

THE TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION KEY ISSUES

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Spring 2019



Spring 2019 Edition

Message From The President



Happy Spring TJA! Hard to believe it is April so soon but here we are, blessed and thriving. I pray everyone is well and healthy. I am in great spirits due to the recent activities throughout the state that TJA has been involved in, namely teaching the Texas Jail Association Regionals and teaching the Current Trends with the Texas Commission on Jail Standards throughout the state. It truly is great to see so many members and new members getting involved. Jails will only get better with more officer training and education.

Speaking of education, I am awaiting the 33rd Annual Conference in Austin, Texas with high expectations. 2nd Vice President **Dan Corbin** and his Training Committee have some outstanding topics lined out for the conference. Can't wait to see all of y'all there!

The 33rd Annual Conference will be special and sentimental for me since I will end my TJA Presidency. It has been a highlight of my career to serve you guys as President and I can't wait to see what the future holds for the incoming President **Kevin Stuart** as he leads this great association towards the future. I can actually say that I was sworn in as President by my good friend, Past President **Todd Allen** and this year I get to swear in another good friend Kevin Stuart. What a blessing this entire journey has been and I thank the entire TJA Membership for it.

In closing, just one piece of advice; be alert, be ready, and most importantly be informed. Spend as much time reading up on your policy books, standard operating procedures, jail standards, and literature relevant to your career. You wouldn't believe the difference it makes until you need the information and are not familiar with it. Stay safe and be good to each other.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Gonzales'.

Captain Martin Gonzales

Atascosa County Jail Administrator

TJA President



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June 1, 2019
for July 2019 Publication

September 1, 2019
for October 2019 Publication

December 1, 2019
for January 2020 Publication

March 1, 2020
for April 2020 Publication

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Training Committee Report

By Dan Corbin, 2nd Vice President

Greetings to all our members, we have had 418 participants complete the “Leadership for Jailers” regional training to date. Our joint effort with the Jail Commission “Current Trends and High Impact Areas of Jail Operations” has also been a great success with very good attendance and several additional training sessions have been added to the schedule. We still have a few regional training opportunities to attend so check our website.

Our 33rd Annual Conference is just around the corner. The tentative training agenda is also posted on our website. This will be another opportunity for members to get high quality training and is an excellent opportunity for networking and meeting with our exhibitors. I hope to see you all in Austin for this!

Nominations Committee Report

After careful review by the TJA Nomination Committee, it is determined that the following nominees have fulfilled the requirements set forth by the TJA By-Laws Article VI; Section 2; B. The nominees are hereby eligible to participate in the upcoming election to be held online and at the 33rd Annual TJA Conference.

You will receive an email that voting is open, if you have an email registered with the Texas Jail Association. If you are not sure, please send an email to Sharese Hurst, sharese@shsu.edu to confirm that your email is on file.

The nominees are as follows:

3rd Vice President

Becky Caffey, Brown County

Johnny Jaquess, Lubbock County

Two positions for Director will be available

Abby Belangeri, Brazos County

Terry McCraw, Collin County

Levi Vance, Tom Green County

Jason Davis, McLennan County

Clifford Robinson, Hockley County

Nominations Committee:

Chairperson: **Kevin Stuart** – 1st Vice President
Brazos County Sheriff's Office

Belinda Jackson – Member-at-Large
Brazos County Sheriff's Office

Bill Jennings - Director
Comal County Sheriff's Office

Dan Corbin – 2nd Vice President
Lubbock County Sheriff's Office



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2019-2020 TJA ELECTIONS NOMINEES

CANDIDATES FOR 3RD VICE PRESIDENT

(One Position Available)



BECKY CAFFEY

Chief Deputy of Corrections, Brown County Sheriff's Office

Becky Caffey is currently Chief Deputy of Corrections for the Brown County Sheriff's Office. She has approximately 27 years of experience in corrections. Becky began her career in 1988, and currently holds a dual certification as Master Jailer and Master Peace Officer. In 2016, she became a certified jail manager with the American Jail Association. Also in 2016, Becky was appointed as a Board of Director with TJA. In 2017, she was elected as a Director for TJA to serve a three-year term. In 2018, Becky graduated from the Jail Mental Health Officer (JMHO) training and JMHO Master Trainer course. Becky enjoys her time on the Texas Jail Association Board of Directors and is always willing to serve in any capacity requested.



