

Weslaco museum goes 'back to school' for September exhibit

SPECIAL TO THE MONITOR

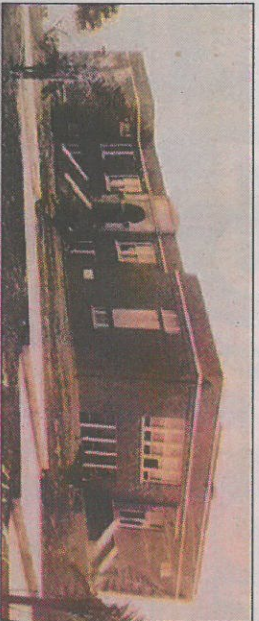
The Weslaco Museum at 500 S. Texas Ave. will feature the history of Weslaco schools in its gallery during the month of September, said Joe Vidales, interim director.

"An opening night reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10, at the museum," Vidales said. "Admission to the reception is free and the public is invited."

The first day of school can be hectic and confusing, in the best of circumstances. Consider that the student may be facing a new school and new teachers. How confusing would it be if the school name is the same, but the school's location has been changed. Over the years such changes have happened with Weslaco's schools.

Weslaco was founded in 1919, and those early students attended school in Donna or in Weslaco's Community Building. Although the school district was formed in 1921, the first high school was not built until 1923 and the first junior high school was built in 1925. One year later, in 1926, the junior high building became the high school and the original high school became the junior high school. These two buildings still exist and look better than ever after remodeling. Today these buildings are known as Annex A and Annex B on the Central middle school campus.

The elementary school in Weslaco came into being early in Weslaco's history. The first elementary school on the south side of town was the Stephen F. Austin Elementary School. It was built between 1920

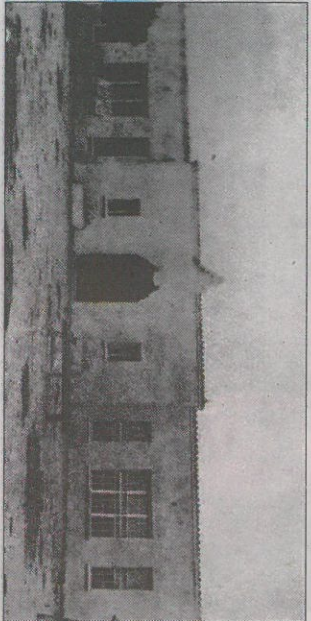


Courtesy photos

First Weslaco High School



First Weslaco Junior High School



First elementary on Weslaco's north side

and 1922, with a second floor added to the building in 1924. This second floor did not survive a fire a few years after it was built. Currently, the Stephen F. Austin buildings serve as the WISD Administrative buildings.

On the north side of town, the first elementary school was known as "The Mexican School." It was built in 1923. This school went through several names changes over the years. In the 1930s, it was known as the "North Ward School." The name changed again in 1953 when it became Leoline Horton Elementary. Although no longer an elementary school, Leoline Horton serves the district as Horton DAEP.

As Weslaco has grown, more schools have been built and many have been remodeled. With these changes, came the change in names and locations. The "Back To School" exhibit will show the visitors the names and locations of Weslaco's schools, past and present.

The Weslaco Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Regular admission is free to members, \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors, \$2 for veterans and students (5 to 17), and free to children under five years. The museum offers free admission from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. the first Saturday of each month. For more information, call the museum at (956) 968-9142.

Roma senior completes summer journalism program at Princeton

Congratulations to Roma High School senior Jocelyn Molina, who completed the prestigious Princeton University Summer Journalism Program. Her

article, "Art renovations stir debate" was featured in the "The Princeton Summer Journal."

Courtesy photo



KINDER

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transition to elementary school is more valuable in the long run than the short period of uncertainty.

During the second week of school, teachers, counselors, instructional coaches and administrators sit down to create balanced classes, assembling a manageable mix of children with different academic, behavior or social emotional needs.

Meanwhile, the children have an assigned classroom where they start and end each day the first week. Teachers say that any



Courtesy photo

Lt. Col. Walter Llamas, ROTC Bronco Battalion commanding officer, swears in three new second lieutenants, from left, Sergio Buhat, Liliانا Chavez and Anthony Paulson. The Bronco Battalion now transitions to become the UTRGV Vaquero Battalion.

Bronc ROTC ready to march into UTRGV

SPECIAL TO THE MONITOR

For select students at The University of Texas-Pan American, the culmination of years of study and training doesn't just lead to a diploma. It marks the beginning of a career as a leader in the U.S. Armed Forces.

UTPA's Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) held its final commissioning ceremony on

Aug. 21 to honor three graduating UTPA seniors commissioned as U.S. Army second lieutenants.

The commissioned officers were joined by family members, friends and guest speaker Col. Rich Morales, brigade commander of the U.S. Army Cadet Command, in a ceremony that marked the transition from Bronco Battalion to Vaquero Battalion under The University

of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The new second lieutenants are:

>> Sergio Buhat — B.S. in kinesiology; Army active duty officer, Ordnance Branch.

>> Liliانا Chavez — B.S. in biology; Army National Guard officer, Aviation Branch.

>> Anthony Paulson — B.S. in biology; Army active duty officer, Infantry Branch.



Courtesy photo

Roma students receive school supplies from SA YES

The SA YES Foundation provided some lucky Roma Independent School District students attending F.J. Scott Elementary and R.T. Barrera Elementary schools with Kits of free school supplies during the first week of school. The foundation partnered with Taco Bell, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Pizza Hut to give the supplies to more than 30,000 students across San Antonio and South Texas. In their boxes of supplies, the F.J. Scott Knights and R.T. Barrera Eagles received a set of colored pencils, notebook paper, crayons, a pink eraser, glue, a glue stick, a folder, pencils, a ruler, a black ball point pen, a red ball point pen and a box of tissues. "We are extremely grateful for this donation because many of our students need these supplemental supplies to make it through the school year," said F.J. Scott Principal Diana Salinas. "We are very thankful to the SA YES Foundation and their corporate sponsors for their generosity and we hope they know their donations are making a real impact in the Roma ISD community."