



## Local Affiliate Broadcast Meteorologist Pays Visit Former NWS Corpus Christi Staffer Assists with Balloon Release

Chief Meteorologist **Robert Bettes** of **KVEO News Center 23** in Brownsville paid his first visit to the NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley Forecast Office during the afternoon of April 8, 2014, as part of a Rio Grande Valley promotion trip. Bettes, who is based at KTSM Channel 9 in El Paso, spent a few hours learning about all that NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley does to serve the region, as well as a glimpse at the NWS Weather-Ready Nation initiative and communication, data, and forecast improvements that are critical building blocks to protecting life and livelihoods now and in the future. Mr. Bettes and Warning Coordination Meteorologist **Barry Goldsmith** teamed up to record 10- and 30-second spots promoting a growing partnership between KVEO and the NWS; these spots were scheduled to air during the May ratings sweeps period which also coincides with the start of hurricane preparedness season for the RGV.

Mr. Bettes and his crew returned for the 6 PM CDT weather balloon/radiosonde release. Under azure blue skies with a light northwest breeze, meteorologist **Erin Billings** assisted Mr. Bettes with the release (above). Bettes had launched balloons when he worked as an entry level meteorologist for NWS Corpus Christi in 1994 before he changed career paths and headed into the broadcast world.

Thanks to the publications and program directors at KVEO NewsCenter 23 for scheduling a great afternoon!