



Depot Express



Edinburg Chamber of Commerce E-News Letter

August, 2011

Volume 2, Issue 8

6th Annual Texas Cook'em

NEWS HEADLINES:

Thank You Cook'em Sponsors!



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Thank You!





Ribbon Cuttings and Ground Breakings



**The War Room
Chess Club**

Jorge Trevino

208 E. Cano

956-570-4788



**Joslin Diabetes
Center**

Marissa Castaneda

5525 Doctors Drive

956-362-7555



**South Texas Eye
Clinic**

Dr. Eva E. Gonzlez

**2506 E Richardson
Road**

956-655-0012

Feature Business of the Month ...



July

Edinburg Boys & Girls Club

Ms. Sabrina Walker

702 Cullen Street

Edinburg, TX

956-383-2582

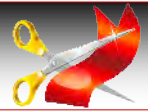


The Edinburg Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors Committee are a group of volunteers who are all members of the Chamber. The Ambassador's meet the first Wednesday of each month to discuss various topics within the community, organize fundraisers and to select a business as a Feature Business of the month; the criteria for selection is as follows: 1. *Special Acknowledgement and recognition of years of support of the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce and/or recognition of outstanding support of the community* 2. *Number of years in business* 3. *Contributions and support of Edinburg Chamber of Commerce programs and events* 4. *Recent renovation and/or expansions of their business* 5. *Silent members (strong supporters) of the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce in good standing.*

If you are interested in being an Ambassador, please contact Martin Rivas at 956-383-4974.



Welcome new ECOC Members:



Gladys Porter Zoo
 500 Ringgold Street
 Brownsville, TX 78520
 956-546-7187

RGV Statewide Insurance
 Agency LLC
 Ruben Palacios
 PO Box 1908
 Edinburg, TX 78540
 956-655-7033

Celebrity Group Magazine
 Lilly Gonzalez
 2353 Old Port Isabel Road
 Brownsville, TX 78526
 956-504-7227

Bayou Grill
 Ibeth Rangel
 5712 N 10th Street
 McAllen, TX 78504
 956-627-4091

Welcome!

@ The Depot

Have a small group that you or your business is hosting? Bring them by the Historic Depot, current home of the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce to learn some facts about the historic train station, or just to say hi.

DID YOU KNOW:

Many of the streets of Edinburg were named after railroad men in an attempt to persuade Southern Pacific to build a line in the Rio Grande Valley?

Please support the Depot Restoration Committee; call Elva Jackson Garza for further information

956-383-4951

956-383-4951



Thank you VIP Members:



Boggus Motor Sales, Inc.
 Charles Clark Chevrolet
 Edinburg Industrial Foundation Inc.
 Elite Rehab Services L.L.C.
 Exquisita Tortillas, Inc.
 Kolder Inc.
 Roy's Hauling Service, Inc.
 Teleperformance
 D. Wilson Construction Company
 South Texas Health System
 Edinburg Regional Health Center
 Santiago Gonzalez, Jr., CPA



As a Chamber VIP Member you will receive:

- 50% discount for one Leadership Edinburg Participant
- 4 VIP tickets to Fiesta Edinburg
- 10% discount on all Chamber advertising
- 3 participants to each Chamber-sponsored seminar
- Set of mailing labels
- 2 E-Newsletter Inserts
- Broadcast Fax



Leadership Edinburg Class XXIII



The Leadership Edinburg steering committee is currently accepting applications for Class XXIII. All interested applicants should call the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce at 956-383-4974 to register.



Leadership Edinburg(LE) is a 9-month program which gives its class members the opportunity to practice their leadership skills and brush up on different community topics that include history, education, healthcare, politics, and quality of life plus a fundraising session and a community service project in which all members of the LE willingly give back to the community.

Over 520 graduates have taken the Leadership Edinburg Challenge, if you are interested in learning more about LE and becoming involved, please give us a call 956-383-4974.

Workforce Solutions Seminar



Thank you for joining us at the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce (ECOC) Workforce Solutions Seminar. This event was free for the community and to our members. We had over 25 recipients sign up. The ECOC offers free seminars and educational resources for our members and the community of Edinburg. If your business or organization is interested in hosting a seminar, please contact the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce at 956-383-4974.

It was very helpful, afterwards I visited with several other business owners and shared the information with them. The seminar was very productive and educational”.

