



# THE MONTHLY ROUND-UP



Webb County Judge Tano E. Tijerina's Newsletter

April 2015

## **REIMBURSEMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR WEBB COUNTY**

A press conference was held at the City Council Chambers by Congressman Henry Cuellar to announce a reimbursement opportunity for the city of Laredo/Webb County area regarding the 2014 humanitarian crisis. The border communities affected by the influx of unaccompanied minors crossing the border into the United States will be eligible for financial reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Mercy Ministries, Methodist Ministries, Catholic Diocese, Customs, Border Patrol, and City of Laredo Health Department were greatly involved in managing the surge of immigrants that affected Webb County in 2014. These religious organizations fed and sheltered families temporarily while they waited to find the means of transportation to travel north to their relatives.

Webb County was aware of the situation and was ready to assist the City and other organizations if needed, personnel and crews were on stand-by to ensure the safety and well-being of the citizens during that time period. Moreover, Webb County Judge Tano Tijerina has an excellent relationship with Congressman Cuellar and City of Laredo Mayor Pete Saenz and this unity between the three is crucial if a crisis were to arise in the near future.

*Thank you to Congressman Henry Cuellar for the great work that you are doing in Capitol Hill for the residents of Webb County and District twenty eight!*



PHOTOGRAPHED: Webb County Judge Tano E. Tijerina attends press conference regarding the reimbursement opportunity for the 2014 humanitarian crisis

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# 9th ANNUAL EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION LUNCHEON



Judge Tijerina greeting Webb County employees

*“Because of you (county employees) it was a great success and what an honor it was for all of us here at the court house to serve you.. I know it was a small token of appreciation, but it’s our way of saying mil gracias!”*

*-Judge Tijerina*



Commissioners Court Team



Commissioners Court

Webb County Commissioners Court proclaimed April 2015 to be National County Government Month in Webb County. Since 1991 the National Association of Counties has encouraged counties across the country to actively promote their programs and services to the public . All county officials, employees, schools and residents are encouraged to participate in county government celebration activities.

One of the many activities includes an annual luncheon for all of the Webb County employees hosted by the Commissioners Court in conjunction with National County Government Month. Webb County Employees were invited to have lunch outside the county courthouse . This year broke a record! All 1200 steaks grilled were finished and new and familiar faces enjoyed the event!

# **JAIL TOUR**

Judge Tijerina and Mr. Lalo Uribe, Executive Administrator, visited the Webb County jail earlier this month. Sheriff Martin Cuellar and Commander Ponce Trevino provided them with a tour of the facility alongside with a brief history of the jail. The jail is currently 29 years old and approximately holds 574 inmates.

Sheriff Cuellar expressed the need for a new jail in Webb County. Due to the limited amount of space, the sheriff's department is sending inmates to other counties to stay in compliance with the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. Moreover, a new facility is needed to meet, not only the growth of Laredo's and Webb's population, but to accommodate the high increase in female offenders. Moreover, there is a great demand to provide outlets and programs for the drug users that are being arrested and developing mental problems due to their drug use.

The necessity of a new Webb County jail is by all means a project that will develop in the near future, especially because it is mainly to ensure the safety of the Webb County jail employees.

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## **COMMISSIONERS COURT**

### **APPROVES AGENDA ITEMS**

During the last Commissioners Court meeting for the month of April, the following items were placed under Webb County Judge Tano Tijerina for discussion:

1.) *Plan of Action for Elections Administrator* : On March 26, 2015 the Elections Commission Committee evaluated the performance of the Webb County Elections director, Mr. Oscar Villarreal. During this open meeting the committee expressed several concerns and voted to create a plan of action for Mr. Villarreal. Judge Tijerina added an item on the agenda for commissioners court this past court to discuss the status report of this matter.

Currently, the Elections Commission Committee is working on an action plan which will be presented to Mr. Villarreal on Friday, May 1st. A copy of the plan will also be given to each member of the commissioners court.

2.) *Request for Proposals for Customer Service*: It would be extremely expensive for each Webb County department to send their employees to out of town conferences to take customer service courses. These courses will enhance Webb County departments' ability to serve the public and assist them with any issue or concern.

The court approved Ms. Cynthia Mares, department head for administrative services, to work with the chamber of commerce to implement customer service courses to Webb County departments.

The County Judge's vision is to thrive for excellent customer service from all Webb County employees to the constituents we serve and continue to make this county the best in the state of Texas.

# CHILDREN ADVOCACY CENTER DISPLAYS

## ART PROJECT

April is Child Abuse and Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention month and in honor of such, two different proclamations were read in the Commissioners Courthouse. Additionally, to the reading, the children from the advocacy center embarked on a special art project for the ladies in the County Judge's office. Ms. Ordoñez, art teacher, conducted an interview to: Ita, Betty, Meli and Cordy, based on their responses, the children created a painting that reflected each of their different personalities.

*Take a look! And please feel free to come by to the County Judge's office to see them on display!*



**PHOTOGRAPHED: (L-R) Ita Garza, Cordy Valdez, Ms. Patricia Ordoñez, Meli Mata and Betty Ortiz**

### Contact Us

**Webb County Judge's Office**

1000 Houston St., 3rd floor  
Laredo, TX 78040

(956) 523-4600

[argarza@webbcountytx.gov](mailto:argarza@webbcountytx.gov)

Visit us on the web:

[www.webbcountytx.gov](http://www.webbcountytx.gov)

