THE TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION
KEY ISSUES

Vol XXVI, No. 1

Summer 2022

Summer 2022 Edition

Past President's Passage

TJA Members,

The 36th Annual Conference and our first year at Embassy Suites San Marcos is now in the books. Wow, it was a great conference! The staff at Embassy Suites bent over backwards to accommodate the things we asked for. We offered 26 hours of training to each member along with numerous opportunities to network during breaks and after class.

Your TJA Board of Directors put together another top-notch training opportunity. A huge thank you to all our instructors who made the quality of training well worth the trip.

To all our vendors, we always say if it were not for you, we could not continue to put on a conference of this magnitude. I promise this statement is so true. The thoughtfulness and giving spirit that each of you have for our association does not go unnoticed.

First time attendees, I hope you learned a lot and had fun while you were here. I encourage you to stay involved with your association and benefit from the networking and training opportunities that will be coming soon.

It was great to see everyone, and I hope you had a wonderful experience at the 36th Annual Conference, I know I sure did.

Do not forget our Jail Management Issues Conference is right around the corner on beautiful Galveston Island. Go ahead and make your reservations now!

See ya down the road,

Ricky Armstrong

Ricky Armstrong
Immediate Past President

Message from the President

TJA Members,

If you were unable to attend the 36th Annual Conference, you missed a great week! I want to thank Past President Ricky Armstrong for his dedication and leadership to this Association. I also want to thank he and the Board members for a successful conference. They did a fantastic job. This was our first conference in San Marcos, Texas at the Embassy Suites. I have to say it went well. We have a great team with Sharese Hurst and all the Correctional Management Institute of Texas staff. They all worked hard iron out any kinks that came along. Edwardo Jackson and the Training Committee did an amazing job recruiting new speakers and covering an array of topics. This year, we had a variety of new classes, and the turnout was tremendous. We had several classes that were standing room only. I appreciate all our vendors and I want to thank them for supporting TJA.

I would like to congratulate Francis Dembowski of Travis County for being elected to 3rd Vice President. Ryan Braus of Lubbock County and Erica Hernandez of Hays County were elected as Director. Congratulations and welcome to the Board!

The Texas Jail Association is hands down #1 in my book. It was an honor to be sworn in as your President. We have many exciting things coming up in the next year.

The Training Committee is working hard on finalizing all the training for the Jail Management Issues Conference in September. I know there will be something to benefit all members. This year, we will host the fishing tournament and we are expecting a big turnout. A portion of the money raised will benefit the Jack Crump Scholarship fund.We are currently scheduling regional training across the state and we hope to reach as many counties as possible.

We have ordered nothing but sunshine and blue skies for the Jail Management Issues Conference. The date for the conference is September 12-16, 2022. I can't wait to see everyone in September. Stay safe and God Bless!

Becky Caffey
President, Texas Jail Association

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Membership Report

We had our first annual conference in San Marcos, and it was an enormous success! Thank you to all the counties that were able to send folks despite the challenges we are all facing. The membership is huge in being able to put on the conferences.

Everyone is encouraged to maintain their membership and recruit their peers to join this amazing organization. The continued support of the members is so important to continue to bring the training and networking opportunities to those that are part of this professional organization.

Frances Dembowski, 3rd Vice President frances.dembowski@traviscountytx.gov	Erica Hernandez, Board Member erica.hernandez@co.hays.tx.us
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Nominations Report

I hope everyone is enjoying their start to the summer. The 36th Annual Texas Jail Association Conference was a great success. I also hope the training opportunities that were provided as well as networking with new and old friends were enjoyable for everyone.

The start of our first conference in San Marcos started off with a bang! The welcoming BBQ was a new added touch, along with our new course for the golf tournament at Landa Park in New Braunfels, TX.

Being the chairperson of the Nomination Committee, I would like to encourage you to start thinking about next year's elections. Talk to current and past board members, they are more than willing to offer further insight on the duties and responsibilities of board positions. You can also find more information on the TJA website regarding the duties on the By-Laws link.

Chair, Edwardo Jackson, 1st Vice President edwardo.jackson@traviscountytx.org	
Jonathan Ede, Member-at-Large	Johnny Jaquess, 2nd Vice President jjaquess@co.collin.tx.us

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2022 TJA Detention Officer of the Year

OFFICER HALEY DREW

On behalf of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office, today, I am honored to accept the award of the 2022 Texas Jail Association Detention Officer of the year. I would like to thank the many supervisors and peers that I consider my other family.

