

# THE TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION KEY ISSUES

Vol XXIII, No. 3

Summer 2019



Summer 2019 Edition

# Message from the President



Texas Jail Association Members,

I hope this finds you well and in good spirits. I'd like to thank all of our attendees, volunteers, board members, staff, and anyone else involved for making our annual conference a great experience.

I'd like to take a few moments to talk about some of our goals this year. First, the board is taking steps behind the scenes to get organized. Our hope is to improve on some existing systems that will help new board members or new committee chairs with some of the more tedious tasks. While this may not sound very exciting, creating these efficiencies will allow us to focus more on the work we do for you. Eventually we can take on more and get more done within the short year we have to work with.

Second, getting our new Legislative Committee fully established will remain a priority. They are already monitoring all of the new legislation that will impact jails. They will continue to work on relationships and systems to keep us in the conversation when it comes to implementation.

Third, we will continue regional training. Information on topic/topics, dates, locations, and how to register will be coming out soon.

And last, we will be formalizing our efforts to provide assistance to jails. The strength of our Association lies within our membership and we strive to bring your agency the best subject matter experts we can find. Information will be coming soon for those interested.

Our mission is to serve you and hopefully make our profession even better. We will be working hard for you and I encourage you to let us know how we are doing. You work hard every day in a place that some will never understand. So please take time for yourself. Work on being physically healthy, mentally healthy, and positive. We are all in this together. Encourage one another, lift each other up. Together, we will continue to do great things. Thank you for your time. May God bless each and every one of you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Stuart".

Lieutenant Kevin Stuart, Brazos County Sheriff's Office

## KEY ISSUES DEADLINES

**September 1, 2019**  
for October 2019 Issue

**December 1, 2019**  
for January 2020 Issue

**March 1, 2020**  
for April 2020 Issue

**June 1, 2020**  
for July 2020 Issue

**SEND YOUR ARTICLES ON CD OR VIA EMAIL TO:**

**Sharese Hurst**, Texas Jail Association, Correctional Management of Texas,  
Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX, 77341-2296  
*sharese@shsu.edu*

# Past President's Passage



TJA Membership,

Another successful conference has come and gone. Thank you to the TJA Board and the CMIT Staff who did a phenomenal job getting the conference put together, you guys continue to knock it out of the park!

As outgoing TJA President, I swore in **Kevin Stuart** as President at the 33rd Annual Conference and it was an honor to do so. I know that he will continue to move this association in the right direction. In reflection of the last year, I am proud to have led a great TJA Board. I cannot praise them enough for what they've done for TJA. I'll share a testament to this board's efficiency: we were to meet at the Galveston conference last September on Sunday at 3:00 pm to unload the merchandise trailer. En route to Galveston, I was stuck in Houston traffic when I received a call from **Terry McCraw** at 2:25 pm advising me to "Slow down and relax Mr. President, the merchandise trailer has been unloaded." I was completely thankful and grateful. This is just an example of the drive this Board maintains.

During my speech in Austin, I highlighted several events from my time on the board from 2013 to the present. The initial platform that was my reason for joining the TJA Board was the lack of TJA membership in South Texas. Through the years, with help from South Texas Sheriffs, Chief Deputies, Jail Administrators and Jailers, that goal was accomplished! The goal was renewed to focus on TJA membership and assistance to all Texas jails as the years went by. I think we have realized the dream of TJA Past Presidents and the originators of the Texas Jail Association.

In closing, I just want to reiterate how thankful I am to have served the TJA membership as President and I look forward to continue working diligently to maintain the TJA legacy everywhere I go.

Captain Martin Gonzales, Atascosa County Jail Administrator

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# Training Report

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Hello to all my friends and law enforcement family! It was another successful conference in Austin, and it was good to see so many of our members in attendance. We had a wonderful week of training and networking, and I would like to thank 1st Vice President Dan Corbin and the committee for putting together the great training that was provided. Also, this could not be possible without the hard work of Sharese Hurst and the CMIT staff; the Texas Commission on Jail Standards; and, the Texas Association of Counties. I am sure I left someone out, so a big thank you to everyone who assisted with the conference. It takes hard work, dedication, and commitment from different agencies to bring the caliber of training the membership deserves.

TJA regional training, "Leadership for Jailers" is still making its way around the state. If you have not attended this training, it is a very good course that was put together with our jail staff in mind. We are currently developing a calendar of dates for the 2019-2020 TJA Regional Trainings. If you are interested in being a host agency, please let me know.

One of the goals of our mission statement is to advance professionalism through training, technical assistance, publications, peer interactions, and conferences. As the Chair for this year training committee, I am looking for any ideas you the membership has for our future training and conferences. If you have any ideas feel free to reach out to me or anyone on the training committee. Stay safe, watch each other's six, and I will see you at the Jail Management Issues Conference in Galveston.