Alex Rios, Kids Kollege Learning Center



Edinburg Convention and Visitors Bureau...

WELCOME



It is the mission of the Edinburg Convention & Visitors Bureau to provide leadership in initiating as well as coordinating the marketing of Edinburg throughout the world as a highly desirable vacation and convention destination; to solicit and serve conventions and other related group business; and to engage in visitor promotions which generate overnight stays for Edinburg, thereby, enhancing and developing the economic fabric of the community.

The Edinburg Convention & Visitors Bureau must continue to be recognized as a viable entity, not only in the Texas travel industry, but also as a marketing strength in the Rio Grande Valley. In order to achieve this goal, there are many projects, programs and activities that need the participation and support of the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce. In addition to many projects that we must do on a daily basis to stay competitive in the marketplace, the Chamber/CVB will continue to develop and innovative such projects and programs: Tourism Marketing, Conventions and Media.

The Edinburg Convention and Visitors Bureau (ECVB) is here to serve you and to assist in securing conventions and seminars in the Edinburg area. If your business or organization is interested in hosting an event, the ECVB is happy to accommodate to assist in making your event successful. At the ECVB, we will supply your event with hotel listings, business and restaurant listings, plus maps and other helpful information that will make your event or meeting a success. Please contact Imelda Rodriguez for further information 956-383-4974. tourism@edinburg.com

Ciclistas Urbanos Get-Cyched



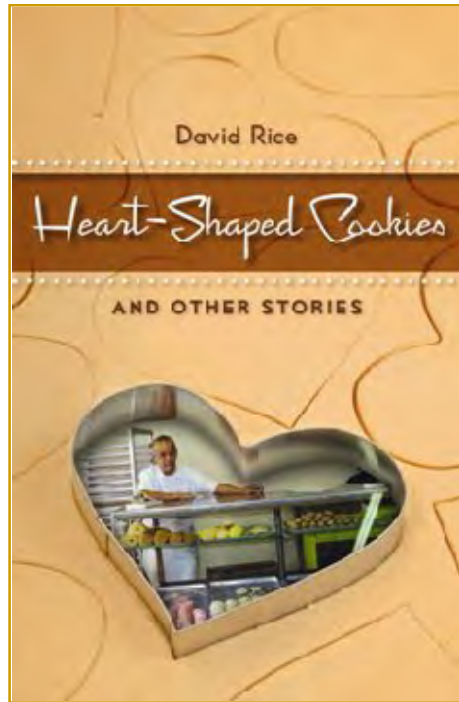
Pictured promoting "Get-Cyched Saturday Morning Bike Ride" are a group of local cyclists along with Ciclistas Urbanos in front of the Depot during the 2011 "Edinburg on Wheels" community bike ride

Ciclistas Urbanos would like to invite you to join them on a **Saturday Morning Bike Ride**. Bicyclists will begin gathering at 7AM for coffee, breakfast and good conversation and ride out at 8AM for an urban cycling adventure around Edinburg and the metropolitan area.

Bike rides are leisurely and are intended to provide cyclists with a unique, urban cycling experience. The group typically stops at cafes, bakeries, farmers markets, festivals, parks and other interesting or exciting places. Rides go for approximately 12 to 14 miles. Cyclists are encouraged to wear helmets, brightly colored clothing, and bring a water bottle. For more information about Ciclistas Urbanos and future bike rides, please check out www.ciclistasurbanos.org. or email Mark Pena at Mark.Pena@edwards-titleco.com



David Rice to host Reading and Book Signing reception



David Rice, Author of *Give a Pig A Chance*, and *Heart Shaped Cookies and Other Stories* will host a reading and book signing on Thursday, August 18th at 6pm at the Dustin Michael Sekula Memorial Library located on 1906 S. Closner in Edinburg, Texas. The Edinburg Chamber of Commerce is also a partner in this endeavor and is happy to participate and support local authors.

Rice will be reading from his newly published book titled *Heart Shaped Cookies and Other Stories*

The reading and book signing is free to the public, and all are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served, and we ask that you please RSVP your attendance by calling 956-383-6246.

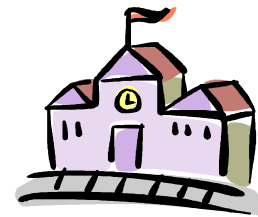
Mark your Calendars:



Edinburg Market Days Saturday, September 10th, 2011 8am-2pm at the Edinburg Town Square across the street from the Court House. Come out for unique shopping: antiques, collectibles and more!



