



# Free Magazine

August 2025



Explore Harlingen  
Magazine Online



Cover Photo courtesy of Reyna Family Foundation

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# REGISTER YOUR CHILD

for the 2025-2026 school year



## ELEMENTARY

- School for 3-year-olds through Headstart Ninos, Inc.
- Full day Pre-K for all 4-year-olds
- Campus-based clubs and organizations
- Special education programs and opportunities
- A dedicated Early Childhood Academy for Pre-K and Kindergarten
- Robotics/STEM focus
- Chess
- UIL
- Swimming lessons for all second graders
- After school programs
- 11 specialty campuses



## MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Pre-AP courses
- Competitive UIL arts and athletics programs
- Campus-based clubs and organizations
- Special education programs and opportunities
- Pre-athletics and athletics
- State and nationally recognized speech, drama, and debate programs
- Award winning orchestra, band, and choir programs
- After school programs
- 3 specialty campuses



## HIGH SCHOOL

- AP and Dual Credit courses
- Campus-based clubs and organizations
- Special education programs and opportunities
- State and nationally recognized 5A and 6A athletic programs
- State and nationally recognized Harlingen Performing Arts Conservatory
- State and nationally recognized fine arts programs (band, choir, orchestra)
- 35 Industry-Recognized Certification Opportunities through 12 Career Academies
- 2 specialty campuses



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# From the Editor

By Lisa Campos

This is Lisa from Explore Harlingen. Welcome to the 23rd issue of the Explore Harlingen Magazine: A Local's Guide to Harlingen, an entertainment magazine about Harlingen, Texas!

For nearly 12 years, I have been informing locals and visitors about current events, activities, and family-owned businesses in Harlingen primarily on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/ExploreHarlingen)

ExploreHarlingen). I also have an online presence with my website, [www.exploreharlingenblog.com](http://www.exploreharlingenblog.com), and social media accounts on Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube (@exploreharlingen).

In this issue, we discuss back-to-school giveaways, a locally owned ceviche restaurant, a dog rescue, a fundraiser for M.I. Academy, and more.

The Explore Harlingen Magazine is available digitally on my website at [www.exploreharlingenblog.com/magazine](http://www.exploreharlingenblog.com/magazine) (see QR code on the cover). Or you can pick up a copy at the first of every month locally around



Courtesy of Lisa Campos

town (locations are listed on my website). Additionally, you can contact Victor Moreno below to request having the magazine mailed to you every month.♦

Lisa Campos  
Editor-in-Chief

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(calls only, no text)

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## HARLINGEN ART NIGHT



DOWNTOWN  
HARLINGEN

Every Last Friday  
of the Month  
7:00 - 10:00 pm

OVER 70 LOCAL ARTISTS  
LIVE MUSIC AND MORE

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of the Month



- Music
- Food
- Treasures



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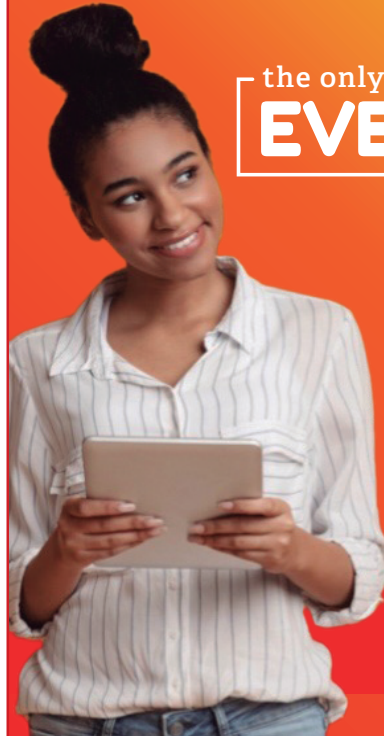
#### Business Hours

Tuesday & Wednesday 11 am-8pm  
Thursday & Friday 11 am-9pm  
Saturday 5 pm-9pm  
Sunday & Monday- Closed



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DAILY 11AM - 7PM**



**BENEFITING FOSTER CHILDREN IN THE RGV**

**Thursday, August 7th - 6:30PM**



## On the Cover

# Barbecue, Backpacks & Big Hearts: Reyna's Back-to-School Tradition in its 8th Year

By Abigail Muñiz-Garcia

It was the summer of 2018, and Reyna's BBQ & Cocina had just opened its Weslaco location in May. Children were out for summer break with many heading to the beach. But in late June, an event that the National Weather Service called The Great June 2018 Flood of the Rio Grande Valley (RGV), impacted the area costing the RGV millions.

"The city of Weslaco got flooded pretty bad," Zeke Reyna, owner of



*Courtesy of Reyna Family Foundation*



*Courtesy of Reyna Family Foundation*

Reyna's BBQ & Cocina remembers. "A lot of neighborhoods, a lot of people were going to lose their homes."

One morning that week, after a significant amount of rain had devastated the area, Reyna realized people weren't going to be able to reach their restaurant due to flooding. He decided to give away the food they were preparing for the day.

"It was the right thing





*Courtesy of Reyna Family Foundation*



*Courtesy of Reyna Family Foundation*

to do. It's who and what we are about," Reyna said. "We gave away hundreds, thousands of sandwiches. It was a ton."

Reyna remembers the "beautiful response" not only from Weslaco but

the whole RGV. This event led Reyna to start planning a back-to-school giveaway.

"We started raising some funds to do a back-to-school giveaway. That's how it started...



*Courtesy of Reyna Family Foundation*

and it started growing and growing," he said.

Reyna's BBQ & Cocina, along with the Reyna Family Foundation, a nonprofit organization Zeke and his family founded, have hosted these events both in the Weslaco and Harlingen restaurant locations. This year will be their eighth year. They, along with other sponsors, give away backpacks filled with school supplies to students in the community. This year will mark the first time they add McAllen to the list at Reyna's BBQ &

Cocina's newest location. They have given out more than 500 backpacks per location in the past, and they aren't slowing down.

"The last two to four years have been incredibly meaningful because of the inflation that has unfortunately occurred in our economy," he said. "So to see the kids show up... it's been awesome."

Erika Reyna, Zeke's wife, says that the Reyna Family Foundation is incredibly blessed to host this event annually.

"As a mom, I know





*Courtesy of Reyna Family Foundation*

**REYNA FAMILY FOUNDATION**

● **8TH ANNUAL**

**Back to School**

**GIVEAWAY**

**DRIVE-THRU EVENTS**

**FRIDAY, AUG 1**  
9 AM - 10:30 AM  
REYNA'S BBQ & COCINA  
7912 N 10TH ST, MCALLEN

**SATURDAY, AUG 2**  
9 AM - 10:30 AM  
REYNA'S BBQ & COCINA  
812 I-2, WESLACO

**SATURDAY, AUG 2**  
9 AM - 10:30 AM  
REYNA'S BBQ & COCINA  
2410 TX-54 SPUR, HARLINGEN

**THANK YOU SPONSORS!**

REYNA DEVELOPMENT & CONSTRUCTION, EZEQUIEL REYNA LAW OFFICE, T40 TELEMUNDO, 911 Pain Management, Reyna's BBQ & COCINA, Lone Star National Bank, j3town, TIERRA SANTA GOLF COURSE, OPEN MRI, FIRST COMMUNITY BANK, Tony's, BPM, DQ, and others.