## **Ricky Armstrong**

2nd Vice President

[ricky.armstrong@co.mclennan.tx.us](mailto:ricky.armstrong@co.mclennan.tx.us) / 254-757-2555

# Membership Report

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I want to thank everyone for attending the 33rd Annual Conference. We have a great group of leaders that are excited to be on the Membership Committee. Spread the word and encourage others to join! Membership dues are \$30.00 per year, and with this comes some of the best training conferences, regional training, and networking opportunities. Members will also have access to the list serve, where they can share and retrieve valuable information and resources.

I appreciate everything that you, the members, do to make TJA a great association.

## **Becky Caffey**

3rd Vice President

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Director

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# Vendor Report

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Although summer is in full swing, we would like to take this time to reflect on the 33rd Annual Conference, while also preparing everyone for the upcoming 2019 Jail Management Issues Conference. We would like to thank everyone for their continued support. The exhibit hall was sold out this year and the positive feedback from vendors was tremendous. TJA members raved about the quality of classes, diversity of companies at the tradeshow, and of course, time well spent with fellow correctional family!

The 2019 Jail Management Issues Conference is right around the corner. It will take place September 9-12, 2019, at the Galveston Island Convention Center. Exhibitor REGISTRATION IS OPEN and spots are filling up quick! Visit [www.texasjailassociation.com](http://www.texasjailassociation.com) to find more information, such as, class topics, exhibitor packets, registration forms, schedules, hotel blocks, and sponsorship opportunities.

As the vendor representatives, please use us as a resource with any questions or concerns for the upcoming JMI Conference. Your experience with the Texas Jail Association is our ultimate priority, and we are here to fulfill your needs. We hope everyone has a great summer and we are looking forward to an outstanding conference in September!

**Sam Loria, CEO**

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## Nominations & By-Laws Report

---

Hello to all my fellow TJA members. With the completion of our 33rd Annual Conference and the installation of our new Board Members, I would like to thank all of you who voted, as well as the candidates. I am confident we have a strong board and will continue to move forward. It is only through strong leaders stepping up and our membership voting that we will continue to have a strong association so I encourage anyone considering doing so, to run and help continue the growth and professional development of our career field and Association in next year's election.

We will also be reviewing the by-laws and will be reporting our results to the Board of Directors to ensure this living document continues to be an accurate guide for the association.

### 2019-2020 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

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1st Vice President & Chairman

Lubbock County Sheriff's Office

**Ricky Armstrong**

2nd Vice President

McClennan County Sheriff's Office

**AJ Bonner**

Member at Large

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### 2019-2020 BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

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- 18:21 pm**  
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# Here's a Little Article I Wrote About "Positivity"

by Byron J. Shelton, Bell County Sheriff's Office

Here we are in the month of July and summer in full swing. The kids are out of school and we are making plans on what to do and where to go. As always, in our line of work, every day is a busy day and it sometimes becomes difficult to stay positive. Factor in the duties and responsibilities of maintaining a county jail where you are tasked with ensuring the safety and security, as well as the care and custody of both inmates and staff. Being positive can truly become quite the chore. It takes effort and energy, but it is well worth it.

Perhaps you are familiar with folks who give an entire health report when you greet them. In my eyes, these folks are focusing on the negative when they should be thankful and grateful that they woke up to see another day.

Let's think about the environment that we work in. Altercations, uses of force, cursing, disrespect, and bad news are common occurrences. On the contrary, focus on the positive. Your interaction with people, being a difference maker, a role model, and a peace keeper. These are just a few things you can do on a daily basis to maintain a positive attitude.

Let's take time to focus on the benefits of being positive. You may see an increased life span, lower rates of depression, lower levels of distress, greater resistance to the common cold, better psychological and physical well-being.

There are many ways you can become more of a positive person. Pay less attention to negative thoughts, be kind to yourself as well as others, change your language, start a daily gratitude practice, go outdoors, consider meditation, journal about your best self, give back to others, practice random acts of kindness, and exercise regularly.

Remember as public servants, we have chosen to serve in our respective communities. While doing so, we owe it to the fine citizens of these areas to be not only professional, but upbeat and positive in our duties and responsibilities. Go and spread the word! What this world needs is "positivity!" It takes some effort, but it is well worth it. Thank you all for everything you do on daily basis and for representing our truly great profession, which is indeed a calling.

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# TJA IN 2009 AND NOW

by Mary Farley, Past President

## IN 2009

*In 2009, there were many history making events that took place: The Inauguration of Barack Obama as President; the uprising in Iran; the travail of the Global Economy; and, the nation was addicted to celebrities. Twitter and social media were growing and dominating everyday culture. Technology was evolving with many new, exciting, and expensive items. To the older generations, this sometimes proved frustrating. Now, smart phones began to take life which took working outside the office to a completely different spectrum. Most importantly, in 2009, the Texas Jail Association held their annual conference at a new location, the Renaissance Austin Hotel. Robert Green was President.*



## NOW

As an attendee of the conference in 2019, my primary outcome was networking and seeing old friends around the state. Meeting professionals and talking to jailers who are innovative was the major benefit to me.

