

## **AFTER 26 WEEKS, A CLASS ACT**

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### **Body**

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Too early for a commencement speech? Not if you've just spent 26 weeks doing push-ups, taking tests, running up mountains and getting yelled at.

Last week's commencement came none too early for 65 grads of Basic Class 178 of the Ben Clark Public Safety Training Center.

The newly minted officers, including 59 RivCo sheriffs' deputies, received their badges - some got pinned by their law enforcement parents! - in the cavernous Worship Center of Riverside's Grove Community Church. (Some may wonder about the church-state thing, but the terrific audio/video setup provided an ideal venue for the crowd-pleasing training films - featuring firearms and hand-to-hand combat - that preceded the ceremony.

When it was time for speechifying, I figured the grads and the huge audience were in for the usual diet of commencement clichés. But Sheriff ***Stan Sniff*** gave a fairly somber rendition, reminding new deputies they were risking their lives and facing high community expectations.

"This is one of the few professions in which tenured employees can destroy their careers with but a single misstep in ethics and integrity. ... Hear me clearly at the start of your careers. Violations of integrity and ethical standards are literally `death sentences' to law enforcement careers."

Tough words. But as tough as 26 weeks of training? This from Class Prez Kevin Schroeder: "If I never stand on top of Mount Rubidoux again, that would be just fine with me."

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You think Coachella and beach volleyball are huge? They're going to have to turn away the hordes now that Riverside has published its "Notice of Public Hearing" for the Eastside Neighborhood Plan. The May 7 Planning Commish bash is likely to include a rollicking discussion of "Prioritized Implementation Tools Intended to meet the Objectives consistent with the community Vision." (Also, a breakout Session on how To randomly capitalize Words!)

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The backlash against the Temecula-Murrieta jilting of Riverside County continues. This from Jim Klinko: "The 14 years I have lived in Hemet I have never seen such a flagrantly snobbish town