

COMMUNITY

What's Happening

TO SUBMIT A COMMUNITY BRIEF:

Call Favola Gutierrez at (956) 982-6625, send an email to community@brownsvilleherald.com or submit online at www.brownsvilleherald.com.

Spring Distinguished Lecture Series

When: 7 p.m. Thursday, March 11
Where: UTB-TSC Science, Engineering and Technology Building Lecture Hall
Admission: \$25 per person
For more information: Call (956) 882-4832 or www.utb.edu/events

Guest speaker will be wildlife expert, Kathryn S. Fuller, who is current chair of the Ford Foundation and a past president and chief executive of the World Wildlife Fund. The presentation will be "Challenges to Conservation of the natural World." All proceeds from the lecture will benefit student scholarships.

Special preview of 'Rent'

When: 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 11
Where: Camille Playhouse, 1 Dean Porter Park
Admission: \$10 per person
For more information: Call (956) 542-8900

The long-awaited local premiere of this Broadway hit show features a brilliant local cast, music, character, the throbbing rock score and the vibrant social issues of New York (or any city in America) at the end of the last century. You will cry, laugh, be touched and maybe upset by the characters in Rent, but you will never forget them, or the special thrill of seeing the legendary show live on stage. This special preview includes a spaghetti dinner. Seating is limited to 500. No reservations will be accepted, it's all on a first come first serve basis. All proceeds will benefit the Camille Playhouse Youth Center.

Opera Masterclass featuring Brownsville native Michael Callas

When: 4 p.m. Thursday, March 11
Where: The Arts Center, Taylor Drive, across from Olivera Library UTB-TSC
Admission: Free
For more information: Call (956) 882-8231

Brownsville native and New York City-based operatic bass and baritone Michael Callas will be leading a Masterclass for music students. Callas will perform in the upcoming months in "Madame Butterfly" with the Dicapo Opera Theatre in New York City and in "La Traviata" with the Chelso Opera in New York City.

A Glimpse into the Maya World

The Costumes of the Americas Museum will be closed beginning March 1 for the mounting of the upcoming exhibit "The Maya World." The Museum will re-open in mid-march.

Gibson Girls Exhibit opening reception

When: 6 p.m. Thursday, March 11
Where: Silberman House Museum, 1325 E. Washington St.
Admission: Free
For more information: Call (956) 541-5580

Guests will be able to discover how Charles Dana Gibson defined an entire generation with his pen and ink drawings of "It Girls" in the Gibson Girl exhibit. The exhibit is held in honor of Women's History Month and will run through May 1.

'Tarahumara' photo exhibit

When: 6 p.m. Thursday, March 11
Where: Weisaco Museum, 500 S. Texas Ave., Weisaco
Admission: Free for members and 52 non-members
For more information: Call (956) 968-9142

For eight years, Kitty Alicia Sneed, a Weisaco native, organized a series of expeditions to travel with a guide by mule and on foot into the remote areas of the Sierras to photograph the most traditional of these people and their rituals. Historically, when the Spanish first encountered the Tarahumara in what is now the State of Chihuahua, they found no great cities to conquer, nor did they find temples of gold. The Tarahumara fought and later withdrew to the more inaccessible mountains and canyons of the Sierras.

Membership Drive

The Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NAARF) Brownsville chapter 522 is actively seeking new members. Active, retired Federal employees and surviving spouses are eligible to join. To find out the benefits of being a NAARF member or how you can become one, call 1-800-627-3394 or locally call Tony Trevino, (956) 371-5110.

'I Am Going to College'

When: 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. through Friday, March 12
Where: UTB-TSC Gargas Hall
For more information: Call (956) 882-3814

Nearly 800 students and their parents from Los Rios will descend on the Fort Brown campus to learn about college. The Office of New Student Relations will be conducting "I Am Going to College" presentations to 9th grade students from Rosaca, Cuastec, and Liberty Middle Schools. The event is designed to prepare middle schools students for college. There will be tours and presentations about academic programs, student life, admissions and financial aid.