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST - SCHOOL-AGED STUDENTS ONLY - CHILD MUST BE PRESENT

how overwhelming the back-to-school season can be," she said. This event is our way of giving back, lifting up families, and making a positive impact on their back-to-school experience."

She mentioned that the past few years, the Weslaco Dreamettes have been instrumental in ensuring everything for the drive is ready. They help prepare and hand out backpacks.

For Erika, the giveaway is more than just backpacks and school supplies.

"It's about showing up for our community, supporting the children of our future, and letting every child know they

are seen, valued, and capable of great things. It's a tradition rooted in love, and we're honored to continue it year after year," she said.

The Reyna Family Foundation's 8th Annual Back to School Giveaway will be held Friday, August 1 at their McAllen location, and Saturday, August 2 at their Weslaco and Harlingen restaurants. The drive-thru event will be held from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. For more information, follow Reyna's BBQ & Cocina on Instagram and Facebook (@reynasbarbq) and visit reynafamilyfoundation.com. ♦



# Back to School Events Around the RGV

BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR

AUGUST 1, 5:30 PM TO 8:30 PM

BROWNSVILLE SPORTS PARK



BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR

Brownsville Sports Park  
1000 Sports Park Blvd  
Brownsville, TX 77826

Friday, August 1, 2025  
5:30pm - 8:30pm

2nd Annual Back to School Fair presented by  
Driscoll Health Plan and Brownsville Police Dept.

 **BACKPACKS & SCHOOL SUPPLIES**  
First 2,000 attendees until supplies last.

 **HEALTH CARE APPLICATION ASSISTANCE**

 **VISION, DENTAL, & LIVER SCREENINGS\***  
\*No food or drinks for 4+ hours before liver screening.

 **COMMUNITY RESOURCES**  
Over 40 resources available.

 **SPORTS PHYSICALS**  
Pre-registration required.

No cost to attend. Students must be present for services and supplies.

Services and offerings are subject to change.

To pre-register for sports physicals, please scan the QR code.





For more information, contact:  
Seberiano Lopez | 956-312-0990

Follow Us!  
  
driscollhealthplan.com



OUT-146/06/25

BACK TO SCHOOL FESTIVAL

AUGUST 2, 9 AM TO 11 AM

CHICK-FIL-A MORRISON ROAD (BROWNSVILLE)



YOU'RE INVITED TO

BACK TO SCHOOL FESTIVAL

AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup>

9:00-11:00AM

Get ready for an amazing school year!

Join is for an awesome community event to kick off the school year.

Bring the whole family and let's celebrate the new school year together.

CHICKEN GITS A+

CHICK-FIL-A

FUN ACTIVITIES, LOCAL VENDOR, MUSIC AND MORE.



BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

AUGUST 2, 9 AM TO 1 PM

LA PLAZA MALL (MCALLEN)

RIO GRANDE VALLEY'S  
2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2025



WHAT TO EXPECT

★ FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND HAIRCUTS.

★ FOOD, VENDORS & GIVEAWAYS

★ MUSIC, GAMES & ENTERTAINMENT

HOSTED BY

CASAS UNIDAS NON-PROFIT ORG.

At 281 Saloon From 9 AM To 12 PM

EXHIBITORS

Texas Southmost College, BISD, Porter ECHS, Southern Careers Institute, Sam's Club, H-E-B, Valdez Petting Zoo, PHP, On Call Financial Solutions, Martinez Karate Dojo, and more!

@casasunidasnpo Casasunidasnpo@gmail.com (956)336-0546

3RD ANNUAL HEALTH & COMMUNITY BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

AUGUST 5, 4 PM TO 6:30 PM

LLANO GRANDE EVENT CENTER (MERCEDES)

THE HIDALGO COUNTY HEALTH DEPT. & LLANO GRANDE RESORT & GOLF CLUB PRESENTS

3RD ANNUAL HEALTH & COMMUNITY BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

AUGUST 5TH, 2025  
4:00PM-6:30PM

LLANO GRANDE EVENT CENTER  
2215 E WEST BLVD MERCEDES, TX 78570

COME BY TO ENJOY THIS EVENT'S SERVICES SUCH AS RESOURCES FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS, SOCIAL SERVICES, AND MEETING YOUR LOCAL FIRST RESPONDERS

FREE BACKPACKS  
SCHOOL SUPPLIES  
SPORTS PHYSICALS  
LIVER SCANS  
FOOD DRIVE  
AND MORE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

IMMUNIZATIONS  
FOR THOSE WHO QUALIFY:  
-TVC \$10 PER DOSE FOR CHILDREN (18 YRS. AND UNDER)  
FOR ADULTS (19 YRS. AND OVER) \$20  
-PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR INSURANCE CHIP, MEDICAID, AETNA, BLUE CROSS, OR UNITED HEALTHCARE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US AT (956)383-6221  
FOR DIRECTIONS, CONTACT US AT: (956)565-1506



August 2025

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# Back to School Events Around the RGV

**BACK TO SCHOOL YOUTH RODEO**  
AUGUST 23, 9 AM  
11584 MARINA ROAD (RAYMONDVILLE)



**BACK TO SCHOOL YOUTH RODEO**  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 23<sup>RD</sup>  
BOOKS OPEN AT 9 RODEO STARTS AT 10

**EVENTS:**  
• BARRELS  
• POLES  
• GOAT TAP/TYING  
• BREAKAWAY\*

**AGE DIVISION:**  
• LEADLINE (0-5)  
• PEEWEE (6-9)  
• JUNIORS (10-14)  
• SENIORS (15-19)

COGGINS REQUIRED!

**\$25 ENTRY EACH EVENT**  
Prizes to 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> in each event for each age division.

**\$10 FOR SPECTATORS**  
Bring 5 school supply items and get 1 free exhibition.

**Music & Awards to Follow Rodeo!**

CONTACT FOR ANY QUESTIONS:  
JACOB (361) 331 - 3962  
BRIANNA (956) 742 - 2660  
VICTORIA (361) 455 - 1446

11584 Marina Road, Raymondville, Texas

**BACK TO SCHOOL BASH**  
AUGUST 10, 5 PM TO 8 PM  
MUSTANG LOUNGE/YARD (WESLACO)

**4TH ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL BASH**  
AT MUSTANG LOUNGE/YARD  
SUNDAY AUGUST 10TH, 2025  
5PM-8PM  
(OR UNTIL SUPPLIES LAST)