Exceptional training, accessible networking, and professionalism of those in attendance, constantly reminds me that this is an important organization to be a part of. The overall mission of TJA has not changed.

We all use more technology now, and sometimes spend more time with machines than with people. TJA is still about relationships, networking, taking care of each other like family and sharing our knowledge.

TJA continuously strives to be a trend setter in the business of professional growth in jails. I believe changing somebody's heart is the first thing that has to happen before you change their mind. TJA accomplishes this task all year round.







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# COURTROOM CHALLENGE

by Alexander Nares

Field Training Officer, Travis County Sheriff's Office

I thoroughly enjoyed the Texas Jail Association (TJA) conference! They had a lot of good training opportunities available. There was some material that I found so interesting that I would like to bring it back to our agency in the form of 5-min briefings. I am honored and truly grateful that I was selected to attend this year's conference.

The Courtroom Challenge was a fun and exciting contest. It is a trivia-style competition in which teams of two face off against other teams, to see which team can answer more questions (up to 15) in a round. Teams are given points whenever they answer a question correctly – and more points are given when the question is answered quickly. There were a total of 16 teams (including ours). It was a double-elimination tournament, so if you lost two rounds then you would be out of the contest.

During each round, our team answered most of the questions quickly and correctly, defeating every other team and we made it to the final round with no losses! Our final opponent was a team from Lubbock County. We had the advantage of having no losses and the Lubbock team had already lost a round. This meant that we only needed to win one time against them but they would have to win two times against us. I stayed cautious however, because last year, we played against this exact same team (under the same circumstances too; our team with no losses and theirs with one loss) and they made a comeback, defeating us at the last moment. But this time, we were able to win on the first try against them and claim the champion title! I had a lot of fun and am excited to see what's in store for us next year.

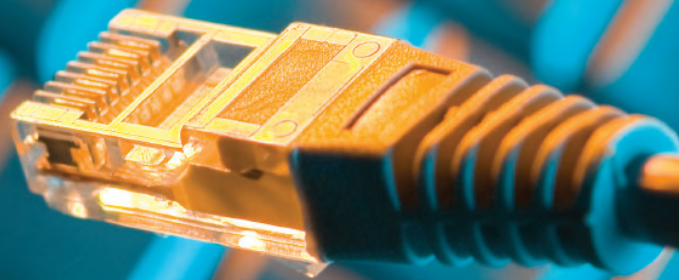




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**Receiving the 2019 Jerry Baggs Leadership Award** is a defining milestone in my career. Mentors were my foundation that fueled my journey. The brave men and women that worked the rotating shifts are the most important members of the team that drove my success in corrections.

My work ethic has been to remain in the driver's seat of life by allowing my truthfulness and honesty to be expected, and my actions to always mirror the same. Being known is not enough. Being remembered by the significant service to others is the lasting treasure.

Staying engaged was a self-imposed challenge. I encourage jailers to consistently improve their scope of knowledge and performance for the agency and themselves. Remain true to the game by mindful exchanges of respect and humane treatment to all we serve.

Let excellence be your brand. "Always do the right thing and you will be rewarded with peace of mind forever." For that, I am forever grateful.

Mary Farley, CJM, NJLCA  
Past President of TJA

## 2019 Jerry Baggs Leadership Award Recipient Mary Farley

# 2019 TJA/100 CLUB GOLF TOURNAMENT REPORT



The 2019 TJA/100 Club Golf Tournament was once again a success thanks in part to you! This year's tournament consisted of 100 players, the highest total of players in the tournament's history. This could not have been possible without the support of our sponsors: **Keefe Group, Tito's Vodka, Torchy's Tacos, Chick-Fil-a, Travis County Sheriff's Law Enforcement Association, Travis County Sheriff's Officers Association, Commissary Express, Galls, GT Distributors, and MTC Medical.**

The net total raised for the tournament was \$7,805.78. Half of the proceeds will be split with the 100 Club of Central Texas and the other half will be placed in the Jerry Baggs' Memorial Scholarship fund.

Thank you to the TJA Golf Committee for their hard work and efforts in getting the tournament organized. We look forward to a even better year in 2020!

## MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: Corporal Kimberly King

I started my career with the McLennan County Sheriff's office in November 2009 as a jailer. I was selected by Sheriff Larry Lynch to attend the Law Enforcement Academy at McLennan Community College and graduated valedictorian of my class in December 2011. I was promoted to the Corporal over the Training/Personnel Division in August 2012 where I was responsible for the hiring of employees, maintaining personnel files, training files and medical files. I was also responsible to making sure the Sheriff's Office maintained compliance with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

I came back to the jail as the Jail Investigator in March 2014 under our current Sheriff, Parnell McNamara. As the Jail Investigator I investigated criminal cases, completed affidavits and executed warrants. I assisted outside agencies as well as the DA's Office by preparing cases and



collecting and preserving evidence. I became the PREA Investigator in October 2017 and I am responsible for conducting investigations of sexual assault/sexual harassment, preparing initial and follow-up PREA reports, obtaining arrest warrants and arresting offenders when necessary. I assist the PREA Coordinator with maintaining compliance of the facility, training of personnel, volunteers and contractors.