JOHNNY "JJ" JAQUESS

Captain, Lubbock County Sheriff's Office

Captain Johnny "JJ" Jaquess holds a bachelor's degree in human services with a specialization in Criminal Justice. He has served Lubbock County for 22 years, starting his career in corrections. Johnny currently serves as a Watch Commander for the Lubbock County Detention Center. He is an Army veteran, a graduate of the National Jail Leadership Command Academy, a graduate of the Jail Executive Development Program, and a Certified Jail Manager through the American Jail Association. Through the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE), Johnny is licensed as a Master Jailer and Master Peace Officer. In addition, he is TCOLE certified as an Instructor, Firearms Instructor and Mental Health Officer. For the last three years, Johnny has proudly served on the TJA Board. Vote JJ for TJA!

CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTOR

(Two Positions Available)



ABBY BELANGERI

Sergeant, Brazos County Sheriff's Office

Abby Belangeri has worked for the Brazos County Sheriff's Office for 11 years. She is a graduate of the National Jail Leadership Command Academy, Class #28 and served as Class President. Abby is currently a Sergeant over the Intake/Release Division. She also has experience in jail floor operations. Abby has attended the Jail Mental Health Officer (JMHO) training and JMHO Master Trainer course and is assisting in facilitating continued mental health jail officer training. Abby is in the process of implementing a Jail CIT team at the Brazos County Detention Center. She will graduate from Central Michigan University, May 4, 2019 with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and will begin work on her Master of Science in the Criminal Justice Leadership and Management program at Sam Houston State University beginning in Fall 2019. Also this year, Abby assisted with instruction at the TJA Regional Trainings hosted around the state.



2019-2020 TJA ELECTIONS NOMINEES



JASON DAVIS

Lieutenant, McLennan County Sheriff's Office

Lieutenant Jason Davis has been serving the citizens of McLennan County for 22 years, beginning his career in the Jail Division in December 1996. He currently holds a Master Peace Officer and Basic Jailer License, and will obtain his Master Jailer License in the near future. Jason has served in many divisions of the McLennan County Sheriff's Office, but finds working in the Jail Division the most rewarding. He presently serves as the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Coordinator, Jail Criminal Investigation Division supervisor and is a certified PREA Auditor. Jason recently completed the Jail Mental Health Officer (JMHO) training and JMHO Master Trainer course and is a certified Jail Mental Health Officer. He believes training correctional officers to better recognize and understand the needs of inmates with mental health will make them better officers and maximize the safety and security of the facility for all inmates.



TERRY MCCRAW

Commander, Collin County Sheriff's Office

Commander Terry McCraw began his law enforcement career at the Collin County Sheriff's Office in 1995 after serving four years in the United States Marine Corps. In 1998, he was promoted to Sergeant then to Lieutenant in 2000. Terry was promoted to rank of Captain in 2010 and has served as Jail Administrator for the Collin County Sheriff's Office since January 2017. He spent two decades on the Detention Response Team and served on the Collin County Veteran's Court/North Texas Regional Veterans Court and Mental Health Manage Counsel Advisory Board. Terry holds a Master Peace Officer License, Master Jailer License and is certified as a Mental Health Peace Officer. He is a 2018 graduate of the National Jail Leadership Command Academy. Terry is currently the Secretary for the TJA Board of Directors and has served on the TJA Membership committee since 2017.



CLIFFORD ROBINSON

Jail Administrator, Hockley County Sheriff's Office

Clifford Robinson began his career in Corrections in 1996 at a privately run facility consisting of 489 beds. He rose through the ranks to become Lieutenant before leaving to work for a County Sheriff's Office. He rose through the ranks at the Sheriff's Office before moving to Hockley County in August 2011 for the position of Jail Administrator, which he currently holds. Clifford has a very diverse background which he believes gives him a strong understanding in relation to county jail operations. He has held many different job positions in both the private sector and the county Sheriff's Office. He feels he possesses many different skills, which makes him a valuable asset to the county jail setting and to the Sheriff's Office operations.