I unfortunately was not able to attend the 36th Annual Conference in person to receive this award, due to attending the Police Academy.

When I received the news about this award I was overwhelmed with gratitude, as I can imagine there are thousands of candidates throughout the great state of Texas who deserve this honor. I think we can all agree that 2020 was tough for so many of us, and 2021 brought a whole new set of challenges. It's YOU, the officers, administrators and staff that work day in and day out, who truly deserve the immeasurable acknowledgement.

As a woman, a Christian, a mom, and a wife, I am proud to work in an environment that I am afforded the opportunity to help people. This means also serving as a role model and using my platform to show the world there is so much more to who we are as officers.

A few weeks ago someone asked me why I chose this career..

Without hesitation, the first word that came to my mind is "Compassion". I believe not only in law enforcement, but in life, compassion is essential and should be on the forefront of our minds each day.

As we wrap up National Correctional Officers Week, and I wrap up this message, I will leave you with this: We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

Thank you to the Texas Jail Association for this honor. I will continue my efforts in giving by striving to serve with respect, **ALWAYS PUTTING OTHERS BEFORE SELF.**

• PRESENTED BY THE TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION •

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE JERRY BAGGS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND & 100 CLUB OF CENTRAL TEXAS

September 12, 2022 · Galveston, TX

2022 TJA 2022 Jail Management Issues Conference

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To register, contact: Edwardo Jackson / 512-294-0878 / edwardo.jackson@traviscountytx.gov

Akins Corrections Internship Cadets 2022

by Lieutenant John Barlett, Travis County Sheriff's Office

The Akins Corrections Internship Program was designed to give students insight into the correctional field with a challenging curriculum as well as hands on experience with actual Deputy Sheriffs working in Texas jails. This elite program takes a select few students (10-14) who have met the requirements only offered at Akins High School. The Akins program started working with the Travis County Sheriff's Office Correction's Bureau in 2011.

We schedule a total of twenty-four visits a year for the Akins Cadets to experience work in our correctional facilities. In the first half of the school year, cadets visit the Travis County Jail, Central Booking and Travis County Correctional Complex. In the second half, they visit some of the more specialized sections to include Facilities, Kitchen, Records, Correctional Tactical Unit, Life Safety and the Corrections Security Threat Unit.

These visits last approximately two hours and include hands-on experience working side by side with our correctional officers. During our specialized section visits we give the cadets demonstrations on cell extractions, use of the emergency restraint chair, donning self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) s and maneuvering through our smoke house.

Over the last three years, our staff have continuously stepped up and assisted us anytime we've had the Akins cadets in our facilities to visit. I've witnessed several of our correctional officers and security coordinators swell with pride when speaking to the cadets about their experience working in the Travis County Sheriff's Office.

After the yearlong course is completed, students are certified and eligible to work in Texas jails. During the program students also receive OSHA and CPR certifications. Students prepare for certification required for employment as a security coordinator with Travis County Sheriff's Office. They learn roles and responsibilities as well as relevant rules, regulations, and laws. They also learn defensive tactics, restraint techniques, analyze rehabilitation practices and institutional alternatives.

Last spring, cadets competed in their first TPSA Regional Criminal Justice and earned 1st place in Cell Extraction and 1st in Inmate Processing.

Through our partnership with the Akins High School Criminal Justice Program, we are changing the way students view the correctional profession. We've been able to show them the enormous value a career working as a Travis County Sheriff's Office Correctional Officer has to offer.