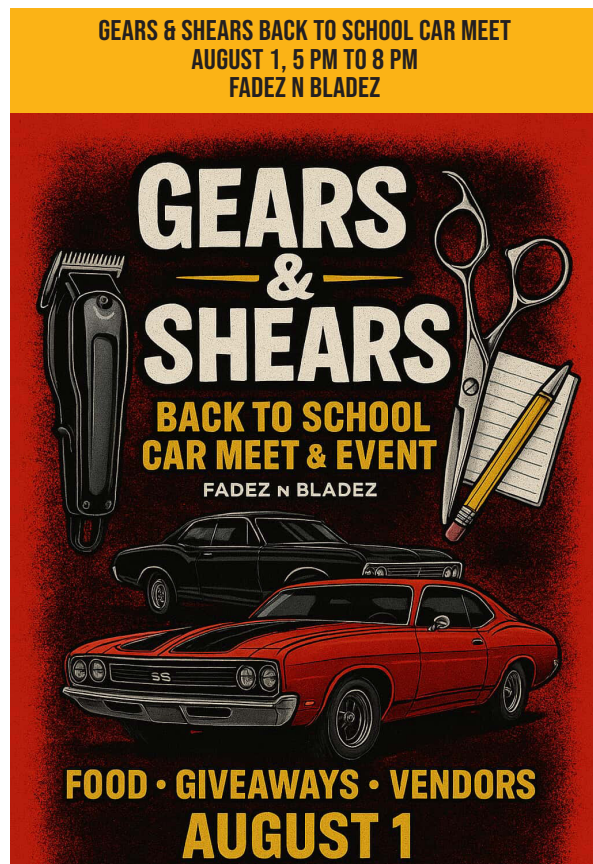
3610 E. EXPRESSWAY, WESLACO, TEXAS 78596

- ★ SCHOOL SUPPLIES & GIVEAWAYS
- ★ FREE FOOD & HAIR CUTS
- ★ FUN GAMES & RIDES

CHILD MUST BE PRESENT TO RECEIVE BACKPACK WITH SUPPLIES & OTHER GOODIES!

**ADVANCED URGENT CARE**

**GEARS & SHEARS BACK TO SCHOOL CAR MEET**  
AUGUST 1, 5 PM TO 8 PM  
FADEZ N BLADEZ



**GEARS & SHEARS**  
**BACK TO SCHOOL CAR MEET & EVENT**  
FADEZ N BLADEZ

**FOOD • GIVEAWAYS • VENDORS**  
**AUGUST 1**

**4TH ANNUAL FREE BACK TO SCHOOL HAIRCUTS**  
AUGUST 4, 10 AM TO 6 PM  
COMBES COMMUNITY CENTER



**Fourth Annual FREE BACK TO SCHOOL HAIRCUTS**  
"ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL CHILDREN FROM COMBES"  
Free Backpacks

**Walk In Only**

**CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT**  
**When:** Monday, August 4, 2025 from 10 am to 6 pm  
**Where:** Combes Community Center, 21646 Hand Road  
**Haircuts By:** Mary David, Angels Hair; Art Marroquin, 107 Cutz & Mireya's Beauty Institution  
Any Questions please contact City Secretary JoAnn Nino 956-425-7131  
email: jduarte@townofcombes.com



# Back to School Events Around the RGV

BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY

AUGUST 3, 6 PM TO 8:30 PM

FAITH PLEASES GOD CHURCH

JESUS LOVES HARLINGEN

**BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY**

August 3, 2025 6-8:30 PM

**FREE FUN**

SCHOOL SUPPLIES  
HAIRCUTS  
FOOD  
BOUNCERS  
GAMES

GIVEAWAYS!!!

Faith Pleases God Church  
4501 W. Expressway 83  
Harlingen TX 78552

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

AUGUST 7, 6 PM

SAN JUAN MUNICIPAL PARK

**SAN JUAN**

2025 NATIONAL NIGHT Out

POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7TH AT 6:00 PM

FREE BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES

~ WHILE SUPPLIES LAST ~

**SAN JUAN MUNICIPAL PARK**  
506 US-83 BUS, SAN JUAN, TX 78589

Live DJ, Vendors, Entertainment, Giveaways, & More!

For more information please contact: Cpl. V. Hernandez  
(956) 685-0877 - yhernandez@sanjuanpolice.com

THE SAN JUAN POLICE DEPARTMENT CORDIALLY INVITE YOUR DEPARTMENT TO JOIN THE CITY OF SAN JUAN'S NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENT. COME OUT AND SUPPORT OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES!

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

AUGUST 2, 9 AM TO 1 PM

LA PLAZA MALL (MCALLEN)

Radio Para Mi

**BACK TO SCHOOL BASH**

2025

**SATURDAY AUGUST 2ND**

9AM- 1PM

**LA PLAZA**

A SIMON MALL

**SUPER TEJANO JOZ!**

**IT WILL BE AMAZING!**

**Come and have fun with us!**

- ★ TABLETS
- ★ GIFTS CARDS
- ★ BEACH WATERPARK TICKETS AND STAY ON SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
- ★ TICKETS FOR BANDA MS

Backpacks with School Supplies  
First Come, First Serve





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Harlingen Convention Center

**Dress Show Sponsor**

Grand Prize  
Quinceañera Dress

**August 10, 2025**  
1:00 pm-5:00 pm  
(956) 659-9099



# ANJELAH JOHNSON-REYES

THE FAMILY REUNION TOUR

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22  
MCALLEN PERFORMING  
ARTS CENTER

LIVE NATION



**TOPGOLF PHARR**  
1901 I-2 PHARR, TX

**4PM-9PM**  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 3**



MARKETSBY LILAS & 956MARKETS

**DINO FEST**  
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FREE ENTRY ▫ OUTDOORS ▫ VENDORS ▫  
DINO RIDES ▫ DINO SHOW ▫ FOOD ▫ DRINKS  
▫ FAMILY & PET FRIENDLY

**HARLINGEN BAZAAR**  
PRESENTS

**FREE EVENT**  
**SUMMERWEEN**

**SIP N SHOP**  
**VENDORS WANTED**

**AUG 2, 2025** **FREE** **COSTUME CONTEST** **STARTS 5PM-10PM**  
**BEER**  
**CANDY**

**HALLOWEEN INDOOR MARKET**  
**OVER 40+ VENDORS**

**112 W JACKSON ST HARLINGEN TX 78550**  
**CONTACT: 956-510-8083 OR 956-535-8312**

**PHARR PARKS AND RECREATION PRESENTS**

**SNEAKER PHEST**

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**AUG 16<sup>TH</sup>**

**JOSE "PEPE" SALINAS RECREATION CENTER**  
**1011 W. KELLY AVE. PHARR, TX**  
**11AM - 6PM**

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**Harlingen Public Library**

**PLANT SWAP**

**SATURDAY AUGUST 30<sup>TH</sup>**

- 11:00AM - 1:00PM
- Auditorium
- Register 956-216-5821

**Must Bring Plants to Swap**



# Recipes



*Courtesy of Mamie Moon*

**By Mamie Moon**

In the summer, I find it most satisfying to create fresh and easy recipes like the Easy Taco Salad.

## Ingredients:

- 1 pound of turkey ground beef
- Pinch of salt and pepper
- 1 teaspoon of garlic powder
- 1 diced onion
- 1 diced tomato
- 2 cut and smushed ripe avocados
- 1 small bag of shredded sharp

# Easy Taco Salad

- cheddar cheese
- Handful of your choice of green (I prefer fresh spinach)
- Juice from one lime (optional)

## Instructions:

1. Let's start by adding the turkey ground beef to a large skillet at a medium to high heat. Add salt, pepper, and garlic powder. Let it cook for about 25 minutes. With ground turkey, you always want to make sure the meat is thoroughly cooked.
2. While the turkey is cooking, get a good-sized salad bowl and add your green to the bottom of it.
3. When the meat has finished cooking, add the warm meat on top of your greens followed by the shredded sharp cheddar so it melts on top.



*Courtesy of Mamie Moon*

4. Top it off with the onion, tomato, and smushed avocado.
5. I like to add juice from one whole lime to finish.

I hope you find this to be a delightfully easy yet filling recipe.

