

# NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley In Your Neighborhood...and Beyond!



*Above:* June was busy for NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley. Clockwise, from top left: *Bianca Villanueva* discussing the 2014 hurricane season at the South Texas Hurricane Conference; *Barry Goldsmith* programming a Midland® NOAA Weather Radio (top); *Justin Gibbs* describing how waterspouts work at StormFury!; *Steve Drillette* presenting a Special Service Award to Walmart, *Bianca Villanueva* and *Justin Gibbs* discussing hurricane preparedness to residents of Cameron Park; *Barry Goldsmith* showing off a poster on the 2013 RGV Weather Festival.

## June 2014

June 1: Meteorologist-In-Charge *Steve Drillette* and Forecaster/Tropical Program Leader *Justin Gibbs* attended **StormFury Hurricane Season Special Event**, sponsored by the Urban Science Initiative. StormFury promoted hurricane information, safety, and preparedness in the Mid Valley.

- Forecaster *Blair Scholl* staffed a **Hurricane Preparedness and Hurricane Guide Distribution** booth at the Boca Chica **Walmart** in Brownsville that coincided with the opening

day of the 2014 Hurricane Season. Hundreds of hurricane guides and preparedness materials were handed out.

June 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30: Warning Coordination Meteorologist *Barry Goldsmith* participated by e-mail, phone, or both, in the **Weekly Texas Drought Monitor Teleconference**.

June 2: *Barry Goldsmith* taped a half hour **hurricane special** with **Edinburg Cable Network (ECN)**.

June 3: Forecaster/Spanish Language Team Leader *Maria Torres* provided an **interview on the 2014 Hurricane Outlook to Radio Luz, 760 AM**, from Tampa, FL.

- *Barry Goldsmith* provided an hour long session on the 2014 hurricane season forecast, **"More to the Story than the Category"**, where to find impact graphics, and basic preparedness to the **USCBP Region VI Emergency Planning Meeting in Edinburg**. Approximately 40 representatives from the Rio Grande Valley and beyond were in attendance.

June 4 – 5: *Steve Drillette, Barry Goldsmith, and volunteer Bianca Villanueva* staffed a booth at the **2014 South Texas Hurricane Conference** at the McAllen Convention Center. Over 300 attendees stopped by the booth to discuss the upcoming hurricane season and to pick up preparedness materials.

June 5: *Barry Goldsmith* provided a one hour session titled **"The 2014 Atlantic Hurricane Season: Low Odds, High Impact?" to the South Texas Hurricane Conference**. More than 100 visitors attended the presentation.

June 6: *Barry Goldsmith* provided a 5 minute presentation on the importance of preparedness for the 2014 Hurricane Season, and staffed a booth for the **Hidalgo County Dare to Prepare** event at the **Alton CRC**. More than 30 residents attended.

June 7: *Barry Goldsmith* provided a 45 minute talk on 2013 Atlantic hurricane season's "Failure to Launch" and the 2014 Forecast to 13 residents of Laguna Vista at the **Laguna Vista Town Meeting on Hurricane Preparedness**.

- *Barry Goldsmith and Bianca Villanueva* staffed a **Hurricane Preparedness and Hurricane Guide Distribution** booth at the Port Isabel **Walmart**. Between 300 and 450 Texas Hurricane Guides (RGV Edition) were handed out. FOX-2 weathercaster Freddy Vela participated from noon to 2 pm.

June 8: *Justin Gibbs* staffed a **Hurricane Preparedness and Hurricane Guide Distribution** booth at the Harlingen **Walmart**.

June 9: *Maria Torres* gave a feature **interview to Univision Channel 48** about the 2014 hurricane season forecast, hurricane preparedness, the latest drought conditions and the Climate Prediction Center outlook on temperatures and precipitation.

June 10: *Barry Goldsmith* presented a poster at the **National Warning Coordination Meteorologist Conference** at NOAA/NWS Headquarters outside of Washington, DC. The poster, "Rio Grande Valley Weather Festival 2013: Successes and Lessons Learned", and others drew more than 100 persons during a dedicated session and during breaks in the Conference through the 12<sup>th</sup>.

June 11: *Barry Goldsmith* was invited to speak on the unique challenges of weather communication and preparedness across the Rio Grande Valley to a breakout session on Social Science at the **National Warning Coordination Meteorologist Conference**.

June 12: *Justin Gibbs* attended and spoke at the **Port Isabel Hurricane Town Hall**.

June 13: *Justin Gibbs* and *Bianca Villanueva* attended and staffed a booth at the **Cameron Park Colonia Hurricane Preparedness Fair**. Several dozen residents stopped by to chat about the upcoming season and take brochures and other items from the display.

June 14: *Barry Goldsmith* presented a review of the 2013 hurricane season and the preview of the 2014 season "More to the Story than the Category" and a preparedness primer to around 50 employees and their families at the monthly **Citrus Wastewater Association Hurricane Prep Luncheon** at Laguna Madre Water District in Port Isabel.

June 18: *Barry Goldsmith* was joined by Bruce Thomas of Midland Radio Corporation and Tim Smith of KRGV Channel 5 for the **promotion of NOAA Weather Radio and the upcoming Spanish language transmitters** at Academy Sports+Outdoors in Weslaco. Dozens of radios were programmed.

June 19: *Barry Goldsmith* spoke about the 2014 hurricane season forecast and overall hurricane impact information and preparedness at the **City of Weslaco (Staff) Hurricane Meeting**.

June 19, 23: Senior Forecaster *Mike Castillo* gave an **interview to the Harlingen Valley Morning Star** regarding rainfall totals this year compared to last year and gave an **interview to the San Benito News** regarding the hurricane outlook for the Rio Grande Valley, each resulting in full length articles.

June 27: *Barry Goldsmith* provided a brief presentation on the importance of preparedness during the 2014 Hurricane Season and staffed a booth for the **Hidalgo County Dare to Prepare** event at the **Alamo CRC**. Approximately 40 residents attended.

June 30: MIC Steve Drillette attended the **NOAA Gulf of Mexico Regional Team annual meeting** in Mobile, AL.