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BROWNSVILLE AND THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY

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AROUND THE VALLEY

King recognized as superintendent of the year

► **HIDALGO** — It is great to be king — just ask Hidalgo schools Superintendent Daniel P. King.

The Region One Education Service Center in Edinburg named King its superintendent of the year Monday. He now competes for the state's top school district leader, who will be named in October at the Texas Association of School Boards' annual meeting in Houston.

Jack Damron, Region One's executive director, said the recognition also speaks well for the Hidalgo school district's education quality. The region comprises school districts from Brownsville to Laredo.

"Dr. King is very well respected among his peers," Damron said. "He is a dynamic leader and he is a very intelligent educator. He always works for the children who he serves. There's never mistaking the fact that that's what he's in it for."

Frost buys Alamo Bank

► **HARLINGEN** — Alamo Bank of Texas now has a new name and a new owner: Frost Bank.

The former Rio Grande Valley-based bank was acquired early this year by the San Antonio financial institution in a \$87 million deal that gave Frost Bank 10 additional branches.

"We completed the acquisition in February and waited until this month to make the conversion," Renee Sabel, Frost Bank spokeswoman, said Monday. "We now have 13 branches in the Valley."

Frost Bank has a branch in Harlingen, two in McAllen and there are plans to build another branch in Brownsville.

Allen Shields, former chief executive officer for Alamo Bank, said the acquisition caused no major changes to bank operations, but said that from 30 to 40 jobs were eliminated after the acquisition took place.

In addition to its headquarters where it had two banks, Alamo Bank had two branches in Harlingen and one each in Mission, McAllen, Pharr, Donna, Weslaco and Raymondville.

On the fly



G. DANIEL LÓPEZ / THE BROWNSVILLE HERALD

A fly rests on the stamen of a hibiscus flower recently in Brownsville. With summer here and the Earth's temperature the hottest in 400 years according to The National Academy of Sciences, it is important to keep hydrated, wear sun block, and avoid being outside during the hottest part of the day. Pets and household plants need water and shade as well. Temperatures in Brownsville today are expected to reach 95 degrees.

Seven to be recognized for saving man's life

Man who jumped from county building to be released from hospital

BY SERGIO CHAPA
THE BROWNSVILLE HERALD

County leaders are expected to commend seven people for saving a man's life after he jumped off a third-floor balcony inside the county courthouse last month.

Family members could not be reached for comment, but officials from the Valley Baptist Medical Center-Harlingen said Roberto Medina is in stable condition and is expected to be released today or Wednesday.

The 41-year-old man is expected to go through weeks and months of rehabilitation after going through several operations that will allow him to walk and talk again.

The Cameron County Commissioner's Court is expected to present a resolution honoring four deputy bailiffs and three others for their efforts in saving Medina's life.

"They went beyond the call of

duty," said Courthouse Security Chief Raymond Shears. "They did everything to keep him alive."

The resolution recognizes courthouse bailiffs Santos Gomez, Janet Shears, Travis Stukes, and Saul Villafranco as well as child support phlebotomist Mark Peña, legal investigator Julio Treviño and colleague Rosie Lopez for "outstanding service."

Treviño said in a previous interview that he pushed Lopez out of Medina's path.

Janet Shears said Peña took Medina's pulse while she and the others gave the 41-year-old man first aid but were careful not to

move him.

"He had no pulse when he landed but then started gasping and gurgling," Janet Shears said.

The courthouse bailiff said she and the others wiped blood and blood clots off Medina's face allowing him to breathe until paramedics arrived.

Ray Shears said Janet Shears will soon be certified as a first aid instructor and that the incident has prompted him to require first aid training for all bailiffs in addition to other undisclosed security changes at the courthouse.

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LOTTO

► TEXAS LOTTERY RESULTS

Winning numbers, Monday, June 26:

Texas Two Step: 17-26-27-33 BB 16

Cash 5: 13-14-32-35-37

Pick 3: (day)6-7-3 (night) 2-4-7

Find past winning numbers at www.txlottery.org

GETTING IT RIGHT

► CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

Due to a reporting error, a story on page A1 of Monday's *The Brownsville Herald* stated that a demolition by neglect ordinance the City Commission approved June 20 would force owners of dilapidated properties to repair or demolish them. The ordinance is intended to prevent neglected buildings from being demolished by giving the city a way to force owners to repair them.