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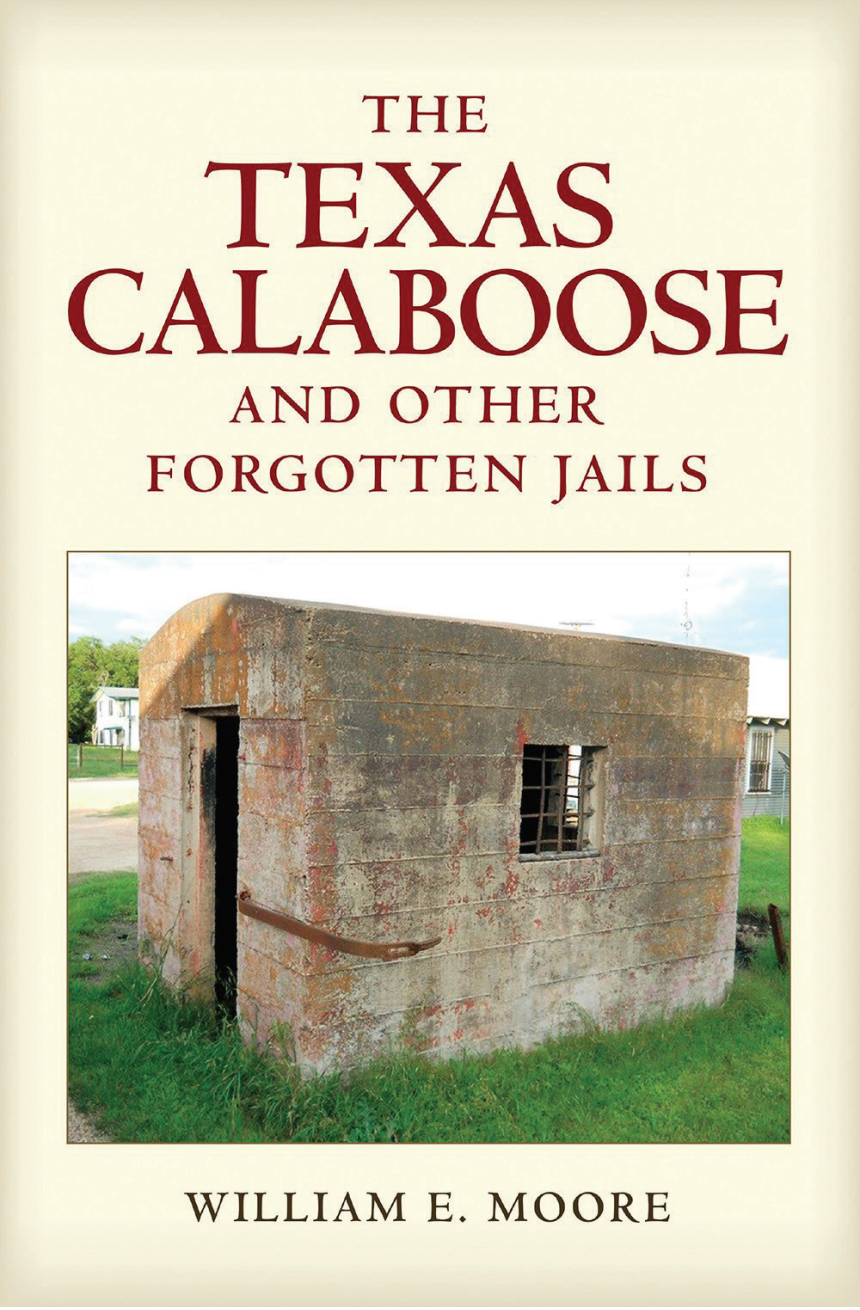
THE CALABOOSE:
A FREQUENTLY OVERLOOKED COMPONENT OF EARLY CONFINEMENT FACILITIES IN TEXAS

by Dan Richard Beto

Review of The Texas Calaboose and Other Forgotten Jails, by William E. Moore. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, (part of the Tarleton State University Southwestern Studies in the Humanities Series, T. Lindsay Baker, General Editor), 2018, 344 pp., $35.00 (cloth).



In the Summer 2007 edition of Key Issues, I reviewed *Wanted: Historic County Jails of Texas,* an excellent book by Edward A. Blackburn, Jr., published in 2006 by Texas A&M University Press. Focusing on the period between 1840 and 1940, Dr. Blackburn, a retired Houston physician, produced what may be described as an encyclopedia of early county jails in the Lone Star State.

In 2018 Texas A&M University Press published yet another book dealing with early confinement facilities in Texas – The Texas Calaboose and Other Forgotten Jails by William E. Moore of Bryan. By way of introduction, the author of this book earned two degrees from Sam Houston State University – a bachelor's degree in geography in 1967 and a Master of Arts degree in English in 1968 – before earning a Master of Arts degree in anthropology from Texas A&M University in 1980. He served honorably in the U. S. Army and is the owner and sole proprietor of Brazos Valley Research Associates, where he is engaged in conducting archeological research. Additional information about the author and his interests may be found at https://www.tinytexasjails.com/, a website that members of the Texas Jail Association and persons possessing an interest in

this unique part of confinement history should find fascinating.

