lovers around the world. Locally, the celebrated the event with a fun-filled day of educational activities for adults and children alike.

Each year, the birding community pays extra attention to the often-overlooked shorebird species by hosting an international shorebird count. People gather at coastal and wetland areas all over the world in search of these small birds and count as many as possible. The numbers accumulated from the count are submitted to a global database and studied for conservation efforts.

Texas Master Naturalists joined naturalist educator and event coordinator Javier Gonzalez along the BNC boardwalk to assist spectators and visitors in identifying these honoree birds. “This birding center is a fantastic place to host the shorebird count because many types of shorebirds are strictly coastal species,” Gonzalez said. Hence, these types of bird, including sandpipers, plovers, curlews and many others, commonly occupy the areas surrounding the birding center boardwalks.

Shorebirds have some of the longest distance migrations out of any family of birds and South Padre Island is lucky enough to host many of these little world travelers after their expansive trips from nesting grounds as far north as the Arctic tundra.

These birds have defining characteristics such as skinny legs and long, slender beaks, but their small stature and drab color can make them difficult to notice or identify. Gonzalez admitted that, “These birds are often missed by the typical beachgoer but that (he) personally enjoys the challenge of



Alexa Ray | Courtesy photo  
SPI Birding Center Naturalist Javier Gonzalez looks at a flock of shorebirds using a scope during World Shorebirds Day Saturday.

searching and identifying these birds every year.”

While Sept. 8 marked a day with special activities and discounted admission

fees, the shorebird count continued into the week, ending on Tuesday, Sept. 11. September is a peak migration month for shorebirds around the world as they leave their breeding grounds from up north. However, specialists at the BNC encourage everyone

to stop by the site throughout the fall and winter, as many of these birds will stay put here during the cooler seasons!

## Beach bathroom business brews again

**By KEVIN RICH**  
Special to the PRESS

“We’re here to talk about toilets,” announced Mayor Dennis Stahl at a joint meeting of the South Padre Island City Council and the Shoreline Taskforce held on Wednesday, Sept. 5.

Wednesday’s talks were a continuation of a discussion from an Aug. 15 city council meeting, where Council opted not to act on a portable restroom plan until after convening a joint session with the Shoreline Taskforce and members of a portable restroom subcommittee who had worked to formulate an initial plan.

The plan initially presented to City Council included placement of portable facilities at some of the Gulf Boulevard beach accesses during peak times of the season. City Council member Alita Bagley reviewed the issues that she raised at the last meeting over placing portable facilities on the beach. “I had a lot of concern about putting Port-a-Potties on the beach — the possibility of spills, the vandalism, and what kind of impact would that have on the public access to the beach,” Bagley said.

Bagley also brought up concerns which members of the public had shared during a previous meeting. “Their priorities were not temporary bathrooms. They were restroom facilities, and that was a very large majority,” she said.

Bagley also said she was concerned about the potential damage that could be

caused by trucks driving on the beach to service the restrooms.

Finally, Bagley said the City should provide restroom facilities, especially if it intends to charge a beach user fee for parking. “If we’re talking about paid parking on Gulf Boulevard, we’re going to have revenue from that. I think the least that we can do is provide good facilities for those people that are paying to park and going to be using our beaches.”

Shoreline Taskforce member Rob Nixon also recognized the relationship between paid parking and the need for better restroom solutions. “If the City wants to have paid parking, they’re going to have to show the State that they’re going to invest in the infrastructure,” Nixon said referring to the approval needed from the Texas General Land Office (GLO) to enact a beach user fee plan.

Nixon proposed a compromise to consider involving both permanent and temporary facilities that would be tied into the City’s sewer and water systems and placed further away from the beach, nearer the entrance of the accesses.

Shoreline Management Director Brandon Hill shared the possibility of considering the use of Green Flush restrooms that he said have become popular at state parks and on golf courses. “It doesn’t actually require any electric, water or sewer hook-up. It utilizes a very large tank — or a vault underneath — and the anaerobic bacteria technology in order to eat up all the debris that is deposited into it,” Hill explained.

He added that it runs on solar power and utilizes stored water gathered from either rain collected off the roof, or water that is manually poured into the tank.

Mayor Dennis Stahl cautioned the committee on the issue of utilizing potential revenue from

## PIEDC approves budget, expenditures

**By DINA ARÉVALO**  
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The Port Isabel Economic Development Corporation (EDC) approved a budget for the upcoming 2018-19 fiscal year, as well as several major expenditures during a meeting held at Port Isabel City Hall Tuesday afternoon.

Not much is slated to change in the coming fiscal year, at least as far as the EDC budget is concerned. “(It’s) pretty much the same — very little change,” explained Port Isabel City Manager Jared Hockema.

One thing City staff did notice while configuring the budget, however, was that hotel/motel tax revenues appeared to be down this year. Hockema explained that staff discovered some establishments had not remitted their payments, which was affecting the revenue outlook. “We went out and started talking to them and there were a couple of them that had not been paying,” the city manager explained.

However, even after accounting for that discrepancy, revenues are still

down compared to prior years, he explained.

In other financial news, the EDC approved several regular expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year, including its annual contribution to the Island Metro, the Port Isabel Chamber of Commerce, the City’s marketing services, the Port Isabel Museums and a payment to the City for services rendered to the EDC.

The EDC board unanimously approved a \$50,000 contribution for the continued operation of the Island Metro bus service, more commonly known among locals as the Wave.

The bus service, which provides free transportation between South Padre Island and Port Isabel and has an operating budget of \$1.7 million, has added several new stops, a representative explained to the board. “We’re now providing front door service to HEB,” the representative said.

“That’s definitely a benefit to the community,” said Board chair Calvin Byrd.

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See PIEDC, Page 9

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

### Cameron County South Texas Eco-Tourism Center

Notice is hereby given that Cameron County will conduct a public hearing at the Dancy Building on Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 8:45 a.m. to solicit input and suggestions on the proposed South Texas Eco-Tourism Center. The park will be located along Highway 100 immediately south of Laguna Vista. The county intends to apply for two grants from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department under the Department’s Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation Program and Non-Urban Indoor Recreation Program. The county is requesting comment from the public regarding its applications, which will be presented during the hearing. The project will provide environmental education facilities, trails, interpretive signs, wildlife habitat, and other nature-oriented amenities. Because the park will be located in a wetland area, the project may have certain environmental impacts within and near the wetland. During construction, all state and federal regulations regarding wetlands will be followed. At its completion, the park is expected to provide quality habitat for fish and wildlife, and provide educational, recreational, and economic benefits to residents and visitors of Cameron County. Anyone wishing to make comments outside of the public hearing will find park plans and other pertinent materials available for review at the Dancy Building, 2nd floor, 1100 E. Monroe, Brownsville, Texas, or at the Cameron County Parks Office located at 33174 State Park Road 100, South Padre Island, Texas.

**When:** Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 8:45 a.m. at the regular meeting of the Cameron County Commissioners’ Court  
**Where:** Dancy Building, 2nd floor, 1100 E. Monroe, Brownsville, Texas

**Dated this 30th day of August, 2018.**

You are invited...

The City of Port Isabel and Community come together to honor and memorialize the eight lives lost in the 2001 Queen Isabella Causeway Collapse.

Saturday, September 15, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. at the base of the bridge in Port Isabel.

On the occasion of the 17th Anniversary of the Queen Isabella Causeway Collapse.



# Local artists to adorn turtle tanks with murals



**Special to the PRESS**

Sea Turtle, Inc. recently announced the upcoming creation of a series of aquatic mural art for the new educational complex, which opened in February 2018. These murals will be painted on the sea turtle tanks that house the facility’s resident turtles. The residents are non-releasable sea turtles serving as educational ambassadors for their species and have Sea Turtle, Inc. as their ‘forever home.’

Local artist and business owner, Christina Salazar along with local artist Sandra Urie and Reynaldo Alvarado, Jr., were set to begin

painting these masterpieces at the educational facility on Wednesday, Sept. 12. “The murals will bring our visitors closer to the underwater environments in our area and enhance their educational experience,” said Jeff George, executive director of Sea Turtle Inc. All the turtles at Sea Turtle, Inc. have unique stories to tell, and the art commissioned for the turtles will be another impactful educational tool.

The public will be able to experience the murals coming to life when visiting Sea Turtle, Inc. starting this week. The first tank to be painted will be the

56,000-gallon aquarium, which will be completed in one week. This tank is home to Gerry, an Atlantic green sea turtle which has been recognized nationally when Sea Turtle, Inc. founder Ila Loetscher brought him along on her many television appearances, including The Late Show with David Letterman Show, and The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson.

There are five resident tanks that will be painted in phases. Sponsorship opportunities are available for each mural art. For more information please contact Jeff George by email, jeff.george@seaturtleinc.org, or Sanjuana Zavala at sanjua-

na.zavala@seaturtleinc.org. Sea Turtle, Inc. was founded in 1977 by Ila Fox Loetscher, better known as the “Turtle Lady of South Padre Island.” In 1999, Sea Turtle, Inc. moved from Ila’s backyard into its current location at 6617 Padre Blvd. Recently, the facility has undergone a \$6 million expansion, which includes a new educational complex, outdoor amphitheater, and boardwalk with birdwatching blind. Sea Turtle, Inc. is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; ticket sales end at 3:15 p.m. Visit the facility’s website for presentation and feeding times at [www.seaturtleinc.org](http://www.seaturtleinc.org).



## St. Andrew’s welcomes new pastor

**Special to the PRESS**

The Rev. Dr. Claudia Nalven has just been called to serve St. Andrew’s by the Sea Episcopal Church located at 1022 N. Yturria Street.

She will begin with the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. worship services on Sunday, Sept. 30. The church will host a Welcome Luncheon that day, following the 10 a.m. service. The church encourages the community to attend.

Nalven received a master’s of divinity from Trinity School for Ministry, and completed her doctorate of ministry degree, also from Trinity, in May of this year. She is relocating to Port Isabel from Geneva, Illinois, where she has been the Assistant Rector at St. Mark’s for 11 years. She has two

grown sons, a wonderful daughter-in-law, and in her words, “The cutest grandson in the world.”

In December, she will be welcoming a second daughter-in-law to the family. She enjoys traveling, reading, attending movies and the theater, riding her bike and most any sport that is water related. She has traveled to China, Singapore, England, Italy and Africa, in addition to living and working in Hong Kong for six years.

St. Andrew’s has been a part of Port Isabel since 1955, and looks forward to this next chapter in the life of the church and community. To keep abreast of upcoming events, check out the church website at [www.standrewsportisabel.com](http://www.standrewsportisabel.com).

## Perry Dyson Inhofe



Perry Dyson Inhofe, Jr., passed from this life August 10, 2018, surrounded by family in Glenwood Springs, CO.

Perry “Bud” was born September 10, 1933 in Des Moines, IA, to Perry and Blanche Mountain Inhofe. Bud moved with his family to Tulsa, Oklahoma at the age of 10, where he lived until 1990.

Bud attended Oklahoma Military Academy, in Claremore, Oklahoma where he made lifetime friendships with his fellow “rabbits”. He was an active alumni, and hosted many reunions including one in 2017, on South Padre Island. Bud graduated from the University of Tulsa with a law degree in 1958.

Bud’s career in the Insurance Business spanned 38 years from 1952 till his retirement as President and CEO of Mid-Continent Casualty Company in 1990. Bud served as the Chair of the National Association of Independent Insurers. Served on the Board of The Fourth National Bank of Tulsa, and Scott and White Clinic in Temple, Texas. Bud also sat on the board of American Cellular Telephone Company and Taft Broadcasting. Bud was a former Deacon of the First Christian Church of Tulsa, also, Past President of Chapel by the Sea, serving on the Board of the Chapel by the Sea in South Padre Island, Texas until his death.

Bud met the love of his life on the first day of Junior High School. He married Margaret Giddens on March 28th, 1952 when they secretly eloped to Eureka Springs, Arkansas. They were 18 years old and both families told them “it would never last”. They lived a true love story and were married 66 years. Bud was a Private Pilot and he and Margaret loved hopping around Mexico chasing good beaches and warm weather.

Bud is survived by his wife, Margaret and their two daughters, Melinda Smith (Tom) of O’Fallon, Missouri and Marilyn Davis (Steve) of Glenwood Springs, Colorado. They have six grandchildren, Perry Davis, (Bethany), Ryan Davis, (Tara) Michael Dyson Davis, (Katy), Nicholas Watson, Maggie Inhofe and Emily Diebold. Bud and Margaret have 10 great-grandchildren.

Bud was proceeded in death by his sister, Joan Johnson and a nephew, Dr. Perry D. Inhofe II.

Inhofe is also survived by his sister Marilyn Inhofe Davis and brother Jim Inhofe.

Services will be held in South Padre Island, Texas

## Gulf Boulevard speed limit to be reduced

**By KEVIN RICH**  
Special to the PRESS

Reducing the speed limit on Gulf Boulevard, consideration of a marketing agreement, and approval of the City budget highlighted the Wednesday, Sept. 5 meeting of the SPI City Council.

Council member Theresa Metty brought forward a proposed ordinance to lower the speed limit on Gulf Boulevard to 25 mph. Metty explained that her input on this issue comes from both personal observation as well as that of fellow citizens regarding safety concerns. “We’ve made a tremendous investment to make wonderful improvements to Gulf Boulevard, including almost all of the parking for the beach is now west of Gulf Boulevard, and what I’ve witnessed, you know, we’ve got these great crosswalks and it would be nice if everybody used them but they don’t,” she reported.

Assistant City Manager Darla Jones explained that in order to set a limit under 30 miles per hour, Council would need to determine that 30 is an unreasonable and unsafe speed limit in that area. She added that reducing it to 20 miles per hour would require the completion of a traffic engineering study.

Kimberly Dollar spoke as a member of the public in support of the proposed ordinance. “I do hear about this a lot, and you’re right, most people say 20, and I just want to say Gulf Boulevard definitely, but I also hear about it on Laguna,” Dollar said.

“We are a pedestrian friendly Island so I have never heard anybody say the speed limit is too slow,” she said.

Two additional citizens came forward to speak and echoed Dollar’s support of lowering the limit.

Council ultimately concurred with Metty and the citizens that spoke, unanimously approving the first reading of Ordinance 18-23, lowering the speed limit on Gulf Boulevard to 25 mph.

Consideration of The Atkins Group services agreement with the City was next on the agenda. Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) Director Keith Arnold provided background information on this item. Arnold reported that the Convention and Visitors Advisory Board (CVA) voted to recommend the renewal of the agreement in their last meeting.

“We are much clearer than we’ve ever been as an organization about our ex-

pectations of the Agency, and I can tell you right now, they’re much clearer about understanding living up to those,” Arnold said.

Council member Ken Medders questioned Arnold as to whether the agency was targeting more advertising to people within driving distance of the Island. Arnold responded that they plan to increase advertising expenditures aimed at the Rio Grande Valley — from \$74,000 to \$247,000. “We have enhanced our basic budget for it and certainly are attuned to working with City Council as we see other opportunities,” added Arnold.

Medders and Council member Ron Pitcock both raised concerns about not seeing evidence of the advertising to those markets within driving distance. “I don’t think they’re doing the job we’re paying them to do,” Pitcock said. “I don’t think they’ve done it in the past, and to say they’re going to do it in the future is just rewarding them again for bad behavior in the past.”

City Manager Susan Guthrie responded that City staff did undertake a year-long process of analyzing the effectiveness of their marketing efforts and their ability to work with The Atkins Group. “I want everyone to be aware of what a deep dive we did with this,” Guthrie said. “We made a very strategic decision with all of the information we had to come forward and continue with this agency.”

Ultimately, Council voted 4-2 in favor of renewing the agreement with The Atkins Group, with Pitcock and Medders casting the two votes against.

Council moved into closed session to consider approval of a \$60,000 contract with Kool River Media and Entertainment for an event to be held in November. Upon return from closed session, Council voted to approve the contract.

In the first of three financial related items brought forth by SPI Chief Financial Officer Rodrigo Gimenez, Council voted unanimously to approve the first reading of Ordinance 18-20, regarding the proposed 2018-2019 budget. Also unanimously approved was the first reading of Ordinance 18-21, which sets the ad valorem and personal tax rate at 0.315640 for tax year 2018, which is effectively a 1.2 percent increase in the tax rate. Council also approved Ordinance 18-22 regarding amendments to Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances pertaining to fees charged for City services.

In other action, City Manager Susan Guthrie recognized 11 members of the City Staff for their participation in the Lean-Six Sigma training. The staff members will be trained in the DMAIC process of analysis and will each have to complete a project focused on organizational improvement.

SPI Fire Chief Doug Fowler also recognized Harlingen Fire Fighter Steve Millon for his life saving action involving a choking victim at an Island restaurant. Millon was off duty when he witnessed the situation and stepped in to save the person’s life.

