

# THE FIVE POINT PRESS

*A publication for the employees of the Travis County Sheriff's Office*

Volume 1, Issue 3

Winter 2006

## The Spirit of Volunteerism

By Greg Hamilton, Sheriff and  
Barbara Cilley, Planning Manager



*photo taken by Kim Orts*

*Volunteers from the Sheriff's Office, alongside other volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, had the privilege of rebuilding a dream. In one day, we were able to see four walls and the roof trusses raised into place. And although many volunteers had construction experience there were many others that just wanted to lend a helping hand.*

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A community is not made up of simply a collection of buildings, roads, and parks. It has another human element of connectedness and shared experiences that comes through community service and volunteerism. Volunteerism is not just working on a project while being compensated by the County. It is the sacrifice of one's time, talent, and treasure that is donated by reaching out to community organizations or individuals in need. The essence of volunteerism is the spirit of giving back to the community.

In order to encourage volunteerism, the Sheriff's Office is working towards establishing a new award for volunteerism and community service. Eligibility for this award will be determined by documenting a certain number of volunteer hours.

Why is it so important for Sheriff's Office personnel to volunteer? Remember the images of Andy of Mayberry and his practical blend of common sense and down-home wisdom that came into play while upholding the law in the community. This is the standard that officers in the community and at the jail should be endorsing. When you volunteer in the community and are seen participating in community events, the community begins to see you at a different level.

You are not simply a stranger coming into the neighborhood to arrest or question someone about a suspicious event. At a vital level, you have become an element of the neighborhood that is part of the equation that determines the landscape of the neighborhood.

The Sheriff's Office has some outstanding examples of volunteerism, Brown Santa, building a house for Toni Hernandez in east Austin through Habitat For Humanity, and helping to present the recent conference, Building Bridges: Brick by Brick with the National Crime Prevention Council. All of these activities, sponsored by the Sheriff's Office, help to give law enforcement and corrections a human face. During the construction of the home for Ms. Hernandez, some days found as many as forty volunteers from our office. Our collective efforts have built a home for a community member that had tragically lost her previous Habitat Home through a fireworks accident. On February 25th at 10 am we handed over the keys to a fully landscaped 1,065 square foot house. In the process of constructing a house, we were able to reverse a devastating loss in an individual citizen's life.

Throughout the process of crafting a home, the Sheriff's Office has forged

**Volunteerism** continued on page 8

## SHERIFF'S SPOTLIGHT

The Sheriff's Office receives letters from the public praising the performance of some of our officers. In this spotlight, I want to share with TCSO employees examples of how the public responds to some of our actions. In this instance, the officers were responding to a report of an accident.

"The first officer arrived within 4-5 minutes after I called 911. He, and the officers that arrived to assist him, at all times displayed professional demeanor. I observed the obviously intoxicated driver of the wrecked vehicle verbally abuse the officers and he struggled violently with them, as his mood and behavior fluctuated wildly....The officers never used more strength than absolutely necessary at each moment, did not lose their temper, and did not abuse the man."

Signed,  
Margo Green

This letter highlights what happens on a daily basis within the Sheriff's Office and shows that training and use of good judgement on scenes is noticed by the public. Most public discussions on use of force tend to concentrate on "excessive use of force". This letter is almost a textbook example of how to progressively use force along a continuum that emphasizes the least amount of force necessary to accomplish the task.

Yet another letter from the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission shows that interagency teamwork can generate good results.

"Deputy Jennings observed a Sale of Alcohol to a Minor that occurred at the TABC licensed location...Deputy Jennings prepared an excellent offense report that allowed TABC to prepare a criminal and administrative case against the store."

Signed,  
Sgt. Jimmy Zuehlke

Everyone knows that filing good paper work is what makes the case in the end but it is often the least appreciated work by the public. The daily task of filing paperwork to make the case is the routine work of any policing agency that is always under-appreciated. This case is even rarer because it involves another agency taking the time to note the filing of a good offense report. As the County grows, interagency teamwork will become a greater component of how we do business. Hats off to Deputy Jennings who did the necessary paperwork to make the case for another agency.

These are just two examples of how our agency is being viewed by the public and other governmental agencies. They illustrate that doing a good job is appreciated and reflects well on the entire department.

Thanks for all the good work the staff is doing on a daily basis!