Like the author, I suspect the first time I recall hearing the word "calaboose" was in an old western motion picture, and the origin of which I had no knowledge. Prompted by a question from a friend about the etymology of the word, I consulted several online sources. According to Merriam-Webster:

> *Calaboose had been part of the English language for almost a century when John S. Farmer included the term in his 1889 book Americanisms – Old & New, defining it as "the common gaol or prison." Farmer also made mention of a verb calaboose, meaning "to imprison," but that term was apparently lost in the years between then and now. Calaboose is Spanish in origin; it's from the Spanish word calabozo, meaning "dungeon."*

And according to the Online Etymology Dictionary, the origin of the word calaboose is described as follows:

> *"prison, a common jail or lock-up," 1792, Western and Southwestern American English, from Louisiana French calabouse, from Spanish calabozo "dungeon," probably from Vulgar Latin *calafodium, from pre-Roman *cala "protected place, den" + Latin fodere "to dig" . . .*

Moore also provides information on the origin of the word consistent with Merriam-Webster and, for the purpose of this book, makes a necessary distinction between calabooses and jails; he writes in the introduction:

> *. . . calaboose is simply a word that is synonymous with jail, and applying the label of calaboose to a structure was a decision I had to make using various criteria, with size being paramount. Those structures that I placed in the category of the classic calaboose are one story, typically have one or two cells, and rarely exceeded 300 square feet in size. The jails in Bartlett and Granger are exceptions. They have three cells and are referred to as calabooses even though their footprints are greater than 300 square feet.*

Many of the confinement facilities described in this book were of relatively inexpensive construction, had dirt floors, failed to protect those confined from the elements or had poor ventilation, and were without sanitary facilities or electricity.

In addition to permanently constructed facilities, the book's introduction briefly touches on the subject of portable jails or cages, and provides photographs of two examples.

In the book's first four chapters – a total of 37 pages – the author provides a history of the Texas calaboose, the use of cages and cells, research methods employed in documenting structures still in existence, and construction methods used in creating these confinement facilities and their special features. The brief chapter entitled "Research Methods" was particularly interesting, because it offers an understanding of Moore's painstaking efforts in producing this informative volume as well as identifying many of the references and resources he found useful in bringing this project to fruition.

"Calabooses" – the fifth and longest chapter in the book – contains information about 87 calabooses in Texas, listed alphabetically by city. In addition to a color photograph, descriptive information on each of these 87 structures include: the county in which it is located; the specific location and the owner; approximate date built, if known; size; and its history. The narratives associated with each calaboose contain information about dates of use as a place of confinement, the relocation of the structure from its original site, the various uses it has seen, and restoration efforts. Many of the narratives are enhanced with the inclusion of interviews with knowledgeable area residents.

The sixth chapter is devoted to jails, in which details about 14 are provided, and the subject of the seventh chapter are cages and cells, where 19 are described. Both chapters are laid in the same fashion and contain similar information as that found in the fifth chapter on calabooses.

Following the seven chapters are five helpful appendices. The first three – A through C – are devoted to

general information about calabooses, jails, and cages and cells. The tables found in these appendices provide the following information about each listed structure: town and county of location; material used; square feet; date built; type of floor plan; and site number. Appendix D shows floor plans for calabooses and Appendix E does the same for cages and cells.

This thoroughly researched and easy to read book is concluded with a section containing notes, a comprehensive bibliography, and an index.

The *Texas Calaboose and Other Forgotten Jails* provides a wealth of information about a specific part of Texas history; in addition, it is an outstanding reference book and guide to former confinement facilities in the Lone Star State. This book is also a testament to just how far the criminal justice system has advanced from the conditions and practices described of an earlier time in history. And while we can take pride in the significant progress that has been made, we should never lose sight that our improvement efforts are never finished.

In the book's introduction the author writes: "The calaboose occupied a special niche in early Texas history, and it is the purpose of this book to discuss them in terms of their importance to local communities with emphasis on span of use, distribution across the state, and methods of construction." Without a doubt, William E. Moore has more than satisfied his stated objective, and in doing so he has made a significant contribution to the literature related to Texas history and the field of criminal justice.

Dan Richard Beto, a life member of the Texas Jail Association, spent more than four decades in the criminal justice system. He is a past President of the Texas Probation Association and the National Association of Probation Executives, and was the founding Executive Director of the Correctional Management Institute of Texas at Sam Houston State University.