Demolition would only be considered as a last resort.

The Herald apologizes for the error.

It is the policy of *The Brownsville Herald* to correct errors in a timely manner. Corrections and clarifications will be published in this space. To inquire about corrections, readers may call an editor.

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POLICE BRIEFS

Wright arrested on probation violation

THE BROWNSVILLE HERALD

Former Cameron County Commissioner's Court Counsel Charles Douglas Wright was arrested for the fourth time in less than two years after he turned himself in for an alleged probation violation Monday.

The 57-year-old attorney retried from his post amid legal problems and had been on probation for a November 2004 traffic accident when he was arrested for indecent exposure on South Padre Island.

A Cameron County grand jury later indicted Wright on indecency with a child by exposure.

Wright pleaded not guilty to the indictment during a Monday morning arraignment before Judge Menton Murray with the 103rd State District Court.

Cameron County District Attorney Armando Villalobos said he successfully filed a motion to revoke Wright's probation for the auto accident based on the indictment and after he failed to appear for a court hearing.

Rick Zayas, Wright's attorney, said his client could not attend the hearing because he was in substance abuse counseling and was not granted an extension.

Wright remains in custody without bond but is expected to appear before Cameron County Court at-Law 3 Judge Daniel Robles today.

Bartenders face charges of selling alcohol to minors

State officials vowed that they will continue to crack down on businesses that sell alcohol to minors following arrests at two weekend arrests at local nightspots.

Cameron County jail records show that Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission agents arrested Tuti's employee Jennifer Weare Reyna and JC Wings employee Mauricio Santos Canela as part of a Saturday night undercover sting.

TABC agent Brent Puente said undercover minors hit 15 businesses in Brownsville and one in San Benito based on complaints and random selections from a list of licensed alcohol vendors.

Puente said Reyna, 20, and Canela, 25, both sold beer to minors without asking for ID.

Although the cases remain pending, Puente said both Tuti's and JC Wings could face fines or temporary suspension of their liquor licenses.

Puente said his agency would continue to crack down on places that sell alcohol to minors through monthly undercover stings.

"When minors get a hold of alcohol, bad things can happen," Puente said. "We have to hold retailers accountable and see if they're responsible."

Sexual assault on 16-year-old under investigation

Police are investigating the sexual assault of a 16-year-old girl who allegedly

partied with a group of older teens late Saturday night.

Dispatch logs show the girl's parents reported that she had been kidnapped from their home early Sunday morning.

The girl told police she and one of the friends parted with a group of older boys late Saturday night and one of them sexually assaulted her at her house.

The teenage girl allegedly left with a group of teens in an emotional and intoxicated state prompting friends and neighbors to believe she had been kidnapped.

But authorities located the girl at her boyfriend's house in Los Fresnos.

The girl was taken for testing at a local hospital but maintains she was raped by one her guests.

The case remains under investigation.

Police briefs were compiled by Herald reporter Sergio Chapa.

Meetings this week:

Brownsville Independent School District

What: Board of Trustees Special Called Board Meeting
When: 5:30 P.M., today
Where: Administration Building, 1900 Price Road
For more info: (956) 548-8000
On the Web: www.bisd.us

► The board will recommend approval of the 2006-2007 compensation plan, which includes a \$4,500 raise for all current teachers.

► The board will recommend approval of the 2006 - 2007 BISD budget.

► The board will recommend approval of consideration and possible retirement of the Superintendent.

The Herald

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DON PEDRO SAYS

"I have to get me some free pizza. The BISD is giving out free pizza now; do you think I can pass as an 18 year-old?" Don Pedro asked as we walked into the newsroom.

A reporter looked at Don Pedro, his scraggly beard, his trashy clothes, his old eyes, and thought about it for a moment.

"You know Don Pedro," the young reporter said, "I don't think you can."

And then she ducked as Don Pedro threw an old *chanda* straight at her head.

"No pizza for you," he said and out he went.