

COHOPE Report: June 12, 2008

Jefferson County Sheriff's Deputy Grey LeCerte gave his monthly crime statistics report. Part 1 crimes, assault, homicide, etc. showed a slight decline for the month especially in the assault and theft categories. The Part 2 crimes did show a continuing increase over the last three months with increases mainly in the categories of drugs, mischief and property. A reminder for this time of year to not leave our garage and front doors open when we are working in our backyards. Grey also passed out a very informative bulletin from the Sheriff detailing steps to take to ensure safe and secure travels this summer. This information can be found on the Sheriff's web site at <http://co.jefferson.co.us/sheriff/index.htm>, click on Safe Travels This Summer. Deputy LeCerte was asked about a recent situation where one of the COHOPE members received a reverse 911 call relating to a missing child but many neighbors in her complex did not. It turns out that those using Voice over IP telephone services may not have their phone number show up when the Sheriff department goes out to the local phone company to initiate a reverse 911 into a specific area. Therefore, VoIP numbers do not get called. Also reverse 911 calls may be blocked by some call blocking services and how the call blocking is set up. Commissioner Kevin McCasky was invited to this month's meeting to explain his decision to go against the recommendation of the County Zoning and Planning staff and vote for the expansion of The Rock of Southwest Baptist Church. He first explained that the Board County Commissioners is the final decision authority on land use issues in the unincorporated county areas and does not have to follow the recommendations of the Planning Commission or their staff. However, the Board's action can be appealed through the courts. He defended his position basically on his belief that the approved expansion with the associated restrictions and controls imposed by the Commissioners, gives the county more control versus what is allowed by zoning regulations under which the church bought the land. The June 11th issue of the Columbine Courier has a more in depth article on Commissioner McCasky's talk. The featured speaker was Cindy Stevenson, Jefferson County Schools Superintendent. Cindy stated that the school district has 85,000 students and 150 schools. She also talked about the increase in required credits for graduation starting with current seventh graders and the importance of good and modern schools on the property values in the neighborhoods. Cindy's main topic was the potential for two ballot initiatives covering a new bond issue and a Mill Levy Override. Again, the current issue of the Canyon Courier has a very good article covering Cindy's presentation.