THE UPDATE

The newsletter of Hays County Crime Stoppers



Welcome to the fourth edition of *The Update*, a newsletter from Hays County Crime Stoppers.

Our momentum from 2022 carried over into 2023. So far this year, tips have led to the arrest of 15 individuals on the Most Wanted List. Hays County Crime Stoppers authorized \$2,950 in rewards so far this year for quality tips that led to an arrest.

Campus Crime Stoppers groups are now up and running at Hays High and Johnson High; we are working to start up Lehman High, Dripping Springs and San Marcos High.

The Board of Directors has laid the plans for continuing our success.

Thanks to the Hays County community for joining us in making our area safer and stopping crime.



Hays County Crime Stoppers Stats

Our Local Statistics for 2023

Tips Received = 167 Arrests Made = 15 Rewards Authorized = \$2,950 Property Recovered = \$1,981 Drugs Seized = \$389,442 Total Money Recovered = \$391,423

Current as of 4/30/2023



Chairman Gary Tucker and Past Chair Stu Hoyt hamming it up at the Texas Crime Stoppers Campus Conference

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Executive Director's Spotlight

by Sgt. Jeffrey Jordan (HCSO) Hays County Crime Stoppers Executive Director

Greetings, Hays County! Your Hays County Crime Stoppers are working diligently at building relationships with residents and communities, schools, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and the media to engage, educate, and empower.

Since the beginning of 2023, we received and processed more than 160 tips, conducted 200+ tip follow-ups, and authorized the payment of more than \$2,900 in reward money. Our program assisted law enforcement in clearing 48 cases leading to the arrests of 15 individuals. It also helped recover \$1,900 in property and more than \$389,000 in narcotics.

We are proud to be working alongside the Hays County Sheriff's Office, San Marcos Police Department, Kyle Police Department, Buda Police Department, Texas State University-San Marcos Police Department, and the Hays County District Attorney's Office. We also work with Hays CISD, San Marcos, CISD, and Dripping Springs ISD in utilizing Campus Crime Stoppers programs to assist our local schools in working to keep our campuses free of crime. Active programs are at Hays High School and Johnson High School, with programs being organized at Lehman High School, San Marcos High School, and Dripping Springs High School.

HCCS recently acquired an EZ Child ID system. Using this system, we can create a USB drive containing the full name, physical description, parental/guardian contact information, digital copies of fingerprints, up to four high-quality photos and a video of each child in a family. The USB drive containing this information is the only copy of the information that is stored or retained which is then given to the parent/guardian for safe keeping. An extra benefit of this system is it can also be used to do the same with those who may be suffering from dementia or Alzheimer's Disease. In either case, it allows families to quickly provide information to law enforcement to assist in the rapid and safe recovery of their loved ones.



Sgt. Jeff Jordan, Executive Director, Hays County Crime Stoppers

We were just recently at the Hays County Spring Egg Hunt where we did our first round of fingerprints. Hays County Crime Stoppers will also be at these upcoming events: Hays County Local Health Department's Summer Health Fair in Dripping Springs (June 10), the Hays County Sheriff's Office Junior Deputy Academies (June and July), and the Hays County Emergency Preparedness Fair in Kyle (September 9).

As always, if you have any information regarding a crime, please contact Hays County Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-324-TIPS (8477), online at http://callcrimestoppers.com/, or by using the P3 Tips app on your smartphone. Information leading to an arrest may be eligible for up to a \$1,000 reward.

Hays County Crime Stoppers is funded in large part through donations from local residents and businesses. To make a tax-deductible donation to help support HCCS, including our rewards fund, contact us at execdirector@hayscrimestoppers.com or visit our website at www.CallCrimeStoppers.com.

"Our program [so far this year] assisted law enforcement in clearing 38 cases leading to 37 arrests, as well as recovering more than \$1,900 in property and more than \$389,000 in narcotics."