In other action, Council voted to approve a contract with Focused Advocacy to provide regulatory consulting services for the Island.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Friday 09/14/2018 at 8 am. Sale of abandon Vehicles. Cantu’s Auto Repair & Wrecker Service, 206 Jackson Ave., Port Isabel, TX 78578.



Writer's Block

Beauty in Transcience

Here today, gone tomorrow. It's a clich . And, like most clich s, the popularity of its usage comes from its truth.

Such is the case with some ephemeral marvels I've witnessed during my daily travels this week. Perhaps you noticed them, too?

It began Monday, on my first drive to work for the week.

The rains have brought good news and bad for many across our region. For our neighbors to the west — those in Hidalgo County towns like Weslaco, Mission and Edinburg, the perpetual inundation has been an unwelcome guest upon soils still struggling to recover from the freak downpours earlier this summer.

But, as was the case with those summer rains, the Laguna Madre region fared more favorably. Here, the rains have been gentle. They've caressed the land just enough to green grasses parched by heat, and invigorate potted plants slumped from drought-induced water restrictions.

This time around, we've gotten good batches of rain every single day — mostly while we sleep. And it's been that gentle, yet persistent, patter of precipitation that has coaxed forth dozens of tiny miracles.

All along roadsides and verdant patches of grass throughout the Laguna Madre, one can see pale white specks among the green. Slender stalks capped by six dove-white petals fanning out towards slate grey skies still heavy with the promise of water.

They're rain lilies. However, some may know them by more wondrous names, like fairy lily or magic lily. And indeed, they do invoke a sense of the fantastic and the mystical. One



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could be forgiven for imagining that tiny Tinkerbell-sized fairies fly among the funnel-shaped blooms, such is the whimsy they inspire.

Rain lilies can bloom in a variety of colors, including pink and yellow; however, here in the Rio Grande Valley, I've only ever seen them come in white. Bright yellow stamens stand in warm contrast at the flower's center.

It takes a good rain to bring them out of hiding. After a couple of days of the wet stuff, if the temperatures stay reasonable enough, and the ground pliant enough, you'll wake up one morning to find that Tinkerbell and her friends have left a collection of them on your lawn.

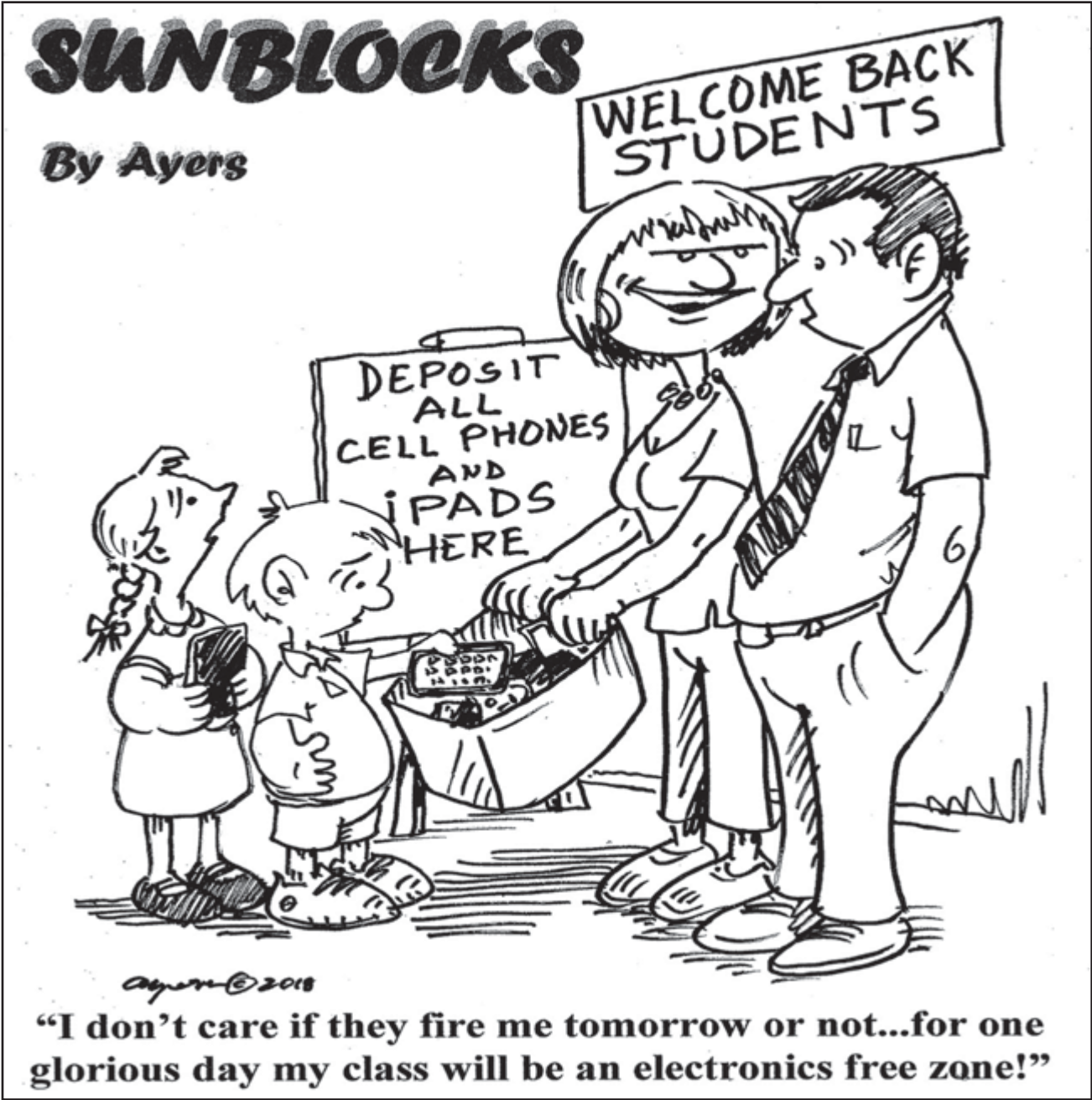
They grow singly. One flower per stem that rises above the rain-replenished grass. And they only last a day or two. That's it.

They can hide for years in the soil. You'd never even know they were there, waiting for a chance to bloom. Then one day, dozens and dozens of white blossoms bring their light to the greyness of a dreary day, a shadowy grey week.

And just as quickly and quietly as they came, they disappear again. Just about the time that the rain dew dries from the blades of grass and the earth becomes firm enough to walk on without your feet sinking into the loam, they're gone again. Until the next big rain.

Maybe. If you're lucky, and the lilies are feeling up to it.

So, while the wet weather is still with us — and boy, is it going to stick around for a couple of days — take a moment to look at the patches of grass nearest you. You just might see some floral fairies of your own.



NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

Learning to talk about mental health is the first step in helping veterans

By DR. MARSHA SARGEANT  
Special to the PRESS

The rate of suicide among veterans is higher than that in the general population. The VA's 2012 Suicide Data Report indicated that in 2012, 38,000 of some of the most morally resolute and brave women and men perceived suicide as a so-

lution to the pain they felt. Individuals do not "commit" suicide. Untreated mental health problems are the culprit — the main cause of suicide.

Based on the 2012 report indicating that 16 of the estimated 22 Veterans who



Dr. Marsha Sargent  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist

died by suicide were not VA-enrolled. While Veterans Administration services are the focus of much criticism in the public eye, the solution does not appear to lie solely in focusing on the VA's shortcomings. We must divert

energy toward other solutions. From the 2012 findings, it can be estimated that 72 percent of Veterans who die by suicide are either seeking care in OUR community or not at all. This is a call to action to OUR community. We need to shift the paradigm of how we address mental health problems in veterans. The community See **SUICIDE**, Page 11

Show us the money, let us see how tax dollars are spent

By KELLEY SHANNON  
Executive Director  
Freedom of Information  
Foundation of Texas

It's quite simple, really. We Texans have a right to know how our taxpayer dollars are spent.

It's our money. We, the people, choose our government. Our elected public officials represent us. They manage and spend our tax money. Butwe, the people, get to decide whether they are doing it well.

To do that, we need light shining on the workings of our government. But that essential element of our democracy is in jeopardy in Texas.

Taxpayers are being denied information about government contracts with private companies and about tax dollars flowing into large non-profit organizations.



Kelley Shannon  
Executive Director  
Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas

Why? Two Texas Supreme Court rulings in 2015 weakened the Texas Public Information Act and allowed this blocking of information. It's conceivable that the court's justices did not envision how wide the swath of secrecy would grow in the wake of their decisions.

Now, in response, more than a dozen diverse or-

ganizations have come together to form the non-partisan Texas Sunshine Coalition to ensure our government doesn't operate in the dark. "The Texas Sunshine Coalition is dedicated to restoring the Texas Public Information Act to serve its intended purpose," the coalition explains on its website at www.txsunshine.org. The Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas is a coalition member. See **MONEY**, Page 11

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**Editor,**  
In November, voters are going to be asked to vote for a proposed bond issue. This bond issue is supposed to help pay for streets and other worthwhile services for Port Isabel.

Unfortunately, the City of Port Isabel has recently decided to file a multi-defendant lawsuit with no guarantee of a favorable outcome for the City. If the City does not prevail in this lawsuit our taxes will be used to pay the legal fees for all those lawsuits. The Commissioners must be held accountable

for their decision to move forward on this issue of lawsuits. The most recent lawsuit concerning a previous City Manager and others is based on a "forensic" audit which was comprised completely on information obtained from the City. Forensic auditor conceded that he nor his staff tried to seek outside information that could have and would have clarified the missing funds in his audit. Current City Manager stated, at the forensic audit presentation, that he believed those missing funds were probably at City Hall, re-

ferring to the Revolving Loan program. Perhaps the rest of their "proof" is less problematic. Perhaps the City is more optimistic than I am, but I remember that this City Attorney was unsuccessful in a simple in-house suit brought against the City by the City Secretary. Mediation was suggested by the attorney for the City Secretary in an effort to save attorney fees. The city refused to mediate and the simple issue at hand, which should never have happened in the first place, resulted in a settlement that was favorable to

the City Secretary. Regardless, the taxpayers are on the hook for the bond, "IF" it passes, AND for all those legal fees unless this City Attorney actually wins this lawsuit and the many others that are still in the works. Litigation is risky business and should not be the "go to" solution for any government. If the City insists on governing by litigation then they have no right to seek a bond to help offset habitual decisions to sue. Respectfully,  
Glenda Stafford  
Resident, Voter

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NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

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How Do You Keep Going When Things Get Tough?

KidsTalkAboutGod.org  
Inspiring Children

How Do You Keep Going When Things Get Tough?

“By trying we can easily learn to endure adversity -- another man’s, I mean,” wrote Mark Twain. If you’re reduced to human resources, there’s wisdom as well as wit in Twain’s quip. Severe personal adversity has a way of undoing us. The self-assured masks we love to wear become difficult to maintain.

Taylor, age 10, knows what it’s like to be embarrassed: “Once I remember I was not doing good in my baseball game. I really wasn’t batting or fielding well, so I asked God to help me be better next time I go to bat or go to field. I keep going because I go to the Lord in prayer.”

At times, everyone drops the ball and strikes out. The difference is where you go when you’re down and out. “One time I thought nobody loved me,”



Carey Kinsolving  
Kidstalkaboutgod.org

says Anna, 7. “My mom said that she loves me, but sometimes things don’t go your own way. She also said that if I trust in God, he will lead me to the right path. After that, I trusted in God. Guess what, my mom was right.”

God created us with a deep desire to be loved. If you have loving parents, you’re blessed. But even the best parents can’t fill all the capacity you have for love. Neither can your spouse.

If you feel unloved, you’ll create your own adversity. No one can carry the overbearing weight of feeling unloved. Adversity merely brings it to light. Until you’re in a relationship with the most passionate lover of all, Jesus Christ, you’ll try to fill the void of feeling unloved with all kinds of things and people.

“I keep on going when life gets tough by knowing that there is more to life than just that one moment,” says Robbie, 11.

“Do not lose heart,” the Apostle Paul wrote. “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen” (II Corinthians 4:16a-18a).

If there were a Suffering Hall of Fame, the Apostle Paul would be inducted unanimously on the first ballot. Maligned, misunderstood, shipwrecked, beaten, stoned, jailed, ill, betrayed and eventually beheaded, Paul unquestionably was afflicted.

Paul looked beyond immediate hardship. He saw God using hard times to create in him something glorious. He traded the weight of feeling unloved by those who persecuted him for what he called “an eternal weight of glory.”

“When things get tough, you have to realize that God planned it, and it will turn out for the best,” says Caroline, 11.

This is not a fatalist view toward adversity. Rather, it’s seeing God at work even where opposition abounds. God is mysteriously at

work in adversity, but it takes eyes of faith to see him.

Another Caroline, 9, tells us how to focus when looking through our eternal-weight-of-glory glasses: “When things start going bad for me, I believe in God, and then I say a prayer. Then I feel a whole lot better. Sometimes I just go up in my room and get my Bible and start reading.”

Think about this: Jesus persevered for us in his suffering on the cross.

Memorize this truth: “For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls” (Hebrews 12:3).

Ask this question: Can you see God’s purpose in enduring a difficult person or circumstance?

“Kids Talk About God” is written and distributed by Carey Kinsolving. To access free, online “Kids Color Me Bible” books, “Mission Explorers” videos, a new children’s musical, and all columns in a Bible Lesson Archive, visit [www.KidsTalkAboutGod.org](http://www.KidsTalkAboutGod.org).

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They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved — you and your household.”  
Acts 16:31  
Area Church Schedules

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OF LATER SAINTS  
Las Palmas Shopping Center  
(Room X) P.I.  
943-6947  
9 a.m. - Sunday Service

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH  
BILINGUAL / MUTICULTURAL  
Shell Harbor Shopping Center  
Hwy. 100, Port Isabel  
943-2484 • 943-2955  
233-4833  
Pastor Jorge L. Moreno  
SUNDAY/DOMINGO  
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. - Service  
6:00 p.m. - Sunday Evening  
WEDNESDAY/MIERCOLES  
6:30 p.m. - Bible Study  
FRIDAY/VIERNES  
6:00 p.m. - Fellowship  
(during winter months)

CHAPEL BY THE SEA  
(956) 761-5636  
33425 State Park Road 100,  
South Padre Island, Texas 78597  
[www.ChapelByTheSeaSPI.com](http://www.ChapelByTheSeaSPI.com)  
TIME OF SERVICE  
December - 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday  
January-February  
Saturday at 4 p.m.  
Sunday at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.  
Multi-Denominational  
Sam Steele, Chaplain  
Come as you are - coffee served.

CHRIST’S HARBOR CHURCH  
1441 Santa Isabel Blvd., Laguna Vista  
943-5595  
[www.ChristHarborChurch.com](http://www.ChristHarborChurch.com)  
Pastor Gary Stone  
SUNDAY  
9:00 a.m. - Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. - Church Service  
Christ’s Harbor Daycare & Learning Center  
Monday through Friday  
956-943-6086

LIGHTHOUSE ASSEMBLY  
OF GOD CHURCH  
Corner Port Road and Hwy. 100  
943-5372  
Pastor Steven D. Hyde  
SUNDAY  
Worship Service - 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.  
Children, Youth & Adult  
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
WEDNESDAY  
Family Night - 7:00 p.m.  
All services translated in Spanish  
Nursery Provided

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
Longoria and Washington Streets,  
118 E. Washington St.  
956-292-5129  
Pastor: Steve Martinez  
SUNDAY  
9:30 a.m. - Spanish Service  
10:45 a.m. - English Service  
WEDNESDAY  
6:30 p.m. Mid Week Service  
Nursery Provided

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OF LOS FRESNOS  
299 W. Ocean Blvd.  
Los Fresnos, TX  
956-233-8283  
[www.alclcf.org](http://www.alclcf.org)  
Pastor Chris Edge  
SUNDAY  
10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Family Night  
(Mpact Girls, Royal Rangers,  
Youth & Adult Bible Study)  
7:00 p.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
101 W. Adams St., P.O. Box 1085  
Port Isabel, TX 78578  
956-943-2485  
Pastor Jenna Purdy  
Please Call the Church Office  
For Worship Times & Schedule

FISHERS OF MEN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
603 S. Tamava Street, Port Isabel  
Sunday Worship - 8:30 a.m.  
Communion Services 1st & 3rd Sunday  
3rd Thursday of each month - LWML 10:00  
a.m.  
Friday Bible Study - 2:00 p.m.  
Sunday - Children’s Church 3:00 p.m.  
Sunday - Worship Service w/Communion  
(bilingual) - 4:30 p.m.

