



The Webb County Link

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Important Dates

- * 4/6 Easter Monday County Offices Closed
- * 4/13 Jury Duty
- * 4/13 Commissioners Court Meeting 9:00am
- * 4/15 New Employee Orientation
- * 4/15 Employee Appreciation Luncheon
- * 4/20 Jury Duty
- * 4/27 Commissioners Court Meeting 9:00am

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Ladrillito Activity Center Grand Opening



Webb County Commissioner Jaime Canales held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the all new Ladrillito Activity Center. This project came together when Boy Scout Tristan Melendez together with Commissioner Canales and other community members partnered to establish a place for children and the elderly to receive educational services. The center will also serve as a place where children can engage in fun activities such as gardening and reading.

Reusable Bag Campaign

Commissioner Frank Sciaraffa joined with the City of Laredo to show Webb County's support for the "Reusable Bag Era". He and Mayor Pete Saenz helped kick off the RGISC campaign at Mall Del Norte. The Rio Grande International Study Center distributed 2,000 Loving Laredo bags to shoppers who are environmentally friendly. The *Checkout Bag Reduction Ordinance* will become effective in Laredo on April 30, 2015. Visit:



Visit:

http://www.ci.laredo.tx.us/Environmental_Services/Frequently%20Asked%20Questions.pdf

for a list of frequently asked questions and answers.

Estrella De La Comunidad



In an effort to highlight and recognize outstanding young leaders in our community, the Webb County Sheriff's Office in partnership with Univision Laredo recently launched "Estrella de la Comunidad." This program recognizes students for their exceptional performance within school and the community.

This month, Seth Peña, an 8th grade student at Clark Middle School was awarded as the first recipient of such prestigious recognition. Seth is not only a good student in his classroom, but is also part of the Huskies Basketball team, Huskies Football team, Huskies Track & Field, Huskies Student Council, City of Laredo Parks & Rec Youth Council, and helps the elderly/young children in his spare time.

"It's extremely important to ensure the young leaders in our community are recognized," said Sheriff Martin Cuellar. "We want to honor those students who go above and beyond to give back to their community and lead by example. We also want to encourage Webb County to nominate that individual whom they feel deserves this award."

Sheriff Martin Cuellar takes pride in this new initiative with the intent to promote leadership skills, community involvement, and good academic performance.

Students honored with the "Estrella En La Comunidad" award receive a certificate, award, Great American Cookie cake, family gift certificate to Laredo Pizza Factory and Family 6 pack of tickets to Schlitterbahn.

Students can be nominated by their teachers, counselors, coaches, parents, friends and/or family by logging on to <http://www.kldotv.com/promocion/estrella-de-la-comunidad/> and completing the nomination form.



Over 65 Years Of Collective Service

This month, Webb County gave a farewell to Mr. George L. Gonzales and his wife Diana S. Gonzales for their time and commitment to our county. These 2 former employees served our community for over 65 combined years. Webb County would like to thank both of these retirees and wish them the best on their new journey.

Webb County Hero

Webb County Commissioner Jaime Canales and the Commissioners Court gave county employee Jesus Sanchez an honorable recognition for his extraordinary bravery, camaraderie and unselfish acts in saving the life of county employee Tony Cruz at the time of the scaffolding accident. Mr. Sanchez, we thank you and we appreciate your valiancy.



GED Courses For County Employees

Commissioner Frank Sciaraffa proposed a feasibility study to provide GED classes for Webb County employees who do not have a high school diploma. The court voted to approve the item allowing employees more opportunities and better pay, leading to better job performance within departments.

"We really appreciate all our employees do. This is a way to help them improve their skills at the county, and improve their earning ability," said Commissioner Sciaraffa. Administrative Services Director Cynthia Mares will compile the information to determine how many are interested in taking the GED classes free of charge, after working hours, at Laredo Community College.

Over six years ago, the county adopted Civil Service for employees implementing a high school diploma/ GED requirement. A number of county employees that did not meet the requirement were grandfathered into positions, not allowing them a chance to advance because they could not meet the requirement.

Administrative Services has released an employee questionnaire for departments who have employees that would be interested in attending the classes. The deadline to submit the questionnaire will be April 10, 2015.

Further information will follow once the study is complete. If you have any questions or concerns please call the Administrative Services Department at 523-4183 or 523-4718.

Retired Law Enforcement Officers Forum

They served, protected and gave back to the community for a number of years. That's why the Webb County Sheriff's Office hosted a breakfast forum for retired law enforcement officers' in Laredo. One officer who has proven to be of great service, well-respected and an outstanding individual received the distinguished *Constable Agustin "Tino" Juarez Memorial Service Award*. Mr. JJ Perez, a 30 year veteran who served and protected our community during his tenure with the Laredo Police Department, Webb County Sheriff's Office, U.S. Customs Services and the Webb County Juvenile department received the distinguished award. The guest speaker at the event was Texas Department of Public Safety Captain Hank Sibley, who spoke about a wide array of law enforcement topics, including the presence of troops along the border.



Distracted Driver Training



The Webb County Administrative Services Department, together with the Texas Department of Transportation, hosted a training seminar against distractive driving. Garry L. Parker, the guest speaker for the seminar, reminded attending Webb County drivers to make sure to pay attention when driving a vehicle and to not get distracted by things that are not important such as texting, eating, and changing radio stations. Through a series of eye-opening videos, Mr. Parker highlighted the variety of reasons for drivers to maintain their eyes on the road. He further stressed that these distractive activities can wait and are not worth losing a life over.

Remember to protect yourself and your passengers by focusing on the road and do not forget that driving/riding a vehicle is one of the most dangerous things you do every day.

International Woman's Day

During the month of March, some special women were recognized for their hard work throughout our community. Commissioner "Wawi" Tijerina gave a special recognition to women from our local and sister city news media in observance of International Women's Day. These women, through their work in keeping the community informed, demonstrate the international Women's Day 2015 theme of "Empowering Women - Empowering Humanity: Picture It. Congratulations to these ladies for all their hard work and dedication!



Community Center Event Roundup



The elderly from the **E.J Salinas Community Center** got a special visit from the 1st grade class of Oilton Elementary School which the kids call their "grand-friends". The elderly enjoyed decorating and filling cascarones.



Elderly members of **La Presa Community Center** celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a luncheon celebration. They enjoyed dancing and ate taquitos al vapor.



The **Larga Vista Community Center** held its annual Spring Break Camp. 30 children attended and were taken bowling, and also enjoyed arts & crafts. The camp closed out the week at Peter Piper Pizza, enjoying pizza and games.



The **Santa Teresita Community Center** held its annual spring break camps for area kids. Participants were treated to the annual Kite Festival, and were invited to the Lamar Bruni Vergara Environmental Science Center, which included a trip down the "Paso Del Indio" nature trail.



Fernando A. Salinas Community Center participants along with the Director Jose A. Pantoja and staff enjoyed a beautiful spring day at Denny's.

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.