I received my Basic Hostage Negotiator certification in June 2016 and Sexual Assault Family Violence Investigator certification in January 2017.

I became a member of the Texas Jail Association in May 2015 and attended my first TJA Conference the same year. The annual TJA conferences have allowed me to come in contact with others in this field who have provided leadership and mentorship through training, programs and services provided by TJA.

## MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: Officer Samuel Dobbins

Hi, my name is **Samuel Dobbins** and I work for the Brazos County Sheriff's Office. I began my career with the Brazos County Sheriff's Office in the jail about 6 years ago.

Last fall, I became a member of TJA and overall my time as a member of TJA has been very rewarding. I attended the Jail Management Issues TJA conference in Galveston, TX in September of 2018 and it was a very beneficial experience for me. There were a lot of classes available that were relevant to me. In particular, the classes offered on being a leader in the workplace were the most influential for me and have helped



me learn more effective leadership skills. Since attending these classes I have been motivated to be a better leader for my shift as well as for my agency.

The TJA conference was also a great place to network with people from other agencies and establish professional connections with others in my line of work. It was great to meet people who do what I do and hear their frustrations and their successes.

I look forward to future opportunities to learn from the TJA trainings and continue to build professional relationships with other correctional professionals throughout the state.





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# ★ 33RD ANNUAL TEXAS JAIL





# ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE ★







I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that voted for me. **I am truly blessed to have been elected to serve as your 3rd Vice President.** I had the opportunity to meet a lot of new members this year, and I cannot wait to see what the future holds for the Texas Jail Association.

**Thank You for your support and vote.**  
– **Becky Caffey**, 3rd Vice President



I would like to send my appreciation to all of the Texas Jail Association members for electing me **Director** to serve on the Board for the next three years. Serving as Secretary last year was both informative and exciting. I look forward to serving as your voice on the board. I hope to see you in Galveston for the Jail Management Issues Conference in September.

**Thanks**  
– **Terry McCraw**, Director



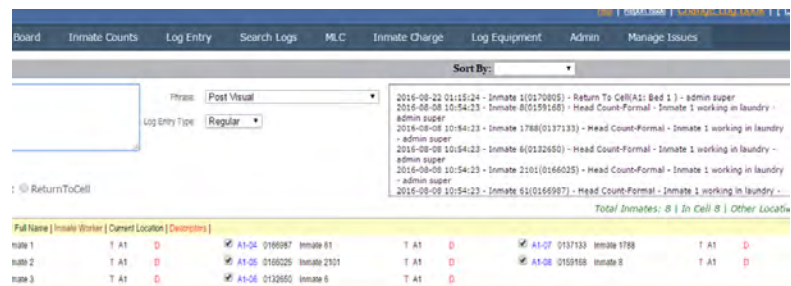
I would like to begin by thanking you for electing me to the Texas Jail Association Board of Directors! I look forward to serving the officers working hard on a daily basis in our county jails. I am proud to be a part of the legacy TJA has built, and will work hard to carry on that tradition. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, or if I can be of any assistance to you.

– **Jason Davis**, Director

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# What's Happening Around the State?

## Houston County



### SERVICE AWARDS

**Lieutenant Justin Killough, Retired Sergeant Roy May and Jail Administrator Jerry Baker** were recognized for 20+ years of service.

**Sheriff Darrel Bobbitt** was recognized for 18+ years of service.

**Investigator Ryan Martin, Administrative Deputy Mary Jordan and Dispatcher Sylvuan Duncan** were recognized for 15+ years of service.

**Sergeant Lorenzo Simpson, Deputy Lynn Gentry, Jail Lieutenant Martha Jackson, Communication Supervisor Katie Cook, and Dispatcher Meagan Frizzell** were recognized for 10+ years of service.

**Investigator Billy Christian, Chief Gary Shearer and Jailer Elois Wade** were recognized for 5+ years of service.



## THE INDUSTRY'S MOST COMPLETE PORTFOLIO



### PUBLIC SAFETY SOLUTIONS

These solutions help cities and law enforcement agencies collect, consolidate, visualize, store and distribute information in real time to support the needs of immediate access to critical information for emergency response dispatch, mobile law enforcement and public safety.



### INVESTIGATIVE SOLUTIONS

These solutions identify, store, analyze and pinpoint important data useful in investigations. These investigative tools quickly analyze massive amounts of data in order to provide investigative teams actionable intelligence and focused leads on demand.



