

TJP

TEXAS JEWISH POST ✪ SINCE 1947

INSIDE

Business, P.9

GOALS

have you set yours
for 2008 yet?



Quick Look

- 5 Opinion
- 6 Dallas Doings
- 15 Simchas
- 16 D'var Torah
- 17 Services
- 18 Calendar
- 20 Around the Town with Rene
- 22 Columnists
- 23 Jewish Foodie

Thursday, January 24, 2008 • 24 SHEVAT 5768 • VOLUME 62 NO. 4 • texasjewishpost.com

\$1.00

Republican Frontrunners

Insights into the GOP's top four candidates' takes on Jewish issues P.12



Giuliani



Huckabee



McCain



Romney



Chocolate's just so sweet

JEWISH FOODIE, P.23



LOCAL PEOPLE, P.2

From the jungle to the patrol car:
In continuing adventure, Judah Epstein
to wear badge as reserve sheriff's deputy

From the jungle to the patrol car

In continuing adventure, Judah Epstein to wear badge as reserve sheriff's deputy

By Steve Israel

Whatever your age, you'd probably be challenged to match the diversified wardrobe of 25-year-old Judah Mordecai Epstein.

On a given day you can find the Dallas native outfitted as an oil-gas field engineer, Texas State Guardsman, Amazon Jungle Marathoner, Jewish community volunteer, scuba diver, computer programmer/webmaster, international medic, sharpshooter, rock climber, student pilot or tennis/racquetball/softball/basketball player.

And recently, Epstein solemnly raised his right hand as the final step to qualify for the

gold badge and black uniform of a reserve sheriff's deputy.

Epstein stood in Sheriff Terry G. Box's office in McKinney and swore to uphold the laws of Collin County, the state of Texas and the United States. As an armed volunteer patrol officer, he will serve a minimum of 16 hours each month.

"I want to give back to the community," explained Epstein, who completed a required four-month Texas Commission of Law Enforcement Academy training course last year to become state-certified as a police officer.

It was the latest installment in an energetic schedule. Only

12 weeks earlier the self-defined "adventure seeker" emerged from a seven-day Amazon Jungle Marathon in Brazil, fighting illness, pain and fatigue to finish the 125-mile course. Eighteen of the 45 trekkers had to give up the hike through jaguar-infested terrain of "the world's toughest foot race," he said.

"I sought to compete in an extreme challenge" that surpasses Dallas' "tame" eight-mile Turkey Trot, Epstein later wrote. "I bore easily and don't like to run unless there is something interesting to catch my attention."

In his full-time job as a field engineer with Welltec, Epstein travels in the Southwest and beyond to send "tractors" underground to deliver explosives into wells, fracturing rock and

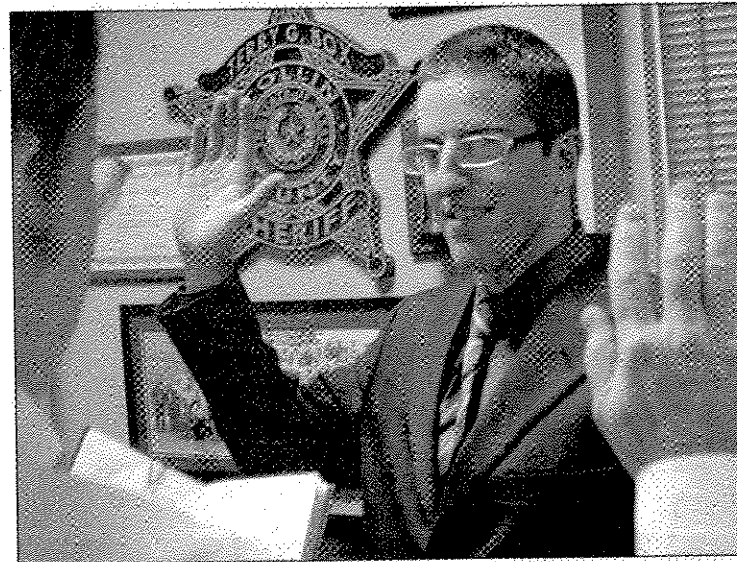


Photo: Steve Israel

Collin County Sheriff Terry Box (left) swears in Judah Epstein as a reserve sheriff's deputy.

accessing oil and gas.

He gained much of his expertise while earning an electrical engineering degree from Southern Methodist University and a master's degree in management and administration from the University of Texas at Dallas.

As a second lieutenant in the Texas State Guard, Epstein

helped with relief and shelter management in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Volunteers of the State Guard supplement the Texas National Guard and Texas Air National Guard in emergencies within Texas. Their uniforms are virtually identical to those of the National Guard, he said.

He has flown solo as a student working on his private pilot's license and hopes to start flying for the Civil Air Patrol, for which his dad is a captain and corporate development officer.

The son of Robert and Robbe Epstein and Debra Epstein, Judah is a seventh-generation Texan on his mom's side. His dad was born in New York. Judah attended Akiba Academy, then public schools in the Dallas area, graduating from Plano Senior High School. He has an older brother, Barak, and three younger sisters, Arielle, Kayla and Rachel.