*Roy Hamilton*

### THE FIVE POINT PRESS

*The newsletter of TCSO for TCSO*

Interim Editor ..... Barbara Cilley  
Managing Editor ... Jeannie Maldonado  
General Reporter ..... Josie Matthias  
Graphic Design ..... Karen Maxwell

Thanks to these employees who contributed articles, pictures and ideas.

Matt Baker	Kim Orts
Toby Cross	Shelley Pulliam
George Fuentes	Meg Seville
Roxana Haley	Craig Smith
Greg Hamilton	Emily Treviño
Tracy Hill	Roger Wade

Ghastly Ghouls, Clyde and Gloria Hoffman were just two of the many volunteers that helped make the AlcaTravis haunted jail a huge success. More than \$2,000 was raised to benefit local charities. Putting this event on is really hard work. Many Sheriff's Office employees and County employees along with their families and friends volunteered to help make this possible.

After all, people love to be scared and we love to scare them (as long as it's for a good cause)!



*photo submitted by Roxana Haley*

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# A Gift That Has Power to Change Lives

By Josie Matthias, General Reporter

The 2005 Travis County Combined Charities Committee dedicated this year's campaign to the memory of Margie Beck. Margie passed away in March of 2005 after a struggle with pancreatic cancer. The slogan for the campaign was "A gift that has the power to change lives" and Margie Beck was the epitome of giving and she did change lives. Margie loved working at the Sheriff's Office, it gave her the perfect opportunity to express her love of co-workers, inmates and their families.

Margie was also a breast cancer survivor and was willing to speak at all the meetings and gatherings she was invited to during the Combined Charities Campaigns in past years. She

talked eloquently about the Breast Cancer Survivor Center and how they helped her and her family through her ordeal.

This year the employees of the Sheriff's Office donated... (I wish you could hear a drum role)... \$24,604.91. This is \$4,549.88 more than last year.

THANK YOU ALL! Margie would have been very proud. There were many charities in desperate need of funding due to the disasters of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. You saw the need to step in and help out our local charities. Many of you were involved in the relief effort of Katrina and Rita evacuees here in Austin. Not only did you volunteer your money you also volunteered your time. Hats off to you!

Alcatravis was another part of the fundraising efforts for Combined Charities again this year raising over \$2000. But this year some of the proceeds also went to another needy cause, the Sheriff's Memorial and Benevolent Society. Continue reading to the article below if you would like more information about the Sheriff's Memorial Benevolent Society (SMBS).



photo submitted by Josie Matthias

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## What is the SMBS ?

By Roger Wade, Public Information Officer (PIO)

Have you seen the initials and not know what they mean? You know the ones, SMBS. You may have seen the e-mail to TC Sheriff that said, if you want to donate to help a fellow Sheriff's Employee then give to the SMBS. The next question is usually, what the heck is the SMBS?

The official explanation is the Sheriff's Memorial and Benevolent Society of Travis County is a non-political non-governmental 501(c)(3) charitable corporation. It was created to accept donations from any outside source and in turn give those monies or property to employees, families and friends of Travis County and the Sheriff's Office in the case of emergency or misfortunes of nature. The funds can also be used for

Memorials, Scholarships, other educational programs and the support of any public safety project or program. **Political activity is contrary to the purposes** of this corporation.

The SMBS is made up of a Board of Directors who meets once a year, and as the need arises. The board oversees the accounts to be sure that the bylaws are followed. The SMBS has no employees but does have volunteers who help out with fund-raisers as needed. Since the board is not paid either, and there is no office overhead, the administrative costs have been minimal. Which means that 99.5% of all money donated is given to the person or project it was donated for.

Tragedy happens year round so the SMBS accepts donations year round. With the SMBS you can give to your fellow employees and get a tax deduction at the same time. If you are interested in giving to the SMBS or finding out more about what we do, contact me or a Board Member listed below.

Roger Wade, President  
Scott Burroughs, Vice President  
Maria Wedhorn, Secretary-Treasurer  
Dan Richards, Trustee  
Mike Hemby, Trustee  
Peggy Hill, Trustee  
Jessica Sammons, Trustee  
Doyne Bailey, Ex-Officio Member  
Greg Hamilton, Ex-Officio Member

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# TCSO Crisis Negotiation Team Wins 4th in Competition

By Josie Matthias, General Report

Our Crisis Negotiation Team participated in a national competition held at Texas State University in San Marcos and won 4th place! They also won the award of "Most Improved". Texas State University and the Federal Bureau of Investigations hosted the competition on January 10th, 11th, and 12th.