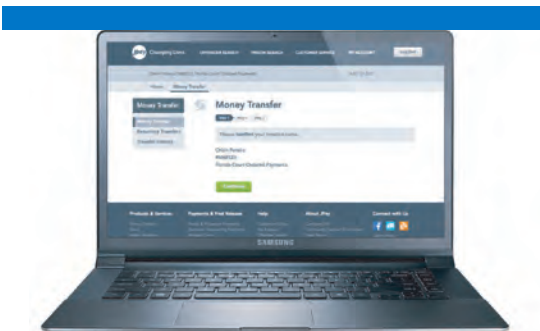
### CORRECTIONS SOLUTIONS

These solutions modernize the incarceration experience through superior information management, communication and inmate self-service offerings that enhance the experiences of inmates and their family and friends, as well as greatly improve operational efficiencies for corrections agencies.



### MONITORING SOLUTIONS

These solutions provide comprehensive GPS and RF-based enrollee monitoring systems and various support and reporting services for the supervision and location and movement tracking of adults and juveniles in the community while helping to keep the public safe.



### PAYMENT SOLUTIONS

These solutions provide a wide variety of payment channels for consumers as well as a comprehensive offering for government agencies looking for a one-stop payment solution.



# What's Happening Around the State?

## Orange County

### PROMOTION

On March 1, 2019, **Sheriff Keith Merritt** promoted **Jim “Ice” Eiselstein to Jail Administrator**. Captain Eiselstein has 38 years of Law Enforcement experience. Captain Eiselstein served as President of the Texas Jail Association in 2002.

### NEW HIRE

On April 1, 2019 Sheriff Merritt hired **Lieutenant Mark Dubois** as the Assistant Jail Administrator. Mark has over 25 years of law enforce experience. Mark served as Treasurer of the Texas Jail Association from 2001-2003.



**Left to Right:** Captain Jim “Ice” Eiselstein, Chief Deputy John Tarver, Lieutenant Mark Dubois, Sheriff Keith Merritt.

## Lubbock County

### PROMOTIONS

**Sheriff Kelly Rowe, Chief Cody Scott, Assistant Kim Howell and Captain Jenkins**, congratulate **Deputy Emily Flores** on her promotion to **Lieutenant**



### RETIREMENT

**Deputy Romeo Mejia** retired and was recognized for his service with the Sheriff’s Office for 20 years. Throughout his career, Mejia worked as a Detention Officer, a job he enjoyed dearly. We wish you the best on your retirement.

# What's Happening Around the State?



## EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

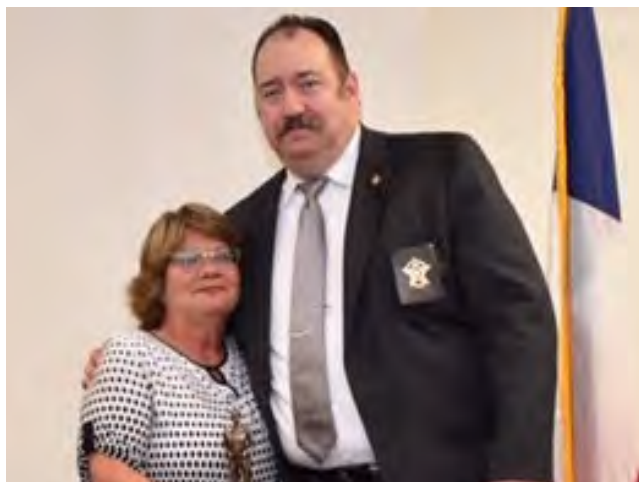


When **Sergeant Thieme, Deputy Constantine, Deputy Johnson** and **Deputy Ward** realized a husband and wife, who are both US Marshalls, had been working without a paycheck, during the government shutdown, they went beyond to help. These deputies helped find part-time work, offered

dinner at their homes, at restaurants and continued to check up on them during this time. Sergeant Thieme, Constantine, Ward and Johnson were recognized for Employee of the Month for February.

## AWARDS

During the Annual 2019 Recognition Awards, Lubbock County Sheriff's Office employees were recognized for their outstanding hard work. Recognized for Supervisor of the Year **Detention, Sergeant John Ponce**. Detention Officer of the Year Award went to **Corporal Rowser**. Life





# What's Happening Around the State?

Saving Award went to **Officers Strange, Mara, Carnahan, Ritesman, Carlisle, Jaramillo, Corporal Smith, Corporal Daughenbaugh, Deputy James, and Officer Dunlap**. Sheriff Rowe also recognized **Assistant Chief Kim Howell** on the hard work working with TCOLE on Mental Health, as well as rewriting the curriculum for jail schools.

## CORRECTIONAL OFFICER & EMPLOYEES WEEK

**Sheriff Kelly Rowe**, and command staff took to the grill flipping burgers and hotdogs for staff during Correctional Officer & Employees Week.



## 2019 LUBBOCK REGIONAL PEACE OFFICER MEMORIAL

On May 22, 2019, Multi Honor Guards Honored fallen officers, during the 2019 Lubbock Regional Peace Officer Memorial at the Lubbock Public safety Memorial.





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# What's Happening Around the State?