ISLAND BAPTIST CHURCH  
107 W. Mesquite, South Padre Island  
(South of the Water Tower)  
761-5029  
Bill Waddell, Pastor  
Greg Judd, Pastor of Worship  
SUNDAY  
8:15 a.m. - Traditional Service  
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School (All Ages)  
10:45 a.m. - Contemporary Services  
TUESDAY  
6:30-8:00 p.m. - (7th-8th Grade Ministry)  
WEDNESDAY  
5:00-6:30 p.m. - (Elevate Children Ministry)  
6:30 - (High School Youth Ministry)  
THURSDAY  
5:00 - 6:30 p.m. - (6th Grade Ministry)

VALLEY INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN  
CENTER  
2007 E. Expressway 83, San Benito  
956-399-5590  
Pastor: Jaime & Rosemary Loya  
Sunday Worship Service  
9 a.m. - Spanish  
11 a.m. - English  
1 p.m. - English  
6 p.m. - Bi-lingel  
Website: [www.vicccchurch.com](http://www.vicccchurch.com)

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Sundays - 8:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

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705 S. Longoria, Port Isabel  
Confessions  
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Saturday - 4:00 p.m.  
Schedule of Masses  
Saturday - 5:00 p.m. - (English)  
Sunday - 8:00 a.m. (Spanish)  
10:00 a.m. - (English)  
12:00 Noon - (English)  
Laguna Heights  
Saturday - 7:00 a.m. - (Spanish)  
Weekday Masses  
Mon. & Wed. - 6:00 p.m. (Spanish)  
Tues. & Thurs. - 6:00 p.m. (English)  
Friday - 7:30 a.m. (English)

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CHURCH OF CHRIST  
310 Tamava & Washington Street  
Port Isabel  
956-943-1844  
Tum Crum, Minister  
SUNDAY  
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. - Worship Serve  
6:00 p.m. - Evening Service  
WEDNESDAY  
7:00 p.m. - Night Service

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1022 North Yturria at North Shore Dr.  
Port Isabel, TX 78578  
956-943-1962  
[standrewsportisabel.org](http://standrewsportisabel.org)  
SUNDAY  
8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist  
9:00 a.m. - Sunday School

MARANATHA WORSHIP CENTER  
ASSEMBLY OF GOD  
401 E. Madison, Port Isabel  
956-943-4878  
Pastor Sonia y Manuel Gonzalez  
Sunday Maranatha Kids (English) - 10 a.m. - 12 pm  
Domingo Escuela Dominical (Estudio) - 5 p.m.-6 p.m.  
Domingo Servicio de Adoracion - 6 p.m.  
Martes De Intercecion Familiar - 7-8:30 p.m.  
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Date: Sundays  
Time: 9 a.m.  
Event: Guided Bird Walks with Alicia  
Where: SPI Birding & Nature Center, 6801 Padre Blvd., SPI  
More Info: (956)761-6801

Date: Sundays  
Time: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Event: SPI Farmers' Market  
Where: The Shores, 8605 Padre Blvd., SPI

Date: Sundays  
Time: 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.  
Event: Good Karma Song Circle  
Where: Café Karma, 5200 Padre Blvd., SPI  
More Info: Join in or just listen

Date: Thursdays and Saturdays  
Time: 9 a.m.  
Event: Guided Bird Walks with Javi  
Where: SPI Birding & Nature Center, 6801 Padre Blvd., SPI  
More Info: (956)761-6801

Date: Thursdays, beginning Sept. 13  
Time: 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. or 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Event: English Classes  
Where: St. Andrew's Church Parish Hall, 1022 Yturria St., Port Isabel  
More Info: (956)536-1544 (English), (956)433-1969  
Cost: \$10 registration, \$24 books

Date: Thursdays  
Time: 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.  
Event: Bingo  
Where: Dairy Queen, 302 State Hwy. 100, Port Isabel  
More Info: (956)943-2101, port10@thedqteam.com  
Cost: \$1.50

Date: Thursdays  
Time: 6 p.m.  
Event: Overeaters Anonymous  
Where: 105 E. Amberjack St., South Padre Island  
Cost: Free

Date: Fridays
- Time: 9 a.m.  
Event: Guided Bird Walks with Bill  
Where: SPI Birding & Nature Center, 6801 Padre Blvd., SPI  
More Info: (956)761-6801

Date: Fridays & Saturdays  
Time: 6 p.m.  
Event: American Legion Fish Fry (Fri.) and Steak Night (Sat.)  
Where: American Legion, 819 S. Garcia St., Port Isabel  
Cost: Fish - \$6, Steak - \$12.50 (pre-sale tickets available)

Date: Fridays (thru Nov. 30, 2018)  
Time: 9:30 p.m.  
Event: Booze & Brains Trivia Nights  
Where: Causeway Café & Bar, 418 E. Queen Isabella Blvd., Port Isabel  
More Info: (956)433-5004

Date: Saturdays thru Sept. 29  
Time: 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.  
Event: Saturday Recycling  
Where: 4501 Padre Blvd., South Padre Island

Date: Friday, Sept. 14, 2018  
Time: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Event: 2nd Annual Jaime J. Zapata Fishing Tournament  
Where: Jim's Pier, 211 W. Swordfish St., SPI  
More Info: (956)561-1052, fish@alpha5195.com

Date: Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018  
Time: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Event: Adopt-A-Beach Fall Beach Cleanup  
Where: Various, South Padre Island and Boca Chica Beach  
More Info: TexasAdoptA-Beach.org

Date: Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018  
Time: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Event: Zombie Charge - Obstacle Course 5K  
Where: TBA, South Padre Island  
More Info: zombiecharge.com



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# Ladies take down Grulla

By **LARRY GAGE**  
Special to the PRESS

The Port Isabel Lady Tarpons volleyball team took the long road trip to Rio Grande City Tuesday night and returned home with a win against the RGC-Grulla Lady Gators that went to five sets.

Port Isabel won by the scores of 25-16, 18-25, 15-25, 25-23, 15-11.

The Lady Tarpons trailed two sets to one and had to win the fourth game to force a deciding fifth game.

“We came out and were really strong in our first game,” volleyball Head Coach Julie Breedlove told the PRESS Wednesday. “We let a service mistake get us in the second game, starting out the game, and we didn’t do so well after that,” she said.

“So we had to use the next two games to get back into the groove of things, and then we were able to close out the fourth set ... and win the fifth.”

The Lady Tarpons improve to 2-1 in district



play. Last Saturday they lost at La Feria in straight sets, 17-25, 9-25, 15-25.

Against Grulla, Madison Ramos led the Lady Tarpons with six kills and had three total blocks. Gabby Torres served up eight aces and had one

kill and one dig. Estrella Vasquez had seven digs and an ace. Marlisa Martinez collected seven assists and two digs.

There’s always room for improvement and Coach Breedlove talked about the aspects of her

team’s play that need to be worked on.

“We struggled on our hitting last night. We didn’t put a lot of kills down, but I liked the intensity they had in that first set. In the second and third sets we were just try-

ing to hang on,” she said.

“We’ve got to work on that mental part of the game, and not letting those little mistakes or little setbacks get us.”

The district schedule continues this Saturday when P.I. will welcome

Hidalgo to Tarpon Gym for the young season’s fourth district match. The Lady Tarpons will take on Rio Hondo on the road next Tuesday, Sept. 18, and will return home to face Zapata on Saturday, Sept. 22.

## Lady Tarpon Volleyball Schedule

- September 15 – Hidalgo – Home – 1 p.m.
- September 18 – Rio Hondo – Away – 6:30 p.m.
- September 22 – Zapata – Home 1 p.m.
- September 25 – Progreso – Away – 7 p.m.
- September 29 – Raymondville – Away – 2 p.m.
- October 2 – La Feria – Home – 6:30 p.m.
- October 5 – RGC-Grulla – Home – 5 p.m.
- October 9 – Hidalgo – Away – 6:30 p.m.
- October 12 – Rio Hondo – Home – 6:30 p.m.
- October 16 – Zapata – Away – 7 p.m.
- October 20 – BYE
- October 22 – Progreso – Home – 6:30 p.m.

# Tigers tame Tarpons

By **LARRY GAGE**  
Special to the PRESS

The Port Isabel Tarpons fell to the Tigers of Valley View on the road last Friday night, 34-7, and Tarpon turnovers played a big part in the final outcome.

Port Isabel turned the ball over five times — two on fumbles and three interceptions. Valley View had two turnovers, both on fumbles, on the night.

“After we went up 7-3 we had (five) turnovers and that cost us the game,” first-year Head Coach Jason Strunk told the PRESS this week. “That was the story of the game the other night. Two weeks in a row we beat ourselves, so (we have) lots to work on, lots to get better at,” he said.

Valley View scored first on a Jorge Amaya field goal to lead 3-0 in the first quarter. Port

Isabel went ahead 7-3 on quarterback Cesar Aguilera’s 11-yard run in the second quarter. The Tigers went ahead for good on a six-yard TD pass from Simon Hernandez to Juan Cantu to go up 10-7. A 40-yard field goal by Jorge Amaya and a seven-yard scoring run by Brandon Gonzalez gave the host team a 20-7 halftime lead.

“We threw an interception at our own 20, right before halftime, a ball we should have thrown away,” Coach Strunk said. “Cesar just tried to make something happen and forced it — they intercepted. So it went from 10-7to 20-7 in a matter of about a minute and a half. Theoretically, we could have been up 14-10 if it wasn’t for turnovers.”

If the Tarpon offense was not quite all there in this game the defense again did its part.

“The defense, the past



PIISD | Courtesy photo

two weeks, has done a good job – kept us in the game,” Strunk told the PRESS. “They’re doing good things. Thirty-four points the other night isn’t indicative. The silver lining in all this is that we were right there. We were close. The defense has been doing a good job,” Strunk said.

Valley View improved to 2-0 on the season with last week’s win. Port Isabel falls to 0-2. The Tigers also started last season 2-0 but won only once more the rest of the season.

The Tarpons totaled 234 yards of offense for the game. Valley View had 328 yards of total

offense, including 173 yards passing by Simon Fernandez, who finished the game with 15 completions on 22 attempts, with no interceptions.

Junior Tarpon running back Brayan Medina led all rushers with 118 yards gained on the ground on 30 attempts.

Coach Strunk empha-

sized how pleased he is with the performance of the Tarpon defense these first two games.

“The defense was much improved — they’ll continue to get better as we go. The defense has been right where they need to be the past two weeks,” he said.

# Silver Tarpon Band preps for contest

By **LARRY GAGE**  
Special to the PRESS

The difference between a football team and a marching band is that, while your local high school team tries to play something like a complete game each Friday night, the same school’s marching band may not have even half of a complete show on the field for the early season halftime performances.

Such is the case for the Port Isabel High Silver Tarpon Marching Band. The show the band is working to perfect is written in

three parts. For the first football game — a home contest on Aug. 31, only the first part was ready to put on the field.

For the second game last week, at Valley View, the attempt was made to perform Parts I and II and — according to Head Band Director Scott Hartsfield — it did not go well.

“We’ve been working a lot on Part II throughout the entire week, and so Part I wasn’t under their fingers as well because we hadn’t been repping (practicing) it a lot. So it wasn’t settled Friday night,” Hartsfield

said.

Rainy weather has cut into outside practice time and, as the rain continues this week, how much of the show will be on the field for this Friday’s home game against Hidalgo depends on the weather.

“We’re fighting the weather here lately, so we’re trying to find ways to get everything done and maximize our time. We’re hoping that, pending weather, that we’ll have Part I and Part II (ready to perform),” Hartsfield said.

“If the weather is bad and the field is moist and

we can still get out there, we’ll probably do Part I but we probably won’t do Part II. We just have to see what the weather does.”

Hartsfield talked about the difficulty of maintaining good etiquette during practices.

The band, or part of it, may be inside in one of the band halls, working on a particular part of the music for the show. The director signals for all instrumentalists to stop playing. “The second we stop everybody should get to stand-by and keep quiet. We shouldn’t have to tell you. So we’re

trying to put it back on the section leaders and say, ‘Why isn’t it done – that’s your section.’”

On the whole Hartsfield is rather pleased with how well the band is coming along this marching season, especially considering how young it is.

“We’ve made lots of progress, musically and drill-wise, in the past two days, just be-cause the kids are starting to understand that things have to be different. This is a really good band with great potential.”

Contest season starts

next month and the Silver Tarpon band will be trying to make its tenth straight appearance in the state marching contest.

“They’re good kids,” Hartsfield said. “And we tell them if you do what you’ve always done you’re going to get what you’ve always got. If we continue to rehearse with some kids talking sometimes, then we might get to state again, but we’re not going to be in the state finals and we’re not going to be in the top 3 (bands). So we have to decide to change our rehearsal etiquette,” he said.



# FOOTBALL SPOTLIGHT

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Offensive



**NAME:** Bryan Medina  
**STATS:** 118 yards rushing, 30 carries, 3.9 average

Defensive

**NAME:** Pedro Gonzalez  
**STATS:** MLB, 11 total tackles - 7 solo, 4 assists



PI VS HIDALGO —  
SOMEONE'S GOT TO WIN!

When the Hidalgo Pirates visit Tarpon Stadium this Friday night, it will be a battle between two winless ballclubs.

Both squads come into this week with 0-2 records. On the far side line the head coach of the Pirates will be a familiar figure — none other than the former Tarpon head man, one Montgomery Stunk. "Stunk p," as he's known among his coaching colleagues, won over 100 games in 16 seasons at PI, but has entered his second season at Hidalgo still looking for his first win as the head Pirate.

They came close last week, losing to Lyford by three, 20-17.

"He's a heck of a coach," current Tarpon Head Coach Jason Strunk, said. "He took over a (team) that's in rebuild and I think he's a good guy to get in there and start rebuilding a program."

On offense the Pirates are led by quarterback Angel Lopez, who has passed for 274 yards in two games (12-34-1) and two scores. Hidalgo's leading rusher is Jose Figueroa, who has 138 yards gained on the ground (26, 53, 1 TD), and Gus Sanchez has caught five balls for 120 yards and a touchdown.

"They want to run the football and cram it down your throat, and so we need to be ready for that," Strunk said this week. "That team's hungry for a win. In dying for a win — I want it bad, so hopefully we end up on the right side of it Friday night," Strunk said.

When asked about how dangerous a team that hasn't won in a while can be Strunk replied, "I'd say any team is dangerous. I've been on both sides of that equation."



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2018 TARPONS SCHEDULE



9/21 at 7:30 p.m.  
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Lion Stadium

9/28 at 7:30 p.m.  
@ St. Joseph's Academy  
St. Joseph's Academy Stadium

10/5 at 7:30 p.m.  
RGC Grulla  
Tarpon Stadium

10/12  
Bye

10/19 at 7:30 p.m.  
@ Progreso\*  
Red Ant Stadium

10/26 at 7:30 p.m.  
@ Raymondville\*  
Bearkat Stadium

11/2 at 7:30 p.m.  
Rio Hondo\*  
Tarpon Stadium

11/9  
Bye

@ - Denotes Away Game\*

- Denotes District Game

PORT ISABEL COACHES



Jason Struck - Head Football Coach

Josh Kirtan - Offensive Coordinator/Running Backs

Gualberto Gonzalez, Jr. - Defensive Coordinator/Safeties

Offensive Line

Jose Gonzales

Quarterbacks

Kyle DeMoss

Tight Ends/Full Backs

Johnathan Bodden

Wide Receivers

Special Teams

Tony Dickey

Inside Linebackers

Pedro Soria

Outside Linebackers

Albert Barberena III

Corner Backs

Gilbert Rodriguez

Defensive Line

Jack Garcia

Jr. High Offense

Johnny Nieto

Jr. High Offense

Guadalupe Zacarias

Jr. High Defense

Manny Patlan

Jr. High Defense

Jr. High Coordinator

Ramon Garcia

Trainer

Tarya Mitchell



## Yacht

From page 1

the consultant who brought the vision to the City, Petra Reyna, organized a daylong charrette at the Port Isabel Event and Cultural Center, where industry professionals in architecture, interior design, and the culinary arts were invited to brainstorm with local residents and business leaders about what the renewed Yacht Club would look like.

The project’s architect, Teresa Fonseca, was also at the event.

But, by the late spring of 2015, the project was becoming visibly troubled. In May, City leadership was shaken up — first, by rival factions on the City Commission attempting to oust each other from their elected seats, and then by the firing of then-City Manager Edward Meza and then-City attorney Robert Collins.

The ousted City commissioners kept their seats, after a short legal battle, while another lost his re-election bid that month and was replaced by a political newcomer. That was soon followed by the hiring of Jared Hockema

as interim city manager, and former Cameron County Judge Gilberto Hinojosa as City attorney.

By August 2015, Hockema had raised several red flags on project, speaking with the Commission in executive session on Aug. 11. The following month, the Commission voted to return the once much-vaunted EDA grant. It was a split vote.

The project was essentially dead. And City administrators were soon given the go-ahead to look into the financial records via a forensic audit of not only the Yacht Club project, but two other multi-million dollar City projects, as well.

But it was activity that occurred in 2014 that most alarmed Hockema. And it’s in 2014 that most of the allegations in the lawsuit are focused.