*Mamie Moon, owner of Mamie Bakes, turned Keto baker when she was diagnosed with Crohn's disease in 2005. She ditched sugar, gluten, and lactose and became*

*the boss of her own health. She is a home-based Keto baker whose treats can be purchased and picked up locally in Harlingen. ♦*



@\_MAMIEBAKES\_

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Harlingen TX 78550**





## Local Flavors

# Always Fresh, Flavorful, and Cool: Ceviche Ceviche

By Laisa Chavez Macias

This summer has been steamy, and finding different ways to beat the heat is on everyone's mind. Enter The Original Custom Ceviche Ceviche, serving refreshing meals that are sure to keep you cool and satisfied.

A little backstory....

Carlos Alaniz and his wife Alana first began experimenting at home with non-conventional combinations of fresh seafood, fruits, and vegetables. Each of them had jobs



Courtesy of Laisa Chavez Macias



Courtesy of Ceviche Ceviche

working alongside local seafood plants. Alana, a pescatarian, knew firsthand how few restaurants were offering fresh food options that catered to vegetarians and pescatarians such as herself. Most restaurants in their area at the time only offered fried fish and shrimp. Therefore, in 2014 they decided to bring their ceviche concept to the public, and the first Ceviche Ceviche was born!

Making the vision a reality was not as easy as it sounded. As with most startups, overcoming obstacles, working long

hours, and finding a good workflow took some time. Plus, their biggest competitors were serving ceviche as an appetizer while Carlos and Alana were serving up totally new variations of ceviche as the main course.

Slowly but surely, they found their footing, and people looking for something fresh found them. Ceviche Ceviche began to grow, and grow, and grow. They became a staple on South Padre Island, with customers driving in from all over the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) just to enjoy their fresh food. It wasn't long





*Courtesy of Carlos Alaniz*

before they caught the eye of Shane McAuliffe, and The Texas Bucket List came knocking. With this growing popularity, they knew it was the perfect time to expand. Today, you don't have to drive all the way to South Padre Island to get your fix. We are blessed to have a little slice of this coastal deliciousness right here in Harlingen, TX.

Located at 2010 S. 77 Sunshine Strip Suite B, Carlos, Alana, and their team feel extremely grateful to be able to

serve the Harlingen community. The love and support they feel is deeply appreciated. They are so thankful to each and every person "who stops in and spreads good vibes and helps our business," expressed Alana.

If you haven't made it into the Harlingen location, be sure to stop by to enjoy one of their local ceviche favorites. Or get creative and customize your own culinary masterpiece. Choose from Mahi, Texas Gulf shrimp, a mix of



*Courtesy of Ceviche Ceviche*

both Mahi and shrimp, or Ahi tuna, then add your own flare using the large selection of fresh fruits and vegetables the ceviche bar has to offer. As Carlos says, "just let the ingredients speak for themselves."

### **Ceviche Ceviche Harlingen**

**Address:** 2010 S. 77

Sunshine Strip, Suite B,  
Harlingen, TX 78550

**Phone:** 956-428-0797

**Follow on Facebook:** @  
CevicheCevicheHarlingen

**Hours:** Sunday,  
12 pm to 6 pm  
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## **Recurring Events**

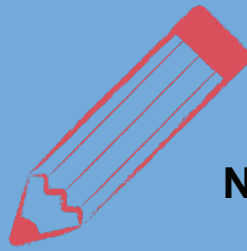
**Downtown Market Days**  
First Saturday (August 2),  
9 am to 3 pm  
Jackson Street and Centennial  
Plaza

**The Market at Wild August Nursery  
and Flower Farm**  
Every Friday night  
(August 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29),  
6 pm to 9 pm  
16802 Garrett Road

**Valle Vista Mall Market Days**  
Every 2nd Saturday (August 9),  
11 am to 7 pm

**Downtown at Sundown**  
Every 3rd Saturday (seasonal)  
(August 16)  
7 pm to 10 pm  
Lozano Plaza and "A" Street

**Harlingen Art Night**  
Last Friday (August 29),  
7 pm to 10 pm  
"A" Street and Jackson



**Chicken BBQ Fundraiser**  
August 2, 11 am  
New American Legion Post 205

**Summerween Sip and Shop**  
August 2, 5 pm to 10 pm  
Harlingen Bazaar

**Sweet Treats**  
August 7, 2 pm to 4 pm  
Frost Bank, 1514 W. Tyler Ave.

**5th Annual Trivia Night**  
benefitting Sunny Glen Children's  
Home  
August 7, 6:30 pm  
101 E. Jackson

**Kill Lonely**  
August 9, 9 pm  
Hop Shop

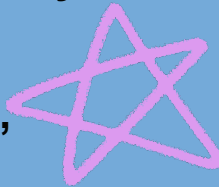
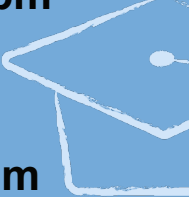
**First day of school, HCISD**  
August 12

**Harlingen South Hawks Football**  
vs. Sharyland Rattlers  
August 14, 7 pm  
Boggus Stadium

**Harlingen Cardinals Football vs.**  
McAllen Bulldogs  
August 15, 7 pm  
Boggus Stadium

**Brunch in Blue Benefitting Blue**  
Sunday  
August 16, 10 am  
Stefanos Brooklyn Pizza

**Ignition United Car Show**  
August 17, 12 noon  
Harlingen Convention Center



## **August Special Events**

**Gears & Shears**  
Back to School Car Meet  
August 1, 5 pm to 8 pm  
Fadéz n Bladez

**Rotary Hearts of Giving**  
August 2, 8 am to 10 am  
Target





**2025 Tennis Fan Day**  
August 23, 6 pm to 9 pm  
HEB Tennis Center



**Full Moon Market**  
August 9, 6 pm to 10 pm  
Feather & Sage Apothecary  
(San Benito)

**Harlingen Hawks South Football**  
vs. Nikki Rowe Warriors  
August 29, 7:30 pm  
Boggus Stadium

**Indoor Dance with De Parranda**  
August 9, 8 pm  
Silverado Saloon (La Feria)

**Plant Swap**  
August 30, 11 am to 1 pm  
Harlingen Public Library  
Auditorium

**The Soul of South Texas**  
Summer Concert Series: Gary Allan  
August 9, 7 pm  
San Benito Fairgrounds

## **Beyond Harlingen**

**The Soul of South Texas Summer**  
Concert Series: Midland and  
Buck'n'Crazy  
August 1, 7 pm  
San Benito Fairgrounds

**Sneaker Phest Buy Sell Trade**  
August 16, 11 am to 6 pm  
Jose "Pepe" Salinas Recreation  
Center (Pharr)

**Battle the Blaze**  
Water Day with Primera VFD  
August 2, 2 pm to 6 pm  
Primera City Park

**The Soul of South Texas**  
Summer Concert Series:  
Steve Trevino  
August 16, 6 pm  
San Benito Fairgrounds

**10 Year Bash**  
August 2, 5 pm  
Camp Rio (Brownsville)

**Anjelah Johnson-Reyes**  
The Family Reunion Tour  
August 22, 7:30 pm  
McAllen Performing Arts Center

**Ram Herrera**  
August 2, 6 pm  
The Broken Sprocket (Brownsville)

**Dino Fest**  
August 3, 4pm to 9 pm  
Topgolf Pharr

**2nd Annual Spicy &  
Fancy 5K Run**  
August 9, 7 am  
Edinburg Municipal Park

**Back  
to  
school**



*Events subject to change.*

*Check Explore Harlingen  
on Facebook for the latest  
updates.*



# Moves, Adds, and Changes

By Lisa Campos

This column discusses business-related updates in Harlingen.