LEVI VANCE

Sergeant, Tom Green County Sheriff's Office

Levi Vance has been employed with the Tom Green County Sheriff's Office for 12 years. He has been a shift Sergeant for the past five years. He carries an Advanced Jailer, Basic Peace Officer and a Basic Instructor License. He has attended the Mid-Level Management Leadership course. He has been an active member of the Special Operation Response Team for over three years and the Special Operation Response Team Commander since February of 2018. Levi is also an active instructor for the Basic County Corrections Course. He is also active in his community serving as President of the local Little League for the last two years and he is currently the Assistant District Administrator of eight leagues in the surrounding area.

Soft Skills: More Important Than Ever

By Carrie Windham

Corrections often provides extensive training to its officers. Countless training academies, “in-house” training programs, and continuing education courses prepare and equip officers and leadership for the responsibilities and duties of this profession.

However, the general emphasis of the training is often focused around developing “hard skills.” These are skills that are largely job-specific and quantifiable in nature. They aren’t likely to be used in another, unrelated profession and are geared towards honing aptitude and abilities for the field of corrections particularly. For example, cell searches, defensive techniques, and tactics for responding to critical incidences are hard skills.

Poles apart though, is the habitual neglect and often disregard for the equally crucial “soft skills.” These are skills that are almost impossible to measure through any objective standard or assessment and are even less likely able to be taught in a traditional lecture-type classroom setting, but are cultivated and sophisticated over time. Nonetheless, these are vital strengths every correctional officer needs. Soft skills are transferable abilities that can be used in any profession. These are traits and attributes that allow someone to exist and interact with other people effectively and amicably. They can be loosely grouped in two categories; self-management skills and people skills. Critical thinking, complex problem-solving, and resourceful teamwork skills, for instance, are all examples of soft skills.

Presumed to be influenced in part by the high-tech disconnection of today’s society, these skills are more and more scarce to new recruits, according to a 2018 Bloomberg study (1). In essence, this research found academia and business trainings left individuals unprepared for the demands facing today’s workforce, as well as conclusions that organizations themselves were ill-equipped to manage this deficiency of in-coming staff preparedness.

Soft skills are fundamental to the efficiency of organizations, clearly effecting issues such as turnover rate and performance, as these skills more than anything impact the agency’s most valuable resource- its people. For instance, a recent study conducted by researchers at Harvard, the University of Michigan, and Boston College found a direct correlation to the intentional development of soft skills and higher job satisfaction, retention, and productivity rates (2).

Five indispensable soft skills that should be emphasized for officer and leadership growth are self-awareness, adaptability, empathy, resilience, and skills that successfully manage a healthy work/life balance.

- **Self-awareness**

Self-awareness is the cornerstone of growth, as it is fundamental to personal and professional development. To be self-aware is to be conscious of one’s own thoughts, feelings, and the motivations of one’s behaviors. This enables objective observation of self and being cognizant of how personal and subjective perceptions of self, other individuals, and situations influence one’s behavior.

- **Adaptability**

Adaptability is the ability to manage and amend personal attitudes, mindset, and actions to new and unpredicted situations and tasks. This skill also entails one making this modification while being fully mindful of resources such as time, staffing, logistics, and organizational goals.

- **Empathy**

Empathy is the capacity to connect to another human being on a personal level. It involves identifying perspectives and positions of another and relating to the emotions that are evoked from those viewpoints.

- **Resilience**

Resilience is the capability to recover from failures or disappointments and proactively respond to adverse and opposing situations or experiences. This also requires the recovery to include the previous dedication level, drive, and focus.

- **Work/Life Balance**

Work/Life Balance skills encompass being intentional about creating and maintaining a lifestyle that incorporates tending to personal and professional well-being. These include skills that support appropriate levels of physical and mental health.



Soft skills should not be viewed as substituting or replacing hard skills, rather providing balance and improvement. These skills strengthen and enhance correctional officers’ performance and abilities, thus improving organizational efficiency overall.

References

- (1) Bloomberg Next. 2018. “Building Tomorrow’s Talent: Collaboration Can Close Emerging Skills Gap”
- (2) Achyuta Adhvaryu, Namrata Kala, and Anant Nyshadham. 2018. “The Skills to Pay the Bills: Returns to On-the-Job Soft Skills Training”

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Membership Committee Report

Membership Committee for 2018-2019

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As of April 10, 2019 our membership is as follows.

