

Uvalde Leader-News

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Veteran resource fair slated Tuesday Spouses, widows welcome to attend

Uvalde County will host a veteran resource fair on Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the American Legion Post 479, located at 589 W. Main St. Spouses, widows, and other family members are welcome to attend. According to the Everado "Lalo" Zamora, county veteran services officer, the fair will focus on a variety of topics including burial benefits, death benefits, dependency and indemnity, compensation, Social Security, life insurance, pension and the Veterans Choice Program. The Veterans Choice Program was created to improve veterans' access to health care by allowing veterans already enrolled in VA health care programs to receive care from non-VA facilities. It is designed to reduce wait times for veterans. Veterans are eligible if: 1) they have been, or will be, waiting more than 30 days for VA medical care; 2) they live more than 40 miles away from a VA medical care facility; or 3) they need care not available at their nearest VA facility. The closest VA facilities are located in San Antonio and Kerrville. Veterans should call 866-606-8168 to see if they are eligible for the program or to sign up. If a veteran is eligible under the first or third requirement, he or she must receive prior authorization via a referral before the veteran can receive care through the program. Veterans who reside farther away than 40 miles driving distance (from a VA facility) may use Choice providers for all care. Authorization to use a Choice provider is good for 60 days and must be reauthorized if the episode of care goes beyond the 60 days. There are 21 different providers in Uvalde County participating in the Choice program, including Our Health/ Nuestro Centro de Salud of Uvalde at 200 S. Evans