

Terrell County Sheriff End of Month Report May

The month of May began with the Cinco de Mayo celebration on the Terrell County Courthouse lawn, the celebration was a success and went off without any incidents or problems.

On the same day of the Cinco celebration Terrell County also conducted a special election for the Estray / Stock Law. The election was only for prescient 2, voters came to the court house to place their vote, after all votes were counted the results were 43 not in favor and 5 in favor. Prescient 2 will remain open range for livestock.

Also, on May 1 Terrell County had its 9th deceased Illegal Alien, the county has been averaging two deceased subjects a month. This subject was reported by a hunter who was on property south of Five Mile Rd. TCSO Deputies, and County Judge responded to the call, the deceased subject was approximately 10 to 12 miles south of Highway 90, after some coordinating with the people that reported the deceased TCSO was able to reach the body. The deceased subject appeared to have been out in the brush approximately three weeks. He was identified through a Mexico identification card as being from Mexico State of Queretaro, he had other identifiers on his person. After processing the scene, the deceased subject was transported back to Sanderson where he was turned over to Fort Stockton Funeral Home. The next day the Mexican Consulate in Del Rio, TX. was contacted for family notification and arrangements. TCSO Dispatchers recognized the deceased subjects name as being a subject, whose family contacted our office sometime in April. The subject stated to his family that he was feeling sick and was lost, GPS Coordinates were provided at the time by the subject's family, but the numbers were incorrect. Local Border Patrol was also contacted later during the month of April and provided with GPS

Coordinates and their office preformed a search with negative results. When TCSO located this deceased subject, it was the third attempt to locate him.

On May 16, Terrell County had its 10th deceased Illegal Alien, this subject was called in by Union Pacific Rail Road. He was located approximately 30 miles east of Sanderson and north of Hwy 90 approximately 8 to 10 miles east along the rail road track at the Malvado train siding area. TCSO Deputies responded as well as Justice of the Peace, the subject appeared to have been struck by the train, he was in possession of a Mexico identification card from Mexican State of Distrito Federal Mexico. Union Pacific Police were notified of the findings, they advised TCSO that they would be unable to come to the location of the deceased and to continue with the investigation. Union Pacific Police advise that they would assist in any way possible, with statements from the rail road employees. The deceased subject was turned over to Fort Stockton Funeral Home. The Mexican Consulate Office in Del Rio, TX. was contacted for family notification and arrangements.

The Terrell County Sheriff's Office requested our office telephone have international calling; this request was made simply to be able to communicate with lost Illegal Aliens that contact our office through 911. When calls are made from the brush sometimes the calls are dropped and the TCSO Dispatcher is unable to contact the party again and must wait for the person to call back, sometimes they do not call back. Having the international calling will assist the dispatcher in contacting the party back on another line, this will also free the 911 line for other calls to come in. This will cover our department and the county from any legal matters, should a subject happen to die out in the brush. On May 24 TCSO Dispatcher received a 911 call from an illegal alien who advised that he was left behind by his group and had

been lost for several days. TCSO Dispatcher was able to ping his phone location and provide TCSO Deputies and Border Patrol with GPS Coordinates, which lead to subject's location approximately 15 miles south of Dryden. Subject was rescued and provided with first aid and transported to Sanderson Border Patrol Station.

On May 11 Department of Public Safety (DPS) began its border surge assist in Terrell County with 4 DPS Trooper Units being deployed in the county. The Troopers are to assist local Border Patrol with highway interdiction of Human Smuggling. Units are deployed on all highways leading into the county, and are working two shifts, stopping possible smuggling vehicles. DPS Troopers have been very successful in apprehending several smuggling loads throughout the county. Some of the vehicle drives have also been in possession of narcotics / personal use, those stops have resulted in arrests. The operation has seen a shift in smuggling tactics, vehicles use to travel south on Hwy. 349, but due to the DPS presence are now travelling south on Hwy. 285 and also travelling back north on Hwy 285 after they pick up their human cargo. This has posed a significant threat to the town since smugglers usually refuse to stop when a vehicle stop is attempted. Sanderson has already had two failure to yield (FTY) which have resulted in a pursuit through town.

On May 13, during the afternoon hours TCSO Deputy stopped a vehicle in Sanderson for speeding. The vehicle stop resulted in the apprehension of 8 illegal aliens and a USC driver. All the subjects and driver were turned over to Border Patrol for disposition.

On May 21 at approximately 0700 Hrs. TCSO Deputy attempted to stop two vehicles for speeding. Both vehicles refused to stop and sped through town, at the intersection of Hwy 285 and Hwy 90 one of the vehicles pulled over, as the deputy approached the vehicle driver's door

the vehicle took off again, but not before 8 subjects bailed out and ran towards a local residence. Border Patrol was able to chase them down and apprehend the group before they reached the residence. The pursuit continued north on Hwy 285 reaching triple digit speeds, deputy advised that he could no longer continue the pursuit and contacted Pecos County Sheriff Office and DPS. TCSO Deputy continued northbound and observed as the vehicle appeared to experience mechanical problems. Just south of the intersection of Hwy 285 and Hwy 2400 the vehicle pulled to the right shoulder of the highway and 5 subjects plus the driver bailed out of the vehicle towards the west side of the highway, while the vehicle continued to move. The vehicle struck an embankment and rolled over. After a brief chase all subjects were apprehended including the driver, who was identified as a 20-year male and an 18-year-old female passenger, both from Houston, TX. the female passenger stated to deputies that she was to graduate from high school that evening. All subjects were turned over to Border Patrol for disposition.

