



The Webb County Link

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Important Dates

- * 2/9 Jury Duty
- * 2/9 Commissioners Court Meeting 9:00am
- * 2/14 Valentine's Day
- * 2/16 President's Day County Offices Closed
- * 2/18 New Employee Orientation
- * 2/23 Jury Duty
- * 2/23 Commissioners Court Meeting 9:00am

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Swearing-In Ceremonies

New Year's Day was abuzz in Webb County as over a dozen elected officials were sworn-in to office. The Webb County Courthouse was buzzing with activity since the early hours as the county prepared for the swearing-in ceremonies of Judge Tano E. Tijerina, Commissioner Pct. 2, Rosaura "Wawi" Tijerina, and Commissioner Pct. 4, Jaime Canales. The historic courthouse was soon filled with family, friends, dignitaries, and well-wishers who were unperturbed by the cold and rainy weather. In the midst of all the celebration, the central theme of the ceremonies was on new beginnings and moving the county forward.

Following the ceremonies, the Webb County Commissioners Court got down to business, holding the first Commissioners Court meeting of the year. Judge Tijerina led the Commissioners Court as they approved the bonds for the newly and reelected officials, approved the hiring of positions for incoming officials, and other administrative items.



WBCA

Webb County is an official host of the Washington's Birthday Celebration Association. Visit www.wbcalaredo.org to view the celebration calendar, catch up on news on all the upcoming events, and learn about the long and storied history about this landmark celebration and tradition.

www.webbcountytexas.gov

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Worker's Compensation Training

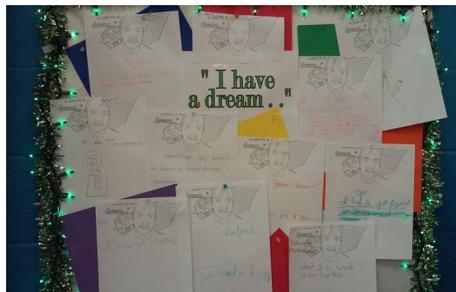
The Worker's Compensation Supervisor Training was held on Wednesday, January 21, 2015. This was a mandatory training for all department heads, managers, and supervisors. The purpose of the two-hour training was to give an in-depth overview of all forms required when reporting an on-the-job work-related injury. Ms. Adriana Talbot, Webb County Worker's Compensation & Loss Control Specialist along with Darlene Minor, ASC Claims Adjuster and Attorney Roy Horton provided vital information and answered questions regarding issues and specific departmental needs. Over the course of the two sessions offered, the training had 152 attendees. A copy of the sign in sheets and attendance report will be submitted to Commissioner's Court. A new shorter version of the First Report of Injury/Illness form has been updated and can be found in the "T" drive for all departments to access and utilize as soon as possible. Anyone who may have missed this training and would like a copy of the presentation, please inquire with Ms. Pilar De La Fuente at (956) 523-4145 or mpdelafuente@webbcountytx.gov.



Community Events Round-Up



The **La Presa Community Center** enjoyed a visit from Ms. Garza from MCNA Dental who gave a presentation on the importance of knowing how to care for healthy gums & teeth.



The **Ernesto J. Salinas Community Center** held a special activity day in honor of Martin Luther King Day at the Mirando Library. Participants were able to learn about the great influence Dr. King had on our country.



The **Larga Vista Community Center** celebrated "Dia De Los Reyes" hosted by Driscoll Health Plan. Prizes, games, and face painting were given to the children and health education information was given to the parents.



The **Santa Teresita Community Center** and Commissioner John Galo recognized Sgt. Manuel Garcia for thirty-five years of dedication and commitment to the Toys for Tots organization.



Participants from the **Fernando A. Salinas Community Center** had an informative outing to Uni-Trade Stadium where they were able to take a tour of the stadium.



Head Start Executive Director Aliza Oliveros was surprised by Head Start parents and Community Volunteers with a belated birthday breakfast celebration before the monthly Policy Council Meeting took place.

☆ The Sheriff's Office Dispatch ☆

W.C.S.O. Introduces New Facial Recognition Pilot Program



The Webb County Sheriff's Office is now better equipped when it comes to tracking down suspects who may be on the run.

In January, Sheriff Martin Cuellar highlighted a new pilot program now being used at the Webb County Sheriff's Office. In collaboration with the FBI, the Next Generation Identification (NGI) Interstate Photo System Facial Recognition Pilot Program (IPSFRP) allows the Sheriff's Office to pinpoint a line-up of suspects.