## Wichita County

### SERVICE AWARDS

**Deputy Scott Chapel** was recognized for 20 years of service. Deputy Chapel began his career with the Wichita County Sheriff's Office on January 8, 1999 as a Detention Officer. He is currently assigned to the Civil Division as a Deputy.

**Detention Officer Thomas Pena** was recognized for 15 years of service. Detention Officer Pena began his career with the Wichita County Sheriff's Office on March 8, 2004 as a Detention Officer. He is currently assigned as a supervisor for the Inmate Work Program.

**Sergeant Cole McGarry** was recognized for 5 years of service. Sergeant Cole McGarry began his career with the Wichita County Sheriff's Office on January 3, 2014 as a Patrol Deputy. He was promoted to Corporal and then to Sergeant and is currently assigned to the Patrol Division.



**Left to Right:** Sergeant Cole McGarry, Deputy Chapel, Detention Officer Thomas Pena and Sheriff David Duke

### LIFE SAVING AWARDS

On January 19, 2019, **Detention Officer Evan Molini** found an inmate unresponsive in his cell. Upon further checking of the inmate he was found to be not breathing. Detention Officer Molini, **Detention Officer Dakota Stone** and **Sergeant Amanda Volpicella** began CPR to save the inmates life. The inmate was transported to the hospital.



**Left to Right:** Sergeant Volpicella, Detention Officer Evan Molini and Sheriff David Duke

### PROMOTIONS

Sheriff David Duke promoted **Corporal Jeff Lee to Sergeant** and **Deputy Jason Vandygriff to Corporal**



**Left to Right:** Sergeant Jeff Lee and Corporal Jason Vandygriff



# What's Happening Around the State?

## SHERIFF COMMENDATION AWARDS

On January 30, 2019, **Detention Officer Dakota Brown** observed an inmate not responding to verbal commands. Detention Officer Brown, **Detention Officer Elizabeth Walker** and **Sergeant Volpocella** began CPR to save the inmates life. The inmate was transported to the hospital.



**Left to Right:** Sergeant Amanda Volpicella, Detention Officer Elizabeth Walker, Detention Officer Dakota Brown and Sheriff David Duke

## SHERIFF CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARD

On February 18, 2019, **Detention Officer Gerald Bright** observed trustees attempting to put out a fire on a stove in the downtown detention kitchen. **Sergeant Bukowski**, Detention Officer Bright and **Detention Officer Jorge Ramirez** used fire extinguishers to put out the fire. Their fast actions had the fire extinguished upon arrival of the Wichita Falls Fire Department.



**Left to Right:** Detention Officer Bright, Detention Officer Jorge Ramirez, Sergeant Bukowski and Sheriff David Duke

## TESSA PRICE AWARD

This past February was the Eighth Anniversary of the tragic death of Tessa Price, who was killed by a drunk driver Sunday February 13, 2011. Tessa was only 16 years old and was a junior at City View High School. She is survived by her mother Lisa Gubernath, and family. Tessa was active at her Church, loved going shopping, played soccer, and loved spending time with her family. The crime of a person driving while intoxicated caused Tessa to lose her life.

The year of Tessa's death, 2011, 9,878 people were killed and approximately 350,000 were injured by drunk driving. Each crash, loss of life, and injured person, impacted friends, family, co-workers and classmates. In 2017, 1,024 people were killed by drunk driving in the State of Texas.

The Wichita County Sheriff's Office remembers the life of Tessa Price by each DWI arrest. This past year, 2018, the Wichita County Sheriff's Patrol Division made over 67 Driving While Intoxicated arrests. Of the 67 Driving While Intoxicated arrests, Deputy Matthew Schenck made 21 Driving While Intoxicated Arrests.

The 2018 Tessa Price Award goes to **Deputy Matthew Schenck.**



# What's Happening Around the State?

## RETIREMENT

**Sergeant Ralph Burdick** began his career with the Wichita County Sheriff's Office in as a Transport Deputy in 2011. He was promoted to Corporal and later to Sergeant. Sergeant Burdick has done an outstanding job serving the Citizens of Wichita County and the Wichita County Sheriff's Office. During his career with the Sheriff's Office he has served as a Field Training Officer and was a member of the Wichita County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard.



**Left to Right:** Sheriff David Duke and Sergeant Ralph Burdick

## TESSA PRICE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This year, Herb Easley Chevrolet has again graciously given two \$500.00 Scholarships to two students in remembrance of Tessa Price. A representative from Herb Easley Chevrolet, **Mark Campbell**, presented the checks. The scholarships go to **Chris Nabors** and **Bishop Swearingen**.

Chris Nabors is a senior at City View High School. He plans on attending Vernon College to pursue a degree in Criminal Justice.

Bishop Swearingen is a senior at City Views High School. He also plans on attending Vernon College to pursue a degree in Criminal Justice.



