

# NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley In Your Neighborhood!



Warning Coordination Meteorologist **Barry Goldsmith** and FOX-2 Broadcaster **Freddy Vela** at the North McAllen Walmart Store (#452) distributing the Texas Hurricane Guide, RGV Edition, on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

## May 2014

**May 2:** Senior Forecaster **Mike Castillo** attended **Ben Brite Elementary Career Day**. He spoke to 152 5<sup>th</sup> graders about what meteorologist do in the National Weather Service.

**May 3:** Meteorologist **Erin Billings** attended the **Travel and Tourism Fair in Brownsville CVB**. Around 75 people stopped by the booth.

**May 4:** Forecaster **Maria Torres** conducted a phone **interview with Valley Morning Star on the latest Drought conditions** and the spring and early summer outlook.

**May 5, 12, 19, 26:** Warning Coordination Meteorologist **Barry Goldsmith** participated by e-mail and phone on the **Weekly Texas Drought Monitor Telecon**.

**May 5:** **Maria Torres** gave a two phone interviews; one to **El Manana Newspaper in McAllen and Reynosa area with Veronica Guzman** and another to **Fox/Univision in Spanish and English**. Each interview was about the latest drought, and reservoir conditions at Falcon International Reservoir.

**May 8:** *Barry Goldsmith* set up a booth and spoke at the Prepare for Disaster Event to around 150 students and parents from **Lasara and San Perlita ISD (Willacy County)** on **“More to the Story than the Category”**. Other Presenters included Kathleen Martin (UT Health Science Center, Harlingen Branch) on the Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders (WISER) Disaster Awareness app, and Manuel Cruz (Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council) on CERT.

- *Maria Torres* gave a presentation on **Hurricane Preparedness at Raul Yzaguirre Elementary and Head Start in Brownsville** to around 40 parents.

**May 9-10:** *Barry Goldsmith* attended the **2014 Texas Shrimp Association Convention** at Isla Grand Beach Resort in South Padre Island. He spoke to 75 members and associates of the Texas Shrimp Association (TSA) on How Winter 2013/2014 affected Texas Shrimping, and what may be ahead this summer and next winter. A booth was also set up with promotional items and brochures for interested attendees.

**May 13-15:** Meteorologist-in-Charge *Steve Drillette* and *Barry Goldsmith* attended the **Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) Homeland Security Conference in San Antonio**.

**May 14:** *Barry Goldsmith* represented **NWS Texas at the Social Media Roundtable at the TDEM Conference** with a panel of experts to describe the benefits and potential pitfalls of social media in Emergency Management. Examples of Texas WFO successes and lessons learned during significant events were described in a 20 minute presentation. Other presenters included Josh Roberts, Texas District 4 Coordinator of Field Response (Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex) and Jennie Huerta of Texas Department of Public Safety.

- *Maria Torres* participated in the **monthly interview with Radio Esperanza on Hurricane Preparedness Week**.

- *Maria Torres* did an interview with **KRGV Channel 5 with Samara Cokinis** discussing the wireless emergency alerts in the afternoon.

- *Maria Torres* presented that evening at **the Lena Bennett Head Start about Hurricane preparedness** to 60 parents.

- Science and Operations Officer *Douglas Butts* participated in an interview with **KRGV Channel 5 Lisa Villegas for their hurricane special**, discussing “worst case scenarios” for our region. Portions of the interview were aired on the station’s annual hurricane season special on May 31.

**May 16:** *Barry Goldsmith* provided a presentation about the 2014 season forecast and the failure to launch of the 2013 season to the **annual hurricane awareness meeting at South Texas Emergency Care Foundation (STEC) in Harlingen**.

**May 19:** *Steve Drillette* and *Douglas Butts* attended the **Bi-annual Hurricane Awareness P-3 Tour (HAT) at National Weather Service in Corpus Christi**. Each assisted the staff at NWS Corpus Christi by driving members of the HAT between the hotel and the event location (Corpus Christi International Airport).

**May 21-23:** *Steve Drillette* attended the **NOAA Hurricane Exercise at the NOAA Gulf of Mexico Region Disaster Center in Mobile, AL**.

**May 21:** Senior Forecasters gave an interview with important details to **Valley Morning Star concerning the 2014 Hurricane Outlook and preparedness.**

**May 22:** *Barry Goldsmith* led a one hour discussion of the 2014 Hurricane Season Forecast at the **South Padre Island Chamber of Commerce Monthly Coffee Meeting.**

May 27: WCM *Barry Goldsmith* participated in two live cut-in interviews for 2014 Hurricane season on the Sunrise morning show at **KGBT Channel 4.**

- *Douglas Butts* gave a presentation to the **Civil Air Patrol cadets on Meteorology.**

**May 28:** *Barry Goldsmith* organized the **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Hurricane Workshop for Emergency Management and Related Partners in Knapp Medical Center in Weslaco.** *Steve Drillette, Douglas Butts, Forecaster/Tropical Program Manager Justin Gibbs, and Maria Torres* participated in this event. Dr. William Donner, a sociologist at University of Texas-Pan American, and Dr. Steve Lyons of NWS San Angelo, TX, were the keynote speakers. Well over 100 people attended.

**May 29:** *Barry Goldsmith* organized the **RGV Media Partners Hurricane Workshop at KRGV Channel 5.** The workshop was an initiative to enhance partnerships across the Valley. *Steve Drillette, Barry Goldsmith, Douglas Butts, Justin Gibbs, and Maria Torres* participated and spoke at this event. Dr. Steve Lyons was the Keynote Speaker. Around 25 people attended, including the entire **weather teams of KRGV-5 (ABC), KGBT-4 (CBS), KFXV-2 (FOX), and Televisa Noreste (Matamoros, Tamaulipas, MX - XERV and XHAB).**

- *Steve Drillette, Barry Goldsmith, Justin Gibbs, and Maria Torres* provided short **interviews** on topics discussed at the Media Workshop **with Samara Cokinos of KRGV TV 5.**

- *Maria Torres* provided an **interview to Perla Montemayor from Unvision about the new Spanish Hurricane Local Statement.**

**May 30:** *Barry Goldsmith* gave a **live interview for Good Day Valley, and taped interview segments for the 2014 Hurricane season on KFXV-2 FOX in McAllen.** The taped interviews were scheduled to be broadcast on successive weeks through mid June.

- *Barry Goldsmith* gave a talk about hurricane season 2014 and preparedness at the **Annual Hurricane Meeting at Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in Harlingen.**

- *Barry Goldsmith* set up a booth and gave a talk at the **City of Brownsville Annual Hurricane Fair at the Main Public Library in Brownsville** on Brownsville Hurricane History and More to the Story than the Category to more than 100 City residents.

**May 31:** *Barry Goldsmith* staffed a booth at **Walmart Store #452 (McAllen) for the 2014 Hurricane Guide distribution with Entravision RGV/ Freddy Vela of KFXV/KNVO.** Around 450 English and Spanish guides were passed out to shoppers, between 10 AM and 230 PM.