



# The Webb County Link

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## In This Issue

- \* 9th Annual Employee Luncheon Pg 1
- \* Autism Awareness Month Pg 2
- \* Toro Legend Pg 2
- \* Head Start Month Pg 2
- \* Laredo Eagles Baseball Team Pg 3
- \* National Crime Victims' Week Pg 3
- \* Child Abuse & Sexual Assault Awareness Prevention Month Pg 3
- \* Telecommunicators Week Pg 4
- \* Community Center Event Roundup Pg 4

## Important Dates

- \* 5/11 Jury Duty
- \* 5/11 Commissioners Court Meeting 9:00am
- \* 5/18 Jury Duty
- \* 5/20 New Employee Orientation
- \* 5/25 Memorial Day County Offices Closed
- \* 5/26 Commissioners Court Meeting 9:00am

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## 9th Annual Employee Luncheon



Hundreds of employees from all across Webb County packed the historical courthouse grounds to attend the Ninth Annual Employee Appreciation Luncheon. The luncheon, sponsored by the Webb County Commissioners Court, is held every year as a "Thank You" from the Judge and Commissioners to all the employees and as a way for the employees to enjoy a fun time in each other's company. The luncheon is held every year in conjunction with National County Government Month, a program that raises public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of county government. This year's theme was Counties Moving America Forward: The Keys are Transportation and Infrastructure.

## Autism Awareness Month

The month of April was proclaimed as Autism Awareness Month in Webb County by the Webb County Commissioners Court. The Webb County Sheriff's Office also hosted the 4th Annual Kids Spring Fun Day. During the event, several community based organizations joined the Sheriff's Office, including dental clinics, rehabilitative service companies, and Families for Autism Support and Awareness group, provided a day filled with fun, music and activities, including an Easter Egg Hunt, for children diagnosed with Autism.



Also in commemoration, the Webb County Courthouse was lit up in blue all month long. The Courthouse lights, organized by Commissioner Wawi Tijerina, joined many other buildings across the nation in highlighting the growing need for concern and awareness about autism. For more information or to see how you can help, visit: [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org)

## Toro Legend

Webb County Commissioner Frank Sciaraffa was inducted into the "Toro Legends" Cigarroa High School Hall of Fame. He has joined a legacy of alumni who exhibit pride and loyalty to their alma mater, and extraordinary achievements. The inductees were given a chance to speak to the student body providing some words of inspiration. The Commissioner used the moment to share some of his life experiences, stressing the importance of never giving up on your dreams. "Never let a negative event set the tone in our life. Learn from your mistakes, and let that fuel your drive to succeed." Congratulations Commissioner Sciaraffa!



## Head Start Month

April 2015 marked an historical moment as the national Head Start program celebrated 50 years. Head Start was designed as a comprehensive child development program that would help communities meet the needs of disadvantaged preschool children. Head Start was designed to help break the cycle of poverty, providing preschool children of low-income families with a comprehensive program to meet their emotional, social, health, nutritional and psychological needs. A key tenet of the program established that it be culturally responsive to the communities served, and that the communities have an investment in its success through the contribution of volunteer hours and other donations as nonfederal share. Head Start has served over 30 million children since 1965, growing from an eight-week demonstration project to include full day/year services and many program options. Head Start serves over a million children and their families each year in urban and rural areas in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories, including American Indian, Alaskan Native and Migrant/Seasonal communities. As part of the Webb County Head Start 50th Anniversary, staff and parent volunteers provided sweet bread and coffee to the Bethany House Shelter every Friday for the month of April. The motto our local Head Start program used was "People helping people".



## Laredo Eagles Baseball Team

Commissioner John Galo and the Commissioners Court recognized the Laredo Eagles baseball team for bringing home the championship at the Boerne, TX Bamma Jamma USSSA sanctioned tournament on March 28-29, 2015. The Laredo Eagles competed against 9 other teams from the San Antonio area. They went undefeated in 5 games to bring home 1st place honors and gold USSSA rings. Players have been playing baseball since pre-school, however, the Laredo Eagles select team recently formed in January, 2015. Each player is dedicated to the sport of baseball, practicing 2-3 times each week, year-round. Congratulations to all the players and their coaches! You make Webb County proud.



## National Crime Victims' Rights Week

On Tuesday April 21st, Judge Tano Tijerina, Sheriff Martin Cuellar, and many county and civic leaders proclaimed the week of April 19th as National Crime Victims' Rights Week. A candlelight vigil was held at Lake Casa Blanca, honoring all victims and survivors of crime. This ceremony, included a moment of silence and prayer which culminated the events the Sheriff's Office held for the 2015 National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Guest speakers spoke about the importance of standing together and ensuring victims of crime are not forgotten. Crime victims' family members also attended and spoke about the difficulty of losing a loved one senseless acts of crime.

## Child Abuse & Sexual Assault Awareness Prevention Month

Webb County Judge Tano Tijerina and City of Laredo Mayor Pete Saenz were joined by a diverse group of local organizations as they proclaimed April 2015 as Child Abuse & Sexual Assault Awareness Prevention Month. Representatives from the various agencies spoke on the need for people to work together to keep our youth safe and to help save and restore the lives of those who have fallen victims to these crimes. Everyone in attendance was urged to break the cycle of abuse and assault by understanding the causes and effects of the horrific crimes and joining with the community as a whole in preventing them from reoccurring.





### Telecommunicators Week

The Webb County Sheriff's Office recognized the county 911 dispatchers as part of the 2015 National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. A proclamation and a recognition ceremony was held at Commissioners Court. Mayra Celestino, Jessica Rubio, Christina Cruz and Gerardo Sandoval also received the Sheriff's Telecommunicator Award. These men and women serve as the lifeline of the Sheriff's Office. They are on-call 24/7 answering emergency calls as they not only ensure the community receives the help they need but deputies and officers return home safely.

## Community Center Event Roundup



The elderly from the **Rio Bravo Community Center** had their Easter luncheon. They had a delicious meal and enjoyed playing loteria with Commissioner Sciaraffa.



Kids from the **Rio Bravo Activity Center** had a surprise Easter visit from Commissioner Frank Sciaraffa who gave out Easter baskets, hot dogs, cupcakes, and refreshments.



The **Larga Vista Community Center** hosted a Kids Café Easter Party. Imagine Dental and EZ Pawn participated in this great community event as the children enjoyed pizza, Easter baskets, and a piñata.



The **Bruni Community Center** hosted the Texas A&M AgriLife/Webb County Extension Services as they presented their Better Living for Texas Program on healthier eating and increasing one's daily activity.



Commissioner John Galo and the **Santa Teresita Community Center** held the 3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt where the kids were able to enjoy food, refreshments, an Easter egg hunt and Easter baskets.



**Fernando A. Salinas Community Center** participants and staff enjoyed an Easter celebration including a delicious luncheon at Sirloin Stockade.

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.