**Left to Right:** Herb Easley Chevrolet representative Mark Campbell and Senior Chris Nabors)



**Left to Right:** Herb Easley Chevrolet representative Mark Campbell and Senior Bishop Swearingen

## FLAG PRESENTATION

Sheriff David Duke presented a Texas Flag that flew over the State Capitol of Texas to **David Paul Stout**, the father of **Deputy David Austin Stout**, in honor of Deputy Stout's service to the Citizens of Wichita County. Deputy Stout died earlier this year after a lengthy medical battle.





# New Laws Requiring TCJS Action

## **HB 1651, Gonzalez**

### **Subject: Pregnant Inmate Restraints**

- Requires TCJS to adopt minimum standards:
  1. to ensure obstetrical and gynecological care be addressed in jail health service plans, and
  2. to identify when a pregnant prisoner is in labor and provide appropriate care to the prisoner, including promptly transporting the prisoner to a local hospital
  3. to prohibit restraints on pregnant inmates during pregnancy and 12 weeks thereafter unless the restraints would prevent escape or harm, as defined
- Requires the least restrictive restraints necessary on pregnant inmates.
- Requires the restraints must also be, if applicable, for the health and safety of the unborn child.
- Requires jailers to remove or refrain from using the restraints at the request of a health care professional responsible for the health and safety of the prisoner.
- Requires jails to submit to TCJS a report, as specified, not later than Feb 1 every year on the use of restraints on pregnant inmates during pregnancy and for 12 weeks after giving birth.
- Requires TCJS to prescribe the form for the annual report described above.

*Effective 9/1/2019*

*By 12/1/19, TCJS must:*

- *adopt rules, procedures for:*
  - o *including obstetrical and gynecological care in jail health service plans*
  - o *identifying when a pregnant inmate is in labor and providing appropriate care*
  - o *the restraint of pregnant prisoners*
- *prescribe the annual restraint report form*

## **HB 2169, Allen**

### **Subject: Feminine Hygiene Products**

Amends Gov. Code 511 to require TCJS to adopt rules and procedures for minimum standards for quantity, quality, type, and size of feminine hygiene products. Requires TCJS to count female prisoners.

*Effective 9/1/2019*

## **HB 3116, White**

### **Subject: TCJS Study: IDD Detention Best Practices**

Establishes a task force and requires TCJS to appoint 8 members, including one representative of a county jail, to conduct a comprehensive study on best practice standards for the detention of a person with an intellectual or developmental disability, specifically:

1. current policies and procedures
2. barriers to accommodations and justice
3. best practices used in other states
4. policies that would improve jail standards; and
5. any other issue the task force considers appropriate

Requires the task force to prepare and submit to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of house, and presiding officer of criminal justice-related standing committees of both houses a written report, as defined.

*Effective 9/1/2019*

*Written report due: 12/1/2020*

## **HB 3440, Capriglione**

### **Subject: TCJS Electronic Report Submission**

Amends Gov. Code 511 to require TCJS to develop and establish a system for jails to submit information to TCJS electronically and in electronic format. Allows TCJS to charge jails a reasonable fee for not using its electronic system. TCJS will adopt rules and procedures.

*Effective 9/1/2019.*

*Implementation by 9/1/2020*

## **HB 4468, Coleman**

### **Subject: Inmate mental health access, temp jailer 90-day training, Prisoner Safety Fund 288 Bed Threshold**

Current law requires jails to give prisoners the ability to access a mental health professional at the jail through telemental health service 24 hours per day, beginning 9/1/2020.

- This law amends Gov. Code 51 1.009(a) to give jails three options for providing mental illness treatment:
  1. In-person treatment in the jail
  2. 24/7 telemental health treatment in the jail
  3. If in-person or 24/7 telemental treatment are not available at the county jail, then the jail must use all reasonable efforts to arrange for the inmate to have access to a mental health professional within a reasonable time
- Requires TCJS to adopt rules requiring commission meeting review of non-compliant private jails
- Amends Occ. Code 1701 to require temporary county jailers be enrolled in preparatory training on or before the 90th day after hire
- Repeals existing law that allows sheriffs to petition TCOLE to reinstate a temporary jailer after their first anniversary of hire
- Prevents temporary county jailers from being promoted to supervisory position. TCJS will adopt rules and procedures

*Effective 9/1/2019*

*If a jail is going to implement 24/7 telemental health access, then it must be in place by 9/1/2020.*

## **HB 4559, Fierro**

### **Subject: LMHA may request inmate health coverage beneficiary information.**

Amends Gov. Code to add §511.0098 to allow an LMHA or other health insurance or health benefits coverage to collect specified health coverage information, such as policyholder name, policy number, a copy of the coverage card, etc. TCJS will adopt rules and procedures.

*Effective 9/1/2019*

## **SB 346, Zaffirini**

### **Subject: Inmate reimbursement fee for medical care**

Subject: Currently, CCP requires that current or former county jail inmates who received medical, dental, or health related services from a county or a hospital district to pay for such services when they are rendered. This law requires inmates to pay instead a reimbursement fee for such services. TCJS may require jails to revise their Health Service Operations Plans.