The City alleges that Reyna and Fonseca were given preferential treatment throughout the process, from the conceptualization of the Yacht Club revitalization, to the architectural planning and oversight.

“It was clear that the fix was in,” a portion of the lawsuit reads, referring to the selection of Fonseca’s firm, STAR Consulting - South Texas Architectural Resources, as the winning bidder on the project on Sept. 24, 2014. This, after several “reputable design professionals” had submitted bids of their own by the request deadline, which had been just one day prior, the lawsuit reads.

The City had originally reached an agreement with Fonseca to provide pro bono consulting services on the project. But, once her firm was selected as the project architect, she soon began submitting invoices requesting payment for services rendered. The first request — for \$82,927 — came on Nov. 14, 2014, the lawsuit reads. The suit alleges that City Manager Edward Meza remitted the payment days later, on Nov. 11.

The suit then outlines a series of additional five-figure payment requests by Fonseca on through the spring of the following year. Each re-

quest was followed by payment remittance days later, even before the City Commission had had a chance to review them.

“I don’t understand why that happened,” said current City attorney Gilberto Hinojosa. According to his understanding, it is normal for city managers to have the authority to make payments for things that are time-sensitive, but more costly issues are typically presented to the governing body for approval, he said.

“If there is a substantial payment to be made to a vendor that is not time sensitive, then the way the city operates, and has operated, at least since I’ve been the city attorney, those have to be approved by the members of the city commission before payment can be issued,” Hinojosa said.

The litany of payments to Fonseca — totaling some \$628,100 — with such quick turnaround and without oversight of the City commission was “highly problematic,” according to Hinojosa.

But Houston attorney

Daniel Goldberg has a different opinion as to why the City has filed a lawsuit against Meza, whom Goldberg is representing in a separate lawsuit against the City.

“It is the politicians who are using litigation to advance their political agenda,” Goldberg said during a phone interview last Thursday.

Neither Goldberg nor Meza had received a copy of the suit as of Thursday, he said. “Our first knowledge of it came through your phone call yesterday,” he said.

Many of the allegations spelled out in the City’s suit against Meza and the other five defendants originally appeared in a counterclaim the City filed in Meza’s suit against it for nonpayment of his severance package.

The City non-suited that claim earlier this year — essentially, it backed out of making the counterclaim.

Now, those allegations have resurfaced in this new suit by the City, alleging Meza engaged in a civil conspiracy, negligence and

fraud. That’s no accident, according to Goldberg.

“For me, it’s very important to be able to show the court exactly how the City and the City attorney have been playing this game of theirs,” Goldberg said.

He described a history of missed deadlines and incomplete documentation provided by the City. In its now non-suited counterclaim, which relied heavily on the forensic audit conducted by Hales-Bradford, LLP, the City never provided a final version of that audit report.

City Manager Jared Hockema had still not seen the report himself as of earlier this week, despite it being the basis of this new suit. The *PRESS* has requested a copy of the report, several times.

The *PRESS* also attempted to reach out to Petra Reyna and Teresa Fonseca. A message left at Reyna’s office went unreturned as of press time. And messages left at a phone number listed as belonging to Teresa Fonseca in a business card the *PRESS* obtained in 2015 also went unreturned.

## Causeway

From page 1

St., Port Isabel City Manager Jared Hockema said.

“It just depends on how inclement the weather is,” he said, referring to the rainfall expected from a tropical disturbance approaching in the Gulf of Mexico.

On Sept. 15, 2001, just four days after the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., the Queen Isabella Causeway was struck by a passing barge. The barge, which had been attempting to make its way underneath the center span of the bridge, hit a support pillar. Two sections of the bridge span collapsed at impact, while another collapsed a short time later.

As the accident occurred after dark, motorists driving along the Causeway

were unaware that it had been damaged. Seven people died when their vehicles drove over the gap in the damaged bridge, including then fire chief of Port Isabel, Robert Harris. Another three people survived the nearly 80-foot plunge into the murky waters below.

Each year since the tragedy, the two cities connected by the bridge come together to remember those who died, and take turns hosting the memorial service every Sept. 15. They take turns hosting the memorial at the base of the Causeway on their respective sides.

This year is Port Isabel’s turn to host the memorial. Island Mayor Dennis Stahl and Port Isabel Mayor Juan Jose “J.J.” Zamora are expected to speak, as is Hock-

ema.

“It’s a simple ceremony,” Hockema said, noting that it begins and ends with a prayer. A color guard made up of local first responders present the colors, as well. In years’ past, family members of the deceased have attended and shared their memories of their loved ones. The bridge was ultimately renamed the Queen Isabella Memorial Causeway in their honor.

The seven people who died were: Robert Harris, Hector Martinez, Jr., “Harpoon” Barry and Chelsea Welch, Julio Mireles, Robin Leavell, Stevan Francisco Rivas and Gaspar S. Hinojosa.

The three people who survived are Rene Mata, Gustavo Morales and Bridget Goza.

## Gulf

From page 1

residency required.

The public works department is located at 217 W. Hickman St.

“We’ve been stockpiling. We’ve already ordered extra sand and extra bags,” Hockema said. “We’re prepared if we do receive heavy rain,” he said.

Port Isabel residents may also obtain hurricane re-entry stickers from City Hall, located on Maxan Street. However, City Hall was set to close at 2 p.m. Thursday due to scheduled utility repairs by AEP.

The City of South Padre Island was also preparing for potential tropical weather impacts Wednesday. Sandbags and hurricane re-entry stickers will be available through 5 p.m. Friday. at SPI City Hall, 4601 Padre Blvd., accord-

ing to a statement released by the City.

In Laguna Vista, Town officials were ready to help prepare residents for rain and potential flooding. The Town had received a truckload of sand from Cameron County, City Secretary Alma Deckard said Wednesday.

The Town had empty sandbags ready to distribute to residents at the fill-your-own station located just outside City Hall, 122 Fernandez St. Early Wednesday afternoon, Laguna Vista volunteer firefighters arrived to provide assistance to those needing help filling their sandbags.

Area students won’t get a rain day off, announced Point Isabel ISD Superintendent Dr. Lisa Garcia. Of course, that news was

pending the severity of the weather headed this way, but as of press time, the weather system was expected to remain relatively weak.

Forecasters were predicting it had the potential to form into a tropical depression or a weak tropical storm by the weekend.

Even if the storm doesn’t strengthen, it will still bring plenty of rain. As a result, Dr. Garcia said Friday night’s home football game against the Hidalgo Pirates had been moved up to Thursday evening.

Finally, the Wahoo Classic Fishing Tournament, slated to begin this Friday and continue on into the weekend, has been postponed until next weekend due to the tropical disturbance.

## Marina

From page 1

\$7,200 annually.

Under terms of the agreement, LVRA will maintain grounds and facilities including the existing fence around the leased premises.

“Lessee (LVRA) provides and shall continue to provide members of the Association in good standing access to the leased premises by way of keyed entry. Any resident of Laguna Vista or owner of property in Laguna Vista may join the Laguna Vista Recreational Association, Inc., but only members and their then-

present guests may have access to the leased premises,” the proposed agreement reads.

Should this procedure change, LVRA would be required to immediately submit to the Laguna Vista Town Council for its approval, the new or modified procedures to be used to restrict access to the marina in accordance with the requirements of the Town’s Home Rule Charter.

The association would continue to be responsible to contract for all utility services, including

water, electric, gas, and telephone utilities necessary for its use on the premises.

The agreement stipulates that the LVRA “shall maintain in good repair all structures, docks, bulkheads, piers, seawalls and other improvements, and surrounding areas on and within the Leased Premises, and promptly perform general maintenance upon functioning equipment and fixtures within Lessee’s possession and control located upon the Leased Premises”.

The association is also responsible for maintaining the grounds of the leased premises in a good condition and will “maintain a tidy appearance of the grounds including the mowing of the premises and the trimming of any shrubs, trees or other landscaping vegetation.” “Lessee shall use the Leased Premises solely as a marina for use by residents and property owners of the Town of Laguna Vista and their accompanying guests,” the agreement reads.

The agreement also gives Town

officials the right to enter the marina area during normal business hours, or at any time in the event of an emergency, to ensure compliance with the agreement, and the Town shall provide the association with advance notice of its intent to enter as is reasonable under the circumstances.

The lease agreement requires the LVRA to carry comprehensive general liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$1 million per occurrence and \$2 million in the aggregate.

## Bath

From page 2

paid parking to pay for restroom facilities. “At this point in time Galveston loses money on beach paid parking,” Stahl said.

Hill updated the committee on the recent approval by the GLO on a Coastal Management Program (CMP) grant project that would include the construction of a restroom, parking spaces and access improvements at the Whitecap beach access.

“This CMP grant, we’ve got to move forward on that,” urged Shoreline Taskforce member Troy Giles. He also urged the committee to do a lot more investigating on the subject and cited concerns that property owners on Gulf Boulevard might have about placing restrooms in

their backyards. “We’ve got to come up with a better solution for this thing,” Giles said.

Giles also recounted an incident in the past involving a portable restroom that was not removed before being overwhelmed by a tide. Giles emphasized that the City did not have the personnel in place to deal with situation as they do now.

Hill reviewed survey results that were gathered as a part of the beach master planning process related to this topic. He shared that restroom facilities topped the list of responses to the question of how to best improve the beach experience. Hill also reported that a majority of the responses indicated a prefer-

ence for permanent facilities as opposed to portable.

Council member Theresa Metty argued against being too cautious about placing portable restrooms on the beach just because of one past incident. “Nobody was in charge for that moment that that happened, so are we going to abandon this completely because one time it happened and we’re not smart enough to figure out a way to mitigate it in the future?” she said.

“We need restrooms, but sticking them up on Gulf Boulevard and expecting people are gonna use them that are down on the beach is — we’re sticking our head in the sand if we think that’s the answer. We need restroom fa-

cilities for people that are on the beach.”

After further discussion and debate over portable versus permanent facilities, and placement on the beach versus at the access entrances along Gulf Boulevard, Stahl summarized the progress of the meeting. “We’ve really made some progress today,” he observed. “I think we’ve gotten to the point where we’re closer to the core, but still have some unanswered questions.”

Stahl moved that the committee reconvene on Sept. 26 with the goal of coming up with a short and long term solution for beach restroom facilities. The committee agreed and the meeting was adjourned.

## PIEDC

From page 2

“We appreciate everything they do,” Hockema said.

The board also unanimously approved its annual \$15,000 contribution to the Port Isabel Chamber of Commerce, as well as \$60,000 for the continued operation of the Port Isabel Museums.

It approved a marketing budget for Marketing Director Valerie Bates, who was on hand to explain the City’s social media marketing strategy. Currently, she focuses advertisement buys on Facebook and Instagram, Bates said. “Our three main are Facebook, Instagram and twitter,” Bates said of the City’s online presence on social media.

Finally, the board unanimously approved an \$80,000 expenditure to the City of Port Isabel for EDC administration services.

Board members Pat Marchan, Scott Friedman and David Woolverton were not present at the meeting.

The regular meeting of the Port Isabel City Commission, which had been scheduled to take place after the EDC meeting, was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum. It’s expected the meeting will be rescheduled for early next week.



## Run

From page 1

run and 1-mile walk. Upon completion of their race, participants were greeted with kind applause and a custom medal commemorating their involvement and support.

Frequent beach runners, Hannah and Angie Carrillo, completed their 10K run with smiles on their faces, “We think that it’s a great idea to have an event like this for our first responders and we’re happy to be here in support of them.”

According to the PI Rotary Club, approximately 150 runners and walkers registered for this year’s event, along with numerous volunteers who were present to make sure everything went smoothly. Lonnie Gillihan, the event coordinator for the PI Rotary club, expressed his gratitude for all of the volunteers helping out with the run as well as his utmost appreciation for the

first responders in the area, “I have a lot of respect for the first responders, and that’s what drives me to work so hard for this event,” he said.

Jim Pigg, captain of ocean rescue with the South Padre Island Fire Department, expressed his own gratitude for the emergency responders the event meant to honor. “A lot of these people are not getting paid to wake up in the middle of the night and put their own lives in danger to help others in accidents. It’s important for the community to show support for these people,” Pigg said.

Members from the ocean rescue team as well as other entities were at the venue to show support, as well as provide assistance in the case of an injury or emergency.

An event like this one is a great way to honor such a physically demanding

job like that of a first responder. Proceeds of the run went into the Laguna Madre First Responder fund and related community service programs. Gillihan explained in more detail where funding would be allocated this year. “Some money will go to help families whose family members have been injured or who have passed away in the line of duty. Additionally, a portion of what we raised will be for awards to current first responders as symbols of appreciation. We will also be donating some money to the Laguna Vista Fire Department so they can purchase new equipment,” he said.

The PI Rotary Club plans on hosting this event on a yearly basis. They intend to get the word out earlier next year in hopes that more participants will know about the event ahead of time.

## Center

From page 1

that it intends to apply for certain grants from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the South Texas Eco-tourism Center and that its ability to obtain the grants is contingent upon it being the owner of the real property upon which the South Texas Ecotourism Center is to be located.

It was noted in the resolution that “Texas Local Government Code authorizes the donation of an interest in real property by one political subdivision to another provided the receiving political subdivision uses the property for a purpose that serves the public interest of the donating political subdivision, the donation is made under terms that effect and maintain the public purpose for which the donation was made, and title and right to possession of the interest revert to the donating political subdivision if the receiving political subdivision ceases to use the real property in carrying out the public purpose.”

The Town Council has determined that the construction and operation of a South Texas Ecotourism Center within the Town will enhance the community, will attract more tourism and business to the

Town, will help educate the public about the ecology of this community, will serve a public purpose and will serve the interests of the residents of the Town.

The County is agreeing to use the property as the site for construction of the South Texas Eco-Tourism Center in accordance with plans and specifications meeting the approval of the Town Council.

The resolution spells-out that construction of the South Texas Eco-Tourism Center shall commence no later than Jan. 1, 2020 and shall be completed by Jan. 1, 2022.

Under terms of the resolution, Cameron County shall maintain and operate the South Texas Ecotourism Center at its cost and expense.

The County will apply to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the Local Parks Grant Program Non-Urban Outdoor Grant and the Non-Urban Indoor Grant as owner of the Property.

The failure to meet or fulfill any of the above conditions shall be grounds for an automatic reversion of title to the Property to the Town of Laguna Vista, according to the adopted resolution.

## Park

From page 1

gathered from other coastal cities that have implemented a year-round plan listing greater compliance, less confusion, and more revenue as their argument in favor of year round. Furthermore, Hill noted that no existing seasonal paid parking programs could be found when researching the topic.

Hill also reported the existing plan calls for inclusion of parking spaces on Gulf Boulevard and some of the beach access cul-de-sacs. He explained that including all the cul-de-sacs as well as the improved side streets along Gulf could also be considered. That option would result in 829 parking spaces being designated as paid.

Regarding hourly rate versus longer term, Hill shared that the existing plan calls for a \$6.35 rate for six hours. In his research, Hill found that coastal cities that use an hourly rate reported “increased parking space turnover and more purposeful use of available spaces.” Hill also provided an option for the purchase of a season parking pass.

In terms of anticipated revenue, using a rate based on what the City of Galveston makes per spot, Hill provided a figure of \$115,825 as the anticipated net annual revenue if paid parking was implemented year-round for all of the 829 designated spaces. Hill also explained that further adjusting the

rate to create more of a one-to-one ratio between the two cities brings the net revenue figure down to approximately \$80,000 a year.

Hill presented Council with the Shoreline Taskforce recommendations, which included year-round parking encompassing Gulf Boulevard, beach access cul-de-sacs, and improved side streets at an hourly rate of \$2, with an option to purchase a yearly pass for \$100.

Other proposed changes to the existing plan according to Hill related to choosing the types of vehicles to be used by parking enforcement, the creation of a parking enforcement division and the selection

of a third party vendor to manage paid parking.

Council members Bagley and Metty both encouraged Hill to consider utilizing a complete turn-key solution for managing the parking to include enforcement as well.

“That suggestion from the Shoreline Taskforce about inserting a public meeting is a wonderful idea,” commented Mayor Dennis Stahl. “There’s people here that want it very badly and then there’s some people that don’t want it for whatever reason.”

When the topic was opened up for public comment, Kimberly Dollar shared a concern that was raised during the Shoreline

Taskforce meeting about guests visiting residents in these affected areas being required to pay for parking on the street.

Ultimately Council voted 5-1 to begin the process of updating the Beach User Fee Plan based on the recommendations set forth by the Shoreline Taskforce and to support the development of a request for proposal for a third-party vendor.