The mug shots of most criminals from across the country are stored in the federal database. The NGI facial recognition program is the newest phase from the FBI'S NGI system which was first able to track down a suspect through the latent fingerprints and palm prints. The Webb County Sheriff's Office is the first law enforcement agency to be a part of this pilot program in Texas.

"We are continuing to move forward with this new technology," said Sheriff Martin Cuellar. "This type of program has already proven to be a success. It doesn't matter where the criminal will try to hide, if they try to change their name or even if they look completely different, once they are arrested again, they will be positively identified."

Currently there are more than 20 million mug shots in the federal database that participating law enforcement agencies can use to cross reference. In the near future, the W.C.S.O. hopes to easily identify a suspect through speech recognition, behavioral analysis and a simple screening of their iris and/or retina.

W.C.S.O. Celebrates Nicole Pfister

Sheriff Martin Cuellar and the Webb County Sheriff's Office came together for a grand celebration in honor of a courageous young teen battling a rare form of Leukemia.

On Friday, January 16, employees from the Sheriff's Office held a birthday celebration for Nicole Pfister, 14. The young teen has won the hearts of many people, not only from the Sheriff's Office but across the world.

Although she has had a rough year, that hasn't stopped her from continuing to live her life to the fullest. Her one goal is to make other ill children happy. She hopes to one day begin her own non-profit organization that will help her assist other children and families who are going through the same financial obstacles as hers.



Sheriff Martin Cuellar Swears-In New Deputies For 2015



Four new deputies joined the ranks at the Webb County Sheriff's Office, as the agency focuses on a number of new tactics to better protect the community. Family and friends gathered earlier this month for the deputizing of Noe Gonzalez, Michael T. Juarez, Luis A. Martinez, and Gilberto Morales. To ensure they were fit for the job, prior to going through an intense four month training at the academy, the new deputies had to pass two rounds of physical training, both within the Sheriff's Office and at the academy. The graduates are now well-equipped with a number of different tactics they learned, including Code of Criminal Procedures, Texas Penal Code, and Fire Arms Training to name a few. One of the deputies also took home top honors; Juarez was awarded the Top Gun Award for firearms shooting. He proved to have the best overall score among more than a dozen cadets.

Enterprise Fleet Management

Webb County recently partnered with Enterprise Fleet Management to reduce costs and optimize the local fleet of nearly 500 light-duty vehicles. Once fully implemented, the new partnership is expected to save the county an average of more than \$170,000 each year.

"Webb County has a large and aging fleet spread out across our service area, which can be a real challenge to manage efficiently," said Commissioner John Galo. "Partnering with Enterprise Fleet Management will let us realize significant cost savings and provide us more dependable vehicles to do work for our residents."



Veteran's Treatment Program Graduation Ceremony

The 341st and 406th District Courts Veterans Treatment Program kicked off the year with the first ever graduation of the Veterans Treatment Program (VTP). The VTP was designed to help eligible veterans who have pending misdemeanor or felony cases in Webb County, who have mental health problems or who fallen victims of alcohol and/or substance abuse. To honor the accomplishment of eight individuals, a graduation ceremony was held in which each graduating Veteran was awarded a certificate of completion and a goody bag. Congratulations to all graduates and to Judge Oscar Hale and Judge Beckie Palomo on the success of this program.

Credit Card Pilot Program At Webb County Water Utilities

Webb County Commissioners approve a pilot program to allow credit/debit card payments on utility bills at the Water Utilities Department in Rio Bravo. The initiative, headed by Commissioner Frank Sciaraffa, was voted on Monday, at the Commissioners Court meeting.

The county will absorb the transaction costs to make the payment process easier on the residents of Rio Bravo and El Cenizo. "Some of them already have late fees. With this program we can at least eliminate the burden of charging them the credit card fee," said Commissioner Sciaraffa.

Commissioners plan to make people aware of the service, and test the program on a trial basis for 60 days. "Throughout that time period we hope to get a clear understanding of how many people take advantage of what we are offering," said Sciaraffa.



Fitness Expo 2015

To begin the year on the right track, the Webb County Administrative Services Department held a fitness exposition for county employees. Different community fitness vendors were invited to present and sample their products and services with the purpose to promote and encourage a healthy lifestyle for Webb County employees.

Submit your department stories for next month! E-mail your story along with any pictures to webbpio@webbcountytx.gov. Stories will be edited for style, grammar, and length. Please be advised that, due to space limitations, we cannot guarantee that all stories will be publicized.