Professional: 1795
Associate: 62
Business: 49

We are pleased to announce we have gained over 600 new members since last year's annual conference.

Vendor Report

Spring is here! We are looking forward to the 33rd Annual TJA Conference this May 2019. Thank you all so much for your early registration and vendor support. None of this would be possible without you guys!

Please remember to advertise on the TJA Mobile Conference App, it is a great way to get your company's name out there since the app is very popular during the conference. There is always room for participation in the Jerry Baggs Scholarship Fundraiser Game, only \$200! This game guarantees that attendees will make personal contact with the vendor reps at their booth if you are registered to participate. Don't forget to play in the golf tournament and/or sponsor a hole. If a hole is sponsored, your company's logo is posted on a sign and placed on a tee box. There are many other sponsorship opportunities that may better fit your company's wants and needs. Further information on these sponsorships are located in the vendor packet on the TJA website.

Any other information needed for the upcoming conference can be found online at www.texasjailassociation.com or contact your TJA vendor reps directly.

We look forward to seeing you soon and having a wonderful conference!

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COURTROOM CHALLENGE QUICK DRAW

The staff at the Texas Commission on Jail Standards are excited about the upcoming 33rd Texas Jail Association Annual Conference coming up in Austin, Texas on May 13-17, 2019. With that said, we will once again be hosting the Courtroom Challenge: Quick Draw game to test your knowledge of minimum jail standards.

Last year, we had twelve teams compete from across the state. First place went to a team from Lubbock County. Right behind in second place was a team from Travis County. Rounding out the top three, was another team from Lubbock County in third place. We will have registration on-site in the Glass Oaks Ballroom on Wednesday morning of the conference. We really want as many teams as possible. This is an awesome learning environment as well as a competitive setting that everyone enjoys.

In case you did not compete, spectate, or even hear how the game was played last year, here is the format: Teams are composed of two individuals. Then, by random draw, two teams compete against each other in the round. During the round, questions are projected onto the wall. Teams then respond by selecting their choice with the corresponding color/shape on the computer in front of them within a set time limit. Points are earned for correct answers only. However, more points are earned the quicker your team responds with the correct answer. After a set amount of questions, the round is completed and the team with the most points is declared the winner. As teams progress to the finals, the question time limit for teams to respond is shortened as the stakes become higher.

In the end, you have two teams in a very fast paced final round to be crowned the winner of the Courtroom Challenge: Quick Draw. Team trophies will be provided to the first, second, and third place teams. Get your two-person teams ready to compete to test your knowledge of minimum jail standards!

Talking with the Jail Commission

Greetings to all the members of the Texas Jail Association! Things have been hectic here at the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. With the legislature in full swing, staff seem to be in perpetual motion at all times. At the same time, inspectors are out conducting annual inspections across the state.

At the urging of TJA, we wanted to spotlight a trending issue that is consistently being addressed as an area of non-compliance during our inspections, both annual and special. That area...face-to-face observations. Before we delve off into the topic, we want to thank all of the jailers who work the floor on a daily basis. You are the backbone of the jail and the hub of operations. Jail operations are only as good as the staff, the boots on the floor jail staff.

Back to the inspections... Minimum Jail Standard Chapter 275.1 (Regular Observation by Corrections Officers) seems to be a reoccurring issue that keeps rearing its ugly head during inspections over the past couple of years. Let us start with the standard itself. Chapter 275.1 states, "Every facility shall have the appropriate number of jailers at the facility 24 hours each day. Facilities shall have an established procedure for documented, face-to-face observation of all inmates by jailers no less than once every 60 minutes. Observation shall be performed at least every 30 minutes in areas where inmates known to be assaultive, potentially suicidal, mentally ill, or who have demonstrated bizarre behavior are confined. There shall be a two-way voice communication capability between inmates and jailers, licensed peace officers, bailiffs, and designated staff at all times. Closed circuit television may be used, but not in lieu of the required personal observation. Electronic sensors or cameras capable of recording the required personal observations of inmates in high-risk cells or groups of cells shall be installed no later than August 31, 2020."

