

THE MONITOR

SERVING THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY SINCE 1909

IN THE DARK

Nearly four in 10 Americans say they don't know enough about the immigration bill to have an opinion about it, a poll shows.

Beyond the Valley | 3A



WATER WAR

The Rio Grande Regional Water Authority will fund a media blitz regarding the Mexico water treaty.

Valley & State | 1B

VOID FILLED

Jaqui Chapa is filling in nicely for ENHS.

Sports Day | 1C



THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2013 | WWW.THEMONITOR.COM | 75 CENTS DAILY

'Dragon' gets 20 years in prison

>> The head of the Tri-City Bombers was sentenced Wednesday on drug charges.

By ILDEFONSO ORTIZ
THE MONITOR

McAllen — The leader of the Tri-City Bombers has been sentenced to 20 years in prison for drug conspiracy, trafficking and distribution charges.

The sentence was handed down Wednesday afternoon by U.S. District Judge Gray Miller in Houston, who sentenced Jeffrey "Dragon" Juarez to 240 months in federal prison.

Juarez, 35, of Sugar Land, was initially indicted in February 2011, when he was named in a 10-count



indictment along with 12 other TCB members. Juarez pleaded out to five of the charges.

The investigation into the TCB began in October 2008 when Juarez agreed to have the gang provide protection to cocaine loads; the loads were, in fact, being watched over by the FBI as part of an elaborate sting, records show.

During the operation, Juarez sold 388 Ecstasy pills to an FBI source,

and once he was indicted, he admitted to his role in the case.

EDINBURG MASSACRE

Juarez has had a long history of eluding law enforcement and prosecution. In 2003, he was one of 13 TCB members charged with capital murder for their alleged roles in a drug raid that left six men dead.

See DRAGON | 6A



FANTASTIC FOURTH

This Saturday, May 4, dozens of comic books will be given away free at local comic shops across North America, including some in the Valley, in honor of Free Comic Book Day.

Valley Life | 1D



MARIACHI BEHIND BARS

A musician was charged Wednesday with the robbery of a Weslaco convenience store. Police say the fact that he was wearing part of his mariachi outfit helped them make the arrest.

Valley & State | 3B

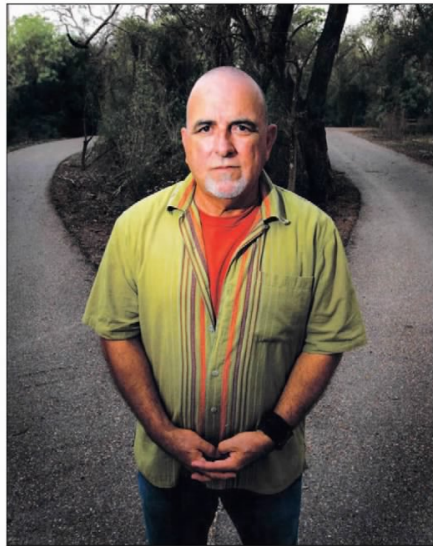


MORE ARRESTS IN BOSTON

Three college friends of the Boston Marathon bombing suspect were arrested and accused of trying to protect him by going into his dorm room and getting rid of a backpack filled with hollowed-out fireworks three days after the deadly attack.

Beyond the Valley | 3A

TWO ROADS DIVERGED



Ben Treviño poses for a portrait at the parting of two roads at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge on Tuesday in Alamo, Treviño, a former local broadcast journalist, struggled with a drug addiction that ended his television career. Clean for several years, Treviño has spent his free time writing poetry and has released a book of his writings.

NATHAN LAMBERT
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>> Former TV anchorman Ben Treviño finds redemption, publishes book of poetry

By AMY NICHOL SMITH | THE MONITOR

Caffeine in the morning
Cocaine, pot and booze
Little more than warning
About yesterday's news

(Excerpt from "The Short Version" in Sparks from a Ninety-Five)

Ben Treviño had it all. The Edinburg High School alumnus landed a job at KGBT-

TV as a cameraman and rose through the ranks to the anchor seat in less than 20 years.

But all that came tumbling down as drugs and alcohol ate away at his life. A cocaine-fueled robbery spree completed his fall from grace.

Toward the end of his 19-year TV career, anchorman Treviño would rarely be without a bag

of cocaine. Years after he lost his job as a primetime news anchor at Channel 4, Treviño went on a crime spree, robbing a handful of supermarkets and a bank.

It was a story that made national headlines 12 years ago. But now, Treviño's name is rarely spoken.

See TREVIÑO | 7A

County seeks to strike hospital barrier

By JARED JONES
THE MONITOR

If Hidalgo County wants to form a hospital district, it will first have to ask all Texasans for permission.

Hidalgo County lawmakers cleared resolutions Wednesday to ask state voters whether to repeal language inserted in the Texas Constitution that severely limits the county's authority in creating the district. The House and Senate resolutions will put language on November's ballot to strike provisions inserted into the state constitution in 1960 that capped the taxing authority of any hospital district formed in Hidalgo County to 10 cents per \$100 in valuation.

While taxing authority for nearly all hospital districts in Texas was capped at 75 cents by a constitutional amendment in 1962, Hidalgo County operates under the separate provision passed earlier that limits taxing authority for a hospital district here. Although the actual rate varies by Texas county, most hospital districts levy taxes between 20 to 40 cents, making Hidalgo County's constitutional cap a significant challenge in setting up a functional district.

State Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, D-McAllen, said repealing the constitutional cap provides Hidalgo County the flexibility that other counties are afforded.

"At that time (the amendment was passed in 1959), the Valley was very rural and agriculture-based, and it

See HOSPITAL | 6A

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MISSION - McALLEN

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EDINBURG - HARLINGEN

TODAY'S WEATHER | 6B

Not as hot
HIGH 86
LOW 55



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