In another shoreline related item, Council considered approval of a beach and dune permit for the construction of a private walkover to service four residences at 5106-5108 Gulf Boulevard. Hill explained that the issue came before the

Shoreline Taskforce two times. Hill explained that it was not recommended by the committee the first time it came before them because the original plan called for multiple walkovers. “That feedback was given back to the applicant and they worked with the engineer and did come up with a solution that allows for all four of the units themselves to be serviced with one access,” he reported. Council voted 5-1 to approve the permit, with Council member Metty voting against.

Council also voted to award the contract to provide access matting for beach accesses to Deschamps for their Mobi-mat product.

### CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The City of South Padre Island is seeking proposals to provide paid parking services for the City’s Beach Access Parking. The bid packages are available by emailing [bhill@myspi.org](mailto:bhill@myspi.org) with “Beach User Fee” in the subject line. Please submit your quotes based upon the details shown in the RFP packet. Sealed proposals must be submitted to the City Secretary’s Office 4601 Padre Boulevard, South Padre Island 78597 no later than 10:00 a.m. 9/27/2018. Bids will be unsealed publicly at 10:00 am 9/27/2018 at City Hall. All questions should be directed to [bhill@myspi.org](mailto:bhill@myspi.org); any questions asked and the corresponding answers will be disseminated through direct email correspondence with all RFP packet holders.

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**Opening**  
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Proposals must be submitted in written form according to specifications on forms obtained from the **PIISD Business and Finance Department webpage**. Forms will be available on Monday, September 17, 2018, and may be obtained at:

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# Money

From page 4

Today, not only are the guts of public contracts with private firms often kept secret, but sometimes the final contract amount is, too, because companies argue it could put them in a disadvantage in a future bidding situation.

Contracts for a public power plant, police body camera equipment, college sports marketing deals, a holiday parade entertainer and many more spending agreements are off limits to the public. Sometimes there are attempts to hide licensing and regulatory data or information about hiring decisions.

In Austin, city officials

argued they should be allowed to hide the identities of finalists in their city manager search because it would put them at a competitive disadvantage with other cities. Thankfully, that argument to the Texas Attorney General’s Office failed.

But some 2,600 attempts to block information using the court’s recent secrecy rulings have been permitted by the Attorney General’s Office because of how broadly the court’s decisions were written.

That’s where we, the people, and our elected state representatives come

in.

Legislators created the Texas Public Information Act. It’s time for them to take charge and ensure that the law once again benefits the people of our state by rewriting some language in the law to address the court’s actions.

To be fair, not all private businesses, which now have far more ability to keep government records private, come down on the side of secrecy.

Many recognize that if they are paid by taxpayer money, a certain level of transparency is warranted. Openness in government bidding also helps small

and mid-sized businesses compete with big business for public contracts because the smaller companies can view the past winning bids.

Let’s also be clear on this: There’s no effort afoot to force a private company to reveal the formula for its secret sauce. There has always been a trade secrets exemption in the Public Information Act to keep that kind of information private, and that should remain.

Common ground for solving this secrecy struggle is surely achievable.

This and other government transparency issues

are on the agenda at the FOI Foundation of Texas state conference Sept. 21 in Austin.

The conference will also focus on whether dates of birth should be available on certain public records, such as candidate applications for public office and criminal justice records; how governments can go about obtaining public records stored on private electronic devices; and whether there should be limits to free speech on college campuses.

Opinions vary on many of these questions, but working together we can figure out how to balance

competing interests. We can do this.

Perhaps along the way we will remember the wise words of the Texas Public Information Act declaring that the people insist on remaining informed and “that government is the servant and not the master of the people.”

**Editor’s Note: Kelley Shannon is executive director of the non-profit Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas, which advocates for open government and First Amendment rights. For information on the Sept. 21 state conference go to [www.foift.org](http://www.foift.org).**

# Suicide

From page 4

is obligated to address suicide in veterans.

The first step is to adjust our attitudes about mental illness and suicide so that those who need help feel no shame or fear in doing so. We must place adequate focus on how Veterans are not receiving adequate services and are thus at the highest risk for suicide. The community must call those with invisible wounds out of the shadows and into the arms of high-quality, accessible medical and mental health care.

We need clinicians who are culturally competent in veteran-centered care. Medical and mental health training programs in the Rio Grande Valley, which is home to one of the highest density of veterans in the country, should be tasked with developing curriculum and clinical training to address veteran mental health.

Learn about mental illness. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is one of many mental health problems associated with suicide when left untreated; it is focused upon here for the sake of demystifying this very stigmatized and misunderstood diagnosis.

Prevailing stereotypes and miseducation paints the picture of a male combat veteran who returns home “damaged.” While many veterans with mental health diagnoses thrive after service, combat exposure is but one of many factors that confer increased risk suicide. Bootcamp, stateside service, enlisted, drafted, medically boarded, honorably or dishonorably discharged service members also experience trauma that can lead to untreated mental illness. In fact, a large proportion of those who received a less than honorable discharge

were often discharged in relation to traumatic experiences or mental illness — not because of flawed character or lack of dedication to their missions.

A civilian’s hypothesis regarding the development of mental illness during transition to civilian life:

There is an understandable reason for the difficulty of transitioning to civilian life. To drastically simplify this phenomenon in “civilian-speak” — there is a drastically, and necessarily, different rule book in military than in civilian life. The military rule book serves to mobilize minds and bodies for war/conflict.

Many symptoms that lead to PTSD are, in fact, adaptive behaviors in the context of life-threatening situations, such as war or abusive situations. For some, upon return to civil-

ian life, the once highly-reinforced behaviors that make our military so powerful become pathologized without validating the important function of these behaviors during service. Let’s not forget the high incidences of sexual assault that affect both men and women in the military and how many are encouraged to not report it for fear of decreasing morale or of losing one’s career. Returning to the civilian version of life, the feelings of futility regarding non life-or-death situations is perplexing to loved ones, leaving the Veteran feeling isolated and hopeless — even in light of having sacrificed so much.

Stigmatizing discourse about mental illness and suicide prevent those who need assistance from coming out from behind the shadows: Men and women who experienced military

sexual trauma, discrimination and retaliation, those who came from Mexico to serve this country, Gulf War Veterans, individuals who identify as LBGTQI, or those who served in secret missions for which there is no documentation of their sacrifices. There are others. Help them come out from behind the shadows.

Hopelessness and feelings of separation is fertile ground for suicide. Shift the paradigm at the levels of local community, education and government. In our neighborhoods. In our homes.

Validate the harrowing traversing of realities involved in military service. So do what you can to destigmatize and validate and listen with the intent of understanding rather than judging; know that you have not seen what they have seen. Know that to show empathy and com-

passion is to transform suffering for that individual. Understand that those who suffer and see suicide as a solution have seen or experienced things that shake their core foundations of trust in humanity, safety, justice and sense of purpose necessary to proceed in this thing we call life.

This call to action is a matter of life or death. This is not an issue of patriotism, but one of basic humanity.

**Editor’s Note: Dr. Marsha Sargeant is a licensed clinical psychologist and researcher offering services in the Laguna Madre region. She has worked extensively with veterans at VA medical centers, and now in private practice. Her offices, Madre Bay Consulting & Psychological Services, and her non-profit organization, Veteran Wellness Initiative, are located in Port Isabel.**

PRESS

CLASSIFIEDS

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BY EMAIL: Send your classified to [classifieds@portisabelsouthpadre.com](mailto:classifieds@portisabelsouthpadre.com)

BY PHONE: (956)943-5545 • BY FAX: (956)943-4782

BY MAIL: P.O. Box 308, Port Isabel, TX 78578

IN PERSON: 101 Maxan St., Port Isabel, TX (Open Mon. - Fri. 8a.m. - 5p.m.)

DEADLINES

Thursday’s Paper

Wednesday 12:00 p.m.

4 COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

**FOR SALE:** Small Marina in Port Isabel. Possible Short Term Owner Financing. Call 225-235-6739.

7 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

**LONG TERM ONLY:** 1/1 furnished, 650 square feet, bay side apartment. No pets. \$650 per month includes: water, sewer & trash \$350 deposit. Call 956-793-3734.

8 HOMES FOR RENT

**UPSCALE LAGUNA VISTA HOME FOR RENT:** 26 Laguna Madre Drive, 3 bedroom/3 bath with option for office or gym, pool and view of Laguna Madre. \$4,000 per month plus utilities/\$2,000 deposit. Please contact Bobby Pinkerton at 956-572-0521.

FOR RENT

7 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

**FOR RENT:** 1 bed/1 bath apartment on SPI. Furnished with utilities, cable and WiFi. No pets. No smoking. \$950 rmonth/\$500 deposit with a one year lease. Call 956-371-4250.

8 HOMES FOR RENT

**FOR RENT:** Casita on SPI Golf Course. 2 bed/2bath, screened in porch. Fully furnished, all bills paid. Pool, tennis courts, gym. \$1,550/mo. Call 956-943-1864.

**FOR SALE:** On SPI, 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2 car garage, 3 kitchens, 2 living areas, garage apartment. Under total renovation. Possible Owner Financing. Call 225-235-6739.

14 MISCELLANEOUS

**PLAYER PIANO - AEO-LIAN:** Model: CABARET (inc. 50 + rolls) \$350.00. Call 956-761-1185.

8 HOMES FOR RENT

**FOR RENT:** 3 bedroom/2 1/2 bath waterfront, 1426 Harbor Island Dr., Port Isabel. W&D hookup. No pets. \$900 per month + deposit. Call 748-2558 or 200-1103.

**FOR LEASE:** South Padre Island Duplex, 1 year - Unfurnished. Has NEW stove, refrigerator, light fixtures, shower stalls, commodes, faucets and newly painted. No pets, no smoking. \$1000/month + \$1000/deposit. Call 956-463-3022.

**BEACHFRONT 2 BEDROOM:** Washer/dryer, private covered patio and fenced backyard, water trash pickup included in rent \$1375/month, 1 year lease. Call 956-761-8750.

**FOR RENT:** available October 1st. Large 1 bedroom w/kitchen, beachside private deck, walkin closet, central ac/heat, tile floors, pet friendly, water and trash included. \$795/month. Call 956-761-8750.

8 HOMES FOR RENT

RENTALS

202 Yturria, Bills Paid

#1 – efficiency, \$670

301 Houston #2201

3/2 waterfront condo, \$2000

822 Pompano

2/2 mobile home.

Bills paid, \$1400

Woolverton Realty PLLC

956-943-5506

Email: [realestate@woolvertonrealty.com](mailto:realestate@woolvertonrealty.com)

9 CONDOS FOR RENT

**FOR RENT:** 2/2 Port O Call. Fishermen’s paradise with boat slip. \$1,400 per month all bills paid. Call 956-572-0378.

**TWO SANDCASTLE CONDOS FOR RENT:** Efficiency and 1/1 furnished apartment, 2 swimming pools & fishing pier on bay side. All utilities included. Call 956-465-7718.

Jobs

17 EMPLOYMENT

**NOW HIRING** Experienced Cooks. Apply in person at Blackbeards at 103 E. Saturn, SPI.

**HIRING NOW!** Housekeepers wanted! Condo and house cleanings. \$8.00 per hour. Call 956-408-0700 or come to our office SPI Rentals, 2600 Padre Blvd. Suite R., South Padre Island.

30 BOATS & SUPPLIES

**FOR SALE:** 12 ft. Zodiac inflatable with 10hp Yamaha. Great condition. Accessories included. \$2,500. Contact Steve at 956-572-0378.

**TWO FREE BOATS.** Abandoned-4-Move. Call 225-235-6739.

15 GARAGE SALES

**YARD SALE:** 601 Beach Blvd., Laguna Vista on Saturday, Sept. 15th at 7 am.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer’s Permit by Laguna Madre Premier Meats, LLC dba Rancho Meat Market, to be located at 314 E. Queen Isabella Blvd., Port Isabel, Cameron County, Texas. Officer of said Limited Liability Company is Christian Hasbun Villarreal, Owner.

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit by Liam’s Steakhouse & Oyster Bar, to be located at 202 W. Tarpon Street, South Padre Island, Cameron County, Texas. Officers of said corporation are Alfonso T. Salazar, President/ Treasurer and Cameron K. Salazar, Vice President/ Secretary.



# In Memoriam

The communities of the Laguna Madre remember those who were killed or injured during the collapse of the Queen Isabella Causeway on Sept. 15, 2001. In memory of Port Isabel Fire Chief Robert Harris, Hector Martinez, Jr., “Harpoon” Barry and Chelsea Welch, Julio Mireles, Robin Leavell, Stevan Francisco Rivas and Gaspar S. Hinojosa. In honor, also of Rene Mata, Gustavo Morales and Bridget Goza, who survived the late night tragedy. The towns of the Laguna Madre stood united then and remain so now. We will never forget.

# Sutherlands

Home Improvement • Building Material

# We REMEMBER

## Bridgeview Flowers & Gift

**Leti Keplinger**  
Owner, Designer

134 West South Shore,  
Port Isabel,  
Texas 78578  
(956) 943-4344  
E-mail: azalea\_lk@yahoo.com

## In Remembrance

# WELLS

REAL ESTATE, INC.

**Call us for your real estate needs.**

<b>Rick Wells</b> 956-771-5289 Keta Durham 956-243-8630	<b>Jim Wells</b> Broker, License #310222 956-793-6128 Carol Mark 956-537-3758	Web Page: <a href="http://www.spirealestate.com">www.spirealestate.com</a> E-Mail: <a href="mailto:rickawells76@gmail.com">rickawells76@gmail.com</a> 1515 Padre Blvd. • P.O. Box 2818 South Padre Island, Texas Phone: (956) 761-6403 • Fax: 761-6751
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## Remembering those we lost.

**210 S. Garcia St., Port Isabel**  
**956-943-3344**

## IN REMEMBRANCE

*Eva-Jean DALTON*  
Genuine Concern and Good Service  
Make All the Difference

103 S. Garcia St. cell: 956-279-5753  
Port Isabel, TX 78578 [yallcome2tx@gmail.com](mailto:yallcome2tx@gmail.com)

## IN REMEMBRANCE

2605 Padre Blvd.  
956-346-4431  
[www.powc-spi.org](http://www.powc-spi.org)

## IN REMEMBRANCE

Since 1978  
**CAMERON COUNTY INSURANCE AGENCY**

**COLEMAN HALL & HEINZE INSURANCE**  
956-943-6481

**MERCURY INSURANCE GROUP**  
Authorized Agent

**Allstate**  
You're in good hands.

Safeco Insurance LINCOLN BENEFIT LIFE AN ALLSTATE COMPANY Encompass

TRAVELERS Fidelity MetLife

[www.cameroncountyinsurancecenter.com](http://www.cameroncountyinsurancecenter.com)

## In Loving Memory

**FURCRON & REALTORS**  
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT CO.  
SOUTH PADRE ISLAND  
4800 Padre Blvd (956) 761-6961  
[Info@Furcron.com](mailto:Info@Furcron.com) [FurcronRealtors.com](http://FurcronRealtors.com)

## Remembering Those We Lost

**“By the Bridge”**  
103 S. Garcia St. • Port Isabel, TX 78578  
**956-433-5648**

IN REMEMBRANCE OF  
THE LIVES LOST DURING THE COLLAPSE  
OF THE QUEEN ISABELLA CAUSEWAY

# 17 YEARS

“ALWAYS IN OUR THOUGHTS  
FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS”

IN REMEMBRANCE OF  
THE LIVES LOST DURING THE COLLAPSE  
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# South Padre **PARADE!**

*The Valley's Entertainment Guide*

Sept. 13 - Sept. 19, 2018

# FREE

[www.PortIsabelSouthPadre.com](http://www.PortIsabelSouthPadre.com)



**Calendar - 4**

**Walk for Women - 8**

**Pachanga in the Park - 12**

**Causeway Memorial - 14**



# FRESH LOCAL GULF SEAFOOD!

*(Across From Schlitterbahn Water Park)*



# WALK FOR WOMEN FUNDRAISER WEEKEND



*Speak easy and Carry a Big Stick  
to Beat Breast Cancer*

**OCT 5-7, 2018**

## ROARING 20'S CASINO NIGHT

**OCT 5**

Location: Louie's Backyard  
Time: 7pm - 11pm  
\$40 per person admission

Hors d'oeuvres, Cash  
Bar, Gaming Tables  
\$500 Gaming Chips •  
Live Auction and Raffles



## REGISTRATION FOR THE WALK FOR WOMEN BAY FISHING TOURNAMENT

\$70 per angler, 3 angler limit per boat  
Amateur men & women anglers welcome!!  
Location: Louie's Backyard • Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm  
Contact Christy at 956-459-7079

## WALK FOR WOMEN BAY FISHING TOURNAMENT

**OCT 6**

Location: Louie's Backyard  
Weigh-in starts 11:30am and  
ends no later than 1:30pm

Lunch, Trophies and  
Awards Ceremony  
Danica is singing  
live from 11am - 1:00pm



## WALK FOR WOMEN

**OCT 7**

A DAY OF  
BREAST CANCER  
AWARENESS, SUPPORT,  
REMEMBRANCE &  
CELEBRATION



Location:  
South Padre Island Convention Centre  
Registration at 8:30am / Walk begins at 10:00am  
Walk to Louie's Backyard for refreshments

\*Transportation to the Convention Centre after  
the Walk will be paid for by Walk for Women

Registration  
is FREE!



