

BOOK SIGNING

Poet Alex Z. Salinas joins Del Mar at Wolfe Recital Hall for National Poetry Month.

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BATTLING BURNOUT

Columnist Jessica Rivas takes on end-of-semester stress.

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HIGHER EDUCATION

Students show off skills learned in class

Constant winds waved the American flags mounted upon electrical poles, while family members, electrical line workers and observant guests strained their necks to watch the four Del Mar college students perform their tasks at the first ever Del Mar's "Skills Rodeo."

The four students, Andrew "Blake" Galvan, Christopher Luzania, Rodolfo "Rudy" Landeros and Gabriel Garcia demonstrated for judges the skills and knowledge they had obtained from their 10-week electrical lineworker program before graduation. The April 4 ceremony was held at the Nueces Electrical Cooperative (NEC) field.

"Ten weeks ago, the guys were given their hooks," said Del Mar instructor Robert Bryson. "They couldn't even get a step off of the ground."

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STORY BY IRENE FLORES
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Gabriel Garcia pledges to the flag during a skills rodeo for electrical lineworker students on April 4 at Nueces Electrical Cooperative.

LOLA PONCE | FOGHORN NEWS

Dental program seeking patients

Dental Hygiene Clinic provides free preventive dental care for volunteers

NIEVES GUAJARDO | REPORTER
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The Del Mar College Dental Hygiene Clinic needs volunteers for the Dental Hygiene Program. The program provides patients with dental hygiene services at no cost. Students in the program perform services such as oral screenings, teeth cleaning, and more.

Students are supervised by the faculty of the program during the process. These instructors are required to have a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene as well as clinical experience to teach at the clinic.

"In a given year, we provide the community with over half a million dollars of dental hygiene services. You're talking about cleanings, deep cleanings, sealants, X-rays, fluoride, all of that," said Monica Martinez, assistant instructor. "We are trying to see about maybe getting grant money. We are a healthcare facility but we're also still a class."

The clinic must provide the students with basic supplies such as gloves and gowns.

According to Martinez, the students can run into problems concerning the number of patients they have during the program.

"For example, the students from the program must go out and find their own patients to work on. Since the clinic is also their classroom, they do not have the lux-



NIEVES GUAJARDO | FOGHORN NEWS

Dental hygiene student Kenedy Contreras works on a patient at the Windward Campus. The clinic is accepting patients for free preventive dental services.

ury of just showing up and being provided with the patients," Martinez said.

The students are required to get a certain number of hours with the patients, but no patients mean no hours. For them to pass, they must have patients, which requires them to rely on people they know.

Another problem that a student might face, Martinez mentioned, is being from out of town.

"They don't have relatives or friends who

live here. This can make it a little more difficult for them to find patients," Martinez said, adding that the program relies heavily on community involvement and word of mouth.

The clinic accepts anyone willing to come in. They do have to be at least 3 years old. Besides the age, there is no exact list of

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State grant funds industrial training

Industrial partners express optimism for future of partnership with college

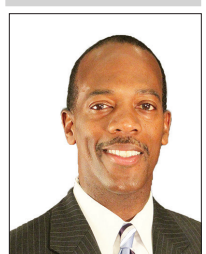
ANDREW CLEMENTS | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
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Del Mar College received \$870,803 in Skills Development Fund grants from the Texas Workforce Commission for the purpose of funding reskilling and upskilling training programs at Windward Campus.

The Skill Development Fund is a state-wide program administered by the TWC to aid in the development and training of a skilled workforce.

The SDF grants presented to the college are intended to provide for the training and upskilling of 468 employees across two companies, the Louisiana-based Gulf Islands Services and ArcelorMittal Texas HBI, operating in San Patricio County.

They were presented to the college and its two industry partners on April 5 in the form of two oversized checks. The presentation event was opened by Ken Treviño, president and CEO of Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend. The checks were given



Demerson is the TWC Commissioner representing employers

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