## Awards

On June 17, the Greater Chamber of Harlingen was awarded 1st Place for Media Excellence at the 2025 Texas Chamber of Commerce Executives Conference (TCCE). This prestigious award

recognizes outstanding marketing and communications efforts among chambers of commerce across the state.

## Announcements

2024 Harlingen High School alumna Kayla Rodriguez competed in the 88th Annual Miss Texas America Pageant in Richardson, Texas on June 24-26. The pageant was televised



Courtesy of The Greater Chamber of Harlingen



Courtesy of HCISD



Courtesy of Lolly Burns





*Courtesy of El Torito Snacks*

on June 28, with Miss Richardson Sadie Schiermeyer winning the crown of Miss Texas 2025.

HotWorx is opening a location in Harlingen in the summer of 2026. HotWorx is a nationwide fitness facility that uses a sauna to combine heat, infrared, and exercise for what they call “3D training.” Workouts are conducted virtually, and members have unlimited 24-hour access to the sauna workouts. It will be located at 1818 W. Tyler, Suite A2.

#### **New Businesses**

Harlingen Urgent Vet, Harlingen’s first urgent care facility for pets, is opening on August 12

from 10 am to 2 pm. They are located at 6710 W. Expressway 83 in Harlingen.

#### **New Cafés and Restaurants**

El Torito Snacks held its grand opening on July 19. The menu includes shrimp preparado, chicken salad, mini pancakes, stuffed waffles, crepes, and more. The new snack shop is located at 1202 N. 7th Street.

#### **Anniversaries**

The following local businesses are celebrating milestone anniversaries:

- WesMer movie theatre, 75 years
- Lolly Burns Real Estate, 25 years♦



*Courtesy of Harlingen Urgent Vet*





## Event Spotlight

# Unlocking Potential for M.I. Academy this September

By Abigail Muñiz-Garcia

‘Unlocking Potential’ and ‘Brewing up Success’ are the themes that will mark this year’s M.I. Academy’s 4th Annual Gala. The event is set for Saturday, September 27, 2025, from 6 pm to 8:30 pm at the TSTC Cultural Arts Center. It is the first time the gala will be held at this location; previous galas have been held at Wild August Nursery and Flower Farm and at the

post office in downtown Harlingen.

Linda Noell, M.I. Academy founder and director, said preparation is underway and she is excited to host it there for the first time.

“It’s a little bigger this year,” she said. “This is the biggest space we’ve had to decorate.”

M.I. Academy, a nonprofit organization “Where Individual Meets Opportunity,” offers students with disabilities a place to continue their education



*Courtesy of M.I. Academy*

as well as life skills programs once they have aged out of the public school system. Their objectives include fine arts, excursions, job

site training, community involvement, continuing education, and vocational training. Housed at the Church of Christ on Harrison in Harlingen, it was originally located at Noell’s own home. The year was 2020 and Noell’s daughter, who has Down Syndrome, had graduated from high school. After a few people told her she should start something in Harlingen to address the gap, Noell took the leap.

“With God’s help and the support of the great community behind me, I started that path,” Noell said.

With their third year having been completed



*Courtesy of M.I. Academy*





*Courtesy of M.I. Academy*

in May, they are currently gearing up for their fourth year. The gala helps fund the school year.

“This event is extremely important. It carries us through the year,” Noell said. Something Noell

eagerly shared was how involved the students are in the gala.

“Our students will be very involved with greeting people and serving. They will also perform,” she said. She added that students will even be working behind the scenes by making some of the silent auction items. “They will be involved with every aspect of the fundraiser.”

Putting together a fundraiser like the gala is work, but Noell gives credit to the sponsors for their contributions and the group of people

that help organize and put on the event.

“I have 27 people on my fundraising team... parents are very involved. It’s a good group of people,” she said. “I’m beyond blessed – the Lord has blessed us and brought the people that need to be here. I’m just so inspired by the community support. I give all glory to God because He’s the one that is doing it.”

Tickets for the event are on sale now. You can purchase a general admission entry or a couple price entry. Sponsorship opportunities are also available such as the Excelsior Bean Sponsor that includes a reserved table for 8 people with wine service, charcuterie at the table, and prominent logo placement on their website and at the event.

There will be live music, an open bar, large charcuterie, and a silent auction happening throughout the event. For more information, visit the “Events” tab on the M.I. Academy website, [miacademyrgv.com](http://miacademyrgv.com), or scan the QR code on the flyer. You can also follow M.I. Academy on Facebook. ♦



*Courtesy of M.I. Academy*



# 4TH ANNUAL GALA



Unlocking Potential

Brewing Up Success

Saturday, September 27th, 2025  
6:00 PM - 8:30 PM  
TSTC Cultural Arts Center

LIVE MUSIC, OPEN  
BAR, CHARCUTERIE,  
SILENT AUCTION



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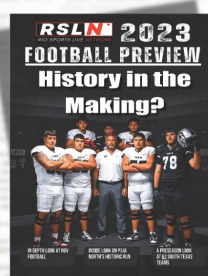
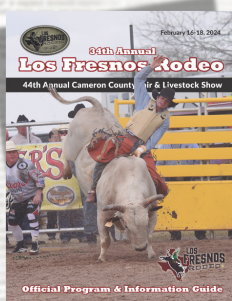
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## La Feria News Publishing





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**AUG.09**  
**8pm**




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**GRUPO AZIDO**

**Indoor Dance**

**ROSAS**

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**THE BROKEN SPROCKET**  
PRESENTS




**RAM HERRERA**

**AUG 2nd** **SATURDAY**

**FREE EVENT**  
6305 PAREDES LINE RD  
**BROWNSVILLE**  
TEXAS



**SAN BENITO**  
THE SOUL OF SOUTH TEXAS  
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES



**SAN BENITO**  
THE SOUL OF SOUTH TEXAS  
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

**STEVE TREVIÑO**



**SAN BENITO FAIRGROUNDS**

**SAT 16 AUG**

UNDER 12 FREE | FIREWORKS DISPLAY | [SANBENITOFAIRGROUNDS.COM](http://SANBENITOFAIRGROUNDS.COM)

**Midland**



**BUCK CRAZY**

**SAN BENITO FAIRGROUNDS**

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UNDER 12 FREE | FIREWORKS DISPLAY | [SANBENITOFAIRGROUNDS.COM](http://SANBENITOFAIRGROUNDS.COM)

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**SPICY & FANCY 5K RUN**



**AUG. 9, 2025**

**RACE STARTS AT 7:00 AM - EDINBURG MUNICIPAL PARK**

**CELEBRATING 75 YEARS**



**RUNNERS RECEIVE:**

- 75TH ANNIVERSARY FINISHER'S MEDAL
- TEAM SPICY OR TEAM FANCY T-SHIRT

**MUSIC - FOOD TRUCKS - VENDORS & MORE**



# Harley's Hounds: Finding Homes and Fostering Love

*By Beth Marie Cantu  
Ensign*

When Jessica “Jess” Cantu and her husband lost their beloved dog Harley after nearly 13 years together, they knew they needed to honor his memory. “He was with us through everything—dating, our wedding, moving across the country, then welcoming our daughters into the world,” Jess says. “Every dog deserves an opportunity to be [loved] like Harley.” From this conviction, Harley’s Hounds, a nonprofit rescue dedicated to giving stray and surrendered dogs in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) a chance at a loving home, was born.

