

Camp For All director receives National Service Award

Podeszwa to receive award for 'exemplary leadership'

By Staff Reports

Camp For All adds another award to its growing list of accolades in February as the American Camp Association honors director Kurt R. Podeszwa with the National Service Award.

The American Camp Association honors those who lead the way — in exemplary leadership, in service and in passionate commitment to the value of the camp experience.

According to Like Minds Communications Junior Communications Specialist Lauren Miller, he will receive the award at the ACA National Conference in San Diego next month.

"The ACA awards are a really big deal. This is one of the only awards in the special category," Miller told *The Banner-Press*. "This helps elevate Camp For All and the staff to the next level."

She also noted that the honor is well-deserved.

"He's a really awesome person; he's super funny and really great with all the campers," she said, recalling an interaction Podeszwa had with a camper at a Camp For All gala.

"One of the speakers at the Houston Camp For All gala, an eight-time camper, has autism and brain slowing disorder. After her speech, her and Kurt were on the dance floor together for an hour.

"He was the only person she was able to talk to because of how comfortable

she is with him. That was a really special moment. He puts all of his heart and soul into campers."

Pat Sorrells, CEO and President of Camp For All said this award recognizes Podeszwa's "leadership and dedication to improving the lives of children and adults with challenging illnesses and special needs and the high standards set by the ACA."

For more information about Camp For All and ACA, visit www.campforall.org or www.acacamps.org.

WCSO issues appeals for community aid to fight crime

By Natalie Frels

natalie@brenhambanner.com

Responding to the increasing number of individuals offering to assist law enforcement officials and build a strong partnership in the fight against crime, Washington County Sheriff Otto Hanak announced Friday that citizens are invited to become associate members of the Sheriffs' Association of Texas.

According to Hanak, membership appeals will go out in the mail shortly. The voluntary

program fee is \$25, while businesses can offer support beginning at a \$100 contribution level.

"The funding provides critically important technical resources, training and legislative support on key criminal justice issues," Hanak said, noting that contributions are tax-deductible and unlike other organizations in the state, the program does not solicit membership by phone.

"With government funding becoming increasingly difficult to secure, the membership

drive has taken on greater importance than ever before.

"The funding is vital to helping us carry out our mission of making our communities safer places to live, work and play."

The membership program was formed to provide citizens with an opportunity to lend their support to more effective law enforcement and to help local officers protect the lives and property of citizens, according to the statement issued by WCSO.

"As the need for building stronger public-private law en-

forcement partnerships in this country continues to escalate, programs such as this continue to grow in importance," Hanak said.

"I encourage everyone receiving a membership appeal to consider joining forces with us by becoming an associate member. It is a valuable investment for the future."

Hanak, along with his staff, also congratulated long-time Brenham resident Steve Westbrook for completing more than 20 years of service as the executive director of the Sheriff's Association of Texas, as well as

his "continued support for all 254 Texas sheriffs and their staff members."

Because the program is committed to its "No Telemarketing" policy and only sends invitations to citizens to become members by mail, the sheriff stressed.

Individuals that do not receive a membership appeal and would like more information can contact the Sheriff's Association of Texas, 1601 South Interstate-35, Austin, Texas 78741-2503 or by phone at 512-445-5888.

Study

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states have set legal non-zero, or "per se," limits on the amount of THC drivers can have in their system.

While well-intended, AAA believes imposing such limits is problematic because no data reliably shows what level

They should adopt a two-pronged approach that requires:

1. A positive test for recent marijuana use.
2. Behavioral and physiological evidence of driver impairment.

Regardless of the drug's legal status — and limits in any state — all motorists need to avoid driving while im-

unlikely a driver will get caught by police for driving shortly after using marijuana.

The survey also revealed that an estimated 14.8 million drivers report getting behind the wheel within one hour after using marijuana in the past 30 days.

AAA is committed to educating the

About AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety: Established in 1947 by AAA, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety is a nonprofit, publicly funded, 501(c)(3) charitable research and educational organization.

The AAA Foundation's mission is to prevent traffic deaths and injuries by