

LOCAL

# Student Health Symposium

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

A host of ghoulish activities will be shared with Texas A&M International University students from now through Saturday as part of a Halloween-themed Student Health Symposium sponsored by TAMIU's Student Health Services and TAMIU-SCAN Prevention Project.

Geared to advancing health and substance abuse awareness through activities and events, the week-long observation includes a blood drive, art contest, discussion panels,

research presentations, topic-focused information booths, a pill take back initiative, and a campus walk and run, among other activities.

Remaining activities and events scheduled include:

► Wednesday, Oct. 26, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., Student Center Rotunda, "Don't be a Creeper" Information Fair with some 15 booths, including a "beer goggle" experience, screenings, slam ball, a pill take back initiative in cooperation with the Drug Enforcement Agency, nutritional

information and more.

► Thursday, Oct. 27, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Student Center Rotunda, "Fight the Fright Flu Vaccines," free for registered students and, from 6 – 9 p.m., the free Halloween Festival for all ages on the Senator Judith Zaffirini Student Success Center Green, presented by the TAMIU Campus Activities Board.

The concluding event "It's On Us: Zombie Gun Walk and Run," is Saturday, Oct. 29, at 9 a.m., in the TAMIU Student Center Parking Lot. TAMIU students, staff and alumni

will run or walk across campus to "consent houses" and learn about the It's On Us Campaign at TAMIU. The event is made possible by Housing & Residence Life with the support of the TAMIU offices of Compliance, Student Affairs and Rec Sports.

For further information, contact Claudia Beltran, associate director of Student Health, at 956.326.2235, or email claudia.beltran@tamiu.edu, or visit offices in the Student Center, room 125.

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# Veterans' health care expands

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Texas Valley Coastal Bend Health Care System, TriWest Healthcare Alliance and Gateway Community Health Center Inc. recently announced a partnership that will allow for further expansion of health care services for veterans at the Laredo Outpatient Clinic.

In 2014, the VA expanded its patient-centered community care contracts with TriWest Healthcare Alliance to include implementing the Veterans Choice Program, which ensures veterans have access to the quality health care services they need through established partnerships between health clinics and the VA system.

Under the Choice Program, if the VA cannot schedule an appointment within 30 days of the veteran's preferred date, or if the veteran resides more than 40 miles from their closest VA medical facility, the veteran can receive medical care at



Courtesy photo / U.S. Congressman Henry Cuellar's office

**A new partnership between TriWest and Gateway Community Health Center was announced recently. The partnership will allow for expansion of health services.**

community care provides such as Gateway Community Health Center.

Veterans in Webb County can now receive health care services at Gateway Community Health Center if the local VA clinic cannot see them within 30 days of their preferred date. This means more services, expanded quality care and faster appointments with doctors and health professionals.

"Veterans' needs have been a priority of mine since being entering Congress more than 10 years ago," said U.S. Congress-

man Henry Cuellar, who announced the partnership. "Our veterans have paid a great price to defend our country, and they deserve nothing but the best health care here at home, without having to travel far away.

"This new partnership between the VA and Gateway Community Health Center is another example of our shared commitment to put our veterans first. I thank Laredo Outpatient Clinic Administrative Officer Lawrence A. DeVoto, Capt. USA Ret., and Gateway Community Health Center

CEO Elmo Lopez Jr., for their hard work and dedication to our local veterans."

Lopez added, "Gateway's mission is 'to provide quality care for all' and this partnership with the VA is allowing us to further extend that care. We are thrilled to be able to offer our veterans more services and more options. We thank Mr. Lawrence DeVoto, administrative officer of the Laredo VA Outpatient Clinic, and ... Cuellar for his continued support and mission to ensure accessible health care."

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**WEBB COUNTY VOTER TURNOUT AS OF OCT. 25**

**60,000:** Yes! I Will Vote campaign goal

**6,154** Total # of ballots cast

123,000 REGISTERED VOTERS IN WEBB CO.



Victor Strife / Laredo Morning Times

## Fourth Court of Appeals

Justices from the San Antonio-based Texas Fourth Court of Appeals visited Laredo on Tuesday to hear oral arguments in three different cases at the Webb County Courthouse.

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