TCSO continues to assist local Border Patrol with apprehensions, and transports of illegal aliens when Patrol units are unable to respond due to being overwhelmed with apprehensions at their office. Border Patrol has reported as many as 100 subjects walking in the brush in different parts of the county, all from different groups that have crossed at different river crossings. TCSO is beginning to receive calls of illegal aliens being in town.

On May 25 TCSO was advised of 4 subjects behind a local convenience store, Border Patrol was contacted and the 4 subjects, citizens of Ecuador, were apprehended. When questioned how they got to Sanderson the group advised that a female driver had picked them up on Hwy 90 and dropped them off behind the business.

On May 31 TCSO received a call from a local rancher stating that there were approximately 10 illegal aliens blocking traffic on the Myers Canyon Bridge on Hwy 349 north of Dryden, TX. TCSO, Border Patrol and DPS responded to the call and apprehended the group. It appeared that the group wanted to be picked up and rescued by anybody so they decided to block the bridge to get a vehicle to stop and pick them up or call authorities to pick them up. This is an example of a desperate move to get the necessary authorities out to a remote location as soon as possible. Border Patrol reported 586 apprehensions for this month and approximately 566 gotaways.

Local ranchers and land owners have approached the Sheriff's Office asking when the county is going to hold an emergency meeting to provide information on the illegal alien situation and how the county is handling the increased crossings. They advise that they are not being kept informed on situation occurring in the county. Ranchers and Landowners continue to complain regarding damages, cut water lines, damages to hunting properties (broken windows, kicked in doors, stolen food and camping supplies). Water tanks are being drained due to cut water lines and with the summer months already here it is affecting their livestock.

The summer months have also brought evening storms, Terrell County has experienced heavy rains and hail here in town and the outer parts of the county. On May 15 a local resident was caught in rising waters as he went home on Five Mile Rd. He was able to establish 911 communication and advised TCSO Dispatcher he had water coming into his vehicle. TCSO Dispatcher was able to keep him calm on the phone as TCSO Deputies, Texas Parks and Wildlife, TC EMS and TC Volunteer Fire Dept responded. They were able to coordinate a rescue and successfully got the subject out of his vehicle and transported him safely to town to spend the night.

The recent storms that have come into town have caused power outages. On May 30 Terrell County had a severe thunderstorm that caused a power outage. When the power went out the generator up on the hill that powers the county radio repeater went out. This left all first responder personnel (EMS, TCSO, TC Volunteer Fire Dept.) without any communication. This exact same thing occurred last year during a storm and the county was informed at that time that the generator up on the hill was not operating at full capacity and that if it went down there were no parts available to repair it because that particular generator is obsolete. For the remainder of the night of May 30 and May 31 county first responders had no repeater communication with one another or with TCSO dispatch, and also on that night the cell tower went down, so there was no cell communication either. On the morning of May 31 TC Road and Bridge, TCSO, TC Fire Chief, JP Cleveland and Texas New Mexico Power went up to the county radio repeater site. It was discovered that two light transformers had been struck by lightning causing the radio tower to go out and the circuit breakers to go off. Once the power company repaired the burned-out transformers the generator began to run on commercial power and the radio repeater communication was restored. The County Judge was kept informed at all times regarding the communication issue, Commissioner Sanchez spoke with me regarding the generator issue and advised that he would be inquiring about prices for a new one.

TCSO participated in the Amtrack ribbon cutting ceremonies. Amtrack officials dedicated the waiting station where the old rail road depot use to be located. TCSO as well as county government officials and local residents were able to meet and greet Amtrack officials. County officials traded contact information for any future needs the company may have.

TCSO recovered a missing ATV that was unaccounted for, the ATV was at the Terrell County Airport, Mr. Curry had been using it to patrol the airport perimeter fence line checking for damages. The ATV has been broken down for some time, the previous Sheriff's Administration had loaned the ATV to him, but never kept up with the maintenance. TCSO still has, tasers, a home-made grill (that was made for the county using county materials), and night vision goggles / equipment that is still missing and unaccounted. There are several empty hard-shell cases that appear to at one time contain equipment of some type.

TCSO Jail update, the Sheriff's Office is working on receiving bids for security camera. The Texas Jail Commission has given TCSO three months to acquire bids for the project. The jail is 50 percent certified, but cannot be fully certified without the security cameras, and the camera system has to be approved by the Jail Commission. The Sheriff's Office has received a bid from Sustainable Security Solutions and will be submitted to the court for consideration. VGI Cameras will also be submitting a bid for consideration at a later date, and also offered to assist with locating a grant for the jail camera system. The Jail Commission also noticed that the emergency lights, that must come on during a power outage have been painted over. That was unacceptable since the jailers must be able to see the inmate, and the inmate cannot sit in a completely dark cell as per State policy. Some of the regular lighting needs replacement, possibly just a matter of replacing the light bulbs or fixture, and some cells may have plumbing issues. The Sheriff's Office received a bid for the lighting repairs and will be submitted to the court for consideration

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R.P.F.' with a checkmark below it.