Hobo Hap'nin Reunion Saturday September 17th, 2011 6pm-11pm @ The Depot on 602 W. University Drive. Call for tickets, or donations. Silent auction, live music, food, drinks and more!



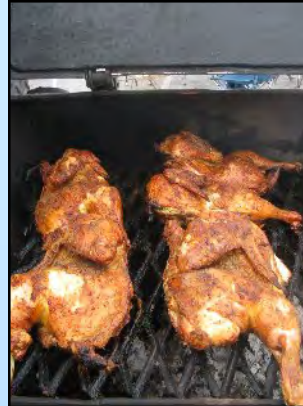
Edinburg's Night of Lights Saturday December 3rd, 2011 4-9pm at UTPA Quad. Parade, musical entertainment, Santa Clause, food, fireworks and more!



www.edinburg.com



6th Annual Texas Cook'em: High Steaks



The Edinburg Chamber of Commerce, the City of Edinburg and the Economic Development Corporation recently held the 6th Annual Texas Cook'em: High Steaks in Edinburg on Saturday July 2nd at the Edinburg Municipal Park. The event was free to the general public, and included Live music by David Lee Garza y los Musicales, plus other local entertainment, Food, Fun, Fireworks, Kids Korral, Dancing Horses, and the Texas Rattlesnake Man Jackie Bibi w/ Robert Ackerman! Other local entertainment included performances by Six Gun, Los Gatos Locos, and Los Sepulvedas!

Texas Cook'em is an IBCA sanctioned cook off, and awards up to \$15,000 in prize money for 1st-10th places plus Grand and Reserve Grand Champions; categories are as follows: T-bone Steak, Chicken, Ribs, Brisket and as a jack pot Apple Cobbler!





High Steaks in Edinburg continued...



The Edinburg Chamber of Commerce, the City of Edinburg and the Edinburg Economic Development Corporation are pleased to announce the winners for the 6th Annual Texas Cook'em: High Steaks in Edinburg, sanctioned by the IBCA.

Over 68 teams participated to compete for prize money and trophies on Saturday, July 2nd 2011 at the Edinburg Municipal Park. Categories were T-bone steak, chicken, ribs, brisket as well as a jackpot, apple cobbler!

We'd like to thank all of the cooks/teams who participated. We'd also like to thank our volunteers and sponsors: Budweiser, HEB, Coca Cola, Cuartitos and the City of Hidalgo. We are exceedingly grateful to the City of Edinburg and the Edinburg Economic Development Corporation for all of their support; our event would not have been successful without all parties involved.

Grand Champion was Gil's BBQ Bandits, Reserve Grand Champion was Ronnie Wade. 1st place in brisket went to Victor Garza Jr. , 2nd place Frank Martinez, 3rd place Ronnie Wade, 4th place Adrian Limon, 5th place Danny Luera, 6th place Ramon Alaniz, 7th place Joe Limon, 8th place Roel Castro, 9th place Tony Lugo and 10th place Rick Santos. 1st place in ribs went to Frank Cadena, 2nd Ronnie Wade, 3rd Mike Vega, 4th Alex Lopez, 5th Juan Esquivel, 6th Jerry Carrizales, 7th Joe Barrera, 8th Danny Luera, 9th Arnie Segovia, and 10th Leo Diaz. 1st place in Chicken went to Gilbert Perez, 2nd Rick Santos, 3rd Dalia Garza, 4th Alex Lopez, 5th Arnie Segobia, 6th Frank Martinez, 7th Mike Flores, 8th Oscar de Leon, 9th Selma Uresti and 10th J.J. Flores. 1st place T-bone steak went to Noel Carillon, 2nd Gilbert Perez, 3rd Tony Lugo, 4th Lenny Ybanez, 5th Adrian Limon, 6th Travis Lemos, 7th Jason Bray, 8th Rick Santos, 9th Mike Vega and 10th Frank Salinas.

This Year Cook'em had a jackpot category for Apple Cobbler, 1st place was Jaime Flores, 2nd Dalia Garza and 3rd Robert Duran.