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THE HISTORY BEHIND THE JACK CRUMP SCHOLARSHIP

Mr. Jack E. Crump was a long time Executive Director of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards, from 1988 through the year 2000. He initially gained jail management experience in both Bexar County and Travis County. In April of 1990, Jack became a Director for the Texas Jail Association. In January of 1992, due to a ruling from the Attorney General's Office Jack resigned his position as Director. In resigning he explained that the Texas Jail Association is regarded as 'Trade Commission' which creates a conflict of interest for anyone working for the Commission on Jail Standards to hold a board position.

Nonetheless after his resignation, Mr. Crump continued to support the Texas Jail Association by drafting editorials in Key Issues, the newsletter of the Texas Jail Association. He consistently updated the membership with his column "Commission News." The column included court rulings, trends that were being observed by the jail commission, changes in jail standards, and much more. The column ran each quarter while he served as the Executive Director which kept jail administrators, and jail staff informed about things that were happening throughout the state.

For his work to develop the Texas Jail Association, especially in its formative years, Mr. Jack Crump was the first recipient of the Texas Jail Association Hall of Fame Award. On August 3, 2000, at the retirement reception of Mr. Jack Crump, Texas Jail Association President Mike Hopper presented Jack Crump with a resolution, honoring his commitment to TJA, and established the Jack E. Crump Scholarship award. The award will allow qualified members of the association to receive jail training, without cost to their county in Jack's name.

The TJA Board of Directors will began offering the Jack Crump Scholarship to a qualifying member in May 2023. The application will be available on the TJA website. More information will be disseminated after the first of the year.

Training Report

TJA is committed to bringing you the best and most relevant training possible for the current challenges facing Texas jails. Your training committee will be working diligently to meet those needs. We encourage all members to express any training needs that the association may be able to assist with.

Chair, Johnny Jaquess, 2nd Vice President jjaquess@co.collin.tx.us	
Edwardo Jackson, 1st Vice President edwardo.jackson@traviscountytx.org	Rowdee Edwards rjedwards@collincountytx.gov
Abby Belangeri, Treasurer abelangeri@brazoscountytx.org	Erica Hernandez erica.hernandez@co.hays.tx.us
Alyse Ferguson, Member-at-Large	Ann-Marie Mitchell, Member-at-Large

Molly Jo Simonton-Garcia, daughter of Past President Scott Simonton, received the Past President Scholarship for Spring 2022.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!

Visit the TJA Website for more info.

Past President's Scholarship

The Texas Jail Association offers scholarships to eligible students pursuing an academic degree at a college or university. These scholarships are provided in honor of all Past Presidents of the Texas Jail Association. The scholarships are awarded for the Spring semester and Fall semester of each year.

Deadlines
Spring 2023 Semester - December 1, 2022
Fall 2023 Semester - July 1, 2023

Jerry Baggs Memorial Scholarship

The Jerry Baggs Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to an active member of the association that is serving his or her county in a mid-management position up to Assistant Jail Administrator. The scholarship is for tuition to a class of the National Jail Leadership Command Academy (NJLCA). Tuition includes all class materials, lodging, and all meals/snacks). The sending agency will be required to provide transportation for the selected participant to Huntsville.

SO, YOU WANT TO BE A JAILER?

by: Martin Gonzales, TJA President 2018–2019

"So, you want to be a jailer?" he asked as he sat in the maroon, dark leather chair. He sat next to me and draped his big arm over the back of the chair and turned his body to me. I replied with a confident "Yes sir!" He nodded his head for what seemed like forever as my sweaty palms seemed to be drenched and hot. "Ok", he replied. He looked over to Bryan Crouch seated in front of us, then looked back at me. "Where you from?" he inquired. I started to feel a knot in my throat that I quickly shook off and responded, "From Poteet Sir." "Who are your parents, son?" he prodded. I told him my family name that still reside in Poteet and once again he looked towards Bryan Crouch. He stood up and put his right hand out for me to shake. I stood up as a gentleman's rule and out of sheer respect for this legend of a man. I shook his hand and he said, "Alright, we'll put you on but Bryan's got to do some paperwork and make sure you pass a background check and your drug test. We don't pay much but it's a steady check and you'll have insurance. You ok with that?" My response flew out before I could think, "Yes sir, thank you very much for this chance. You won't regret it". You won't regret it, what a phrase. How was I to know that? That was a little cocky, don't you think? I was a 20 year old kid that didn't yet have a clue what was in store for me and I had the audacity to say, "You won't regret it" to Tommy Williams? Tommy Williams that was a Deputy Sheriff when deputy

sheriffs were the only law. Tommy Williams that saw this agency grow from 5 to over 80 employees in his span as the Sheriff from 1973 to 2012. Do the math kids, that is 40 years of serving Atascosa County as the Sheriff. He was the Sheriff before I was born!

