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THE MONITOR

VALLEY & STATE

THEY SAID IT

"Whether you are a dreamer or not, what you are doing is an extraordinary act of patriotism." **Blandina 'Bambi' Cárdenas**, former UTPA president, on DREAM Act hunger strikers. **See story below**



LIBERTARIANS' ROAD EASIER

Columnist Dave McNeely writes that the party's healthy election turnout automatically qualifies it for inclusion on the coming ballot, instead of having to obtain petitions. **Opinion | 6B**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2010 | WWW.THEMONITOR.COM/VS

Selena Gomez to perform at Fest

>> Hidalgo's border celebration will mark its 35th anniversary with a Hawaiian-themed bash this year.

By AMY NICHOL SMITH
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Selena Gomez, best known for her role on Disney's *Wizards of Waverly Place*, will headline BorderFest on March 5 at State Farm Arena in Hidalgo, organizers announced Thursday morning at a news conference.

Arena officials also said the theme

for BorderFest 2011 will be Hawaii.

Gomez not only stars as Alex on Disney's award-winning *Wizards*, she has also released a solo album titled *Kiss and Tell* and recently starred in the feature film *Ramona and Beezus*.

Now the multi-talented 18-year-



Gomez

old Texas native will tour in support of her sophomore album, *A Year Without Rain*.

BorderFest, whose major sponsor is Kraft Foods, celebrates a different culture each year. Hidalgo's oldest music festival will mark its 35th year of bringing education, culture, fun and entertainment to families of the Rio Grande Valley. When BorderFest first began in 1977, the event drew 500 people to Memorial Park. Last year, BorderFest's four-day celebration saw more than 85,000 visitors join in the festivities.

Previous performers at BorderFest include Alan Jackson, RBD, New Kids on the Block, Tim McGraw and Lady Antebellum.

Tickets for Gomez's concert go on sale 10 a.m. Dec. 18 and can be purchased at the arena box office, www.statefarmarena.com or at www.ticketmaster.com.

For more information on BorderFest, visit www.borderfest.org.

Amy Nichol Smith covers features and entertainment for *The Monitor*. She can be reached at (956) 683-4420.