The team members who participated in the competition were Brian Carlson, Kitty Hicks, Steve Manley, Maria Chandler, Victor Moreno, Belinda Mangum, David Carroll, Mark Sawa, and Frank McIntyre. Their support group included Bryan Whoolery, Don Rios and Kimberly Orts.

A total of 28 teams from all over the United States were involved in this competition. The judges consisted of current and retired hostage negotiators from state and federal agencies.



The TCSO Crisis Negotiation Team was established 3 years ago and has participated in the competition for the past 3 years.

Congratulations and job well done!

*photo taken by Toby Cross  
Crisis Intervention Team Members:  
(Top from left) Wayne Sampson, David Carroll, Frank McIntyre, Brian Carlson, Victor Moreno, Juan Garza, Lt. Mark Sawa.  
(Bottom from left) Capt. Darren Long, Rick Cosper, Maria Chandler, Belinda Mangum, Sgt. Kitty Hicks, Steve Manley, Brian Callentine*

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## An Overview Of The New Facilities At Del Valle

By Emily Treviño, Lieutenant

Bonds and funding for new jail facilities have been approved and construction is scheduled to begin by October 2006. The new housing facility will accommodate 1,336 inmates, both male and female. The new jail program includes the replacement of existing beds from areas scheduled for demolition due to their condition, variance beds located in various buildings, and a few new beds.

The new facility is 235,000 square feet and will be located east of Building Four and the Chapel and north of the Health Services Building and the Visitation Center. It will be connected to the inmate walkway but is programmed

with many multi-purpose and video conferencing devices as well as video visitation to minimize some of the inmate pedestrian traffic.

There is an inmate holding area to stage inmates for transport, an extended Food Service area, and a state-of-the-art Security Control Room. Maintenance corridors around the units add square footage to the building design, but the favorable design trade off is ease of access that enables maintenance staff to work on pipes in the buildings without having to access secure areas.

The new security units are designed in a cluster of four units with a support

area. This innovative design allows the Corrections Bureau staffing flexibility in their ratios of officers to inmates. The design will allow up to 56 and 64 inmates per corrections officer.

The following is a description of the basic design concept.

There are six clusters and a Special Housing Unit. It will include five distinct types of housing:

- Separation Cells - Male
- Single Occupancy Cells- Female
- Double Occupancy Cells
- Quad. Occupancy Cells
- Dormitories

*New Facilities continued on page 6*

# Brown Santa Helping the Young & Old

By Tracy Hill,  
Sr. Communications Specialist

**B**rown Santa helped 1,070 families this year and out of those 1,070 families, 5,000 children received toys and games. Brown Santa was also able to visit 106 individuals in the Western Trails Retirement Center where they each received a food box and an HEB gift card.

The Travis County Sheriff's Office Brown Santa Program began in 1981 with a few deputies helping about 25 families. Brown Santa assists families in the unincorporated areas of Travis County and at times has helped Travis County Sheriff's Office employees in their time of need. The "Kick Off" starts in mid-November and runs through mid-December to the delivery dates. Funding is received from private business, citizens and fundraisers. A fundraiser that has been recently established is the Travis County 5K Run. It raised over \$4,000 in contributions last year.

The Harley Davidson Toy Run is another large fundraiser. Three thousand motorcyclists participated in the 2005 fundraiser that brought in



contributions of food, toys and cash totaling \$10,000.

Brown Santa's most valuable asset is the volunteers. Over 1,000 volunteers help with gift-wrapping, preparation of food boxes, and the sorting of approximately 30,000 toys. It is essential that we receive enough volunteers every year to be able to meet the deadline for deliveries. Sheriff's Office employees, private citizens and community groups are always welcomed.

If you would like information on Brown Santa; how to volunteer, contribute (they accept donations year-round), or how to be a part of the Brown Santa Board, contact Tracy Hill at [tracy.hill@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:tracy.hill@co.travis.tx.us) or visit the Brown Santa website: [www.Brownsanta.org](http://www.Brownsanta.org).

