

Today's weather



HIGH: 75
LOW: 54

Sunrise: 7:13
Sunset: 7:30

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MEDINA

Valor Court honors 5 graduates



SARA CRAWFORD / GAZETTE

Graduate Orlando Soto, left, listens to Medina County Commissioner Colleen Swedyk as she congratulates him at Medina Municipal Court's Valor Court on Tuesday.

Largest class since inception in late 2021 given recognition

Sara Crawford
The Gazette

MEDINA — Medina Municipal Court's Valor Court on Tuesday honored its largest graduating class since the program's inception in late 2021.

"We are very pleased this afternoon to have five graduates graduating from our program," Medina Municipal Judge Gary Werner said. "All with their own contribu-

tions to the quality of this program."

Valor Court is dedicated to assisting those with military experience who are in the criminal justice system, helping those with physical and/or mental trauma.

The program provides an evidence-based alternative to traditional sentencing methods and is structured to assist veterans with access to programs, treatment and access to mentor peers.

Participants are required to follow all the

procedures associated with the program, such as like assisting in their treatment plan, showing improvement as time goes on and attending probation department meetings, treatment agency meetings and court sessions.

After the participant goes through the program, meeting the different requirements set by the court, they are then eligible for graduation.

See **HONORS**, A3

HONORS

From A1

On Tuesday, Medina Municipal Court's courtroom was filled with active participants in the program, the mentor peers involved and court staff to recognize the five graduates for their completion of the program.

In addition, Medina County commissioners Colleen Swedyk and Steve Hambley were there, as were Medina County Sheriff Terry Grice, Medina County ADAMH Board Director Phillip Titterington and Medina Mayor Dennis Hanwell.

"I've been here from day one with each of you and watched your transformation from the day you walked into this courtroom," Hanwell

said. "Your appearance, your attitude and your outlook. We couldn't be more proud of you, proud of the work that the court and the court staff are doing and most of all, your success."

One by one, Werner welcomed each of the graduates up to the front of the room to be recognized. During each recognition, the graduate was personally congratulated by several of the officials present, often receiving a certificate or resolution.

The graduates include:

- Orlando Soto
- Michael Haumesser
- Jake Garrett
- Shawn Thorne
- Nick Kilway.

Contact reporter Sara Crawford at (330) 721-4063 or scrawford@medina-gazette.com.



SARA CRAWFORD / GAZETTE

Medina Mayor Dennis Hanwell, left, presents Michael Haumesser with a resolution, congratulating him on his graduation from the program on Tuesday.