The Bryan Crouch I mention here was the jail administrator for 23 years. He served one sheriff and one sheriff only. Bryan Crouch was a fountain of information when it came to business, service, loyalty and especially the jail business. He was a shining example to jails across the state. Mr Crouch retired from his role with the county at the age of 80. Most of us can't wait until retirement age, Mr Crouch exceeded that. Although he was already retired from the Air Force as a Lt Col way before he arrived. He also owned and operated a department store prior to signing on with the county. He continued to contact me when I became the Jail Administrator, lending me secrets of the trade. He and I speak to each other often as he has just celebrated his 94th trip around the sun. He is the Mick to my Rocky. He was a shining example..... That's twice I have said that, I know. The example? He retired at the age of 80 because of his loyalty to Tommy Williams. He served because he was needed, even though he would still be paid the same if he sat in his rocking chair at home, instead of an office stressing out about the next fire he would have to put out. He didn't have to stay that long but he endured. That's a shining example (three times) of loyalty and sacrifice. I often wondered why Mr Crouch was around so long. Man, I thought "If I had the chance to retire, I would". That thought was just as smart as "You won't regret it". Service before pleasure, sacrifice over easy street. That's the moral here and Mr. Crouch was the epitome of that and he didn't just crow it, he lead by example.

Technology Report

As your Technology Committee Chairperson, I am excited to see the number of attendees using the Crowd Compass app. We are continuing to see that number rise each conference, especially since we are pushing more and more to technology.

Users	Engagements	Minutes Used	Sessions	Game Participants
474	26.3K	21.5K	7.67k	58

I am excited about having the Vendor Hall game now in the App and I look forward to seeing more members getting involved with our Conference App. Our winner was Ryan Potts of Harris County. Your technology committee is working hard for you to keep providing the best quality app for your, best experience at our future conferences. If you have any questions, or suggestions, please contact me.

Rowdee Edwards, TJA Director

The Chaplain's Corner

Don Moore, Shelby County Sheriff's Office

It is an honor to serve once again as the Chaplain for TJA. Thank you, Becky Caffey for selecting me to serve.

Mowing, something many hate to do yet others find pleasure in. I was one that used to despise mowing the yard/ pasture. I would look at it and think," this is going to take so much time." Most of us would much rather do anything else but mow. I remember looking at the pasture and thinking "I will never get this done." Once started, I would make a round or two and look back and see all the tall grass and weeds and there was still so much to do that I couldn't tell if I had done anything at all. One day while mowing a huge field, I had been mowing for about six hours, I looked back out over the field and saw what all had been accomplished. It looked amazing, so green and beautiful. I turned the engine off and sat and cried. You see, I started to reflect back on my life. I couldn't see if I made a difference in any of the jobs I have had; or if I made a difference in the lives of the people I have known. I realized that day that we may not always see the difference we make in the lives of people or our jobs until later. You may have to work a long time before you notice your life accomplishments but hang in there keep pushing forward and one day you can look back at your life and career and see that you indeed have made a difference. By the way I now love mowing.

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36TH ANNUAL TJA CONFERENCE

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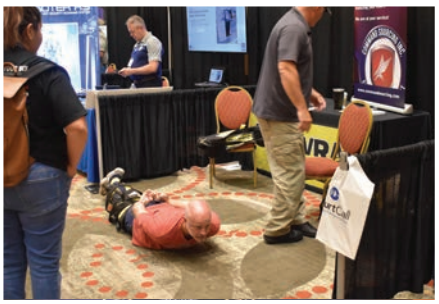
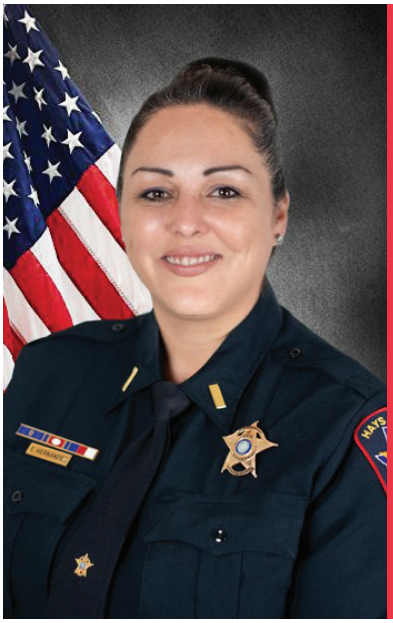