For more information, please contact Rees at 956-495-9884 or visit our website

**www.spiwalkforwomen.org**



The 13th Annual

# BAY FISHING TOURNAMENT

Walk For Women, Inc. is a local organization dedicated to breast cancer awareness and supporting those in our community fighting this disease.



Walk for Women is pleased to invite you to participate in our 13th Annual Amateur Bay Fishing Tournament. Men and Women Anglers are welcome.

Registration is Friday, October 5th, 2018 at Louie's Backyard 6:30-8:30 PM

Registration Fee is \$70.00 PER ANGLER (limit 3 anglers per boat).

All fees must be paid in full to participate in the tournament.

**THIS IS A MOTORIZED BOAT TOURNAMENT**

(No Waverunners, kayaks, or surf fishing will be allowed)

Professionally guided boats will be allowed, however guides will not be permitted to angle.

## TROPHIES, PRIZES AND DOOR PRIZES!!

There will also be a prize for "Best Decorated Boat" and the  
"Better Luck Next Year Story" will also be awarded.

Fishing starts at 7:00 AM, Saturday, October 6th.

Weigh-In begins at 11:30 AM and will end no later than 1:30 PM at Louie's Backyard.

There will be a Complimentary lunch served to Anglers Saturday afternoon  
followed by the Awards Ceremony.

For more information please call Christy @ 956-459-7079 or email at jakesspi@yahoo.com.

Please remember this is a charity event tournament. We support conservation.

## Thank you to our sponsors



BOAT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRANT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make checks payable to Walk For Women, Inc.)

All checks for FISHING TOURNAMENT ONLY can be mailed to P.O. Box 2086, South Padre Island, TX 78597

Waiver of Legal Liability: I, the undersigned, do hereby agree to hold harmless Walk For Women, Inc. and any volunteers or sponsors from any and all liability resulting from my participation.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_



## Pet of the Week

Friends of Animal Rescue

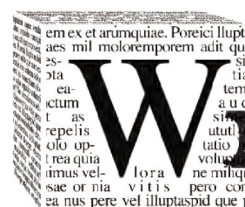
4908 Padre Blvd. (956)772-1171

www.spifriendsofanimalrescue.com

# FUDGE



Introducing Fudge, a one year old Lab mix. His humans never returned for him after he was brought into the shelter. Fudge was found on the streets of SPI about 2 weeks ago. He is neutered, heart worm negative, up to date on all vaccinations and micro-chipped. He is well mannered and pretty laid back for a young dog. Come meet Fudge! We're open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily!



# Writer's Block

## Beauty in Transience



Dina Arévalo

South Padre Parade

editor@portisabelsouthpadre.com

Here today, gone tomorrow. It's a cliché. And, like most clichés, the popularity of its usage comes from its truth.

Such is the case with some ephemeral marvels I've witnessed during my daily travels this week. Perhaps you noticed them, too?

It began Monday, on my first drive to work for the week.

The rains have brought good news and bad for many across our region. For our neighbors to the west — those in Hidalgo County towns like Weslaco, Mission and Edinburg, the perpetual inundation has been an unwelcome guest upon soils still struggling to recover from the freak downpours earlier this summer.

But, as was the case with those summer rains, the Laguna Madre region fared more favorably. Here, the rains have been gentle. They've caressed the land just enough to green grasses parched by heat, and invigorate potted plants slumped from drought-induced water restrictions.

This time around, we've gotten good batches of rain every single day — mostly while we sleep. And it's been that gentle, yet persistent, patter of precipitation that has coaxed forth dozens of tiny miracles.

All along roadsides and verdant patches of grass throughout the Laguna Madre, one can see pale white specks among the green. Slender stalks capped by six dove-white petals fanning out towards slate grey skies still heavy with the promise of water.

They're rain lilies. However, some may know them by more wondrous names, like fairy lily or magic lily. And indeed, they do invoke a sense of the fantastic and the mystical. One could be forgiven for imagining that tiny Tinkerbell-sized fairies fly among the funnel-shaped blooms, such is the whimsy they inspire.

Rain lilies can bloom in a variety of colors, including pink and yellow; however, here in the Rio Grande Valley, I've only ever seen them come in white. Bright yellow stamens stand in warm contrast at the flower's center.

It takes a good rain to bring them out of hiding. After a couple of days of the wet stuff, if the temperatures stay reasonable enough, and the ground pliant enough, you'll wake up one morning to find that Tinkerbell and her friends have left a collection of them on your lawn.

They grow singly. One flower per stem that rises above the rain-replenished grass. And they only last a day or two. That's it.

They can hide for years in the soil. You'd never even know they were there, waiting for a chance to bloom. Then one day, dozens and dozens of white blossoms bring their light to the greyness of a dreary day, a shadowy grey week.

And just as quickly and quietly as they came, they disappear again. Just about the time that the rain dew dries from the blades of grass and the earth becomes firm enough to walk on without your feet sinking into the loam, they're gone again. Until the next big rain.

Maybe. If you're lucky, and the lilies are feeling up to it.

So, while the wet weather is still with us — and boy, is it going to stick around for a couple of days — take a moment to look at the patches of grass nearest you. You just might see some floral fairies of your own.

## South Padre Parade

### Acknowledgements

Ray Quiroga.....Publisher  
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**Contributing writers:** Steve Hathcock, Marilyn Lorenz, Javier Gonzalez, Rene Torres, Holiday Mathis.

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STOP BY AND SEE OUR ARTIST OF THE MONTH

JEWELRY  
ACRYLICS  
FIBERS  
WATERCOLORS  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
OILS & WOOD

ART OPEN  
Hours: Sunday 12 - 4  
Monday Closed  
Tuesday - Saturday 11 - 5  
956-943-1407

Laguna Madre Art Gallery

405 E Maxan St (Lighthouse Square) Port Isabel, Tx 78578



Want to see your event listed here?  
Email us at [editor@portisabelsouthpadre.com](mailto:editor@portisabelsouthpadre.com).

# CALENDAR

Date: Sundays  
Time: 9 a.m.  
Event: **Guided Bird Walks with Alicia**

Where: SPI Birding & Nature Center,  
6801 Padre Blvd., SPI  
More Info: (956)761-6801

Date: Sundays  
Time: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Event: **SPI Farmers' Market**  
Where: The Shores, 8605 Padre Blvd., SPI

Date: Sundays  
Time: 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Event: **Good Karma Song Circle**  
Where: Café Karma, 5200 Padre Blvd., SPI  
More Info: Join in or just listen

Date: Thursdays and Saturdays  
Time: 9 a.m.  
Event: **Guided Bird Walks with Javi**  
Where: SPI Birding & Nature Center,  
6801 Padre Blvd., SPI  
More Info: (956)761-6801

Date: Thursdays, beginning Sept. 13  
Time: 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. or 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
Event: **English Classes**  
Where: St. Andrew's Church Parish Hall, 1022 Yturria St., Port Isabel  
More Info: (956)536-1544 (English), (956)433-1969 (Español)

Date: Thursdays  
Time: 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.  
Event: **Bingo**  
Where: Dairy Queen, 302 State Hwy. 100, Port Isabel  
More Info: (956)943-2101, [port10@thedqteam.com](http://port10@thedqteam.com)  
Cost: \$1.50

Date: Thursdays  
Time: 6 p.m.  
Event: **Overeaters Anonymous**  
Where: 105 E. Amberjack St., South Padre Island  
Cost: Free

Date: Fridays  
Time: 9 a.m.  
Event: **Guided Bird Walks with Bill**

Where: SPI Birding & Nature Center,  
6801 Padre Blvd., SPI  
More Info: (956)761-6801

Date: Fridays & Saturdays  
Time: 6 p.m.  
Event: **American Legion Fish Fry (Fri.) and Steak Night (Sat.)**  
Where: American Legion, 819 S. Garcia St., Port Isabel  
Cost: Fish - \$6, Steak - \$12.50 (pre-sale tickets available)

Date: Fridays (thru Nov. 30, 2018)  
Time: 9:30 p.m.  
Event: **Booze & Brains Trivia Nights**  
Where: Causeway Café & Bar, 418 E. Queen Isabella Blvd., Port Isabel  
More Info: (956)433-5004

Date: Saturdays thru Sept. 29  
Time: 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
Event: **Saturday Recycling**  
Where: 4501 Padre Blvd., South Padre Island

Date: Sept. 21-23, 2018  
Time: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Event: **SPI Wahoo Classic**  
Where: Jim's Pier, 211 W. Swordfish St., SPI  
More Info: (956)761-5467

Date: Wednesday, September 12, 2018  
Time: 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
Event: **Port Isabel Beautification Mixer**  
Where: Cannon Bar at Pirate's Landing, 501 E. Maxan St., Port Isabel  
More Info: (956)943-2682

Date: Friday, Sept. 14, 2018  
Time: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Event: **2nd Annual Jaime J. Zapata Fishing Tournament**  
Where: Jim's Pier, 211 W. Swordfish St., SPI  
More Info: (956)561-1052, [fish@alpha5195.com](http://fish@alpha5195.com)

Date: Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018  
Time: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Event: **Adopt-A-Beach Fall**

**Beach Cleanup**  
Where: Various, South Padre Island and Boca Chica Beach  
More Info: [TexasAdoptABeach.org](http://TexasAdoptABeach.org)

Date: Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018  
Time: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Event: **Zombie Charge - Obstacle Course 5K**  
Where: TBA, South Padre Island  
More Info: [zombiecharge.com](http://zombiecharge.com)

Date: Saturday, September 15, 2018  
Time: 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
Event: **Sea Turtle Inc. Annual Fundraiser**  
Where: Schlitterbahn Beach Resort, 100 Padre Blvd., SPI  
More Info: [sea-turtle-inc.shoplightspeed.com](http://sea-turtle-inc.shoplightspeed.com)

Date: Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018  
Time: 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
Event: **Ocean Vida - Beach Cleanup**  
Where: Wanna Wanna Beach Bar, 5100 Gulf Blvd., SPI  
More Info: (512)699-4198

Date: Thursday, Sept. 20, 2018  
Time: 10 a.m.  
Event: **Intro to Birding**  
Where: Resaca de la Palma State Park, 1000 New Carmen Ave., Brownsville  
More Info: (956)350-2920

Date: Saturday, Sept. 22, 2018  
Time: 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Event: **National Public Lands Day - Fee Free Day**  
Where: Laguna Atascosa NWR, 22688 Buena Vista Rd., Los Fresnos  
More Info: (956)748-3607

Date: Saturday, Sept. 22, 2018  
Time: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Event: **Special Needs Surfing Clinic**  
Where: Beach Circle Access #4, On Gulf Boulevard between East Pompano and East Sheepshead Streets, SPI  
More Info: (956)455-5238, [spisesions@gmail.com](mailto:spisesions@gmail.com)

Date: Sept. 28-29, 2018  
Time: TBA  
Event: **14th Annual Spawglass - South Texas Bay Fishing**

**Tournament**  
Where: South Padre Island  
More Info: (956)245-2979, Margie. Lopez@SpawGlass.com

Date: Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018  
Time: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Event: **9th Anniversary Open House Party**  
Where: SPI Birding & Nature Center, 6801 Padre Blvd., SPI  
More Info: (956)761-6801

Date: Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018  
Time: 6 p.m. - 11 p.m.  
Event: **Pachanga in the Park**  
Where: Laguna Madre Park, off Port Road, Port Isabel

Date: Sunday, Sept. 30, 2018  
Time: 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Event: **South Padre Island Triathlon (Sprint and Olympic courses)**  
Where: Parrot Eyes, 5801 Padre Blvd. South Padre Island  
More Info: [www.spitriathlon.com](http://www.spitriathlon.com)

Date: Oct. 4-6, 2018  
Time: 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
Event: **Sand Castle Days**  
Where: Clayton's Beach Bar, 6900 Padre Blvd., SPI

Date: Oct. 4-6, 2018  
Time: Various  
Event: **The First 50 Years - 2018 Classical Reunion**  
Where: Port Isabel Fire Hall, Tarpon Stadium, Pelican Station and PI Event & Cultural Center  
More Info: (956)299-0713  
Cost: \$75

Date: Oct. 4-7, 2018  
Time: Various  
Event: **SPLASH South Padre**  
Where: Various, South Padre Island  
More Info: [splashsouthpadre.com](http://splashsouthpadre.com)

Date: Thursday, Oct. 4, 2018  
Time: 6 p.m.  
Event: **Port Isabel Police Dept. National Night Out**  
Where: Walmart parking lot, 1401 State Hwy. 100, Port Isabel



# telling our stories

## Shrimping Industry

*Special to the Parade*

The Museums of Port Isabel and the Laguna Madre Museum Foundation are proud to present another installment in the "Telling Our Stories" Series of 2018 on Thursday, Sept. 27. The feature



presentation will be held at the Treasures of the Gulf Museum, 308 East Railroad Avenue at 7 p.m. This month's topic will be on "Shrimping Industry" by Carlette Boudreaux.

Boudreaux writes: "In 1949 at the age of 3, my father, mother and I moved to Brownsville, Texas from Morgan City, Louisiana. The Shrimping Industry brought us here. My father asked my mother if we could come for one season (which would have been about six months) and the season lasted 66 years. With some others, my fathers did a lot to improve the South Texas Shrimping Industry. As of today, he is still located in the Port Isabel area where he docked his first boat when we arrived."

Please join the Museums of Port Isabel for an entertaining evening

with Boudreaux as she delivers her presentation of the history of the shrimping industry, with an emphasis on the Port Isabel area. All locals and visitors are welcome to attend this free presentation. Complimentary drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be provided.

"Telling Our Stories" is an educational program aimed at preserving the heritage of the City of Port Isabel and the Laguna Madre area. Its goals are to preserve the local and natural history through presentations and exhibits. The program is co-sponsored by the Museums of Port Isabel and the Laguna Museum Foundation. "Telling Our Stories" is presented on the fourth Thursday of each month from January through September at the Treasures of the Gulf Museum. Admission is free.

For more information on Telling Our Stories, or to help sponsor an event, contact Jeannie Marie A. Flores at (956)943-7602 or visit [www.portisabelmuseums.com](http://www.portisabelmuseums.com) or you may also send an email to [jrivera@copitx.com](mailto:jrivera@copitx.com).

## Change of venue for PIPD National Night Out

*South Padre Parade*

The Port Isabel Police Department is proud to announce it will once again host National Night Out this fall, but this time, there will be a change of venue.

This year's National Night Out will be held on Thursday, Oct. 4 at the parking lot of the Port Isabel Walmart. The festivities begin at 6 p.m.

National Night Out is a nationwide movement aimed at helping to foster positive relationships between police departments, local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, and the communities they serve.

Port Isabel's National Night Out will include food, music, and fun and games for the kids. It is free, and one need not be a Port Isabel resident to attend.

## GARDENING

AND NOW...

### A MESSAGE FROM R. LEWIS LANDSCAPING

*Special to the Parade*

Over the past two weeks, I have been covering things to do now that we are entering the fall garden season. Mainly the trimming of perennial plants, shrubs and corrective pruning of freeze damaged tropical trees and of course the fertilizing of these immediately after the trimming. I know those garden chores produce excellent results, but the weather is still hot and humid and it makes it seem like just hard work. Now entering into mid-September, the next item on the to-do list starts the "fun" part of the fall gardening. For me, the fun part of gardening now is that we are entering the prime time of year for herb plants, vegetable gardening and planting of fall blooming annuals.

Back a few years ago when I had the Verandas Nursery, we would make the transition of ending the hot as heck summer season, to a full setup of herb plants, tomato plants and starts of vegetable plants and seeds, and the first of the fall season Petunias and Geraniums. We would always do this between the middle of September to the third week of the month so we could start our first fall gardening ad on the 21st of the month. Remembering back to those days, I would always enjoy the excitement of our customers ready to start back with their garden activities and the stories

of how brutal the summer heat was for their plants. Those are great memories over what turned into a 20 year stretch of having the nursery on Garcia Street and then over to Laguna Heights. Now you can probably go to any independent nursery in the Rio Grande Valley and find them stocked and ready to start the fall season.

What I enjoy the most of fall season gardening is growing tomatoes. I was fortunate a couple of weeks ago to find a chain store with newly delivered tomato plants that had just arrived. I found a few of my favorites and was excited about getting them planted before Labor Day. I like to start my old time favorites Sweet 100 Cherry and Early Girl as soon as I can and will enjoy looking for other new varieties to try. This spring I tried a grape tomato "Tami-g" that was the super star of the season. I will be on the lookout for those.