## 2006 Brown Santa Board Members

Tracy Hill, Chairperson – Travis County Sheriff's Office  
Brian Rubel, Vice Chair – Travis County Sheriff's Office  
Donna Stirman, Treasurer – Travis County Human Resources  
Mary Rodriguez, Secretary - Travis County Sheriff's Office  
Tip Birdwell – Travis County Sheriff's Office  
Robert Martinez – Travis County Sheriff's Office  
Travis Lockhart – Travis County Sheriff's Office  
Virginia Aleman – Travis County Human Resources  
Karen Ruble – Private Citizen  
Margo Ball – Travis County Citizen's Alumni Association  
Diane Lockhart - Travis County Citizen's Alumni Association

[www.Brownsanta.org](http://www.Brownsanta.org)

# Creation of a New Reserve Unit

By Captain Matt Baker,  
TCSO Reserve Unit

**Y**ou may have known that TCSO has a very active Reserve Deputy Unit, but did you know we also have a newly formed Reserve Corrections Platoon? For years, TCSO has employed volunteer peace officers to assist with patrol, traffic, and special events. Captain Matt Baker, officer in charge of the combined reserve program stated, "It only made sense to use this same philosophy to help out the Corrections Bureau as well." With the support of Sheriff Hamilton, TCSO received approval from the Commissioner's Court to expand the existing size of the Reserve Unit and to also include reserve correction officers.

The rest is history. After an intense search, Sgt. Bob Burnett was hired to coordinate the new Reserve Corrections Platoon. Sgt. Burnett has been actively working on developing the Standard Operating Procedure as well as recruiting new members.

Who would want to volunteer? Most reserve officers are usually ex-paid officers who have either moved to better paying jobs or who have retired. In many cases, these folks are still interested in helping out as a way to volunteer for their community. Other members also include folks from the community who simply think this is a unique way to help out and subsequently volunteer to go through the certification process.

Getting hired as a reserve corrections officer is identical to the process for paid officers. After completing a

*Reserves continued on page 6*

# New Reserve Unit

*continued from page 5*

background check, other required paperwork, and an oral board, reserves are sworn in and given a temporary license as correction officers. At first, the new officer is assigned to a field-training officer for on the job training. During the first year, training is provided at the TCSO Training Academy to increase the officers' skill, proficiency, and also to prepare them to become certified by the State of Texas as correction officers.

Their duties during this time consist of all aspects of corrections, such as

working a post at the TCSO County Jail or at the TCSO Correctional Complex. After certification, reserve officers perform transportation duties, hospital duty, and other more advanced assignments.

This commitment asks for only 16 hours per month of a person's time. Creation of this program should result in the Corrections Bureau being able to use these volunteers to enhance their operations. Any individuals interested in being part of this new and exciting program should contact Sgt. Burnett at [bob.burnett@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:bob.burnett@co.travis.tx.us).

# New Facilities *continued from page 4*

The long-term vision for all facilities at Del Valle is direct supervision. This new design will go a long way towards implementing this vision but there is still more work to be done on the Del Valle layout before this is a reality.

The new facility is expected to be completed by March 2008. A Corrections Transition Team is working

with the consultant and providing information on the progress. This information can be found on the Everyone Drive/Corrections Bureau/Strategic Planning/New TCCC Facility folder. Any question can be addressed by any of the Corrections Bureau Command staff or by Lieutenant Emily Treviño who is assigned as the Transition Coordinator.

# Deputy UBI Reporting

By Roger Wade, PIO

*The following tidbits are taken from the "Uncle John's Bathroom Reader Plunges Into History" copyright © 2001.*

26 of the 43 men elected U.S. president have been lawyers.

Woodrow Wilson couldn't read until he was 9, but became the only president with a Ph.D.

Teddy Roosevelt's "cavalry charge" up San Juan Hill was done on foot.

Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died on the Declaration of Independence's 50th anniversary.

George Washington may have been the Father of His Country, but he had no children himself.

Technically, the first American president was John Hanson of Maryland.



