



¡Qué pasa?
830 Entertainment

Monarch Festival Returns to Downtown

Twins Alyssa Rosales, left, and Daphne Rosales, right, show off their Monarch "wings" during the city's inaugural Monarch Butterfly Festival in 2026. This year's festival will be from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23. (Photo by Karen Gleason)

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Friday's Monarch Festival celebrates astounding migration

BY KAREN GLEASON
THE 830 TIMES

Every year in October, Del Rio and Val Verde County get ringside seats to one of the great spectacles of the natural world – the annual migration of millions of Monarch butterflies from Canada and the U.S. to their winter roosts in central Mexico.

To celebrate the butterflies' passage, the public is invited to attend the 3rd Annual City of Del Rio Texas Monarch Festival 2026 to be held from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23, at the historic Brown Plaza outside the Casa De La Cultura, 302 Cantu St. The event is free.

City Communications and Marketing Director Peter Ojeda, one of the event's main organizers, said, "Del Rio has several 'designations'; we're a Tree City USA, and we apply for that every year. We work with the Del Rio Chamber of Commerce on some other designations. For the Monarch Festival, working with Casa De La Cultura, we saw an opportunity to celebrate another of our great natural wonders."

Ojeda added, "I've always loved seeing the migration. I think the same can be said for some of our partners, like Lupita (De La Paz, Casa De La Cultura executive director) and Esme (Esparza, city community services director), so we got together with some of the other agencies, including the chamber, the San Felipe Creek Coalition, the National Park Service at the Amistad National Recreation Area and



Monarchs roost in the city's Lt. Thomas Romanelli Park on the banks of the San Felipe Creek in this photo taken Tuesday, Oct. 20. The butterflies' annual migration, one of the great wonders of the natural world, passes through Val Verde County and Del Rio every October. (Photo by Karen Gleason)

the Consulado of Mexico, and decided to put on this event.

"The first year, we had it at the Brown Plaza, and we had it on a Saturday. We noticed some of the traffic patterns, and we changed it to a Friday. We saw that was successful, and we're continuing that this year. We've expanded the festival, with some music to really bring the community together. It's grown every year, and we expect this year to be even bigger," Ojeda said.

De La Paz added when she was approached by the

city, she immediately offered her help.

De La Paz said, "I thought it was really great. It's something that's really important to me and people in my little circle, and for the city to embrace it, I think that means the community is becoming more knowledgeable and aware of our natural treasures and knowing what a blessing it is to live in this place."

"When the city took the lead on this project, I think it helps us communicate to more people, maybe people who didn't know the Monarchs pass through every

year, that this is something really special and important," De La Paz added.

Ojeda said this year's festival will feature a variety of Monarch-themed information and activities, but will include some of the area's rich cultural elements as well.

The festival will include ballet folklórico performances by Macuilxochitl and a matlachines performance by Danza Guadalupeana. The performances will be at 6 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. respectively.

A Monarch Parade around the Brown Plaza

will begin at 7 p.m. Parents and children attending the festival are encouraged to dress up in Monarch-inspired costumes and decorations. Following the parade, there will be a Monarch costume contest, and prizes will be awarded to the best costume in three categories: child, adolescent and adult.

Live music featuring La Quimica will begin at 8 p.m. and continue until the end of the festival at 10 p.m.

Ojeda said the first 100 attendees will receive a specially designed Monarch Festival pin.

De La Paz said the festival will feature a plant swap in the patio next to the Casa De La Cultura, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

"People can bring any plants they want to swap, and we'll give them some 'plant money,' and they get to take as many plants as they bring in," De La Paz said.

She said the event will also host a free plant loteria from 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Participants who register will also have a chance to win several types of native plants, including Ceniza, blue plumbago and Mexican firebush, all considered vital species for pollinating insects like the Monarch butterflies.

The festival will also include informational booths, face painting and someone doing caricatures.

A number of food vendors are also expected to be present for the event.

