



COMAL COUNTY

PUBLIC INFORMATION

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Juvenile Probation launches new evening program

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NEW BRAUNFELS — A new weekly evening program starting Monday provides training and counseling to Comal County youth who run into trouble with the law.

The program, run by the Comal County Juvenile Probation Department, will be required for minors as part of their probation or deferred adjudication. It will accept six to 10 juveniles each quarter and provide classes in life skills, goal setting, job skills, anger management and communication.

“We know that kids who come through our program are struggling with issues that won’t be resolved just by putting them in a detention facility,” said Nick Reininger, the county’s chief juvenile probation officer. “We want to give them the resources that will help them get off the path they’re on and become productive members of society.”

The six-week program will take place from 5:30-6:30 p.m. each Monday.

Although participation in the evening program is restricted to those ordered to do so by a court, the Juvenile Probation Department also runs the Student and Family Empowerment Program, or SAFE, designed to intervene in the lives of children before they enter the legal system.

The SAFE program accepts children ages 6-11 who live in Comal County with school-attendance or other behavioral issues that indicate the child is at risk of truancy or other problems. Although schools are the primary referrers to the program, other members of the community, including the child’s family, also can do so.

About 50 children are enrolled in the program, which is overseen by Juvenile Probation Services Case Worker Crimson Hux.

“Crimson does a great job working one-on-one with children and their families to address problems they’re experiencing, referring them to appropriate services, helping them obtain daily necessities, and providing emotional support,” Reininger said. “We hope these two programs will help kids who might be going in a bad direction to turn their lives around.”

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