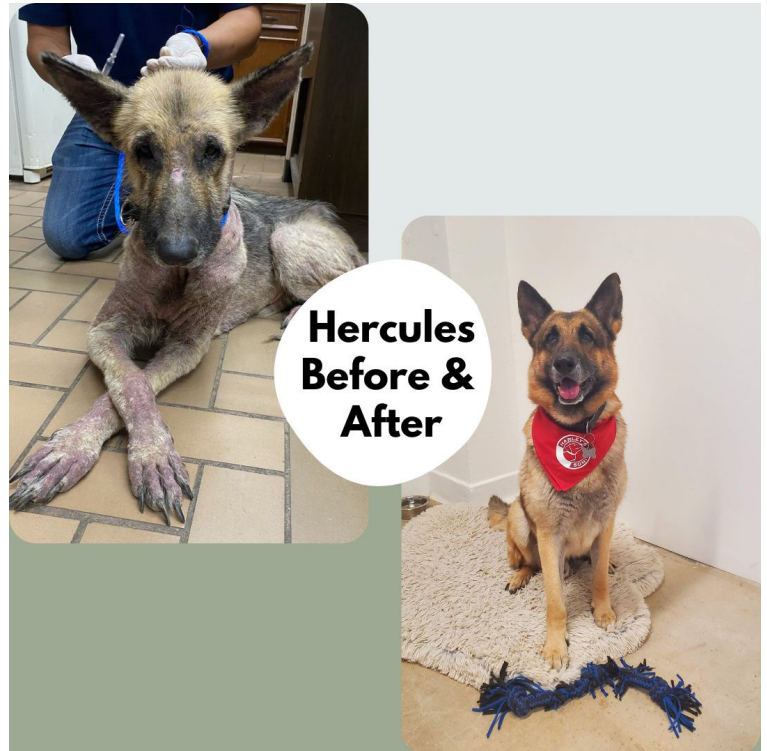
The mission of Harley’s Hounds is a grassroots effort to save and improve the lives of animals in three key ways: 1) community education about responsible pet ownership, 2) fundraising to provide

resources for animals in need, and 3) creating stable pathways to adoption for rescued dogs. Their philosophy is simple but powerful: street dogs belong on couches.

“The animals in South Texas rarely have a voice,” Jess says, “and until they do, you’ll continue to hear mine.”

Stray dogs make up the majority of Harley’s Hounds’ intakes. “I’ve only had to step foot in a shelter a couple of times,” Jess shares. “That shows how many strays are out there, under-cared for.” The team’s goal is to catch these animals before they end up in overcrowded shelters, working with local partners to trap or safely capture feral dogs that have never experienced human kindness.

One rescue story that sticks with Jess is Hercules, a German Shepherd found in Santa Rosa, severely malnourished and ill. “He tested positive for everything you can



*Courtesy of Jess Cantu* imagine,” she recalls, “With the partnership through our vet, we got him clean.” Hercules was adopted by a family in Pennsylvania, but when their dog didn’t get along with him, Jess arranged for him to come back to South Texas. Hercules has now been a permanent part of Jess’s family for three years, living the life every dog deserves. “Some people call it a foster failure, but I call it a foster success.”

Though funding is always needed, Jess emphasizes that Harley’s Hounds’



*Courtesy of Jess Cantu*

biggest need is foster homes. “When you take a dog into a rescue, you have to have a plan, or you get overwhelmed and they don’t get the care that they deserve,” she explains. “We





*Courtesy of Jess Cantu*

have to turn dogs away because we don't have enough hands and feet to help."

Many people fear associated costs when it comes to fostering animals, but the rescue covers all expenses for fosters, including veterinary care and supplies. Others avoid fostering because they fear getting attached, but Jess encourages them to focus on the joy of helping a dog find a loving home. "The joy far outweighs the heartbreak."

While acknowledging the emotional tax of being a foster, the growth Jess sees in these rehabilitated dogs makes the daunting task worthwhile. "You might save one life by fostering," Jess says,

"but to that one life, you're their whole entire world."

The adoption process begins with an online application where families can share their household dynamics and preferences. "Every dog comes with different personalities and needs," Jess explains, which is why fostering the pet prior to adoption is encouraged first, giving families a chance to get to know a dog in their own environment.

There are many ways to support Harley's Hounds beyond adopting or donating. Volunteers can help transport dogs, share posts to spread awareness, or assist with fundraising. Recently, Jess launched

a campaign to recruit ambassadors in all 50 states to help share Harley's Hounds' mission nationwide. "We're already in 15 states, which is really exciting," she says.

Jess's hope for Harley's Hounds is to secure consistent funding through local business sponsorships and expand their fostering network, allowing them to help even more animals in need. Another hope she holds dear is to help spread the awareness of heartworms, a very common disease for animals in the RGV. Prevention, she

mentions, is easy, but treatment is expensive and difficult.

Ultimately, Jess hopes to see continued progress in animal welfare throughout the RGV, especially for the stray dogs in need of a caring home. "Open your heart and home to an animal that needs you, and your life will be so much better."

To learn more, donate, volunteer, or start fostering with Harley's Hounds, visit their website, <https://harleyshoundsinc.com/>, or Facebook page (@harleyshoundsinc).♦

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**Artist of  
the Month**

# Escape from the Ordinary with Retro Rockers AudioEscape



*Courtesy of AudioEscape*

*By Lisa Campos*

Social media has been credited with the discovery of talented musicians, dancers, and other artists. The story of AudioEscape is no different: in 2018, VJ Colunga used to flex his vocal muscles at karaoke at The Bar in Brownsville. One night, VJ's sister Ashley recorded him singing karaoke and posted his performance on social media. Juan Pablo (JP) Ramirez, bassist, and Mario A. Gonzalez,

guitarist, were looking for a vocalist for the band they were forming. They saw the clip and added VJ to the group. They decided to make a cover band focusing on classic rock music from the 1970s to the 1990s. The initial drummer was replaced by Orlando Vee Rubio, rounding out the band in its current lineup.

Each member of AudioEscape brings his own flair to the group. When I asked VJ if he did anything other than sing, he jokingly referred to his professional tambourine and kazoo skills. This



*Courtesy of Anthony Wickett*





*Courtesy of Anthony Wickett*

infectious singer gets crowds going with his stylish dance moves and endless energy. His bandmates said that he delivers “performances that escape the ordinary,” which is evident by the band’s ability to book gigs with audiences in the thousands such as Blues on the Hill in Harlingen and Sombrero Fest in Brownsville.

