

The Henderson

August 2018

A Tarrant County Sheriff's Office Community Publication

Letter from the Sheriff

PROTECT AND SERVE

Our mission is to **PROTECT** by courageously standing between evil and good with honor while we strive to **SERVE** with respect, always putting others before self.

HELOS

Our 5 Core Values

H- Honorable Character: Doing what is right, even when nobody is looking

E- Empowerment: Everything begins with mutual trust and respect

L- Lead: We all must lead and serve with competency, consistency, and transparency

O- Our Team is Our Priority

S- Strive for Excellence: We must strive for excellence, honor, and integrity in everything we do



Breaking news: It's hot! The temperatures are rising, but even in the warmer weather the men and women of TCSO are focused on serving Tarrant County. It is essential to our mission to show up for duty on time and ready to embrace our core values, one of which is making our team our main concern. I agree that our team is a priority and we work as a group to achieve excellence.

We have a great team at TCSO, and I think the absolute best of each of my team members. I ask myself everyday what does my

team see when they see me? I ask this, because I want to be known as truthful, dependable, and as someone consistently striving towards excellence. This is not only what I want to be known for, but it's the legacy I want to create. Similarly, I want to leave a great legacy behind at the Sheriff's Office, one that will be known as serving the people of Tarrant County and putting them first. Every day you come into the office, whether you're in one of our jail facilities, in Dispatch, or Patrol, when we all come to work, we're building TCSO's legacy, together as a team.

At your service,

Sheriff Bill E. Waybourn

Congratulations to our recipients!

2nd Quarterly Award of Excellence

Arlinda Tipton
Jessica Schoonover
Laurie Dotson

Matthew Dolan
Loretta Stegall
Trenton Hill
Jackson Wilcox

Special Report: LEEP

Every Sheriff's Office in the state of Texas is responsible for providing a means to locate, capture, or return loose livestock. Our Livestock Estray Enforcement Program, better known as LEEP, responds to loose livestock calls. The need for LEEP comes from Texas' livestock laws, specifically Agricultural Code 42, which defines loose livestock as any stray exotic livestock such as bison or stray fowl. This means LEEP is responsible for grass-eating or plant-eating, single or cloven hooved mammals, and not mammals classified as wildlife animals like wolves and coyotes.



Currently, LEEP consists of 3 deputies and 3 horses, but this was not always the case. In the 1980's, Tarrant County contracted with various individuals commonly referred to as "Commercial Cowboys", calling them out any time Dispatch received a call regarding loose livestock. Rumor has it, that after several of these calls resulted in the Commercial Cowboys coming on scene a little worse for wear, especially if it was a Saturday night, the County decided to enforce the law itself, and a Tarrant County Constable's Office took over the program.



LEEP and cattle go hand in hand, but LEEP has also been known to get a strange call or two. Deputy Clemons thinks of emus and reindeers when he remembers his time as a LEEP Deputy.

Under Sheriff David Williams in the 1990s, LEEP was brought back to the Sheriff's Office. Originally, it consisted of just 2 deputies and 2 trailers, but was quickly expanded to 3 deputies. It was not until the

late 90's that the idea of using horses in LEEP came up. Captain Ray Bell loaned his personal horse to the division, a yellow Palomino named Doc (who at 36 is still alive and with the retired Captain), and from there the idea of a mounted patrol was cemented. The use

of horses, instead of relying on just deputies and trailers to recapture livestock, cut down on injuries and overtime. But



Have you ever tried chasing cattle on foot? The idea of using horses in LEEP turned out to be very valuable.

initially, LEEP depended on donations to maintain their mounted unit, but relying on others to donate horses that were up to the task of recapturing livestock was risky. And even when usable horses were donated, they couldn't always be kept. Such was the case when a \$10,000 roping horse that had been donated to LEEP was taken back by the original owner. He was moving out of town and had decided that he actually wanted the horse to go with him.

With donations being iffy, the LEEP deputies talked Sheriff Williams into going to the Commissioner's Court and asking for a mounted unit. With this approved and officially added to the budget, each LEEP deputy was allocated a horse.

Today, LEEP is one of the only TCSO division to have been asked to help in some shape or form by every city in Tarrant County. LEEP helps recapture lost livestock, but it also plays a major role in TCSO's community relations, frequently being called out to fairs and events. Our deputies in uniform might be recognized for their hard work, but it's the horses of LEEP that have all the star power.



The horses of LEEP always get a warm welcome wherever they go

Questions or Comments? Email SONewsletter@tarrantcounty.com