



**MAY**  
**2024**  
**ISSUE 05**

**WORDS FROM THE SHERIFF**



In just a few weeks, TCSO will welcome another group of inquisitive Junior Deputy Campers. This is one of my very favorite weeks of the year. Seeing (and hearing!) those happy kids in our hallways reminds me again that what we do here at TCSO is special. Deputies are local celebrities who make a difference in their communities and inspire kids from every neighborhood.

**Junior Deputy Summer Camp**

at TCSO is a blast. Each day, the campers learn about the people who work here and the work they do. And they learn it from the men and women on the job! They get to operate radar with our Highway Enforcement & Accident Team, watch our K9s sniff out drugs, learn about Lake Patrol onboard a patrol boat, try their hands with a lasso with the Estray Deputies and so much more.

One of the things I like best about the camp is that it's a fun way for kids to learn about the criminal justice system. They're years away from civics classes, but this positive experience makes memories that set a solid foundation for that learning. Campers are welcomed into courtrooms where they meet judges and learn the roles of the prosecution, defense and bailiffs. They also get to tour the facilities of fellow first responders to better understand how we work together to help people in their time of need. We always hear that their parents are jealous of all the things they do and people they meet!

Junior Deputy Summer Camp is just one example of how our **Community Outreach Unit** works to connect with our community and serve their needs. They're in our schools, our neighborhoods and our senior centers, educating the community about everything from stranger danger to phone scams and everything in between. For us here at TCSO, it's more than just responding in a crisis. We do everything we can to protect our community from ever being victimized.

Back to our campers! Have I piqued your interest? If you have a 9-12 year-old who wants to join the adventure, there are a few slots left. You can register [here](#). Watch TCSO's social media every year for announcements regarding camp dates and registration deadlines for Junior Deputies!



**MADD ADVISORY BOARD**

Congratulations to TCSO Captain Tom Szimanski for his appointment to chair **Mothers Against Drunk Driving** (MADD)'s Austin Advisory Board. He is joined by TCSO Victim Services Director Davany Vargas. MADD seeks to put an end to victims of drunk driving and Szimanski is the perfect choice to help advance that mission in our community.



**SOTX LE TORCH RUN**

TCSO was proud to partner with fellow law enforcement agencies from around the state at this year's Special Olympics of Texas (SOTX) Law Enforcement Torch Run as well as at the **Summer Games** in San Antonio, TX May 16 - 19. We take great pride in our partnership with SOTX and look forward to this annual event, cheering on all their amazing athletes!



**SPICEWOOD OVERWATCH TOWN HALL**

On May 15, TCSO had the pleasure of hosting a West Command Town Hall for the residents of **Spicewood Overwatch** at Grace Outreach Church. We discussed crime stats and trends, response times, staffing and the preventative safety training our **Community Outreach Unit** offers to neighborhoods.

If your community is interested in hosting a town hall, please contact the **TCSO Community Outreach Unit**.



**C-TAC OPERATIONS CENTER DEDICATION**

On May 14, TCSO dedicated what was formally known as Building 8 at the Travis County Correctional Complex as the "Art Cardenas Tactical & Intelligence Operations Center" in honor of Cardenas, who was the first captain over the Corrections Tactical Unit (C-TAC). The center will be the headquarters and training facility for C-TAC and the Corrections Security Threat Intelligence Unit.

**VIEW MORE**

**COBRA 108 GRADUATION**



The TCSO Training Academy offers a Corrections Officers Basic Recruit Academy (COBRA) for all new-hire Corrections Officers. Corrections Officers attend the COBRA course while on duty within their first year of employment; Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) provides a one-year, temporary Corrections Officer license. COBRA is 360 hours of very educational, detailed and supportive instruction

Congratulations to the following officers of COBRA Class 108 who graduated on May 3: Sebastian Arellano, Esmaeralda Bautista, Hamed Berenji, Nereida Bustos, Albert Contreras, Bumi Davies, Allen Dyer, Jeffrey Gibson, Daeyvrena Hall, Isaac Harper, Xavier Hightower, Jesse Loklin, Hunter Mahlitz, Cindy Morales, Julia Nicholls, Longinus Okpara, Jenny Rivera, Kayla Troha, Albert Vaughan, Geridi Villagomez and Natalie Warren.

**NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY MAY 15**



**BASIC PEACE OFFICER COURSE GRADUATION #26**



Class #26 graduated from the Basic Peace Officer Course (BPOC) on May 24. BPOC is a nine-month program where students receive over 900 hours of instruction over all aspects of law enforcement. The state requires each student receive almost 700 hours of instruction, but TCSO adds almost 300 more hours of training and various other stress induced reality based training scenarios.

Congratulations to the following TCSO employees on this well-earned recognition: Emeterio Amaya III, Richard Arthur, Jonathan Berry, Akeel Broderick, Juan Dominguez, Ny-drice Dunn, Alison Harwell, Osvaldo Hernandez, Rodrigo Hernandez, Eric Johnson, Chris Jensen, Victor Naranjo, Andrew Naso, Gloria Pino, Gregory Satterlee and David Simei-Smith.

**TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION**



The 39th Annual **Texas Jail Association** conference was held in San Marcos, TX April 28 - May 2 and TCSO participated in many facets.

Sheriff Hernandez was honored to join the panel "Grit & Grace: Lessons Learned from Leading Ladies," featuring Austin Interim Chief of Police Robin Henderson, Former Armstrong County Sheriff Carmella Jones and Jefferson County Sheriff Zena Stephens. TCSO Captain Maria Velasquez facilitated the discussion, which explored the barriers and opportunities for leadership development for women in criminal justice organizations.

The conference also hosted the "Courtroom Challenge: Quick Draw" which is a game testing the knowledge of minimum jail standards. This event never seems to disappoint as competitors from various counties compete to be the champions. Congrats to Officers Cyrus Griffin and Saul Vega who placed 2nd!

EMPLOYEE MASTHEAD (L TO R): Paralegal Ashtyn Glasser, Sr. Office Specialist Lydia Cario & Sr. Office Specialist William Powers



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