We want to focus on the first two sentences of the standard. "...shall have an established procedure for documented, face-to-face observation of all inmate by jailers no less than once every 60 minutes." Jail staff are charged with the care and custody of inmates. **Face-to-face** observations are key to ensuring the health, safety and well-being of the staff we are charged to protect. The standard requires that staff physically put "eyes" on the inmates. There have been times, during annual and/or special inspections, where jail staff document that they observed the inmates within the required time. The documented logs, either electronic or handwritten, indicate rounds were being performed on-time. However, video footage reveals officers never stopping to look into the cell or never turning their head towards the window to attempt to view the inmate(s). At this point, not only has a violation of minimum standards occurred, the falsification of a government document has occurred as well. The falsification of any government document may have a jailer swapping an officer uniform for an inmate uniform.

The second half of that sentence states, "... by jailers no less than once every 60 minutes." Many agencies across the state have policies that require jail staff to perform observations at intervals much less than 60 minutes. Some jails have observations set at 45 minutes, 30 minutes and some even go as low as 20 minutes. The inspectors are encountering circumstances where jail staff wait until the 60-minute time limit to begin an observation round and then they end up going over the 60-minute mark by 1 minute or by a few minutes. Either way...1 minute over or 30 minutes over is a violation of minimum jail standards. What about those times you start before the 60-minute requirement and then start talking to an inmate and are late on the rest of the facility? What about the times where you are passing out food trays? These too are violations. This is why the inspection staff recommends not waiting so close to the required minimum. Give yourself some leeway when performing those observations in case situations arise that delay you. As you all know, it is not a matter of if, it is a matter of when a situation or circumstance will arise in your jail/facility.

The second sentence of the standards states, "Observation shall be performed at least every 30 minutes in areas where inmates known to be assaultive, potentially suicidal, mentally ill, or who have demonstrated bizarre behavior are confined." Once again, these observations are to be **face-to-face**. These observations are not just tied to a particular housing assignment. It is tied to the inmate itself. Example, if you have an inmate in a general population cell who is potentially suicidal. Even though that inmate is around other inmates, the 30-minute observation still applies. Many agencies have their policies reflect a time that is shorter than 30 minutes.

When you are walking down a linear hallway or staffing a podular housing area, keep in mind that observations have to be **face-to-face**. Remember, the standard has both 60 and 30-minute observation requirements. Lastly, always follow your local policies in regards to welfare observations, as local policy may be more stringent than minimum jail standards. However, the minimum jail standards have to be met or the inspectors will have no option but to place the jail in non-compliance.



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McLennan County Jail Bolstering Staff Training, Inmate Treatment for Mental Health

By Kristen Hoppa, khoppa@wacotrib.com

McLennan County Sheriff's Office Corporal Scott Dent was in the jail lunch hall Wednesday when he got the radio call. An inmate known for drug use and mental health episodes was being aggressive and smearing human waste all over his segregation cell. An extrication team was heading toward the wing with shields and protective gear to remove him for a trip to the showers.

Dent was familiar with the inmate and thought he could use his new mental health training to open a conversation with him and avoid the use of force.

budgeted new money for dealing with mental health needs, including additional psychiatric staff and required training for all staff dealing with inmates. And Dent said it seems to be working. "You can tell these people are hurting and there is a lot of pain in what they are saying," he said. "Sometimes they just need to know you are there to help them, not hurt them." Dent said the training helps him keep his cool in confrontations like the one Wednesday. "I have to understand that he was not mad at me," Dent said. "I was upset about the situation when he was yelling. He was not yelling at me.

He was just mad, but if you stop right there, then you aren't going far enough."

Jails' role in treatment

Mental health concerns have been a constant for correctional institutions for years, said Captain Ricky Armstrong, the Sheriff's Office Jail Administrator. About 20 percent of McLennan County Jail inmates are struggling with acute, severe mental health issues, resulting in struggles to find healthy coping mechanisms, stay on proper medication regimens and have appropriate therapy options. "I think there are mental health issues in

our country, but then those people sometimes end up in jail, because some commit minor crimes that they don't necessarily know they are committing," Armstrong said. "Sometimes, it is quicker and easier to take a person to jail than to take them to a mental health hospital, so we are now the largest mental health hospital in the county."