As you can see I am full of excitement over the fall season and hope that you can find it as well. Instead of the last couple of months of just keeping our plants alive, we get to look forward to planting new things and seeing how they do, by adding tons of color

to your landscapes and flower pots on your patios. If you find yourself "beat" down with surviving the summer heat, then you need to head out to an independent nursery and catch the excitement of fall planting.

-R. Lewis T.C.N. #132



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CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

ACROSS

- 1 Catch fly balls
- 5 Recording artist Paula
- 10 NV city
- 14 Smidgen
- 15 Chain Gang singer
- 16 Cry out for
- 17 1983 winner
- 20 Term-paper abbreviation
- 21 Son of Noah
- 22 Wise one
- 25 Curious and intrusive
- 28 1972 winner
- 31 1982 winner
- 33 Slaughter, on the diamond
- 34 Avian penthouse
- 36 Fig. for Willie Nelson
- 37 Wheat's whiskers
- 38 1981 winner
- 40 Dem. leader in the 1950s
- 41 Actress \_\_\_ Dawn Chong
- 42 Maxwell and Lanchester
- 43 Margret, and others
- 44 Bighorn sheep

- 46 1965 winner
- 49 New stadium feature
- 50 Cricketeer's pop-ups
- 51 Veterinary school subj.
- 53 Box-office success
- 56 1966 winner
- 62 Showroom model
- 63 January, in Jalisco
- 64 Naturalness
- 65 Actor Stockwell
- 66 1961 winner
- 67 Stained

DOWN

- 1 Bro's relative
- 2 Santa's belly shaker
- 3 On one's toes
- 4 Lyons siblings
- 5 Colorless liquid
- 6 Singer \_\_\_ George
- 7 Funnyman DeLuise
- 8 Kin to an edict
- 9 Solidarity's Walesa
- 10 Captivate
- 11 Maui neckwear
- 12 Barbie's beau
- 13 Dedicated verse
- 18 Italian bread?
- 19 During a fasting period

- 23 Thunder units
- 24 Take it easy
- 26 Curve cutter
- 27 Man from lbb
- 28 Stiller's partner
- 29 Toward the center
- 30 Idealist's object of knowledge
- 31 Knightly title
- 32 Out-of-date
- 35 Full of swamp plants
- 38 \_\_\_ Rubenstein
- 39 Ivy Leaguer
- 43 Analyzed ore
- 45 Wonder woman, e.g.
- 47 \_\_\_ one's laurels
- 48 LaDouce
- 50 Dictation whiz
- 52 Former labor leader
- 54 Do away with
- 55 Socks
- 56 "Cookie" Byrnes
- 57 1975 winner Grant
- 58 1971 Chicago tune
- 59 Race or mite leader
- 60 Dom. of Otto I
- 61 Cross or deer

LAST EDITION'S CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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LAST EDITION'S SUDOKU SOLUTION

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# Fall beach clean-up postponed

*Special to the Parade*

Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush announced the 2018 Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Fall Cleanup will be postponed until Saturday, Oct. 6. With an overwhelming number of RSVP responses, Texans have answered the call to clean up our coastline. In the interest of safety, the General Land Office (GLO) has decided to postpone the cleanup until after inclement weather has passed.

The Texas Adopt-A-Beach program began in the fall of 1986, when 2,800 volunteers picked up 124 tons of trash. Since then, more than half a million volunteers have removed nearly 10,000 tons of trash from Texas beaches. Each volunteer will be given data cards, gloves, pencils and trash bags. All volunteers are advised to wear closed-toe shoes, bring sunscreen and plenty of drinking water. The Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach cleanups are normally held rain or shine, but with severe tropical weather on the horizon, this Saturday's coastwide cleanups have been postponed.

There will only be two Adopt-A-Beach cleanup sites along Rio Grande Valley beaches, including Boca Chica Beach at the end of Highway 4, and at Andy Bowie Park. The cleanup slated for South Padre Island City Access No. 3 has been cancelled.

According to information released by the GLO, 2,946 people registered to participate in the Andy Bowie cleanup, while another 913 people had registered for the Boca Chica Beach cleanup prior to the postponement.





# Walk For Women to offer jampacked weekend

*South Padre Parade*

Walk For Women (W4W) is celebrating its 15th year of fundraising to help local women and their families as they battle breast cancer. And, in honor of the 15th year, this year's slate of events are sure to impress.

Things kick off on Friday, Oct. with a Roaring 20s-themed casino night at Louie's Backyard. Participants can choose from black jack, roulette, craps, or Texas Hold-em. Admission is \$40 per person.

Then on Saturday, Oct. 6 anglers will compete in W4W's annual bay fishing tournament. Weigh-in will be at Louie's Backyard and will run from 11:30 a.m. -

1:30 p.m. Qualifying fish are red drum, speckled trout and flounder. First place wins \$750, second wins \$500 and third wins \$250.

Finally, on Sunday, Oct. 7, participants will flock to the South Padre Island Convention Centre to participate in the organization's namesake — the 15th Annual Walk For Women.

Registration will occur onsite beginning at 8:30 a.m. and the walk will begin at 10 a.m. Walkers will proceed from the Convention Centre to Louie's Backyard. Transportation will be provided for those wishing to return to the Convention Centre afterwards.

For more information, visit SPIWalkForWomen.org.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Roaring 20s  
**Casino Night & Auction**  
Louie's Backyard  
**Friday, Oct. 5**  
7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

**Fishing Tournament**  
**Saturday, Oct. 6**  
Anglers can start at 7 a.m.  
Weigh in from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**14th Annual Walk for Women Breast Cancer Awareness Walk**  
SPI Convention Centre  
**Sunday, Oct. 7**  
Registration 8:30 a.m. Walk at 10 a.m.  
Ends at Louie's Backyard.

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**DELI FRESH  
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TURKEY  
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**6.99LB**

**DELI FRESH  
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CHEESE**



**4.99LB**

**WHITE BOLILLO ROLLS**

(FRESHLY BAKED) - 6 PK

**1.59**

**RASPBERRY DONUTS**

(FRESHLY BAKED) - 4 PK

**2.39**

**CORN DOGS (HOT AND READY  
TO EAT)**

**.89**

**7" DOUBLE LAYER GERMAN**

CHOCOLATE CAKE - 34 OZ

**10.99**

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\*FRESH CUT FRUIT AVAILABLE DAILY IN THE PRODUCE DEPT.

\* NEW ORGANIC SALADS AVAILABLE

**LARGE BAKING  
POTATOES  
"COLORADO"**



**.79LB**

**LARGE SWEET  
CANTALOUPES**



**2.99EA**

**CILANTRO "MEXICO"**

**2/1.00**

**ROYAL GALA APPLES "GREAT**

HEALTHY SNACK"

**1.59LB**

**FUJI APPLES "GREAT HEALTHY**

SNACK"

**1.59LB**

**GRIMMWAY 1 LB BABY**

CARROTS

**1.59PKG**

**SWEET TROPICAL MANGOS**

"LARGE SIZE"

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5.5 OZ CAN



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**BEST YET  
COFFEE**

12 CT



**2.99**

**FRANCESCO  
SPAGHETTI  
SAUCE**

24 OZ JAR

**2/3.00**

**PARADE SUGAR**

4 LB BAG

**2.19**

**JUMEX  
NECTARS**

11.3 OZ CAN

**2/.89**

**AJAX LIQUID  
DISH SOAP**

28 OZ BOTTLE

**1.79**

**KLEENEX FACIAL  
TISSUE**

140-160 CT

**1.69**

**GREEN GIANT  
VEGETABLES**

15 OZ CAN

**.79**

## MEAT MARKET



USDA GOVT. INSP.  
FRESH POULTRY  
TYSON JUMBO  
CHICKEN WINGS

**1.99LB**

NORTHERN CORN-FED  
"GREAT ON THE GRILL"  
COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS

**1.79LB**

USDA "CHOICE"  
BONELESS MARKET  
TRIMMED BEEF  
CHARCOAL STEAKS

**3.79LB**



USDA GOVT. INSP. FRESH  
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CHICKEN BREAST

**2.79LB**



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48 OZ BOTTLE



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FAMILY SIZE



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**SCOTT PAPER  
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6 ROLL PK



**5.19**

**SHASTA CLUB  
SODA, TONIC  
WATER**  
1 LITER BOTTLE

**.69**

**KEEBLER PECAN  
SANDIES**  
11.2 OZ PKG

**2/5.00**

**BLACKBURNS  
PRESERVES**  
18 OZ MUG

**1.99**

**POST HONEY  
BUNCHES OF  
OATS CEREAL**  
18 OZ BOX

**3.49**

**SKINNER  
PASTAS (YOUR  
CHOICE)**  
12 OZ BAG

**.79**

**ARMOUR  
POTTED MEAT**  
3 OZ CAN

**3/1.00**

## FRESH MEATS

**USDA "CHOICE"  
BONELESS CENTER CUT  
BEEF CHUCK ROAST**

**3.59<sub>LB</sub>**

**BAR-S BRAND "YOUR CHOICE"  
CHICKEN, TURKEY & MEAT  
HOT DOGS - 12 OZ PKG**



**.89**

**NORTHERN CORN-FED  
FRESH CUT  
BOSTON BUTT PORK  
STEAKS**

**1.79**



**ECKRICH FULLY  
COOKED ASSORTED  
SMOKED SAUSAGE**  
13-14 OZ PKG

**2/6.00**

## HEALTH & BEAUTY

**PANTENE 2IN1  
SHAMPOO**  
12.6 OZ BOTTLE



**3.99**

**GILLETTE  
SHAVING  
FOAM**  
11 OZ CAN



**1.89**

**TING ANTIFUNGAL SPRAY**  
4.5 OZ CAN

**2.99**

**VO5 SHAMPOO OR CONDITIONER**  
12.5 OZ BOTTLE

**.89**

## FROZEN FAVORITES



**PATIO  
BURRITOS**  
5 OZ

**3/1.00**



**BLUE BELL  
ICE CREAM**  
1/2 GAL ROUND

**4.99**

**BANQUET DINNERS**  
7-10 OZ

**1.19**

**GREEN GIANT STEAMERS**  
12 PK BAG

**2/3.00**

## DAIRY DELIGHTS

**MINUTE MAID  
ORANGE  
JUICE**  
59 OZ CARTON



**2.79**



**CHOBANI  
SMOOTH  
YOGURT**  
5.3 OZ

**2/1.00**

**GOLD PEAK TEA**  
52 OZ BOTTLE

**1.59**

**FAIRLIFE MILK**  
52 OZ BOTTLE

**3.99**

**PARADE TEXAS STYLE BISCUITS**  
12 OZ TUBE

**.99**

**LAUGHING COW CHEESE**  
WEDGES - 6 OZ

**2/5.00**



# Pachanga in the Park set for Sept. 29

## *South Padre Parade*

The date for Pachanga in the Park has been set for Saturday, Sept. 29. And the City of Port Isabel is inviting one and all to the biggest party of the year.

Pachanga will take place at Laguna Madre Park, located behind the Laguna Madre Youth Center off Port Road.

The party will include live music by Los Garcias Brothers, as well as Juan Garza y los Ultimos Quatro. More adventurous partygoers can enter the dance contest, jalapeño eating contest, or the grito contest. There will also be dance performances, rides for the kids, numerous food vendors and more.

Come one, come all for an evening of fun at Pachanga in the Park. The festivities will take place from 6 p.m. - 11 p.m.



## Eco Rio at Fiesta de Palmas

### *Special to the Parade*

Come to the McAllen Convention Center on Saturday and Sunday, September 22nd and 23rd, and visit Quinta Mazatlán along with other amazing exhibitors for an indoor educational adventure called “Eco Rio”.

“Eco Rio” section will be open from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. with more than 40 nature educational booths! Fiesta de Palmas, “Eco Rio” offers STEAM activities for children consisting of science, technology, engineering arts, and math. Bring your family for this

2-day event and make sure you visit “Eco Rio” an indoor educational adventure where you will be able to see and sometimes touch LIVE native animals of South Texas.

Don’t miss this chance to go “Eco Rio” and let the adventure begin. Get your passport, fill it with stickers and win a prize!

“Eco Rio” will feature wildlife professionals like Alejandro Millan handling LIVE reptiles, from ball pythons and snapping turtles to lemurs and a macaw! Come and plunge into an exciting interactive contact with all things reptilian!

Reptiles not your thing? Stop by the Victoria Texas Zoo booth to meet a LIVE ocelot, fox, skunk, javelina and more! You can also visit Sky Kings Falconry, who are dedicated to the preservation of raptors. The LIVE animals at “Eco Rio” cannot be released back into the wild for health and wellness reasons and instead are used to help educate the public about the importance of conservation. The Native American Bear Clan will also present artifacts, display an authentic teepee, and hold native dances. Stay and listen to the Native American stories (bilingual) and become part of the rich tradition of storytelling.

The event cost is Saturday \$5 for adults and free for children under 12 years old. Sunday free for all ages between 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. After 5pm Free for children under 12 and \$5 for adults. The McAllen Convention Center is located at 700 Convention Center Blvd in McAllen. For more information, contact The McAllen Convention Center at (956) 681-3801 or visit [www.mcallenconventioncenter.net](http://www.mcallenconventioncenter.net).





# SAN BENITO TO HOST NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

*Special to the Parade*

San Benito Police Department will host its 12th Annual National Night Out on Tuesday, Oct. 2 from 6-9 p.m. at Stookey Park.

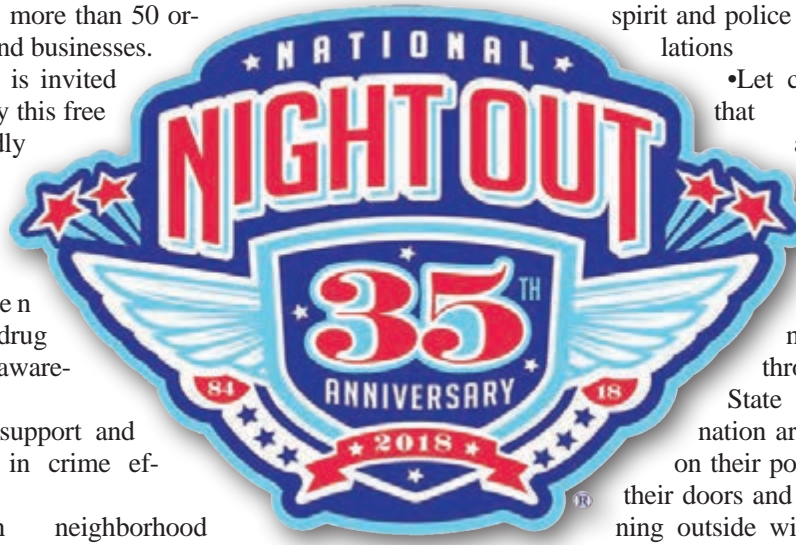
National Night Out is a great opportunity for citizens and law enforcement to partner up against crime. San Benito Police Chief Michael Galvan invites families to attend the event, meet your neighbors and commit to helping law enforcement reduce crime in the community.

Free food, music, raffle prizes and community fun will be

sponsored by more than 50 organizations and businesses.

The public is invited to come enjoy this free family friendly event. National Night Out is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
- Generate support and participation in crime efforts
- Strengthen neighborhood



spirit and police community relations

- Let criminals know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

During the event, residents in neighborhoods throughout the State and across the nation are asked to turn on their porch lights, lock their doors and spend the evening outside with their neighbors,

police officers, firefighters and EMS paramedics. Stookey Park will serve as a centralized location for this community with those officials participating.

Events such as cookouts, block parties and neighborhood walks are also encouraged simultaneously throughout the city and nationwide.

For more information about National Night Out visit <http://www.oclcorp.org/national-nightout.html> or contact Detective Benisse Gomez at the San Benito Police Department at (956)361-3880.

## RESACA CITY

• e • v • e • n • t • s •

### September 15, 2018 Cultural Indian Pow Wow

Event features live cultural performances by the Diamond Creek Crown Dancers and the Sahawe Dancers, as well as Gourd Dancing and the Pow Wow Dancers, at Veterans Memorial Academy, 2115 N. Oscar Williams Rd., San Benito, TX. 78586. Sponsored by Texas Historic Independence Celebration Assoc. Event runs from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Raffles, cakewalks and food/drink vendors featured. For more information, call Ruben Cordova at 956-793-2357.

### October 1, 2018 Adult Kickball registration opens

Registration ends Nov. 14, and the season runs Nov. 22 – Jan. 20 at Stookey Softball Fields. Call the San Benito Parks & Recreation office for details at (956)254-6065, or check [www.facebook.com/sanbenitoparksandrecreation](http://www.facebook.com/sanbenitoparksandrecreation).

### October 9, 2018 Friends of the Library Monthly Speakers Series: Words of Wisdom

The San Benito Friends of the Library present Lilian Mezquida, who will speak on the subject

of “Healthy Cooking, Part 1” from 5:30-6:15 p.m. at the Library’s Meeting Room, 101 Rose Street. For more information, please call 956-361-3860.