The writer can be reached at delriomagnoliafan@gmail.com

TOP THINGS TO DO

Your go-to source for your top weekend events

1

UNDER THE SEA HOMECOMING

DIVE DEEP PLAY HARD



RAMS HOMECOMING GAME

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23RD

SUPPORT THE RAMS AT DEL RIO RAMS FOOTBALL GAME AT WALTER LEVERMANN STADIUM, 100 MEMORIAL DR, ON FRIDAY, OCT. 23, AT 7:30 P.M.

MONARCH FESTIVAL

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23RD

CELEBRATE THE ANNUAL MIGRATION OF THE MONARCH BUTTERFLIES AT HISTORIC BROWN PLAZA, 305 E. CANAL ST., ON FRIDAY, OCT. 23, FROM 5 P.M. TO 10 P.M.



2

3

GRACIE'S FINDS

GRACIE'S FINDS AUCTION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH

FIND AND CLAIM UNIQUE FURNITURE AND OTHER HOUSE-HOLD ITEMS AT GRACIE'S FINDS, 604 S. MAIN ST., ON SATURDAY, OCT. 24, STARTING AT 10 A.M.

IN YOUR ELEMENT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH

GIRLS CAN LEARN MATH, SCIENCE AND MORE AT 304 E. 9TH ST. ON SATURDAY, OCT. 24, FROM 1 P.M. TO 4 P.M.



4

5

HAYRIDE

Saturday, October 24th

10:30 AM – 6:30 PM

HAY RIDES AT PUMPKIN PATCH

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH

ENJOY HAY RIDES AND BUY PUMPKINS AT THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 100 SPRING ST., ON SATURDAY, OCT. 24, FROM 10:30 A.M. TO 6:30 P.M.

ADVERTISE HERE!



Movie Review: WILDWOOD

BY LOUIS ZYLKA
THE 830 TIMES

Laika Studios may not ring a bell for many, but the stop-motion animation studio has brought us instant classics within the past 15 years, such as "Coraline," "Paranorman" and "Kubo and the Two Strings." Now, after a seven-year hiatus, the studio has returned with its most ambitious project that took 16 years to make, "Wildwood." Like its predecessors, Laika's newest feature-length film creates

an experience worth seeing on the biggest screen.

Prue McKeel (Peyton Elizabeth Lee) wants to be a fun sister and take her brother Mac to enjoy the wonders and joys of Portland, Oregon. Then one normal day, Mac is kidnapped by a flock of crows and taken into the wilderness. McKeel and her friend Curtis Mehlberg (Jacob Tremblay) must now venture into the woods to save her brother from an unknown danger. Along the way, they enter the world of Wildwood where

talking animals exist, sorcerers hide in the shadows and an epic war between fantasy creatures occurs, which delivers one of the greatest battle sequences put on film all year, and it is all done through stop-motion.

While Laika's films have an edge to them, with scary imagery and dark atmospheres, the studio's past films can still be geared for children who want to watch something creepy for Halloween. Wildwood goes beyond being a children's film by exploring heavier themes about the consequences of war and the pain of losing your loved ones. Besides the film's mature tone, "Wildwood" still manages to offer a coming-of-age story exploring themes of bravery, family and friendship.



Prue McKeel (Peyton Elizabeth Lee) rides on the General (Angela Bassett) in Laika Studios' Wildwood, directed by Travis Knight (Courtesy Photo)

While not perfect, Laika's newest film aims to tell the importance of transitioning into adulthood while still retaining the child-like wonder many may have lost along the way.

While its violent imagery may be unsuitable for some, and its runtime is full of an underwhelming plot, "Wildwood" is still a

must-see and one of the best experiences at the cinema this year. With breathtaking animation, memorable characters and a world you want to stay in forever, Laika's newest feature film is another timeless classic pushing the boundaries of what storytelling in cinema and animation can accomplish.

I'm the one you go to when you don't know where to go



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830 Entertainment: *Events at a glance!*

17TH ANNUAL PUMPKIN PATCH

OCT. 23 THROUGH OCT. 31 - The First United Methodist Church, 100 Spring St., has brought back its annual pumpkin patch available from Friday, Oct. 23, through Saturday, Oct. 31. The pumpkin patch will be open Monday through Friday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.