- Jeff Jordan

2023 HAYS COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS GOALS





Hays County Crime Stoppers Chair Gary Tucker

Let me begin this issue's message by saying – WOW! Our Texas Crime Stoppers Campus Conference was a success. More than 340 attendees from around Texas took part in three days of excellent speakers, fun events and lots of learning.

The "Clued In" Conference would not have been as much of a success without the leadership of the Conference Chair, Kim Hilsenbeck, and the invaluable assistance of Debra Beltiz.

Kim's leadership style inspired the HCCS Board Members to find great sponsors, connect with valuable resources and recruit an enthusiastic group of volunteers. Debra helped with event planning and kept a tight reign on the conference expenses by auditing and correcting all the invoices submitted by the Embassy Suites.

As with any such conference, there is no way it could have happened without the support of countless volunteer hours from groups and agencies across the county including the Hays County Citizens Sheriff's Academy Alumni Association, Buda PD, Kyle PD and the San Marcos Citizens Police Alumni Association..

Thanks to Kim's leadership, Debra's assistance and the great support of all the HCCS board bembers and the other volunteers, a very high bar has been set for future Campus Crime Stoppers Conferences. The HCCS Executive Board cannot adequately express our appreciation for everyone involved. Many of our board members spent time helping with registration, selling raffle tickets, handing out swag bags, decorating, photography, and being a friendly person with a smile ready to help. Donate to Hays County Crime Stoppers!



Hays County Crime Stoppers

@HaysCountyCrimeStoppers



venmo

Hays County Crime Stoppers is a nonprofit 501(c) 3 organization. Donations are tax deductible.

Now that the student conference is in the rearview mirror, Hays County Crime Stoppers is cruising ahead at full speed.

With new high school programs starting, a few new board members ready to hit the ground running and our new EZ Child ID system, we are looking forward to an active and productive 2023.

Our HCCS goals for the remainder of the year are to build more relationships with local businesses and build up our rewards budget, continue our relationships with law enforcement, media and the community, and to promote the EZ Child ID program to give parents another tool in the event of a lost or missing child.

Sincere thanks to all of volunteers and community partners who help make Hays County Crime Stoppers so successful. We are grateful to each of you for everything you do.

Onward into the future!

"We are confident our event set the bar higher for future Crime Stoppers groups who host the student conference." - Chairman Gary Tucker

Crime Stoppers' Investment Helps Protect Kids

by Steve Meyer Vice-Chairman, HCCS Board

Few things strike greater fear and confusion into the hearts of parents and family members than the disappearance of a child. Anyone who has ever lost sight of a child under their care for even a few moments understands the impact it has on life and state of mind.

Experts emphasize that time is critical in locating and returning a child safely. At such times, the last thing anyone wants to be doing is to be searching for a recent picture and trying to remember identifying information about the child.

According to the FBI, nearly 1,000 children were reported abducted or missing every single day during 2021 and almost 1/3 of the cases were still unresolved at the end of the year. In an effort to try to help bring more of these children home safely, Hays County Crime Stoppers (HCCS) recently invested in acquiring an EZ Child ID system. The EZ Child ID system is a complete setup, which allows for entering vital information, digitizing a complete set of fingerprints, taking up to four profile photos and recording a video while the child answers a few selfidentifying questions, all of which can prove vital in identifying missing children.

All this information can then be stored on a USB Flash Drive and then be printed out in color and provided to the parent or guardian for safekeeping. In the event the unthinkable happens, all the critical information needed to help quickly issue alerts and start the search process is immediately available saving critical time and, as experts will attest, dramatically improving the typical outcome.

As a way to reach out to and support the community in Hays County, HCCS will be offering FREE EZ Child ID processing for children at community and family events throughout Hays County. The free processing will even include a USB flash drive on which the information can be safely stored without charge. Each drive can hold up to eight child profiles so parents and guardians only need to keep track of one source of the vital information on their children.

"The most effective tool in the Crime Stoppers arsenal has been communications." - Steve Meyer

What kinds of tips can be reported?

