



# The Webb County Link

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## Rio Bravo Improvement Project



Webb County Commissioner Mike Montemayor rolled up his sleeves, as members of his staff, volunteers and various Webb County departments came together to make some much needed improvements to the Rio Bravo Activity Center. The all-day event saw the Commissioner and volunteers make various renovations, including the installation of a fence and gates around the center, the leveling of the soccer field and other much needed improvements. "We planned these improvements in order to improve the quality of life for the residents of Rio Bravo," said Montemayor. "Once we finish, residents will have a one-stop center that they can be proud of and that people of all ages can enjoy."

## Important Dates

- \* 4/1 Easter Monday County Offices Closed
- \* 4/8 Commissioners Court Meeting 9:00am
- \* 4/8 Jury Duty
- \* 4/10 New Employee Orientation
- \* 4/22 Commissioners Court Meeting 9:00am
- \* 4/22 Jury Duty

## Precinct 3 Easter Egg Hunt 2013

Kids of all ages were special guests of Webb County Commissioner John Galo as he hosted Easter Egg Hunt 2013 at the Santa Teresita Community Center. "The event provided lots of food, games and fun for all who attended," said Commissioner Galo. "Events like these give families a chance to spend some quality time together hunting for eggs as we prepare to celebrate Easter." Area-children were provided to a fun time capped off with a special Easter basket from Commissioner Galo.



## Hero Salute Month

Webb County Commissioners Jaime Canales and Mike Montemayor officially kicked off the Third Annual Hero Salute Month. Joined by the Commissioners Court and local-area veterans, the Commissioners read a proclamation declaring April 2013 as Hero Salute Month. Several events, including a paintball tournament as well as the Third Annual Hero Salute Month Luncheon, are planned throughout the month in support and recognition of all members of our armed forces. Employees are also encouraged to wear red on Fridays as a show of support to our troops.



## Nixon High School Team Recognized

Commissioner Rosaura “Wawi” Tijerina and the Webb County Commissioners Court recognized the Nixon High School Basketball Team for an excellent basketball season that included being crowned District 31-4A champions as well as advancing to the Region IV semifinals. The Commissioners Court praised the hard work that each player and coach demonstrated not only during their training but also on the court.



## Head Start Month

Head Start Director Aliza Oliveros was joined by Municipal Court Judge Rosie Cuellar, parents, staff members, students and the new Head Start mascot as Judge Danny Valdez and the Commissioners Court proclaimed April as Head Start Month in Webb County. Various activities are scheduled throughout the month to celebrate and bring awareness on the importance of the Head Start Program.

## World Autism Month Proclamation

Commissioner Rosaura “Wawi” Tijerina sponsored an agenda item proclaiming April as World Autism Month in Webb County. Autism is a growing concern with nearly one out of fifty children being diagnosed with the disease. World Autism Month is a nation-wide event that strives to educate people on the condition as well as to bring the hope that one day a cure may be found. To mark World Autism Month, the Webb County Courthouse will light up in blue all month long. Also in commemoration, the Webb County Head Start Program children at Little Palominos Head Start displayed their decorated autism puzzle pieces in preparation for World Autism Awareness Day, April 2, 2013 to honor the 600 individuals diagnosed with Autism in Laredo.



## Employee Spotlight: O.J. Hale Sr.



On February 15, 2013, Chief Investigator O.J. Hale, Sr., celebrated his 40th Anniversary as the Chief Investigator for the 49th Judicial District Attorney's Office. O.J. Hale has been a certified peace officer serving our community since 1968 soon after completing his honorable U.S. military service while serving in the Republic of Vietnam. O.J. Hale was initially hired at the D.A.'s Office by then elected D.A. Charles R. Borchers on February 15, 1973. He then continued serving under the late Julio Garcia, Sr., and under former D.A. Joe Rubio.

O.J.'s assistance was instrumental in the prosecution of several capital murder trials dating back to the 1970's. He played a significant role in securing the surrender of Roy Hernandez during the jail break attempt in the early 80's that resulted in the death of Jose Gerardo "Curly" Herrera. During the 1970's and 1980's, O.J. was routinely sought out by both the F.B.I. and the Mexican authorities to provide guidance and assistance with complex investigations, including murders and kidnappings, by sharing his acquired knowledge and intuitive investigative techniques. Chief O.J. Hale was also recognized by the Secret Service for his assistance in solving an investigation into a death threat made against then President Ronald Reagan.

He has also assisted in the investigation and prosecution of several high profile cases from other jurisdictions. For example, O.J. testified in Chicago, Illinois as a key witness for the prosecution in the capital murder trial, and subsequent conviction, of one of the Latin King leaders from Cook's County. Additionally, O.J.'s investigative work, and subsequent courtroom testimony, from a case out of Webb County resulted in the extradition and ultimate conviction of a serial killer from Valdez, Alaska. Moreover, O.J. assisted the prosecution team during murder trial of Yolanda Saldivar who was convicted for the death of Selena Quintanilla. Former Corpus Christi District Attorney Carlos Valdez sent a thank you note to then D.A. Joe Rubio after the trial stating "I can honestly say that without O.J.'s assistance justice for Selena could not have been achieved."

O. J. Hale, Sr., continues to serve Webb County as the Chief Investigator under the administration of our current District Attorney Isidro "Chilo" Alaniz.

## Resident Legal Assistance

Residents from the Buenos Aires area were given the opportunity to get answers to several of their legal questions answered by students of the Center for Legal and Social Justice from the St. Mary's University School of Law. The event was held at the Fernando A. Salinas Community Center. The students were able to assist the residents with various legal issues, including Social Security, IRS/Tax issues, identity theft, debt collection, consumer issues, and family law. Center director, Jose Pantoja, was emphatic that residents take advantage of the services and encouraged further participation.



## Larga Vista Spring Break Camp

The Larga Vista Community Center held its annual Spring Break Camp for local-area children. The Center sponsored this camp as a means of engaging the kids in diverse activities while at the same time staying out of trouble. The camp also gives working parents an ease of mind knowing that their children are in a secure and mentally engaging environment. Activities included arts and crafts, water sports, and special trips to the movies and Peter Piper Pizza.



## New Webb County Engineer

During a specially-called meeting, the Webb County Commissioners Court held interviews for the new Webb County Engineer. After many grueling questions, the Commissioners Court selected Mr. Luis Perez Garcia. Mr. Perez Garcia brings over twenty years of experience working with the City of Laredo and with various other engineering firms to the County. One of the first projects that Mr. Perez Garcia will tackle will be the Rio Bravo treatment plan that is in need of many improvements.



## El Aguila Open House

El Aguila held an open house, inviting county departments and the public to its facilities to showcase their new fleet of buses. The buses were purchased through state grants. The buses will allow El Aguila to better serve residents, including the elderly and students, living in the rural areas by transporting them to necessary locations like doctor's appointments, grocery shopping, and other locations that they might traditionally not be able to reach.

Submit your department stories for next month! E-mail your story along with any pictures to [webbpio@webbcountytx.gov](mailto: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.