*Effective 1/1/2020*

## **SB 562, Zaffirini**

**Subject: Jails must include mental health documents when transferring inmates to TDCJ** When counties transfer defendants to TDCJ, current law requires the counties to include specified documents and information,



including health information. This law amends CCP 42 to require that the county also transfer the inmate's MH records, MH screening reports, or similar MH info.

*Effective immediately upon governor's signature 6/14/2019*

### **SB 1700, Whitmire**

#### **Subject: Discharge inmates from 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

Amends CCP 43 to require jails to release defendants, mentally ill inmates excepted, between 6 A.M. and 5 P.M. on the day of discharge, as specified and with exceptions. Permits the jail to release inmates the day before the defendant's sentence ends. When the inmate requests it, this law permits the jail to release inmates before 6 A.M. or after 5 P.M. TCJS will adopt rules.

*Effective 9/1/2019*

## **New Laws Related to Jails Only No Standards Required**

### **HB 601, Price**

#### **Subject: Mental Health Expert Interview**

Previously, a magistrate was required to order a qualified mental health expert or intellectual disability expert to assess the information collected from an inmate suspected of having mental illness or intellectual disability. This new law now requires the expert to interview these inmates if the inmate has not previously been interviewed on or after the date the inmate was arrested. This law permits the interview to be conducted either in person in the jail, by telephone, by telemedicine, or by telehealth service. This law requires the commissioner's courts to reimburse the expert for the cost of performing the interview. This law requires jails to include any mental health records, mental health screening reports when transferring an inmate to the Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ).

*Effective 9/1/2019*

### **RB 1374, Hernandez**

#### **Subject: Relating to grants for the development and operation of pretrial intervention programs for defendants who are the primary caretaker of a child.**

Amends Gov. Code 509 to permit a specified division of TDCJ to award a grant to a department for the development and operation of a pretrial intervention program for defendants who are pregnant at the time of program placement or the primary caretaker of a child under 18. Reduces incarceration in county jails of pregnant inmates or inmates who are primary caretakers of a child under 18.

*Effective 9/1/2019*

### **HB 3503, Anderson**

#### **Subject: Firearms training for county jailers.**

Amends Occ. Code to require TCOLE to develop firearms training, as specified, for county jailers. Allows jailers who have passed the training to carry a firearm while performing duties. Requires agencies that employ county jailers authorized to carry firearms to designate a firearms proficiency officer and requires each jailer to annually demonstrate weapons proficiency to the firearms proficiency officer. Failure to demonstrate proficiency does not affect the county jailer's license.

*Effective 9/1/2019*

## **SB 22, Campbell**

### **Subject: Abortion**

Prohibits jails from using public tax revenue to obtain abortions at Abortion Facilities established by Health and Safety Code or at ambulatory surgical centers that perform fewer than 50 abortions per year. Jails could still pay for abortions at licensed hospitals, doctor offices who perform fewer than 50 abortions per year, state hospitals, teaching hospitals, and specified residency programs that train resident physicians.

*Effective 9/1/2019*

## **SB 340, Huffman**

### **Subject: Creates a grant program to assist law enforcement agencies with the purchase of opioid antagonists.**

Amends Gov. Code 772 to require the criminal justice division of the Governor's Office to establish and administer a grant program to provide financial assistance to a law enforcement agency that seeks to provide opioid antagonists to peace officers and "related personnel" who are likely to come into contact with opioids or encounter persons suffering from an apparent opioid-related drug overdose. Requires the agency requesting the grant to first adopt a policy addressing the usage of an opioid antagonist. Allows the law to be implemented only if only if the legislature appropriates money specifically for that purpose.

*Effective 9/1/2019*

## **SB 362, Huffman**

### **Subject: Court-ordered mental health services.**

Amends Civil Practice and Remedies law to allow that, as applicable and within specified conditions, a trial court may release a defendant on bail while charges remain pending and enter an order transferring the defendant to the appropriate court for court-ordered outpatient mental health services for no longer than 45 to 90 days.

*Effective 9/1/2019*

## **SB 405, Birdwell**

### **Subject: It is a crime to make a false report to jailers and others, as specified.**

Amends Penal Code to make it a crime to make false statements to corrections officers and jailers.

*Effective 9/1/2019*

## **SB 632, Kolkhorst**

### **Subject: Includes sheriffs on governing bodies of local mental health authorities**

Amends Health and Safety Code 533 to require LMHA governing bodies, when existing, to include a sheriff or sheriff representative as a non-voting ex-officio member. When the LMHA service area includes multiple counties, the sheriffs rotate every two years. Where LMHAs do not have governing bodies, the law requires that the LMHAs consult with a sheriff or sheriff representative regarding the use of LMHA funds received from DSHS. Requires community center board of trustees must include a sheriff or a representative of a sheriff. Permits LMHAs to rotate the position among sheriffs.

*Effective 9/1/2019*



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