Students/Faculty/Staff can report any type of illegal weapon or illegal drugs, gang activity, fighting and bullying. Dating violence and assaults are also crimes to be reported. Students are encouraged to call our crime stopper tip line (800-324-8477) or submit a tip on the P3 App for such illegal activity.

The anonymous caller will not be asked to provide any personal information such as name, address, school ID, or phone number. The student will be asked to provide as much information as possible on the suspect:

- Name,
- Clothing,
- Hair color,
- School or classroom

Plus a brief account of the incident witnessed:

• What was seen?

Describe vehicle if used

Location

•



The student will be issued a number code for future use. Upon investigation, if the information provided leads to an arrest, that student may be eligible for a cash reward. Any updates or results on the tip provided by tipster will be submitted to the tip provided. Tipster can login to P3 tip and check on the status or any instructions.

One of the first group of youngsters to use our new EZ Child ID system.



2023 FUGITIVE STATS: 15 ARRESTS THUS FAR

Arrests in 2023:

Most Wanted - Crime Stoppers tips led to these arrests:



Continued on next page

Reward money authorized so far in 2023: \$3,500

Most Wanted - Crime Stoppers Details

1. On February 3, 2023, David Jamerico Damond Reyes turned himself in to the Hays County Sheriff's Office on his outstanding warrants for Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon-F1 x2..

- 2. On February 21, 2023, Naomi Riley Davis turned herself into the Hays County Law Enforcement Center (jail) on her outstanding warrants. Her arrest warrants were for: Burglary of a Vehicle-MA x5; Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity-SJF; Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity-F3; Credit Card/Debit Card Abuse-SJF; Theft-SJF; and Theft of a Firearm-SJF.
- 3. On March 1, 2023, deputies with the Hays County Sheriff's Office arrested Diana Maria Hensley on outstanding warrants for Bond Increase/Indictment/Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Deliver-F1 x2; Bond Increase/Indictment/Possession of a Controlled Substance-F3; Bond Forfeiture/Bond Conditions/Indictment/Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Deliver-F1; and Bond Forfeiture/Bond Conditions/Indictment/Possession of a Controlled Substance-F3.
- 4.On Wednesday, March 8, 2023, Austin Police arrested David Solorzano Rojas on outstanding warrants for Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity-F3; Theft => \$2,500<\$30,000-SJF; Motion to Revoke Probation/Aggravated Robbery-F1; Failure to Appear/Burglary of a Vehicle-MA; and Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle-SJF. These warrants were issued by Kyle Police, Travis County, Williamson County, and Austin Police. Rojas was also charged with Evading Arrest/Detention with a Vehicle-F3; Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle-SJF; Violation of Bond or Protective Order-MA; Evading Arrest/Detention-MA; Unlawful Carrying of a Weapon-MA x2; and Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle-SJF x2.
- 5. On March 4, 2023, Jamond Dwayne Johnson was arrested in Harris County, Texas on warrants for Credit Card/Debit Card Abuse, Burglary of Vehicles, and Theft of Property<\$2500 2 or more previous convictions in relation to Kyle Police case number KPD 2023-01107.
- 6. On March 28, 2023, after an anonymous tip was forwarded to investigators regarding the selling of narcotics, including fentanyl, Janelle Renee Cano was arrested. The investigation resulted in the seizure of large quantities of illegal narcotics.
- 7. On April 21, 2023, Dyllon Abelardo Carrillo was arrested by San Marcos Police for Possession of a Controlled Substance PG 2 >=4g<400g-F1; Manufacture/Delivery of a Controlled Substance PG 2 or 2A >=400g-F1 x2; Manufacture/Delivery of a Controlled Substance PG 3/4 <28g-SJF; POM >4oz<=5lbs-SJF; Money Laundering >=\$2,500<\$30,000-SJF.

Most Wanted - Crime Stoppers tips led to these arrests (continued):



Have a tip? Students and community members are encouraged to call our Crime Stoppers Tip Line (800-324-8477) or submit a tip on the P3 App to report illegal activity or provide information that could lead to an arrest.



ALL TIPSTERS REMAIN 100% ANONYMOUS!