World Day of Prayer

When: 9:30 a.m., Friday, March 12
Where: First Christian Church, 13th and Tyler Streets, Harlingen
For more information: Call (956) 393-4684 or (956) 423-5558

World Day of Prayer is a world wide ecumenical movement of women of many faith traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer. Each year in March a different country serves as the writer of the worship service. This year the women of Cameroon West Africa developed the theme, "Let everything that has breath praise God." The offering will support the work of World Day of Prayer USA and help meet the needs of families who are victims of poverty, violence and human trafficking.

Focus on Litter photo contest

When: Deadline to accept photos is Tuesday, April 13
Entry cost: Free
For more information: Call (956) 882-5067 for contest rules
www.healthylivingbrownville.org

This is a photo contest to create awareness of our litter problem, and to encourage community members and visitors to take care of our city, and to take responsibility by disposing of trash properly. Mail or deliver photos to: Healthy Communities of Brownsville, Attn: Focus on Litter Photo Contest, 80 Fort Brown SPH Building, Brownsville, TX 78520.

Irra Brownsville Center Fundraiser

When: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 13
Where: Irra Brownsville Center Fundraiser, 508 East Elizabeth St.
Cost: \$5 per plate
For more information: Call (956) 542-3363

All proceeds will be used for field trips that students will be taking during the springtime.



Monica Mora

MORNINGSIDE ELEMENTARY



Jordi Casas

LONGORIA ELEMENTARY



Parents: Robert and Nohemi Mora
What are your hobbies? I enjoy coloring and playing.
What do you like best about your school or class? I like to learn my ABCs, play during recess and go to music class.
What is your favorite subject and why? My favorite subject is reading.
What do you want to be when you grow up? When I grow up I want to be a teacher.
Who is your favorite role model? The person I admire the most is my mother, because she takes care of us and she loves us very much.

Parents: Sandra Gonzalez
What are your hobbies and interests? I enjoy going to the gym, because I get to run, play soccer and basketball.
What do you like best about your school or class? I like all of my classes, because they are cool and I get to learn and do a lot of things.
What is your favorite subject and why? My favorite subjects are math and science, because I get to do many things.
What do you want to be when you grow up? When I grow up I want to be a sheriff, so I can help the people that are mistreated and also to help the children.

Area CASA recognized

SPECIAL TO THE BEAHD

CASA of Cameron and Willacy Counties of Brownsville has just been awarded certification by the National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association. This certification recognizes that CASA of Cameron and Willacy Counties is in compliance with National CASA's high standards for quality child advocacy.

According to Michael Piraino, CEO of the National CASA Association, "The National CASA quality assurance process is very rigorous, and reflects our commitment to ensure every child we serve has the most powerful volunteer advocate working on their behalf."



ALICIA CARDENAS

Executive Director
CASA of Cameron
and Willacy Counties

This certification says CASA of Cameron and Willacy Counties has demonstrated to us a strong capacity to provide excellent services to

abused and neglected children within our community."

CASA of Cameron and Willacy Counties was started in June 1994. Last year, 300 children were appointed a CASA volunteer. However, there were 2,340 children confirmed victims of abuse and neglect. Now more than ever is the time for members of this community to volunteer and make a difference in the lives of these children. CASA volunteers recommend what is in the "best interest" of abused and neglected children. To help make a difference, please call 956-546-6545 or email cwacasa@aol.com.

About CASA

In 1976, concerned over making decisions

about abused and neglected children's lives without sufficient information, a Seattle judge conceived the idea of using trained community volunteers to speak for the best interest of these children in court, helping to ensure they will live in a safe and loving environment.

So successful was this Seattle program, that soon judges across the country began utilizing citizen advocates. In 1990, Congress encouraged the expansion of CASA with passage of the Victims of Child Abuse Act. Today there are more than 950 National CASA member programs across the country, with more than 70,000 men and women serving as CASA or Guardian ad Litem volunteers.

District Attorney receives state award



Cameron County District Attorney Armando R. Villalobos receives the 2009 Harold Cottle Justice Award from the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault at their 28th Annual Conference, Leading the Change, held on South Padre Island on March 3. Presenting the award is Lyndel Williams, Training Director.