Guitarist Mario has more than 42 years of experience mastering the tone and accuracy needed to create AudioEscape’s signature sound. It’s easy to see why his bandmates call him the “sonic architect” of the group. His technical prowess over loopers, modelers, MIDI rigs, and pedalboards enable him to create a “modern guitar voice” that’s “bold and unforgettable.” Mario

balances digital innovation and technology with emotionally charged raw guitar power to occasionally melt a face or two.

Bassist JP has over 35 years of experience laying down deep grooves balancing precision with a touch of mischief. This multitasking musician also plays piano, guitar, and cello. JP is the band’s “low-end lifeline,” keeping its foundation solid but never mundane. This “mad scientist/audio-visual master” seamlessly blends classic tone with cutting-edge tech using “modern digital wizardry” to craft a sound that hits hard.

Drummer and backup vocalist Vee brings 32 years of experience to his position as the “heartbeat” of AudioEscape. He drives every song with power blended with just the right amount of chaos. When asked to describe him, his bandmates said he “hits like a freight train and grooves like a soul possessed” and that he “doesn’t just play the drums – he makes them speak.”

If you can’t tell by their bios, these guys are a ton of fun and enjoy what they do. Few bands sustain such radiant positivity after playing together for so long. There’s a lot of love amongst these guys.

AudioEscape spreads



*Courtesy of Anthony Wickett*

**August 2025**



that love and joy to audiences all over the Rio Grande Valley (RGV), from McAllen to South Padre Island. Fans go loco for their cover of “Let’s Go Crazy” by Prince while the band enjoys rocking “Enter Sandman” by Metallica. The diverse range of their playlists inspires audiences to sing along and get up and dance.

Looking to the future, youngest band member VJ wants to “propel the band to new heights” by expanding both their repertoire to include more contemporary rock tunes and their territory, venturing outside of the RGV. They hope to one day land gigs in bigger cities such as Corpus Christi and San Antonio. For more information about AudioEscape, you can follow them on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube (@AudioEscape) and Twitter (@Audio\_Escape). For bookings, please email them at [audioescaperocks@gmail.com](mailto:audioescaperocks@gmail.com).

# HARLINGEN

# ROCK NIGHTS

*Harlingen Will Rock—Twice as Hard*



**AUG 22nd**

**7PM-11PM**



**AUG 23rd**

**9PM-1AM**



REWIND. ROCK OUT. REPEAT

**WED-THURS 5-12, FRI-SAT 5-2, SUN 5-12**

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# KILL TOWN

9 PM

BAGWELL OCTOBER ROAR SHATTERED STORIES

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HOP SHOP • 923 S 7<sup>TH</sup> ST. HARLINGEN, TX  
\$7 PRESALE • \$10 AT THE DOOR




# BATTLE THE BLAZE

## Water Day with Primera VFD

**📅 Saturday, August 2**  
**🕒 2:00–6:00 PM**  
**📍 Primera City Park**



- ✓ Fire truck spray zone
- ✓ Games & music
- ✓ Free snow cones

## #PrimeraSplashDown

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JOIN US AS WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY AND ITS CHILDREN! THIS YEAR, WE PARTNER WITH THE HARLINGEN BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB!



REGISTER HERE TO VOLUNTEER!



**SATURDAY**  
**AUGUST 2, 2025**

**TARGET**  
**8:00AM – 10:00AM**

1002 DIXIELAND RD  
HARLINGEN, TX



Saturday, August 9, 2025

## FULL MOON MARKET

Hosted By: Feather & Sage Apothecary

Market Hours: 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM  
Where: Feather & Sage Apothecary  
34097 FM 1421 San Benito, TX 78586

Local Vendors • Food • Music  
Family Friendly Event  
Full Moon Release Circle: 8:30pm



# The Return of Friday Night Lights

By Roel Rodriguez

It's August and you know what that means: it's Friday Night Lights time, baby! Are you ready for some football?

In Harlingen, just like the entire state of Texas, football players, coaches, referees, bands, cheerleaders, dance teams, and booster clubs are all gearing up for another exciting year of Texas high school football.

I have no doubt that the 2025 season will provide yet another year of thrilling games, lasting memories, and accomplishments.

Locally, we have the luxury of following and supporting two highly respected and successful high school football programs that are rich in tradition and culture.

## Two Talented Coaches

Our Harlingen high school football programs are led by two amazing individuals serving as head coaches: Manny Gomez for the Harlingen Cardinals and Israel Gonzalez for the Harlingen South Hawks. Both are local talents



*Courtesy of Rotary Club of Harlingen*

with deep Harlingen Cardinal football roots. Although they lead rival programs, these two individuals are good friends who have mutual respect and admiration and genuinely care about each other's individual and team's success. They truly live by a "Two Teams, One City" mindset, which is win-win for all of us.

Well, except during Bird Bowl! All kidding aside, I asked them once if they approached Bird Bowl week any differently compared

to other weeks, and both indicated that they don't. They expressed how much they really relish the fun and excitement of that game and described it as a "blessing" to be able to have the opportunity to play and coach against each other and for their players and staff to participate in this rivalry game which, at the end of the day, brings the entire community and student bodies together.

Over the years, I have had the privilege of interacting a bit with

these two coaches who have clearly displayed their genuine and sincere commitment to their faith along with a commitment to mentoring and developing their players to become good, productive members of our community and workforce so they can succeed in life. Their "beyond the gridiron" approach with their players is above reproach and truly commendable.

Don't get me wrong! They are both highly



competitive with a deep love and respect for the game. They are both fully committed to producing high caliber teams that win district championships and make deep runs in the Texas UIL football playoffs every year with a dream of winning a state championship.

However, I have come to realize that Manny Gomez, and Israel Gonzalez are focused on using their coaching positions as a platform for creating impactful opportunities for their players to succeed once their high school football career concludes.

On one occasion, Coach Gomez credited football and sports, in general, for creating his career opportunity. Coach Gomez, along with Coach Gonzalez, truly cares for their players and both work collaboratively to enhance their player's opportunities in life. The impact they have made with the hundreds of players that have come through their programs is immeasurable. We are fortunate to have these two individuals leading our high school programs.

Let's take a glimpse into the Harlingen High Cardinals and the

Harlingen South Hawks football teams for the 2025 school year.

**Harlingen Cardinals Football Preview**

We will start with the Harlingen Cardinal football team where, as you know, "Cardinal Spirit Never Dies" and "It Is What It Is." Coach Gomez continues to lead a Cardinal team that respects the tradition of excellence and winning. Coach Gomez is highly respected and has continued the Harlingen

Cardinal football legacy. He routinely develops hard-nosed football teams with players who are fulfilling their lifelong dreams of playing Cardinal football.

Coach Manny Gomez has 30 players returning from last year's squad, which finished the 2024 32-6A campaign with a 5-6 overall record and made it to a bi-district playoff game.

The 2025 Cardinal football team returns seven (7) starters on

offense and six (6) starters on defense.

Offensive players to watch this season are running back (RB) Noah Huerta, quarterback (QB) Hassan Woolery, wide receiver (WR) Aiden Flores, WR Aiden Cervantes, WR Dayton Mireles, RB Luis Gonzalez, WR Bubba Medrano, QB Gavin Cisneros, RB Nathaniel Gonzales, and WR Maddox Hernandez.