Hays County Crime Stoppers encourages anyone with information on a wanted fugitive, any crime, or potential crime, to contact Hays County Crime Stoppers anonymously:



1-800-324-TIPS (8477)

____ On

Online at http://callcrimestoppers.com



P3 Tips app on your smartphone or device

Together as a community, citizens, the media, and law enforcement can fight crime and keep our communities, schools, and businesses safe.

Hays County DA Thanks HCCS

The following was submitted by Hays County Criminal District Attorney Kelly Higgins.

The Hays County Criminal District Attorney's Office supports and relies upon Hays County Crime Stoppers to help keep Hays County safe. As the elected Criminal District Attorney, I want to offer my highest gratitude to the folks who step up to make our county the best in the state.



Hays County Criminal District Attorney Kelly Higgins

By working with law enforcement and our office, Hays County Crime Stoppers makes a real difference in the lives of the residents of the county.

I look forward to working directly with you all as we make our county the safest in Texas. Thank you all! – Kelly Higgins

"...Hays County Crime Stoppers makes a real difference in the lives of the residents of the county.."

- DA Kelly Higgins

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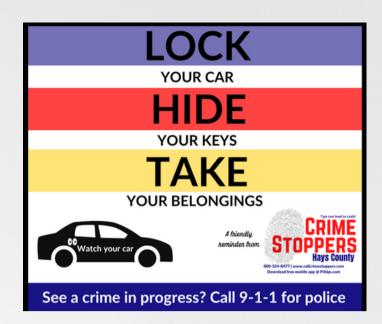
Each session only requires a few minutes answering some basic identification questions, digitally capturing the fingerprints, taking up to four photos and recording a brief interview with the child. It is a simple, nonintrusive process. However, a parent or guardian MUST be present to provide appropriate authorization.

It is very important to note that the information is processed and delivered, it is NOT retained or stored by Crime Stoppers or the EZ Child ID system.

Therefore, it is not possible to recreate a damaged or misplaced USB flash/thumb drive or to re-print any of the information at a later date. Once given to the parent or guardian, the information is deleted by the system and becomes the sole possession and responsibility of the recipient.

HCCS is excited about the opportunity to help with keeping our community safe and protecting our most vulnerable members. Plans have already been made to bring the EZ Child ID system to numerous community and family events over the next few months. We kicked off our initiative with the rescheduled Hays County Egg Hunt, held at the Historic Hays County Courthouse in San Marcos on Saturday, April 29.

We look forward to helping the community protect our most precious members... our children.



Calendar of Events

June 10—Hays County Summer Health Fair

Dripping Springs Ranch Park and Event Center 1042 Event Center Dr., Dripping Springs 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

June 27-29—Hays County Sheriff's Office Junior Deputy Academy (East) Location and time: TBD

July 25-27—Hays County Sheriff's Office Junior Deputy Academy (West) Location and time: TBD

August 5—Hays County Sheriff's Office 175th Anniversary Open House

Hays County Public Safety Building 810 South Stagecoach Trail, San Marcos Time: TBD

Sept. 9—Hays County Emergency Preparedness Fair

Hays CISD Performing Arts Center 979 Kohlers Crossing, Kyle 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Check our website and FB page for more events and happenings!

Highlights of Success

Here are just some of the awesome pics from the Texas Crime Stoppers Campus Conference hosted by Hays County Crime Stoppers.





Mary Earls and Marci Verette



Presenter Kimberly Dean and Conference Chair Kim Hilsenbeck



The Murder Mystery Company acting troupe



Final speaker Tyson Dever left the crowd on a high note

Stephen Traeger talking with a partner volunteer



HCCS volunteers Rowe Ray and Stephen Traeger stuffing SWAG bags



Lori Smith and Bella Ethridge



Jeff Jordan and Sonya Ryan

Conference Awards & More



Gary Tucker (Center) and Jeff Jordan (far right) accepting awards on behalf of Hays County Crime Stoppers



Hays High won the poster contest for the sixth consecutive year!