In October, McLennan County included \$300,000 in its budget to improve the standard of care at the jail by hiring a



The man was screaming and crying when Dent arrived. As the extrication team watched, Dent spoke to the man in a calm voice. "Hey, let's talk," he said. He urged the man to take deep breaths and keep talking. Within about 15 minutes, the man had agreed to come out without a struggle and be led away in handcuffs to the shower.

The recent episode illustrates the new approach local jail officials are taking. In the past year, McLennan County has

full-time psychiatric nurse practitioner, five specially trained mental health counselors and CorrHealth, a private company that provides inmate health care. “You see statistically that your mental health population who can’t get treatment or have resources tend to gravitate toward jail, because they commit crimes,” said Melissa Jarrett, a registered nurse and regional manager for Texas CorrHealth. “You see them in this population and if you don’t do something to identify that need and provide a safe place to detox with a provider who is able to diagnose them and get them on medication or coping skills, you are going to see them back at this facility more often than not.”

According to the National Alliance for Mental Illness, more than two million people are booked into jail each year. In Cook County, Illinois, which has one of the largest jails in the country, about a third of the jail’s population is considered to have a serious mental illness. Of the 941 beds at McLennan County Jail, about 24

inmates are housed in a dormitory-style mental health ward, where they work through health issues before they can be moved back into general population. About a dozen inmates



with severe mental health-related illnesses are currently being housed in administrative segregation, where they are evaluated and undergo treatment plans.

Overflow space is available at the Jack Harwell Detention Center next door to the county jail on Highway 6. “We try to give them the life skills, coping skills and even the medication and resources to change,” Jarrett said. “On the street, you don’t see that out there and we know we aren’t going to cure the mental health issues in six months in the Waco area. But our goal is to help the acutely mental ill population to reduce recidivism.”

It costs an average of about \$65 per day to house an inmate at McLennan County Jail, compared to an average of about \$200 per day for inmates with mental health needs, Armstrong said.

“We have teams that work with inmates with therapy, talk therapy and



exercises, and I do see a lot of requests for help, because medication is not going to do all of it,” said Deborah Sant’anna, a psychiatric nurse practitioner at the jail. “They do have to learn how to cope with the anger and have simple things of distraction in the moment they feel they are getting angry.” Mental health officials and jail administrators said mental illnesses can be hard to diagnose but have become a key concern for the care of people in custody. Armstrong said that years ago, there was little education about mental illness and the best approaches to treating unruly inmates. “You never know when something minor may escalate to something much worse when you have to factor in things with mental health,” Sheriff Parnell McNamara said. “It is a real concern to us to be able to provide safety, not only to our citizens, but for our inmates and try to get them proper help, medical or psychological help. “It’s very important to recognize what the issues are so we can address them for the safety of everyone.”

Lieutenant Jason Davis and Sergeant Marco Hinojos attended the Correctional Management Institute of Texas at

Sam Houston State University for two weeks, which included a program of mental health training for jailers. After the training, both jail employees hosted a statewide training session locally and offered jailhouse staff and other counties scenario-based training to help provide inmates with mental health help. Jail administrators said they have a goal to have everyone working in the McLennan County Jail trained with mental health skills within the next two years. “That training makes you realize you just need to be a little more patient and know that everyone reacts different to different scenarios,” Dent said. “There is nothing wrong with being a good person, so when you try to understand and realize that if I was in jail, I would be frustrated and mad, but sometimes you have to listen and try to understand what they are going through and treat them like a human.”

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Booking Money Manager; 100% Cash and Coin Accuracy at Booking Eliminated Cash and Coin Counting Errors

Video Visitation (On-Site and Remote)

Inmate Entertainment Tablets

Ryan Bartula
Owner

254-708-0091

ryan@sterlingcommissary.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE STATE

ATASCOSA COUNTY

Jail Lieutenant **Mike Benavidez** was awarded the Corrections Officer of the Year for 2018, presented by Sheriff **David Soward**. Lieutenant Benavidez was nominated for his around the clock commitment to the agency, his tireless work ethic, and his ability to mentor and teach other officers.