## Breakdown Of Bed Distribution

Housing Type	Security Level	Unit Count	Beds per Unit	Total Beds
Double bed cell - male	Maximum/Medium	8	48	384
Quad bed cell - male	Medium	8	56	448
Dormitory - male	Minimum	4	64	256
<b>Male Subtotal</b>		<b>20</b>		<b>1088</b>
Single bed cell - female	Maximum	1	48	48
Double bed cell - female	Medium	1	48	48
Dormitory - female	Minimum	2	64	128
<b>Female Subtotal</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>224</b>
Separation Housing	Maximum	1	24	24
<b>Total</b>		<b>25</b>		<b>1336</b>

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# Reflections On A Lifetime Of Service With The Corrections Bureau

By Shelley Pulliam, Social Services Manager, Retired

**W**ow, a quarter of a century has come and gone. I can't say that it has flown by, but I can say it has been extremely event full.

I started with TCSO when Doyme Bailey became Sheriff and I see he is going to out do me. (He and Peggy Hill.) There were not too many female officers at that time so they must have been desperate to hire a woman with a degree in Social Work. It was bound to cause trouble.

Yes, I started as a corrections officer. This was back in the time when TCCC only had Building Four and the officers did the regular stuff, including strip searches, passing out medications, transporting, conducting recreation, giving phone calls - and we wore civilian clothes, not uniforms.

I was fortunate to move around to different departments while here. I worked classifications when classifications officers and counseling staff voted on what inmates would be trusties. I also sat on the jail disciplinary boards. Knowing me, do you think there were many guilty findings? During this time, I had this grand idea to put inmates in the interview booths and let them listen to relaxation tapes to help calm them down. Okay, how many think that lasted with security supervisors like, Sgt. Fox, Lt. Meiron and Lt. Mead?

Then along about 1984 the department formed the Mental Health Unit. Chief Collier thought it would be a great idea to have a social worker on this unit so they sent me to Peace Officer's training at Southwest Texas State.

Chief Collier assigned me this bright yellow canary vehicle that had no cage, no locks, no lights, no identifying markings, and a radio that only transmitted to TCSO in certain areas. One day I was traveling down 620 to a call when DPS troopers, their sirens blaring and lights flashing, motioned me to pull over for speeding. I couldn't identify myself until they practically had me spread eagled. I can still hear the roar of laughter from Lt. McAngus and Mike Lee. I must say for all my blunders - like leaving my weapon in the vehicle (I don't like guns) that I did find my niche for working with the mentally disabled. We all concurred that although I had the skills for working with the 10-96's, my patrol days were limited. I transferred back to the jail and began working in Booking.

Now my job became Indescribable - Unpredictable, and - well, you get the idea. I was working alongside experienced officers like Peggy Hill, Penny King, Bill Scallions, JJ Johnson, and of course Balagia. Need I say more? I learned more about the criminal justice system and the department than ever before.

At this time, the Department was small enough that being involved as Treasurer with the Sheriff's Officers Association was a big event. It was from being involved with these extracurricular activities, and other things, that helped me feel as if Law Enforcement and Corrections were a unified department.

I finally became a counselor by completing my Masters degree in Counseling. Under the directorship of Chief Malley, counseling in the jail had

already started taking on a new direction. I laugh when I remember that giving inmates a cigarette was used as a behavior modification tool in those days, but as the 'New Jail' was built, inmate treatment became even more inventive. When we went to a nonsmoking jail, the counselors were trained in acupuncture to help inmates deal with withdrawal symptoms. The expectation was there would be rioting. (No rioting occurred...just like no millennium crash.)

Inmate Treatment Services continued to grow to keep up with the needs of the community as well as the inmate population. TJ Needom and Woody Simmons were the force in getting the Sheriff's Department involved in drug and alcohol treatment. We had our own successful licensed program at Del Valle for many years before funding was cut.

I have many fond memories like working alongside Vince Gurka to offer art programs that held contests and displayed inmate art in the courthouse. I have had the privilege and the honor of working with Dr. Hauser and Dr. Nelson to provide excellent services to a growing mental health population within the jail. I feel that these services in the jail have demonstrated to the community that we are willing to go the extra mile to serve the needs of the mentally ill.

During the course of my career, I also had the opportunity to help a little with the building of the Chapel. I wonder if everyone knows that it was all built with community contributions?

How do you put into words twenty-five years? My time here has been filled with drama and heartaches but also with many victories in seeing that people's lives really do and can change and that we can make a difference with the Lord's help.

# THE SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM

*continued from page 1*

new relationships with local businesses that have helped to supply everything from services to building products. Local restaurants donated food to the volunteers that gave of their time and talent. The Sheriff's Office developed relationships and introduced ourselves to an entire network of people in Travis County.