COURTESY PHOTO

FIND YOUR EVENT

Thursday | MARCH 11

- THE ENLIGHTENMENT SOCIETY, meets from 7 to 9 p.m. at Denny's Restaurant 1875 N. Expressway 77/83. The videos "The Bubble Decade-The Greed and Excesses of Wall Street" and "Fatima's Lost Prophecy" will be shown. Call Lynn David Livsey at (956) 542-4307.
- THE WEST BROWNSVILLE GARDEN CLUB meets the first Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. in the meeting room at the rear entrance of the Jaynes Building, 1175 W. Price Road. Visitors and prospective members are welcome. Call Gail Goodman, (956) 542-5550.
- PARTY BRIDGE meets at 12 p.m. every Thursday at the Veterans of Foreign Wars, 1801 Veterans Dr. Attendance is open to all seniors and guests. RSVP to

Bryce Thomborg, (956) 504-7151 or Vira McGilpuphy (956) 541-5080.

- THE AMERICAN VIETNAM VETERANS CHAPTER 1 of Brownsville meet every second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at 615 Billy Mitchell Blvd. Call Commander Jesse Reyes at (956) 831-8294, (956) 831-3331 or (956) 541-3039.
- THE WEST BROWNSVILLE LIONS CLUB meets at noon every Thursday at Shoney's Restaurant. The meeting is open to those interested in serving the community. Call Ruben Garcia at (956) 544-2464.
- BROWNSVILLE ELKS LODGE, 2223 Central Blvd., has two for one wings until 10 p.m. and Karaoke by Luna De Mil, Ray Rosas and Jacob Rosas 8 p.m. to midnight every Thursday. The event is open to members and guests. Call (956) 542-3545.
- THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 2035 will meet at 7:30 p.m. every first Thursday of the month at 1801 Veterans Drive. Membership dues are \$28 per year. Call (956) 541-

3671 or (956) 546-1140.

- FULL GOSPEL BUSINESSMEN'S Fellowship International meets at 7 a.m. every Thursday at Shoney's Restaurant. Attendance is open to all men. Call John G. Holden at (956) 290-8188.

Friday | MARCH 12

- NEW MOTHERS GROUP meets at 10:30 a.m. every Friday at Dean Porter Park. The group will meet to schedule playdates, events, and moms' night out. Call Emily at (956) 572-2526 or Patsy at (956) 504-9771 or log on to www.facebook.com/andermothersofbrownsvillegroup.
- ST. JOSEPH CHURCH BINGO NIGHT is 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. every Friday. Doors open at 5 p.m. in the bingo hall, 555 W. St. Francis St. Call (956) 542-2700.
- THE ROTARY CLUB OF BROWNSVILLE SUNRISE meets at 7 a.m. every Friday at the Valley International Country Club restaurant. Call Hector Hernandez at (956) 350-8100.
- BROWNSVILLE ELKS LODGE, 2223 Central Blvd., serves

a steak dinner 6-10 p.m. and dancing to music by Bobby Villa 8 p.m. to midnight every Friday. Members and guests are welcome. Call (956) 542-3545.

Saturday | MARCH 13

- THE BROWNSVILLE ARTHRITIS SUPPORT GROUP meet at 9:30 a.m. at Valley Rosaca Palms Apt. 2800 on FM 802. Guest speaker will be Dr. Michael Hohnsdel. The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information call, (956) 542-3330.
- AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (AAUW) Harlingen Branch will have their lunch-meeting at 12:30 p.m. at A Caberd Affair (parking in back), 301 E. Jackson St., Harlingen. Cost for lunch is \$16 per person. Guest speaker will be Sharon Petagnat, who's been in the education field for 41 years. RSVP to Pat Ellis, (956) 425-4825.
- THE VALLEY BYLINERS writers group meet at 1:30 p.m. at the Harlingen Public Library, 410 76 Drive. Guest speaker will be George Gause Jr., writer and historian. Email janevtdier46@gmail.com