The Cardinal offense has the potential to be an extremely explosive

Rotary

Club of Harlingen



UNITE

FOR

GOOD

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PRESENTS

HARLINGEN FOOTBALL COACHES FORUM

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 2025

CANO FRESHMEN ACADEMY

11:30AM - 1:00PM



ISRAEL GOMEZ

HARLINGEN SOUTH



ISRAEL GRACIA

MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY



MANNY GOMEZ

HARLINGEN HIGH

LET'S GET ROWDY FOR OUR LOCAL TEAMS!



offense based on two key returning starters. QB Hassan Woolery showed great talent in an injury-shortened 2024 season coupled with standout, three (3) year varsity starter, and prolific RB Noah Huerta. Huerta is hands down one of the best RBs in south Texas and will, most likely, take his talents to the collegiate level. Expectations are high for a great senior year, so take advantage of watching Noah compete in Harlingen before he leaves to compete at the next level.

Additionally, an exceptional WR Corp led by Hernandez and Flores will help bolster the Cardinals offensively in 2025, especially with Woolery being at full strength.

Defensive players to watch are linebacker (LB) Davian Renteria, LB/defensive line (DL) Saul Cerda, defensive back (DB) Dayton Mireles, LB Luis Gonzalez, DB Bubba Medrano, LB Nathaniel Gonzales, DB Arturo Torres, DB Noah Gutierrez, DL Jayden Martinez, and DL Jayden Secrest.

The Big Red Machine will be led by LB Renteria and LB/DL Cerda who have one job: to stop the other teams,

which will be no easy feat.

The 2025 Harlingen Cardinal Football season begins Friday, August 15 to Friday, November 7, with five (5) home games played at Boggus Stadium. The Cardinal football schedule is full of stiff competition starting with scrimmages against McAllen High (McHi) and Sharyland, followed by non-district foes Weslaco, Edinburg Vela, Laredo United South, Mission Veterans, and perennial powerhouse, Cuero High, before competing in their 32-6A District games. The Cuero game will be played at Boggus Stadium on Friday, October 3.

Five teams are competing in District 32-6A, but based on the strength of schedule, I am sure that Coach Gomez, his staff, and his players are poised and ready to showcase their team's ability this season and to make a solid run for the district crown and a deep playoff run.

### **Harlingen South Hawks Football Preview**

On the Harlingen South Hawks side, Coach Gonzalez has created a great culture in the locker room and

their program motto is "No Fear All Faith." Hawks players have been "all in" with this mantra since Coach Gonzalez's arrival.

Coach Gonzalez has 35 players returning from the 2024 team. Last season, the Hawks had an overall record of 6-5 and a district record of 5-3 competing in District 16-5A, making it a bi-district playoff game.

The Hawks have five (5) offensive starters and seven (7) defensive starters returning to lead their team.

Offensive players to watch this season are QB Austin Shroyer, WR Yariel Cabrera, WR Jaziel Ovalle, WR Gavin Ramirez, tight end (TE) Matthew Alvear, TE/QB Frank Puente, RB Gian Harvey, Offensive Line (OL) Ryan Luna, and OL Christian Chino. The offense will be led by QB Shroyer and will be an "all hands-on deck" approach among WRs Cabrera, Ovalle, Ramirez, and RB Harvey and TE Alvear to power them this season. Of course, the Hawks will have quality OL Luna and Chino battling in the trenches.

The Hawk defense is stout and is expected to be a major strength of their team assuming

all players stay healthy so they can continue to build from last year.

Defensive players to watch are LB Marcus Garza, LB Olek Lerma, LB Jackson Fernandez, DL Cash Harrell, DL Anthony Lerma, DL Joe Carter Nunez, DB Julian De Leon, DB Jacob Garza, DB Yariel Cabrera, and DB Gian Harvey. This unit is talented and may be able to provide shut-down potential, adding a great tool for the Hawks game plan this season. Several players will play on both sides of the ball, helping the Hawks with keeping the tradition of making it to the playoffs every year since Coach Gonzalez's arrival at Harlingen South.

The Hawks Football season begins on Friday, August 14 until Friday, November 7, with five (5) home games played at Boggus Stadium. The Hawks start with scrimmages against Sharyland, Edinburg Vela, and Weslaco followed with non-district games versus Nikki Rowe and Harlingen, then proceeding to their eight (8) district contests. Notable district games include Flour Bluff and Corpus Christi Veterans, which will be played at home.



An Anticipated Season Ahead

Of course, the most notable game of the 2025 football season is “Bird Bowl.” This year’s rivalry game will be held on Friday, September 5. As always, school and team pride and city bragging rights are at stake.

I am really looking forward to the sights and sounds and pageantry of Harlingen high school football games and seeing the incredible athletic talent we have in our city.

I commend the players who have been training and working hard

since the conclusion of last season to prepare for the 2025 season. The strength and conditioning, the reps, learning new playbook to enhance their craft. Their dedication, discipline and drive to do what it takes to represent their team, their school and their city is truly admirable.

I wish the Harlingen Cardinals and Harlingen South Hawks football players and coaches a safe and healthy and successful 2025 season and hope they win it all. Hey, why not? As they say in the 956, “Si Se Puede!” ♦

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HARLINGEN CARDINALS  
2025 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

8/15	Friday	McAllen High*	Bogbus	7:00	10/3	Friday	Cuero	Bogbus	7:00
8/21	Thursday	Sharyland*	Away	7:00	10/9	Thursday	B'ville Vets**	Bogbus	7:00
8/29	Friday	Weslaco	Away	7:00	10/17	-----	Bye -----		
9/5	Friday	Harlingen South	Bogbus	7:30	10/23	Thursday	B'ville Hanna**	Away	7:00
9/12	Friday	Edinburg Vela	Away	7:00	10/31	Friday	Los Fresnos*	Bogbus	7:00
9/19	Friday	Laredo United South	Bogbus	7:00	11/7	Friday	San Benito**	Away	7:00
9/26	Friday	Mission Veteran's	Away	7:00			*Scrimmage **District 32-6A I		

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ATHLETIC COORDINATOR/HEAD COACH: MANUEL GOMEZ • ATHLETIC TRAINERS: JOHN PROSEK & LEE RODRIGUEZ



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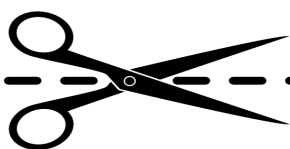
2025

HARLINGEN SOUTH HAWKS  
2025 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

8/14	Thursday	Sharyland*	Bogbus	7:00	10/3	Friday	PSIA North**	Away	7:30
8/22	Friday	Edinburg Vela/Weslaco*	Away	TBD	10/10	Friday	CC Veterans**	Bogbus	7:30
8/29	Friday	Nikki Rowe	Bogbus	7:30	10/17	-----	Bye -----		
9/5	Friday	Harlingen	Away	7:30	10/24	Friday	Donna High**	Away	7:30
9/12	Friday	Flour Bluff**	Bogbus	7:30	10/30	Thursday	PSIA Memorial**	Bogbus	7:00
9/18	Thursday	Brownsville Rivera**	B. Vets	7:00	11/7	Friday	Weslaco East**	Away	7:30
9/26	Friday	Donna North **	Bogbus	7:30			*Scrimmage **District 16-6A I		

SUPERINTENDENT: DR. VERONICA KORTAN • ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: ROBERT DAVIES • ATHLETIC COORDINATOR/HEAD COACH: ISRAEL GONZALEZ  
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