



The Webb County Link

A Publication Of The Webb County Public Information Office

September 2012

In This Issue

- * The Future In Correction Pg 1
- * Casa Blanca Dam Planting Ceremony Pg 2
- * Breast Cancer Awareness Month Pg 2
- * Harassment In The Workplace Training Pg 2

Important Dates

- * 10/8 Columbus Day County Offices Closed
- * 10/9 Commissioners Court Meeting 9:00am
- * 10/10 New Employee Orientation 8:00am
- * 10/15 Jury Duty
- * 10/22 Commissioners Court Meeting 9:00am
- * 10/22 County Clerk's Blanket Drive Kickoff
- * 10/22 First Day of Early Voting
- * 10/29 Jury Duty
- * 10/31 Halloween

The Webb County Link is online!

Visit the Webb County Public Information Office's Webpage at: www.webbcountytx.gov/pio and click on the **Newsletter** button to view and print new and past issues of the County Newsletter.

The Future in Correction: Adult Educational Training

Members Webb County Sheriff Martin Cuellar's acute visionary glance into the future of Correctional training and education is extremely important to him, his staff and for our Community. The idea of providing educational opportunities for Webb County Jail Inmates such as GED classes and testing as well, as other adult educational training courses such as computer keyboarding classes is vital not only to the inmates but, to the Community itself. This overall matrix of behavior modification in their learning process and greater future job opportunities will help inmates transition more effectively back into society.



During the month of July 2012-the Webb County Jail GED Program in cooperation with Laredo Community College successfully tested and passed the first Inmate-Student. Also, during the following month of August-2012-under the Webb County Jail-Adult Educational Training Classes- the first 10 (Ten) Inmate-Students attended and received their L.C.C. Certificates in Computer Keyboarding continuing education.

Webb County Sheriff Martin Cuellar's commitment to educating incarcerated Inmates is in essence giving back to our community. Both Sheriff Cuellar and Jail Commander Salinas acknowledge that this G.E.D. Program and other educational Jail programs are the only ones being given in Laredo and South Texas surrounding areas.

Both of these programs provide classes for English language learners and adults who are interested in improving basic skills in reading, writing, and math, or who want to earn a high school diploma and/or life skills.

Sheriff Martin Cuellar and Jail Commander Jose "Pepe" Salinas share enthusiasm with these educational programs that are clearly supportive and feel they are the way of the future in Corrections. Sheriff Cuellar stated, "It is no longer an option to just "warehouse" inmates in the Correctional setting. We owe it to the inmate, we owe it to our community, and we certainly want to contribute in changing their behavior so that hopefully they can become a productive member of our Community and of society. life.

Adan Maldonado-Alternative Incarceration Program Coordinator at the Jail-holds a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice and is spearheading both of these programs. He has constant daily contact with Laredo Community College Instructors and Inmate-Students and constantly interacts with both Sheriff Martin Cuellar and Jail Commander Jose "Pepe" Salinas of any changing educational requirements and/or logistics to operate these programs. Maldonado stated that, "We are doing our part in training and educating our Inmate population while they are incarcerated in the hopes that when they get out of jail they can continue the process of becoming a better person".

Story courtesy of the Webb County Sheriff's Office.

Casa Blanca Dam Planting Ceremony

Commissioner Rosaura "Wawi" Tijerina, joined by Commissioners Jerry Garza and Jaime Canales along with Senator Judith Zaffirini, capped off the restoration of the Casa Blanca Dam with a planting ceremony. The million dollar project was funded through the county and served to restore the dam back to the standards that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality had set forth.

An additional \$30,000 were used to construct an irrigation system that will service the dam and create a green space that Commissioner Tijerina hopes will encourage residents and businesses to mimic in their respective homes and workplaces.

The Laredo Environmental Summit provided invaluable support of the project and spearheaded the ceremony as a means of raising awareness of going green and being prudent stewards of our natural resources.



Harassment In The Workplace Training

The Webb County Administrative Services Department held two training seminars for Webb County employees and supervisors to inform them about the proper steps they should take if they should ever find themselves in a situation wherein they feel harassed.

The two seminars, one aimed at the employees and the other at supervisors, were led by Professor Kimber J. Palmer. Professor Palmer is an instructor at TAMU and brought her many years of expertise to the seminar.

The Administrative Services Department encourages those departments that were unable to attend to check-out a DVD containing the training from their office.



Breast Cancer Awareness Month

The Webb County Commissioners Court, joined by Mrs. Martha Narvaez of the organization Pink To Do, officially proclaimed October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Webb County during their final meeting of the fiscal year.

Breast cancer is one of the most common types of cancer and the month-long event aims to raise awareness about breast cancer by encouraging people to get checked and to take preventive measures. Various events and activities are being planned to benefit this great cause, including the Pink To Do Breast Cancer Awareness Walk that will be held Saturday, October 6th on the grounds of the LCC South campus.

Webb County will commemorate the month by lighting the Courthouse in pink every night.

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.