Epstein served as president of Hillel at SMU and, like his father, has taken on volunteer roles with community organizations, including the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas, AIPAC, the Anti-Defamation League and the Re-

Albertsons
It means a great deal.

no card needed!
same **great deals**

visit Albertsons location at 7007 Arapaho Rd. in Dallas, TX, and Albertsons location at 4650 S.W. Loop 820 in Fort Worth, TX.

Shoulder Minute Steaks
Fresh
6.99 lb.

Extra Lean Ground Beef
Fresh
4.79 lb.

Whole Chicken Fryers
Fresh
1.69 lb.

Caring for a loved one shouldn't mean neglecting your family

Apple Care & Companion will take the burden off of you.

Our experienced caregivers can provide:

- personal care • help around the house
- help with errands, transportation, and companionship

Laurie Friedman Miller
Member, Temple Emanu-El
469-619-5474
www.AppleCareandCompanion.com

LICENSED BY THE STATE OF TEXAS • INSURED AND BONDED

South West Diamond Cutters
European Trained Diamond Cutters
Specializing in Manufacture and Repair

Mike Nathan (972) 387-1063
Ashley Van Creveld (800) 934-7932

MISANE JEWELRY
Fine Jewelry & Loose Diamonds
6757 ARAPAHO ROAD, SUITE 767 (BETWEEN HILLCREST & MEADOWCREEK)

TEMPLE SHALOM

Preschool Open House • February 8, 2008
9:00am - 12:00pm

COME VISIT OUR ACCREDITED SCHOOL
Half day, full day, year round programs are available



Photo: Judah Epstein

Judah Epstein uses a Tyrolean rope to cross a stream during day one of his Amazon Jungle Marathon in October.

publican Jewish Coalition. He attends services at three congregations: Ohr HaTorah, Beth Torah and Shearith Israel.

After his freshman year in college, Epstein took a birthright trip to Israel. He returned there in 2005 as a volunteer for the Hatzolah medic corps, working three weeks as an ambulance attendant and motor-scooter medical first responder during Israel's withdrawal from Gaza.

Like the 15 other Collin County reservists, Epstein "will ride with experienced officers and get training, then take on the responsibility just like one of our 38 deputies," Sheriff Box told the TJP. "Reserves fill in with no pay. We couldn't operate without them."

Reserve deputies work largely in the patrol division, covering 900 square miles during special community



Photo: Steve Israel

Collin County Sheriff Terry Box (left) congratulates Judah Epstein after his swearing-in as a reserve deputy.

events and major emergencies in unincorporated areas of Collin County as well as in several city departments in the county that have special needs.

"Good law enforcement people display honesty and integrity, and they all come from good parents," the sheriff said, nodding to his newest deputy.

Is Epstein the first member of the Jewish community to join his force? "I can't say we have [had Jewish members] but I haven't really asked what their affiliations are," the sheriff answered with a laugh, adding that he enjoys having several Jewish friends.

Epstein agreed that relatively few Jews have expertise with weapons or are directly involved in law enforcement. "It would probably be good for there to be some involvement," he added. "If something happens, if the Jewish community needs assistance, it seems pretty good to be involved, to have contacts. If you look back to Nazi Germany, how would it have been different if the Jewish community was active in law enforcement then? I don't know."

Judah said he began shooting at targets with his father at age 17 but has never hunted animals.

Through police certification training and State Guard work, Epstein said, he has faced some of the harsh realities of law enforcement, but not enough to frighten him. "I've had plenty of training in the use of force. I've been pepper-sprayed."

Could his interests point Epstein toward a military career? "I don't see myself gravitating toward solely one thing," he said. "I'll continue doing everything. If I did only active-duty military, I could only do that. I couldn't do everything else."

Sign & Graphic Solutions Made Simple

Sign & Graphic buyers depend on FASTSIGNS® Central the largest single source for signage needs. We use state-of-the-art, computer-aided signmaking systems and techniques to create high-impact, cost-effective signage that gets you results.

- Custom Banners
- Real Estate Signs
- Vehicle Lettering
- Architectural
- Magnetic Signs
- Trade Show Graphics
- Dimensional Letters
- Safety & I.D. Signs
- Full Color Graphics
- Menu Boards
- Decals & Labels
- Logos & Graphics
- Window Lettering
- Digital Printing
- Directional Signs
- And Much More!



We Embroider
Caps, Jackets, Shirts,
Bags, Blankets,
Towels, and More
and FAST, too!



214-890-4444
Fax: 214-369-5653

10225 N. Central Expwy
www.fastsigns.com/11

FASTSIGNS
Sign & Graphic Solutions Made Simple.

"PAYING TOO MUCH FOR INSURANCE? CALL FOR HELP"



JAC INSURANCE



972-364-9030

www.crystaljinsurance.com
jcrystal@twfg.net

JAY CRYSTAL
Agent



**Middle Eastern • Persian • Indo-Pak
Greek • Eastern European • & More**

Entirely Halal Meat