RAMS HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME

OCT. 23 - The Del Rio High School (DRHS) football team will go up against Alexander (Laredo) at Levermann Stadium, 100 Memorial Dr, on Friday, Oct. 23, at 7:30 p.m. DRHS homecoming concludes with its court coronation during halftime.

DEL RIO MONARCH FESTIVAL

OCT. 23 - The annual Del Rio Monarch Festival, will have music performances, educational stations and a parade on Friday, Oct. 23. The festival will run from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

GRACIE'S FINDS AUCTION

OCT. 24 - Gracie's Finds, the local store downtown, will have an auction event at its location on 604 S. Main St. on Saturday, Oct. 24. The preview will be at 10 a.m. and the official auction starts at 11 a.m.

BUCKETS OF SPOOKY FUN

OCT. 24 - A coloring workshop for children and their parents will be held at McCoy's Building Supply, 805 TX-239 Spur, on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Complimentary snacks will be provided.

HAYRIDE AT PUMPKIN PATCH

OCT. 24 - First United Methodist Church, 100 Spring St., on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

QUEENS VOLLEYBALL GAME

OCT. 24 - The Del Rio High School volleyball teams will play against Eagle Pass' high school team at Del Rio High School, 100 Memorial Dr, on Saturday, Oct. 24. JV and Freshman teams will play at 11:30 a.m., and varsity will play at 12:30 p.m.

PUMPKIN PAINTING CONTEST

OCT. 24 - A painting contest using pumpkins will be held at Walmart, 2410 Dodson Ave, on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. The fee to enter with your own pumpkin is \$5, and the fee to enter with a pumpkin provided on location will be \$10.

TICK-OR-TREAT GHOSTS ART WORKSHOP

OCT. 24 - Marcos Mares Art Studio & Gallery, 205 E. Ogden St., will have a children's Halloween-art workshop on Saturday, Oct. 24, at 3 p.m. The workshop will be for an hour and 30 minutes, and the entry fee is \$40 per person.

VIVA RETRO MARKET

OCT. 24 - Mesquite Creek Outfitters will be hosting a Viva Retro Market event with food, vendors and music at 800 S. Main St. on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Music will be provided by the Moonclaps and La Gente Vinyl Club.

DONUTS WITH DAD

OCT. 24 - Fathers and their children can participate in an arts-and-crafts workshop at the Val Verde County Library, 300 Spring St., on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

IN YOUR ELEMENT

OCT. 24 - Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas (GSST) will be hosting a free educational event with science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) activities for girl scout members and

non-members at 304 E. 9th St. on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Registration can be found at the GSST official website.

FITNESS CLASSES AT THE FIREHOUSE

OCT. 27 & 29 - Del Rio Council for the Arts at the Firehouse, 120 E. Garfield St., will have beginner-friendly yoga classes on Tuesday, Oct. 27, and Thursday, Aug. 29, at 6 p.m. Tuition for a single-day class is \$10.

GET FIT AT VVCL

OCT. 28 - Yoga sessions will be held at the Val Verde County Library, 300 Spring St., on Wednesday, OCT. 28, from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

CHAMBER "BUSINESS AFTER HOURS" MIXER

OCT. 29 - The Del Rio Chamber of Commerce will be having its monthly mixer for business networking at Texas Community Bank, 401 Pecan St., on Thursday, Oct. 29, from 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

HORROR MOVIE AT MESQUITE

OCT. 29 - Mesquite Creek Outfitters, 800 S. Main St., will be screening John Carpenter's "Halloween" as part of its weekly horror-movie marathon on Thursday, Oct. 29, at 7:30 p.m.

POUR TOUR

ONGONG - Visit local bars and collect stamps to receive an exclusive 2026 Pour Tour T-Shirt by supporting businesses in Del Rio's downtown area and on Veterans Boulevard. The participating Pour Tour stops include Doc Holliday's Dance Hall & Tombstone Sports Bar, Gorzugis at the Herald, White Horse Lounge, Mesquite Creek Outfitters, SoJo Cellars, Shane's Whiskey & Bourbon House and The Gin House.

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