

THE MONITOR

SMART SAVINGS
There is more than \$209 in savings via coupons in today's issue of 'The Monitor.'

WHAT'S INSIDE
• Thanksgiving sales take chunk from Black Friday, Page 13A | Nation
• Local shoppers welcome 'Small Business Saturday,' Page 18 | Valley & State

Actor Paul Walker dead
Publicist: The 'Fast & Furious' star is one of two people killed in a Saturday car crash north of Los Angeles, Page 14A | Entertainment

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2013

SERVING THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY SINCE 1909

\$1.50 ON SUNDAYS

in the spirit of

Christmas

In one of our favorite traditions, each December *The Monitor* devotes 12 days to share the stories of neighbors who could use a hand this holiday season. This year, in the spirit of Christmas, we remind readers that those who are featured represent many others in need. We encourage you to consider a donation.

'They helped us'

'Monitor,'
United Way
campaign
begins again
next week

By Amy Nichol Smith
The Monitor

A poster of the Barcelona Futbol Club team hangs on the wall in Luis "Danny" Ojeda's bedroom. When asked who his favorite soccer player is, he stood up from his reclining chair, walked over and pointed at a man on the left.

"Messi!" he exclaimed.

This small interaction is a bit of a miracle to Danny's parents.

Last year, Danny unexpectedly collapsed during practice on the soccer field at McAllen High School. He wasn't breathing.

He was rushed in an ambulance to Edinburg Children's Hospital. He slipped into a coma that lasted two weeks.

Doctors couldn't identify what had happened to a seemingly healthy 14-year-old, but they tried.

"The heart stopped working, so the brain stopped, too," said Danny's father, David Ojeda Sr., in Spanish. "Forty days after, they told us it was the brain and the heat."

See SPIRIT | 15A



Ojeda family, then and now

Above, Luis "Danny" Ojeda gets a hug and kiss from his mother, Patricia Ojeda, in front of their home Nov. 19 in McAllen. At left, Danny relaxes in his room. At right, Danny talks with his father, David Ojeda Sr., in their home. The Ojedas received aid last year as a part of a giving campaign. Photos by Joel Martinez | jmartinez@themonitor.com



in the spirit of
Christmas

United Way of South Texas
Serving Hispanic & Start Counties

THE MONITOR

HOW TO HELP:

The United Way is accepting volunteers and donations — including, but not limited to, clothing, food, furniture, toys and money — for the families of this series or other families as well. To donate to a family or to United Way call (956) 607-6569, (956) 607-5989 or (956) 607-3985 or mail donations to P.O. Box 187, McAllen, TX, 78505. The United Way of South Texas is located at 113 E. Pecan Blvd. in McAllen.

You can also make an online donation on the United Way of South Texas website at www.unitedwayofstx.org. The Monitor is not accepting donations.

Opinion: The reasoning behind giving campaign's name change. [Page 8B](#) **Online:** Read stories about last year's families in need. www.themonitor.com

Texas GOP talking like it's on the ropes

State Republicans alarmed over big cities voting blue

By Paul J. Weber
The Associated Press

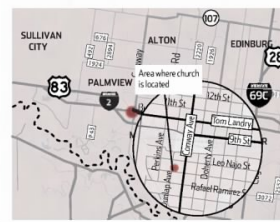
HOUSTON — Sick of losing on Election Day, they huddled candidates on their 2014 statewide ticket in a hotel ballroom and bristled at being out-

spent and outnumbered by political rivals in Texas who they talked up as sophisticated and savvy.

But this was no meeting of hapless Texas Democrats. They were top Republicans, including George P. Bush and Gov. Rick Perry's possible successor, bemoaning big cities such as Houston already voting

See GOP | 14A

Bells battle may reflect RGV diversity



Scholar: Complaint about Mission church shows area growth, religious changes

By Jacob Fischer
The Monitor

MISSION — The man who filed — then quickly dropped — a criminal noise complaint against Father Roy Snipes of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church never revealed his motive for the legal actions, but in letters to the editor and Facebook comments, several *Monitor* readers de-

fended the man's right to press charges.

"Churches (sic) are not above the law," online commenter Genaro Montelongo posted before the charge was dropped. "I hope the judge gets it right and instructs them to obey the city ordinance. People shouldn't have to put up with this."

See DIVERSITY | 13A

Think Bert Ogden

MISSION - MCALLEN WWW.BERTOGDEN.COM EDINBURG - HARLINGEN

TODAY'S WEATHER | 2A
Variablely cloudy; a shower
HIGH 79
LOW 60

6 38091 00007 6
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62 Pages, 6 Sections