### October 13, 2018 South Texas Music Festival

South Texas Music Festival showcases the city’s musical heritage in San Benito. Consists of an evening concert under the stars with some of the best regional music in South Texas, food and arts vendors, cold beverages, and activities for audiences of all ages. San Benito Fairgrounds, 551 Cesar Gonzalez Parkway, San Benito, Texas 78586. Doors open at 3:00 pm (Admission is \$5 at the gate – Children 10 and under, free.) For more information, contact Luis Contreras at 956-361-3804 Ext. 418.

### November 2, 2018 Youth Soccer registration opens

Registration ends December 28, and the season runs February 6-April 3 at Stookey Soccer Fields. Call the San Benito Parks & Recreation office for details at 956-254-6065, or check [www.facebook.com/sanbenitoparksandrecreation](http://www.facebook.com/sanbenitoparksandrecreation).

### November 11, 2018 Veterans Day March & Ceremony

Remember our Proud Veterans on Veterans Day. The March of Veterans begins at 8:50 a.m. when Veterans and surviving family members are invited to march down Sam Houston Street with a police escort to the San Benito Veterans War Memorial site (Railroad Tracks and Rowson Street) for a patriotic ceremony paying tribute to our veterans who fought and died to keep our freedoms. Commemorative engraved bricks to honor your special veteran can be purchased by contacting Martha McClain at 95-361-3804 Ext. 301. To participate, or for more information, please call Victor Garza at 956-399-7464.

### November 13, 2018 Friends of the Library Monthly Speakers Series: Words of Wisdom

The San Benito Friends of the Library present Lilian Mezquida, who will speak on the subject of “Healthy Cooking Part 2” from 5:30-6:15 p.m. at the Library’s Meeting Room, 101 Rose Street. For more information, please call 956-361-3860.



### *South Padre Parade*

The cities of Port Isabel and South Padre Island will be marking the 17th anniversary of the collapse of the Queen Isabella Causeway with a ceremony to be held at the base of the Causeway in Port Isabel.

The event will be held Saturday, Sept. 15 and will begin at 10 a.m. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be moved indoors to the Port Isabel City Commission Chamber located inside City Hall, 305 E. Maxan St.

On Sept. 15, 2001, just four days after the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., the Queen Isabella Causeway was struck by a passing barge. The barge, which had been attempting to make its way underneath the center span of the bridge, hit a support pillar. Two sections of the bridge span collapsed at impact, while another collapsed a short time later.

As the accident occurred after dark, motorists driving along the Causeway were unaware that it had been damaged. Seven people died when their vehicles drove over the gap in the damaged bridge, including then fire chief of Port Isabel, Robert Harris.

Each year since the tragedy, the two cities connected by the bridge come together to remember those who died, and take turns hosting the memorial service every Sept. 15. The bridge was ultimately renamed the Queen Isabella Memorial Causeway in their honor.

# Cities to mark Causeway collapse anniversary



*You are invited...*



The City of Port Isabel and Community come together to honor and memorialize the eight lives lost in the 2001 Queen Isabella Causeway Collapse.

Saturday, September 15, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. at the base of the bridge in Port Isabel.

On the occasion of the 17th Anniversary of the Queen Isabella Causeway Collapse.

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## ASTROLOGY



# HOROSCOPES

By Holiday Mathis  
Special to the Parade



**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). A cleaning and organizing effort will be a stellar way to start the week. The endeavor will not only make your external life more organized, it will also make the inner structures of your thought process sparkle and shine. Everything you get involved in this week will be favorably affected.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). In Egyptian hieroglyphics, the ear is an often-used symbol for imploring the gods to hear the prayers of mortals. If the ear were a letter in your alphabet, you might use it often this week, too. The attention of higher ups could make a huge difference toward reaching your goals. How can you make them listen?

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Most of this week shows you in a spontaneous and generous mood. You'll certainly keep the others on their toes, as they'll quickly learn not to make assumptions about you. Your company is a treat. Maybe they'll get an entertaining story, or maybe they'll get their needs met and their wishes granted.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). The landscape of your life has changed. The change happened while you were looking right at things, only it happened so gradually that you couldn't detect it. And now, you'll have fun discovering what's new. After some exploring, you'll find it's best to adjust your expectations according to what you learn.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Younger people need to be selfish. It's a normal part of human development. They are charged with creating their own sense of identity, which cannot be accomplished without a degree of self-centeredness.

Whatever your age, this fact of youth will have impact as you, or people you love, set out to build a life.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A good dentist never pulls her own teeth, and a lawyer who represents himself has a fool for a client. You would be wise to consult other trusted experts to handle a part of your life this week, too. Sure, you could do it yourself if you really had to, but that doesn't mean you should. Let others work and advocate for you.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What you call things matters. Hunger moves when you call it fasting. A friendship changes when you use the word romance. The same cuts of surgery are feared or desired, depending on whether they are called necessary or elective. Your mood will lift when you give something a new name this week.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're ready to get into a new way of thinking about your situation. For this to happen, you'll have to let some old thoughts die. It's the way to intellectual levity. Emotional and spiritual benefits will follow in the wake. The weekend brings a rebirth of sorts. You've done this before, but this one is really special.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The gymnast aims to "stick the landing" i.e. to end the acrobatic move with both feet planted firmly on the ground without a stumble, fall or adjustment. Paradoxically, learning this kind of certainty can only come from stumbling, falling and adjusting. Be patient with yourself as you bumble toward certainty.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). So

## For the Week Beginning Sept. 16

**H**ope, like salt, is necessary for human life. Without sodium, the body cannot transmit the nerve impulses that make muscles work. Without hope, people are unmotivated to go on. In the case of both hope and salt, it doesn't take much to do the trick, and too much is harmful. Mercury and the sun enter Libra. Fantasies meet their counterbalance in truth and reason. Reasonable hopes lead to effective action.

many are involved in the argument that it seems like attendance is mandatory. While you don't want to risk being left out of the culture, isn't the fighting ridiculous? It's like blind men arguing over the colors of a rainbow. Stay out of it, and you'll have time to devote to a burgeoning new interest.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). While some friendships are like fashion that comes and goes with the seasons, you devote yourself to the sort of bonds that never go out of style. You'll focus on relationships that, like classic jeans, have suffered wear and tear over time and are somehow better for it -- softer, more comfortable and more valuable.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Knowing everything about the way clouds are formed will never be enough to know the particular shape any cloud will take. Similarly, you're not going to know the result of this project until you finish it. So revel in the suspense and keep working. You're in for experiencing something you couldn't have predicted.

**THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS:** You are the emotional ballast of your tribe. Though sometimes you feel like you're in a lowered position, you improve the stability of the group just by being there. And don't worry, whether you seek it or not, you'll get more praise and attention than you know what to do with starting in November. What happens in January may leave you stroking your chin, but don't stay bewildered. This is only the beginning. Find out more, and then act. This is a lucky break. Travel in July is magical.

Write Holiday Mathis at Holiday-Mathis@gmail.com.

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Friday, Sept. 14 - Thursday, Sept. 20

**xThe Predator**  
(R)

2:10 4:30 7:10

**Searching**  
(PG13)

2:00 4:45 7:30

**xThe Nun**  
(R)

2:20 4:40 7:20

**Crazy Rich Asians**  
(PG13)

1:40 4:20 7:00

x No passes accepted.





# the RUNS

## RGV RUN/WALK, BICYCLE & OBSTACLE EVENTS

### **DATE: SATURDAY, SEPT. 15, 2018**

Time: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Event: Zombie Charge - Obstacle Course 5K  
Where: TBA, South Padre Island  
More Info: [zombiecharge.com](http://zombiecharge.com)

### **DATE: SATURDAY, SEPT. 29, 2018**

Time: TBA  
Event: Run Like a Princess 5K  
Where: Mission Hike & Bike Trails, 1 mile south of Expressway 83 on Conway Avenue, Mission  
More Info: [www.soleracing.org](http://www.soleracing.org)  
Cost: TBA

### **DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2018**

Time: 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.  
Event: Sabal Palm Trail Run 5K  
Where: Sabal Palm Sanctuary, 8435 Sabal Palm Rd., Brownsville  
More Info: [www.2runcrew.org](http://www.2runcrew.org)  
Cost: Tickets go on sale July 29

### **DATE: OCTOBER 7, 2018**

Time: 8:30 a.m. - registration. 10 a.m. walk  
Event: 15th Annual Walk for Women – Breast Cancer Awareness Walk  
Where: Louie's Backyard, 2305 Laguna Blvd., SPI  
More Info: [spiwalkforwomen.org](http://spiwalkforwomen.org)

### **DATE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2018**

Time: 8 a.m.  
Event: Ride for Rotary – Queen Isabella Causeway Cross 2018  
Where: Brownsville Event Center, 1 Event Ct., Brownsville  
More Info: (956)648-5857, (956)455-4243  
Cost: \$40

### **DATE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2018**

Time: 6:30 a.m.  
Event: Historic Brownsville International Half Marathon  
Where: TSC ITEC Center, 301 Mexico Blvd., Brownsville  
More Info: [www.2runcrew.org](http://www.2runcrew.org)  
Cost: TBA

### **DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2018**

Time: TBA  
Event: Los Muertos 5K  
Where: Mission Hike & Bike Trails, 1 mile south of Expressway 83 on Conway Avenue, Mission  
More Info: [www.soleracing.org](http://www.soleracing.org)  
Cost: TBA

### **DATE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2018**

Time: 8 a.m.  
Event: Monarch Run 5K & 1 mile  
Where: National Butterfly Center, 3333 Butterfly Park, Mission  
More Info: [www.2runcrew.org/monarch-5k](http://www.2runcrew.org/monarch-5k)  
Cost: TBA

### **DATE: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2018**

Time: 7 a.m.  
Event: 3rd Annual Raul Alcala Gran Fondo  
Where: Schlitterbahn Park, 100 Padre Blvd., SPI  
More Info: [www.raulalcala.com/spi](http://www.raulalcala.com/spi)

### **DATE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2018**

Time: 5 p.m. – 10 p.m.  
Event: Blacklight Run 5K  
Where: Louie's Backyard, 2305 Laguna Blvd., SPI  
More Info: [blacklightrun.com/locations/southpadre](http://blacklightrun.com/locations/southpadre)

### **DATE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2018**

Time: TBA  
Event: Cactus Thorn 5/10/15K  
Where: Mission Hike & Bike Trails, 1 mile south of Expressway 83 on Conway Avenue, Mission  
More Info: [www.soleracing.org](http://www.soleracing.org)  
Cost: TBA

### **DATE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2018**

Time: TBA  
Event: Elf Dash 5K & 1 mile fun run  
Where: TBA  
More Info: [www.2runcrew.org](http://www.2runcrew.org)  
Cost: TBA

### **DATE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2018**

Time: 8 a.m.  
Event: 13.1 Chick-Fil-A RGV Half Marathon and 3-person half-marathon  
Where: Mission High School, 1802 Cleo Dawson, Mission  
More Info: [Etlopez15@gmail.com](mailto:Etlopez15@gmail.com), [turbobicycles75@gmail.com](mailto:turbobicycles75@gmail.com)  
Cost: \$30-70

### **DATE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2018**

Time: TBA  
Event: Resolution 5K  
Where: Mission Hike & Bike Trails, 1 mile south of Expressway 83 on Conway Avenue, Mission  
More Info: [www.soleracing.org](http://www.soleracing.org)  
Cost: TBA

### **DATE: SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2019**

Time: TBA  
Event: McAllen Marathon Scott Crane Memorial Run 2019  
Where: McAllen Convention Center, 700 Convention Center Blvd., McAllen  
More Info: [www.mcallenmarathon.com](http://www.mcallenmarathon.com)  
Cost: \$30-70



## MOVIE REVIEW



# 'Peppermint' and 'The Nun'

## Jennifer Garner, Born-Again Butt-Kicker; Taissa Farmiga in Search of Scary

*Special to the Parade*

### 'PEPPERMINT'

I can't think what kind of movie would merit the dumb-bunny title of this one, but it's not this one. True, there is a cute little girl nibbling at a peppermint ice cream cone near the beginning, as she's leaving a twinkly Christmas fair with her mom and dad. But as soon as all three of these people are mowed down by drug thugs from a passing hit wagon, the movie heads off in a grim, witless direction from which it never deviates.

The only one not killed in the plot-launching bullet storm is the mom, Riley North (Jennifer Garner). She's a sunny suburban bank employee who seems an unlikely wife for the sort of guy (Jeff Hephner) who'd agree to be the wheelman for a drug rip-off that's sure to infuriate a local crime kingpin. But she is, and he does, and by the time he's changed his mind about taking part in this caper, it's too late: the kingpin, one Diego Garcia (Juan Pablo Raba), has already ordered hits on all involved.

A sympathetic detective named Carmichael (John Gallagher Jr.) urges Riley to finger her heavily neck-tattooed assailants in a lineup, and she does. But the system turns out to be terminally corrupt, and a bought-and-paid-for judge lets the 'bangers go (we see them chuckling). Riley is loudly outraged, so the judge orders her sent to a psych facility to deal with her anger-management issues. Nascent badass that she is, though, Riley never arrives.

Five years later she's back, with a bag full of guns, knives and knuckle-dusters and an impressive line in bone-cracking martial arts moves. She warms up by hanging the dead bodies of three of Diego's goons from a Ferris wheel. Then she pays a visit to the bent judge, and leaves him really wishing she hadn't. As she battles her way up through the

ranks of Diego's hooligans — snapping arms, bashing teeth, nailing hands to tables — she strains Diego's meager store of cordiality to its limits. "Put that bitch in a box," he tells an under-thug.

There is nothing else to this story (well, apart from some amusing payback Riley downloads on a snotty neighbor). It's a straight revenge thriller, which is fine. The movie might have provided a fun return to Garner's butt-thumping "Alias" roots. But the script, by Chad St. John (also responsible for "London Has Fallen"), carefully avoids interrupting Riley's progress toward a predictable Diego-nado with any intrusion of surprise. And director Pierre Morel, once the action master of "District 13," can't keep all the scenes of set-piece violence from melting together into an under-lit puddle of mayhem.

There are no memorable characters to liven things up, either. After establishing Riley's maternal bona fides in early scenes with her soon-to-be-dead daughter (Cailey Fleming), the story locks her down into dead-eyed killing-machine mode all the way to the end. Gallagher and fellow cops John Ortiz and Method Man warm up the proceedings a bit, but most everybody else is a Hispanic hood waiting to be converted into a stain on a wall or a smear on the sidewalk. You know what's coming, and it's not really worth waiting around for.

### 'THE NUN'

This fifth installment in the "Conjuring" horror series has one compelling element: its star. Taissa Farmiga, of "American Horror Story," is the younger sister of Vera Farmiga, who co-pilots the "Conjuring" mothership, and she has an ethereal sweetness that's just right for the role of a young Catholic novitiate forced to face off against, as they say, an ancient evil. In a movie so beholden to the horror tradition of stylish murk, Farmiga's bright face — which recalls that of Zoe Kazan a little bit — is a beacon that you have to hope will light her way to better films.

"The Nun" is autopilot horror. It feels throughout as if preset switches were triggering the rotating wall crosses, the overworked fog machines, the cheap pop-up terrors. The story, by Gary Dauberman, who's been imported from the "Annabelle" wing of the "Conjuring" empire, is unblushingly generic. After a young nun hangs herself at a 13th-century abbey in the spooky mountains of Romania, an exorcist priest named Father Burke (Demian Bichir) is dispatched from the Vatican to determine what's up. He is directed to bring along with him a novice called Sister Irene (Farmiga), who in addition to having not yet taken her vows is also prone to weird dreams.

Upon arriving, Burke and Irene make the acquaintance of a typical Transylvanian character — a French-Canadian peasant who calls himself "Frenchie" (Jonas Bloquet). Frenchy has a little carriage that immediately comes in handy and a shotgun that will soon enough.

The inside of the abbey (which is real — the movie was shot in Romania) is dark and authentically forsaken-looking. (There's a sign in the basement that announces "God ends here"). There are many long corridors, and many, many flickering candles, plus occasional ravens, demon hands clawing their way through walls, and a full-service cemetery with coffins open and awaiting you. There's also an ancient abbess who speaks from behind a black veil and ... well, it's all very creepy. Not least the titular nun, even though we've seen her before in "The Conjuring 2" and briefly in "Annabelle: Creation."

The story of course hooks up with other strands of the "Conjuring" master narrative (and we also make the acquaintance of a new character who will be turning up to vomit snakes at us in some future episode). But it's awfully thin stuff for a 90-minute movie, and apart from the shameless jump scares, it's not all that frightening, either. Loyal "Conjuring" fans deserve better. (Creators Syndicate)



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## DEADLINES

**Thursday's Parade**  
**Tuesday 12:00 p.m.**

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