Hays High students with motivational speaker Tyson Dever.



Submissions to the poster contest.

Highlights of Success - Cont'd



Chairman Gary Tucker ready for sleuthing



HCCS member George Landry talking with Susan Rogers from Odessa Crime Stoppers



Debra Belitz and Marci Verette



Deputy Roger Ramirez, SRO, with Exec. Dir. Jeff Jordan holding a few of the awards earned by our Hays High campus group



Vice Chair Steve Meyer and Jeff Jordan



Nico Costilla



Hays High students kicked off the Fentanyl panel discussion on day one of the conference.



The Hays High team won the Mystery Dinner contest by correctly guessing Whodunnit!



Student attendees from around Texas took part in an open dialog about drug use on their campuses and how to combat it.



Erin Cole with the Texas Crime Stoppers Ambassadors.



Odessa's CS chaperones dressed to the nines for the Mystery Dinner Theatre!.

Campus Conference Title Sponsor:



Crime Fighters:













DS2 RANCH (DODIE AND DICK SCOTT)

Communications Update

by Carina Pinales, HCCS Communications

Hays County Crime Stoppers (HCCS) will soon launch a new campaign to share and educate the public on common terms and communication used by law enforcement and HCCS.

Understanding those terms is crucial for both the general public and those involved in the criminal justice system. When law enforcement officers use specific terminology, it can help them to communicate more effectively with their colleagues and partners in the judicial system, allowing for a more coordinated and efficient response to criminal activity. It can also help prevent misunderstandings or misinterpretations of important information, potentially compromising an investigation or putting people at risk.

For the public, understanding these terms can be essential for their own safety and security. When individuals are aware of the language used by law enforcement, they can more easily recognize potential threats or suspicious activity and report it to the authorities.

Additionally, understanding these terms can help the public better understand how the criminal justice system operates and what steps are being taken to protect their communities. This can foster greater trust and cooperation between law enforcement and the public, which is vital for effective crime prevention and response. The importance of understanding these terms cannot be overstated, as it plays a crucial role in maintaining public safety.

By following us on social media, you will be able to stay informed about this campaign and participate in the effort to improve public safety in our community. So don't hesitate – follow us today and join our mission to keep Hays County safe!

Follow and Like Us!



Fentanyl Update

Submitted by HCSO Deputies Mark Andrews and Anthony Hipolito

The misuse and abuse of fentanyl – a synthetic opioid 50 to 100 times stronger than heroine and morphine – are a major public health issue, leading to a significant increase in overdose deaths, including here in Hays County.

The Hays County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) teamed up with the forever15project.org to present the dangers of fentanyl poisoning. More than 6,000 people have seen the presentation, which also features Janel Rodriguez, founder of the forever15project. She lost her son Noah, 15, to a fentanyl overdose last year.

HCSO deputies and Janel take their powerful, painful message to schools, social clubs, public awareness meetings, and any other group open to hearing the information. It's encouraging to see HCSO and the forever15project take a proactive approach to educating the community about the dangers of fentanyl.

By providing information on how to recognize the signs of fentanyl use and overdose, as well as the steps to take in an emergency, the program is helping to equip individuals with the tools they need to protect themselves and their loved ones.

Working together as a community, we can help prevent fentanyl-related overdoses and save lives.

If you are in Hays County and interested in learning more about fentanyl education, contact HCSO at anthony.hipolito@co.hays.tx.us. Additional Resources:

1) Hays County Health Department: HCLHD offers a range of programs and services to promote public health, including education on drug abuse and overdose prevention. Visit

<u>https://hayscountytx.com/departments/local-health-department/</u> to learn more.

2) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): SAMHSA offers resources and information on substance abuse and mental health. They have a range of resources available on fentanyl, including educational materials and treatment options. https://www.samhsa.gov/.

3) National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA): NIDA is a research organization with resources and information on drug abuse and addiction. They have a range of resources available on fentanyl, including educational materials, research, and treatment options. <u>https://nida.nih.gov/</u>.