Esmeralda Mancera was promoted to the rank of Corporal, March 1, 2019. Corporal Mancera has been employed with the Atascosa County Sheriff's Office since October 2017. Best of luck to Corporal Mancera in her future role as a supervisor.

Robert Saucedo was promoted to the rank of Jail Sergeant on March 11, 2019. Sergeant Saucedo has been with the Atascosa County Sheriff's Office since August 2016. During his service, Sergeant Saucedo has been a Jail Corporal and a Court Transport/Support Officer. Congratulations to Sergeant Saucedo and good luck in his newly appointed supervisory role.



BRAZOS COUNTY

Deputy **Forrest Miller** was promoted to the Crisis Intervention Team from the Transport Division. Deputy Miller started his career with the Sheriff's Office in 2011 as a Detention Officer on the jail floor. He promoted to Intake/Release in March of 2014 and then promoted to the Transport Division in August 2018.



Deputy **Monica Lopez-Felix** promoted to the Transport Division from Intake/Release. Deputy Lopez-Felix started her career as an intern in Booking. In 2014, she became a Detention Officer on the jail floor. Deputy Lopez-Felix promoted to Intake/Release in June, 2015. She graduated from the police academy in December of 2018. Deputy Lopez-Felix also has been an active member of the Detention Response Team. Deputy Lopez-Felix's promotion will be effective February 23, 2019.



Employee of the Month



Deputy **Christopher Greiner** was recently named Employee of the Month. He is very dedicated to the department, he is a TEAM Player, he's very dependable and when needed, he will come to work on his days off. He displays a high level of professionalism with his co-workers, other agencies, and the arrestees. He is extremely knowledgeable in all areas of

Intake/Release and is the Senior Officer on his shift spreading his wisdom and knowledge to other officers.

Deputy Greiner is also a liaison for Guardian RFID, on several occasions he has come to work on his days off to trouble shoot and fix problems with Guardian.

There have been two recent incidents that inmates have tried to harm themselves by cutting, Deputy Greiner was equipped with a tourniquet and able to prevent the inmates from further harming themselves.

Officers Receive Life Saving Medal

Detention Officers **Erma Hemphill**, **Bethany Daily**, and Deputy **Melvin Bowser** received the Life Saving Medal in honor of their dedication to the performance of their duties in an emergency situation. During a routine safety check of the isolation cells, Detention Officer Hemphill discovered a life-threatening situation and took the appropriate necessary actions. Detention Officer Daily and Deputy Bowser immediately responded to the call for additional help and were able to assist with the situation until medical professionals arrived. Because of their immediate response and actions, the inmate escaped without serious injury. Detention Officers Hemphill

and Daily have served with the Sheriff's Office for over four years. They are currently assigned to A Shift and are supervised by Sergeant Sanders. Deputy Bowser has been with the Sheriff's Office for over 21 years, is currently assigned to Classifications, and is supervised by Sgt. Jones. I commend these Officers for their actions to ensure the safety of another. They have demonstrated a high level of professionalism and a commitment to their job and the Sheriff's Office.



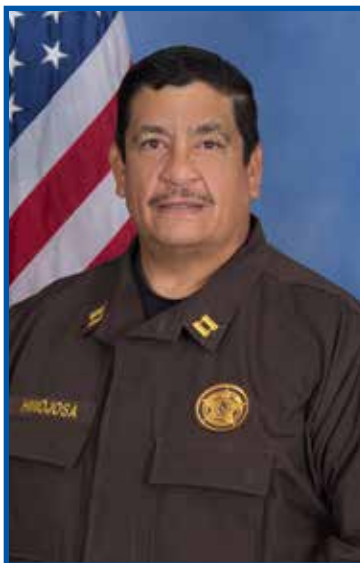
New Jail Crisis Intervention Team

The Brazos County Detention Center recently selected officers for the Jail Crisis Intervention Team. These officers will fill the role as a Jail CIT Officer on their respective shift. Sergeant **Abby Belangeri** will lead the team and guide them on their role, responsibilities and initiation of the Jail CIT program. All officers will complete a 40-hour certification course. The Officers selected are:

Richard Means, Joseph Ruland, Christopher Shearin, Randy Jackson, Cari Coker, Clayton Leeth, Rickey Nance, Emilee Smith, Tucker Ellsworth, Jonathan Weichert, Kelsey Stiles and Wilfred Griffin.