There is an old saying, "Success breeds Success." The Sheriff's Office is in the preliminary stages of locating a site to construct a second home in this community in partnership with Elite Custom Homes, owned by Leo Watson. We are looking at rebuilding or renovating the home of an elderly person in the same area.

Sheriff Hamilton's own volunteerism takes the form of coaching youth football, ages eleven through twelve. He also mentors kids at his local elementary school and talks to kids after school on his own time. In his own community, he runs errands for the elderly and acts as a greeter at his church. In addition, he serves on numerous volunteer boards. (Editor's Note: We all wish we had this much energy.)



*photo taken by Kim Orts*

*Robin Osborn, Debbie Galloway, Bryan Whoolery taking a well-deserved break while Ariel Lind, Kasben Harris, and Megan Hamilton served lunch with Derrick Taylor 'supervising'.*



*photo taken by Kim Orts*

*Pete Trotman works on framing at the Habitat Project.*

Volunteering builds levels of trust in the community that can only come with actively participating in the everyday activities that make a community more than just a place to park your car. Law enforcement cannot be disconnected from the community it serves and have the necessary relationships it needs to make policing a community successful. We all need to work at finding activities that we can contribute to in some form in the ordinary course of our daily routines so that when the extraordinary is needed we have a network of relationships to fall back on.

Thanks to all those wonderful sponsors who donated food for our Habitat for Humanity work crews:

Leo's Wings & More  
CiCi's Pizza  
Hooters  
Gus's Grill  
T.G.I. Friday's  
It's A Grind Coffee House  
Chipotle  
Joe's Bakery & Coffee Shop Inc.  
Church's Chicken  
Austin Fire Department  
New Birth by Faith  
Texas Land & Cattle  
Mi Rey Mexican Food House<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> (now La Reyna)

## Did You Walk With the Sheriff?

By Karen Maxwell, Comm. Liaison

On February 18th, more than 300 people braved the wet, cold weather to join Sheriff Hamilton at Auditorium Shores. The event was coordinated by Rick Cosper and Jennifer Jennings of the TCSO Training Academy. Governor Rick Perry, APD Chief of Police Stan Knee and lots of TCSO staff and citizens enjoyed the 'brisk' walk. Jill Nelson, with Southwest Key, brought a group of at-risk youth from five area schools, and Paul Carroza, owner of RunTex, helped with organizing and advertising the event and provided T-shirts for participants.



If you're feeling left out because you missed it, don't worry! More walks are being planned. The first will be coming up on March 18th, and another is being planned for April 29th. Both are scheduled to start at 8 am. Participants will meet at the South First RunTex store, then will move to the Town Lake Trail.

More information will be distributed about future walks.

# TCSO Participates in Public Safety Football

By Craig Smith, Deputy

The NFL season is over but that doesn't mean all the fun has ended. The season is just beginning for the NPSFL, and the Central Texas Wolf Pack. The National Public Safety Football League starts its season in March and runs through May. The NPSFL is a nation wide, semi-pro, contact football league.

Public safety football is the union of law enforcement officers, firefighters, corrections officers, and emergency medical technicians who participate in organized, full contact football. The proceeds raised by the football team's participation are used to help support local teams and organizations that offer organized youth athletics. The goal is to demonstrate to the children of our community that they can improve self-image by participation and achievement in organized athletics.

The Wolf Pack football team also strives to improve the public's image of local public safety agencies through organized



athletic events, organized fundraiser events, and community project endeavors that the team organizes. By getting the players involved in the community we hope to demonstrate that the local public safety agencies go above and beyond to bond with and improve the community.

This year the Wolf Pack football team will play as a member of the NPSFL, competing for the league's National Championship, and is scheduled for six season games. Three home games and three away games. They are also scheduled for an exhibition game against the N.Y. Finest in New York. There are also several scrimmage games scheduled in Austin and away.

The Travis County Sheriff's Office is represented with four players and one cheerleader,

#3 Jose Fernandez, Corrections  
#34 Jerry Kovar, Corrections  
#45 Louis Moncivias, Corrections  
#70 Craig Smith, LE/Training  
Cheerleader /Cheerleader Squad  
Secretary Kim Orts, Background Investigator.