Please mark your calendars for next year's Cook'em, rain or shine on July 6th and 7th, 2012. Please call the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce for more information at 956-383-4974.

www.edinburg.com

www.facebook.com/edinburg.chamber



High Steak's Grand Champions!

Congratulations!



Grand Champion Gils Barbeque Bandits, head cook J. Gilbert Perez with Eddie Tapia, Evana Vleck, Letty Gonzalez and Alex Rios

Reserve Grand Champion Ronnie Wade L to R: Eddie Tapia, Ronnie Wade, Evana Vleck, Letty Gonzalez and Alex Rios

Edinburg Crime Stoppers: National Night Out



National Night Out is designed to: (1) Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; (2) Generate support for; and participate in, local anticrime efforts; (3) Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and (4) Send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

From 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on August 3, 2010, residents in neighborhoods throughout Edinburg and across the nation are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights and spend the evening outside with neighbors and police. Neighborhoods throughout Edinburg are welcome to attend the 15th Annual Edinburg National Night Out on August 3, 2010 to be held at the Edinburg Municipal Park located at 701 South Raul Longoria Road from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. There will be live music, food booths, vendors, carnival rides. Parking and entry into the park will be free to the public. There will also be what has become one of the largest car, truck, and motorcycle shows in the Valley.

This is a night for Edinburg to stand together to promote awareness, safety, and neighborhood unity. National Night Out showcases the vital importance of Police-Community partnerships and citizen involvement in our fight to build a safer nation. On August 3rd, we invite neighborhoods valley-wide to join us in "Giving Crime and Drugs A Going Away Party".

For more information contact Officer Gomez 956-318-8833 or Officer Colbath 956-318-8808. As always, we thank you in advance for your continued support.



Hop on Board to Hobo Hap'nin Reunion



The Edinburg Chamber of Commerce Building Restoration Committee has discussed plans for the Hobo Hap'nin Reunion for September 17th, 2011. Hobo Hap'nin is a fundraising event to assist in the restoration of the Historic Train Depot, in which the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce and Edinburg CVB currently operate from. For more information, please contact Elva Jackson Garza at 956-383-4951

Depot Restoration Photos



Depot Restoration



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 602 W. University
 Edinburg, TX 78540
 Phone (956) 383-4974
 Fax (956) 383-6942

Letter from the Chairman

www.edinburg.com

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

Chairman

Johnny Rodriguez *Austin Personnel Services

Chair-Elect

Edna Pena * Horizon Properties

Immediate Past Chair

Cynthia Bocanegra * Chaps Bar & Grill

Treasurer

Elias Longoria * Lone Star National Bank

Vice-Chairmen

Gus Casas * G&S Glass

Flo Prater * Rio Valley Realty

Elva Jackson Garza * Edwards Abstract and Title Co.

Mark Pena * Lewis, Monroe & Pena Attorneys at Law

Cris Torres * Inter National Bank

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Dina Araguz International Bank of Commerce

Marissa Castaneda Doctors Hospital at Renaissance

Darcy Kelly Peter Piper Pizza

Maggie Kent General Dentistry Center

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Toribio "Terry" Palacios Law Offices of Garcia, Quintanilla & Palacios

Naomi Perales Texas Gas Service

Jacob De Leon Memorial Funeral Home

Dr. Robert S. Nelsen UTPA

Staff

Letty Gonzalez President

Evana Vleck Director of Marketing

Imelda Rodriguez Director of Tourism

Martin Rivas Director of Membership

Crystal Sanchez Receptionist/Tourism Asst.



Hello Friends, what a great time of year, it's hot yet we get to enjoy our summer days with friends and family, and also promoting our great city of Edinburg. The Chamber of Commerce recently held the 6th Annual Texas Cook'em, thanks to the City of Edinburg and the Edinburg Economic Development Corporation, this event would not be possible.

Though it was very hot and had lots of rain, Cook'em went off without a hitch. We had over 68 cooks participate from across Texas, an amazing fireworks show, a snake show and dancing horses. Live music was a big draw, and of course the food! We had over 100 judges participate in our cook off who got to try award winning barbeque, plus apple cobbler that was new to the cook off this year.

Thanks once again for all of the help and support from our local businesses, and community/volunteers; we appreciate it! Special thanks to Cuartitos.com, City of Hidalgo, Coca Cola, Budweiser and HEB.

Sincerely,

Johnny Rodriguez, Edinburg Chamber of Commerce Chairman of the Board