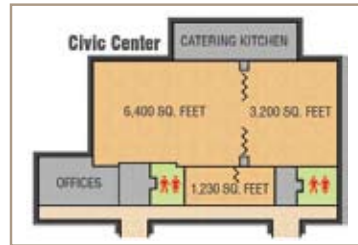
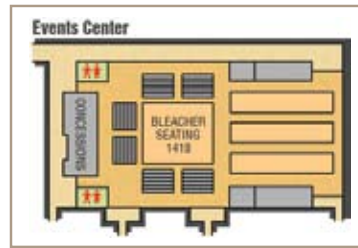


San Patricio County Fairgrounds

By Diane Morales



Carefully designed wedding packages allow the Bride and Groom to plan on a budget with details from the venue room to menu options and a reception layout design. Couples also can choose to provide their own food or catered service. Whether the Bride decides on in-house catering or another vendor, she can rest assured an on-site manager will coordinate with all the vendors the day of the wedding.

Whether a wedding is country casual or South Texas sophistication, the good people at the San Patricio County Fairgrounds in Sinton are up for the challenge. Situated on 32 acres of well-manicured land, the Fairgrounds' four-structure complex, with horse stalls and a covered pavilion, is a South Texas gem for hosting events of any size. Metal roofs, black wrought iron fences and stone accents define the Fairgrounds' presence, combining modern lines with country elements to fit the landscape.

Since opening in 2008, the venue has hosted concerts, rodeos, anniversary receptions, quinceañeras, graduation parties, meetings, conferences, dances and weddings of all sizes. Reservations for weddings have increased steadily and Rosa Guzman, Assistant Facility Coordinator, takes care of the details. The Fairgrounds' 12-member staff has coordinated about a dozen weddings in the San Patricio Fairgrounds Civic Center, and word-of-mouth is spreading about the state-of-the-art facility and its accommodating event specialists.

Although the San Patricio County Fairgrounds Civic Center has been the main site for all of the weddings and quinceañeras, the staff is itching to see an outdoor wedding or a nuptial celebration in the Events Center or the Arena. Concrete floors, stadium seating and South Texas breezes make the Events Center an ideal setting for couple's wanting a more rustic wedding ambience. Retractable doors around part of the building let party guests dance al fresco with a Texas sky backdrop. Couples can dance under the stars with a garden wedding. There's plenty of room between the Civic and Events Centers to set up tents and use the outdoor Pavilion too.

Linda and Robert Beltran celebrated their matrimony with a wedding reception and dance at the Fairground's Civic Center on September 12, 2009 for about 150 guests. The Bride wanted a simple, elegant wedding to fit their budget. They chose an outside catering service, and her special day went off without a hitch.

"They made everything easy," Linda said. "I had looked into other places and they allowed only the day of the wedding to decorate. But here, we were there the day before and it was much better. We didn't have to worry or stress about dealing with the caterers or the baker because they took care of it."

And that's what the Fairgrounds' staff strives to achieve...taking care of clients.

Across the Civic Center, the covered open-air Arena impresses with its spotless stadium seats, dark soil and gentle breezes. The Arena hasn't hosted a wedding, yet.

"I can just see a bride riding in on a carriage. Wouldn't that be nice?" Guzman said.

The possibilities are endless at the San Patricio County Fairgrounds.

For more information on the San Patricio County Fairgrounds, call (361) 364-9580 or go to www.sanpatriciocountyfairgrounds.com

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