HIDALGO COUNTY

Captain **Adalberto 'Ruben' Hinojosa** retired from the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office in January 2019 after 34 years of service with the agency. He was a great friend of TJA, and his company was enjoyed during conferences. Ruben will occupy his retirement time with BBQ competitions, cigars, and time with his family.



LUBBOCK COUNTY

Clerk **Corey Dingus** was recognized as the Lubbock County Detention Center Employee of the Month for January 2019. Dingus has been employed with the Sheriff's Office since March 2018.



Lubbock County Sheriff's Office honors Detention Officer **Sonny Bigham**, during a retirement reception. Sonny Bigham began his career with the Sheriff's Office November 20, 1996, where he served for over 23 years. Bigham was the co-worker everyone went to with questions looking for answers. He leaves the Sheriff's Office to spend more time with his wife Barbara, and family. We wish him well.



In October, Sheriff Kelly Rowe recognized Corporal **Jonathan Rowser** as the Lubbock County Detention Center Employee of the Month for February. Corporal Rowser has been employed with Lubbock County Sheriff's Officer since August 2012.





Lubbock County was named as one of a select group of Stepping Up Innovator Counties in the United States. We joined Stepping Up in 2016 and have taken significant steps toward reducing the number of people who come to jail that have serious mental illness, establishing a collaboration if community leaders and stakeholders, creating a shared definition of serious mental illness, providing validated mental screening, and tracking baseline data.

Agents with the U.S Immigration and Customs Enforcement recognized Lubbock County Sheriff's Office, and its designated Immigration Officers assigned to the 287(g) Program for the their outstanding contributions to the U.S. Immigration and customs Enforcement (ICE). to enter into agreement with the state and local law enforcement functions, provided that the Local law enforcement receive appropriate training and function under the supervision of ICE officers.



Federal and State legislative issues, address policy and procedural matters, develop guidelines to promote uniformity in matters that are important to Sheriffs of the Western United States and to work together to keep the office of the Sheriff strong. The Western States Sheriffs' Association began over 25 years ago.

Sheriff Gary Painter was born in Amherst, Texas. In 1965, Sheriff Painter graduated from Plainview High School and, in 1966, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He served two tours of duty in Vietnam. After being honorably discharged in 1970, Sheriff Painter embarked on his law enforcement career by hiring on with the Texas Department of Public Safety as a Highway Patrolman in September 1970 and served tours of duty with the Culberson County SO and Presidio County SO -- where he also earned his Bachelor of Science degree in police administration from Sul Ross State University -- as well as the Midland PD and finally with the Midland County SO in 1982. Working his way up through the ranks, Sheriff Painter ran for and took office as Sheriff of Midland County on Jan. 1, 1985. He is now in his ninth term in office, a span that covers the past 33 years.

Sheriff Painter is a past president of the Sheriffs' Association of Texas (2010-2011) with a lifetime membership. He also serves on the Legislative Committee and Technology Committee. In 2016, Gov. Greg Abbott appointed Sheriff Painter as a commissioner on the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles after serving seven years on the Texas Commission on Jail Standards, having been appointed by former Gov. Rick Perry.

Congratulations to Sheriff Painter!



MCLENNAN COUNTY

McLennan County held their first 40-hour Jail Mental Health Officers course.



MIDLAND COUNTY

Midland County Sheriff, **Gary Painter**, was sworn in as the President of the Western States Sheriffs' Association on March 6, 2019. The Western States Sheriffs' Association is comprised of sheriffs and their command staff from 17 western states that include Texas, Washington, Wyoming, Oregon, Utah, Idaho, California, Arizona, Nevada, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota South Dakota, Colorado, Montana, Oklahoma and Kansas. The association was formed in 1993 in an effort to allow sheriffs to assist each other in fulfilling their duties and obligations related to law enforcement in their respective counties. The mission of the Western States Sheriffs' Association is to assist Sheriffs and their Offices with

WALLER COUNTY

Larry Don Cook, Jail Administrator for the Waller County Sheriff's Office, was promoted to Chief Deputy of Corrections in February 2019.





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