Come out and help support the Wolf Pack football team and let's give Austin two National Championship teams. For more information on Wolf Pack football and this year's schedule, go to [www.CentralTexasWolfpack.com](http://www.CentralTexasWolfpack.com).

## Top Cop Competition

By Bryan Whoolery, Sergeant

Sheriff Hamilton and the Travis County Tactical Unit are proud to announce the first annual "Top Cop" Competition (TCC). The Sheriff is a firm believer in physical fitness and has endorsed the idea of having a friendly inner-departmental competition.

The TCC is designed for officers from both the corrections and law enforcement bureaus to showcase their skills and physical fitness in a competitive, but friendly environment. Each event is in-

tended to challenge the competitor in one of the many essential skill areas that both law enforcement and corrections officers are required to possess.

The event will take place on April 8th, so there is still time to prepare. Events will include tactical weapons, one mile run, sit-ups, push-ups, pull-ups, 100-yard sprint, and an obstacle course. Applications are being accepted through March 17th. Questions can be directed to Bryan Whoolery at [bryan.woolery@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:bryan.woolery@co.travis.tx.us), or extension 3-3883.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Join the FUN  
at the next  
Sheriff's Office  
Extravaganza  
Saturday,  
March 25th  
from 11 am to 4 pm  
at the  
Manchaca Community Center  
(formerly known as Manchaca Fire Hall)  
1310 FM 1626 Manchaca, TX

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## EMPLOYEE PROFILE: Michael Hemby. . .

### The Man That Does It All

by Josie Matthias, General Reporter

**M**ichael Hemby. Does the name sound familiar? He works in Research and Planning. He is the man that does it all. Whatever the Sheriff wants, he can do. Whatever the Sheriff's Office needs he will do his best to get it for us. But, this does not mean he is a yes man, I've heard him say "no" when it is necessary.

Michael Hemby is one of the Sheriff's Office Senior Planners and Analysts. He and his partner, Meg Seville, work on long-range planning for the Sheriff's Office. They also work on projects involving budget, grants and emergency response.

He started his career with TCSO in 1987 as a Corrections Officer and worked in the "old" jail. He has held positions in Receiving and Discharge, Booking, Internal Affairs and Intelligence. He has his Master Peace Officer, Jailer, Instructor, and Hypnotist licenses from TCLEOSE. He also has several federal instructor certifications from the Department of Homeland Security. I asked Michael what made him apply at the Sheriff's Office and he said "the economy"; he had just graduated from the University of Texas at Tyler with a degree in Communications and Sociology and was a newlywed. The real estate bust in the late 80's caused him to apply at TCSO. He worked at psychiatric and drug abuse hospitals before he came to work for TCSO.

Michael and his wife, Mary, have been married 20 years and are the proud parents of 3 children, Isabel 17, Olivia 15, and Isaac 14. Both Isabel and

Olivia are in the ROTC in Hays High School and Isaac plays league soccer and is a soccer referee at Hays. Family members also include one dog, three cats, and three snakes (one that is currently loose in the house somewhere).

Back in September and October of 2005, two groups of officers were deployed to Southwestern Louisiana to help local residents and law enforcement with recovery efforts after Hurricane Rita hit the area. Michael was deployed with both groups. While there, Michael, being the resourceful guy that he is, had his laptop and sent updates to command staff as often as he could. He told stories of having to work with a power company to get equipment and a crane to get the radio antenna placed on top of a cell tower next to their command post; of seeing fields of dead cattle, a wayward coffin, and boats and alligators in houses. In his stories he never said "I" it was always "we" - as this was a group effort. "We certainly have many lessons learned that will benefit us should we ever have any sort of incident in our community," Michael said in one of his updates.

Michael said one of his proudest accomplishments while in Research and Planning, other than the Louisiana Response, has been working on the



*Pictured left, Hemby in Louisiana in 2005 helping the teams with the aftermath of Hurricane Rita.*

*Below, you'll have to look closely, but you might recognize that face - if only you could see it!*



*photo taken by Meg Seville*

response plans for the agency and actually seeing those plans work in emergencies. He also took pride in having gone through the live agent chamber at Chemical Weapons training at Ft. McLellan, Alabama ... twice. That sounds like a heavy task to me.

After all the hard work he does here at the SO, he spends valuable time with his family. He says his favorite vacation spot is Hawaii. Aloha.