



# The Webb County Link

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## Important Dates

- \* 8/10 Jury Duty
- \* 8/10 Commissioners Court Meeting 9:00am
- \* 8/17 Jury Duty
- \* 8/19 New Employee Orientation
- \* 8/24 First Day of Classes
- \* 8/24 Commissioners Court Night Meeting 5:30pm

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## Loop 20 Overpass Groundbreaking



Webb County Judge Tano Tijerina, members of the Commissioners Court, and City of Laredo officials joined the Texas Department of Transportation and Killam Development as they held the long awaited groundbreaking ceremony to begin the construction of the Loop 20-Spur 400 overpass project. This project is a multi-million dollar TxDOT project made possible by federal and state funds and will help lead Laredo into the future by easing traffic and decreasing travel times on Loop 20. The project is estimated to cost \$34 million with project completion estimated for early spring 2018.

## Star of Hope

Sheriff Martin Cuellar recently presented a Certificate of Recognition to Carisa Lamar Romo, a 5-year-old who asked her parents, Rafael and Liza Romo, to build her a lemonade stand because she wanted to raise funds for Star of Hope, a non-profit organization whose mission is to assist less fortunate children. The idea started when Cari, as she is called, saw a Star of Hope banner and then asked her parents what was Star of Hope.



## Night Court

July 2015 saw the implementation of the Night Court program by the Justice of the Peace Precinct 4 Judge Jose "Pepe" Salinas. Night Court was brought in to assist the local citizens that have day jobs and are not able come to court because of their busy working schedule. Initially, the idea was to hear small claim cases and commercial traffic infractions on Wednesday Nights. At the beginning of this program, very few people knew about it and came to court; however Justice of the Peace Traffic and Civil personnel have started scheduling audiences with the Judge for these hours as the Night Court date drew closer. "Any time you start something new it takes time to take action" said the judge, "but we have been successful bringing people to attend and take care of their legal affairs during this special period." The Justice of the Peace Precinct 4 office is the busiest Court in Webb County, "The Night Court" might make it a little easier, but not reduce the workload," says Judge Salinas.



Establishing a night court in The Justice of the Peace Precinct 4 could theoretically resolve a number of logistical problems inherent to the busy local Justice Court, including addressing the backlog of the cases and making it more convenient for residents and taxpayers involved with cases to attend in the evening. Scheduling of the "Night Court" has just recently been made possible by the election of a fourth judge to the Laredo Court system, Judge José R. Salinas, who now shares the case load and is the appointed judge in the Night Court as the presiding official.



### Civil Service Rules Updated

After hearing valuable input from county employees and departments heads, the Webb County Civil Service Commission recently updated the Civil Service Rules and Regulations to better serve both the county and the employee. Some of the most significant changes that occurred are:

- The submission of Employee's Response/s to action/s taken against them or when filing Personal Grievance/s; 5 (five) day deadline after occurrence versus the original 10 days.
- Department Response/s to appeals are now subject to a 5 (five) day deadline versus the original 10 days.

· When filling vacant positions, "Continuous" postings are now subject to a deadline. These type of postings cannot exceed 30 days.

Copies of the rules and regulations are available online at [www.webbcountytx.gov](http://www.webbcountytx.gov) and employees can find copies under the Administrative Services folder on the T drive. All departments and employees are encouraged to read through the rules and familiarize themselves with them.



### Probation Officer Week

Webb County Judge Tano Tijerina and the Webb County Commissioners Court officially proclaimed the week of July 12th-19th, 2015 as Probation, Parole, and Community Supervision week. This proclamation is in honor and recognition of all those individuals who form part of the criminal justice system and advocate community and restorative justice. As part of the celebrations, the Webb and Zapata County Adult Probation Office hosted its annual bowling tournament to honor all probation officers and to raise awareness of the many functions of a probation officer.



### OSHA Training

As part of the county's continuing efforts to create a safe and productive work environment, the Administrative Service and Engineering departments tag-teamed on an introductory OSHA Training session for various departments. OSHA stands for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and it is an agency of the U.S. Department of Labor. The mission of OSHA is to assure safe and healthful working conditions for working men and women by setting and enforcing standards and by providing training, outreach, education and assistance. Some of the things OSHA does to carry out its mission include developing job safety and health standards and enforcing them through worksite inspections and providing training programs to increase knowledge about occupational safety and health. While OSHA standards do not govern public entities like Webb County, it is the county's goal to have standards that not only meet those set forth by OSHA but supersede them as well.

### The G.I.F.T.S.

On Wednesday, July 15, the Administrative Services' health education series, T.H.E. G.I.F.T.S. (Taking Health Education and Giving Individuals Freedom To Succeed), hosted a presentation by Dr. Leo Cigarroa, Jr. Dr. Cigarroa highlighted the importance of knowing your family's history (grandparents, parents, aunts & uncles, and brothers & sisters) as this plays a vital role on your health and future. He also spoke about the importance of preparing a Living Will, a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) document and an Advance Directive document to ensure that your wishes will be met and hopefully avoid adding stress to your surviving family members at a very critical time. Overall, the doctor provided much needed attention and information on subjects that are often considered "taboo" but can make a difficult time less stressful when handled properly.



## Better Living For Texans

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office added Bruni Community Center members as graduates in their Better Living for Texans "Three Easy Bites" program. Better Living for Texans is a statewide nutrition education program that serves state's residents by teaching nutrition-related concepts focusing on: Comparing Prices, Healthy Menu Choices, MyPlate, Preparing Healthy Meals, Importance of Physical Fitness. In the future, the AgriLife Extension Office will be expanding the program to other community centers.



## 5th Annual Educational Summer Camps

In his continued efforts of improving the quality of life of children through education, Pct. 4 Commissioner Jaime Canales held the 5th Annual Educational Summer Camps. The week-long camps are aimed at keeping kids minds engaged and ready to tackle the new school year. This year's theme taught the kids about the many WEBB COUNTY COMMUNITY HEROES. The annual program has grown by leaps and bounds since its inception. This year, a total of seven camps were held across a growing area of precinct four.

## Community Center Event Roundup



Kids from the **La Presa Community Center** cooled off from the hot summer sun with a field trip visit to the Seven Flags Splash Park.



The **Bruni Community Center** hosted its annual The Back to School Blast just in time for the beginning of the Webb CISD school year. Commissioner Tijerina was on hand to help distribute all of the supplies.



The **Larga Vista Community Center** hosted their 9th Annual Back to School Jamaica. The Laredo Gateway Rotary Club donated 200 backpacks to the children. There was over 30 booths and over 465 people attended this event.



15 kids from the **Santa Teresita Community Center** were able to take a radKIDS 3-day training class. radKids empowers children with skills so they can recognize, avoid, resist, and if necessary escape violence or harm in their lives.



The fun at the **Ladrillito Activity Center** has only increased since it opened its doors in March. With over 30 children served each month, the center now counts on involvement from area moms for events like storytelling and arts & crafts.



The **Fernando Salinas Community Center** and Commissioner Jaime A Canales ended the last day of the Community Heroes Summer Camp at the Imaginarium with lots of fun.

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.