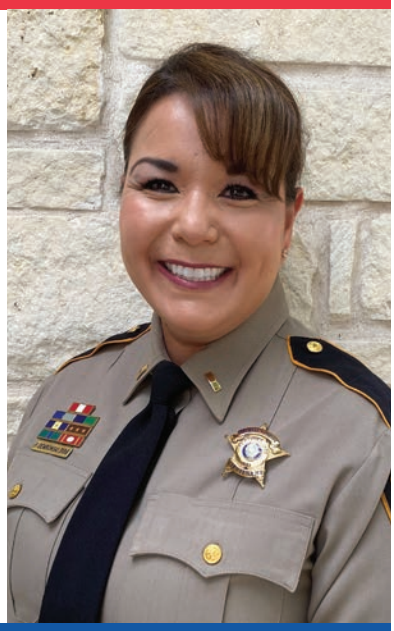


I am looking forward to serving the association and its members. When we work together, not as members of different departments, but as members of one community, I know that we can accomplish great things. I am deeply humbled by your support. Thank you for this tremendous honor.

— Erica Hernandez

I am deeply humbled and thank all of you who took the time to vote in this year's Board of Directors election. It is an honor to have been elected 3rd Vice President. I will continue to serve the members of this amazing organization with wholehearted commitment. We had an amazing week of training and networking, and it was great to meet so many of you in person. It does not matter what size our jail is, we all have something in common. Our jailers are the foundation and heart of corrections and I encourage everyone to share what they learned with their peers. I am available to all the members. My email is on the TJA website; please feel free to reach out to me.

— Frances Dembowski



I would like to sincerely thank everyone who voted for me this year. As a Board Member for the Texas Jail Association, I understand that I am a voice for all counties in Texas. I am happy to serve all of you and I am looking forward to working towards expanding the reach of the Texas Jail Association. We are blessed to be able to work in this profession. There are only a few segments of society whose sole purpose is to make our communities better; such is the profession we have chosen. Thank you for your confidence in me. I look forward to serving you all in the upcoming years.

— Ryan Braus

Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) Report

Correctional Populations in the United States, 2020

In late March 2022 the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), a division of the U. S. Department of Justice, released a new report – Correctional Populations in the United States, 2020 – Statistical Tables.

This report summarizes data on populations supervised by probation or parole agencies and those incarcerated in state or federal prisons or in the custody of local jails. The report presents data on the number of persons supervised by adult correctional systems from 2010 to 2020 and on their correctional status (i.e., in prison, in local jail, on parole, or on probation).

At yearend 2020, an estimated 5,500,600 persons were under the supervision of adult correctional systems in the United States, 11% fewer than at the same time the previous year (adjusted for persons on dual correctional statuses).

The decline in the correctional population during 2020 was due to decreases in both the community supervision population (down 276,700, or 6.6%) and the incarcerated population (down 294,400, or 18.9%). About 7 in 10 persons under correctional supervision were supervised in the community (3,890,400) at yearend 2020, while about 3 in 10 (1,691,600) were incarcerated in a state or federal prison or local jail.

From 2010 to 2020, the correctional population decreased 22.4% (down 1,588,400 persons). From 2010 to 2020, the decrease in the probation population accounted for 63.1% of the total decline in the correctional population.

This report by BJS Statisticians Rich Kluckow and Zhen Zeng is available at the following link: www.bit.ly/3v21Shd

Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) Report

BJS Releases Reports on Mortality in State and Federal Prisons and Local Jails

On December 1, 2021, the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) released Mortality in State and Federal Prisons, 2001–2019 – Statistical Tables and Mortality in Local Jails, 2000–2019 – Statistical Tables. These two reports, prepared by BJS Statistician E. Ann Carson, Ph.D., present detailed statistical tables on mortality in state and federal prisons and in local jails. The reports provide information on cause of death; decedent characteristics, such as age, sex, and race or ethnicity; and mortality rates of inmate populations, compared to the general U. S. adult population. The reports are based on BJS's annual Mortality in Correctional Institutions data collection, which obtained information on persons who died while in the physical custody of local jails or state departments of corrections between 2000 and 2019.

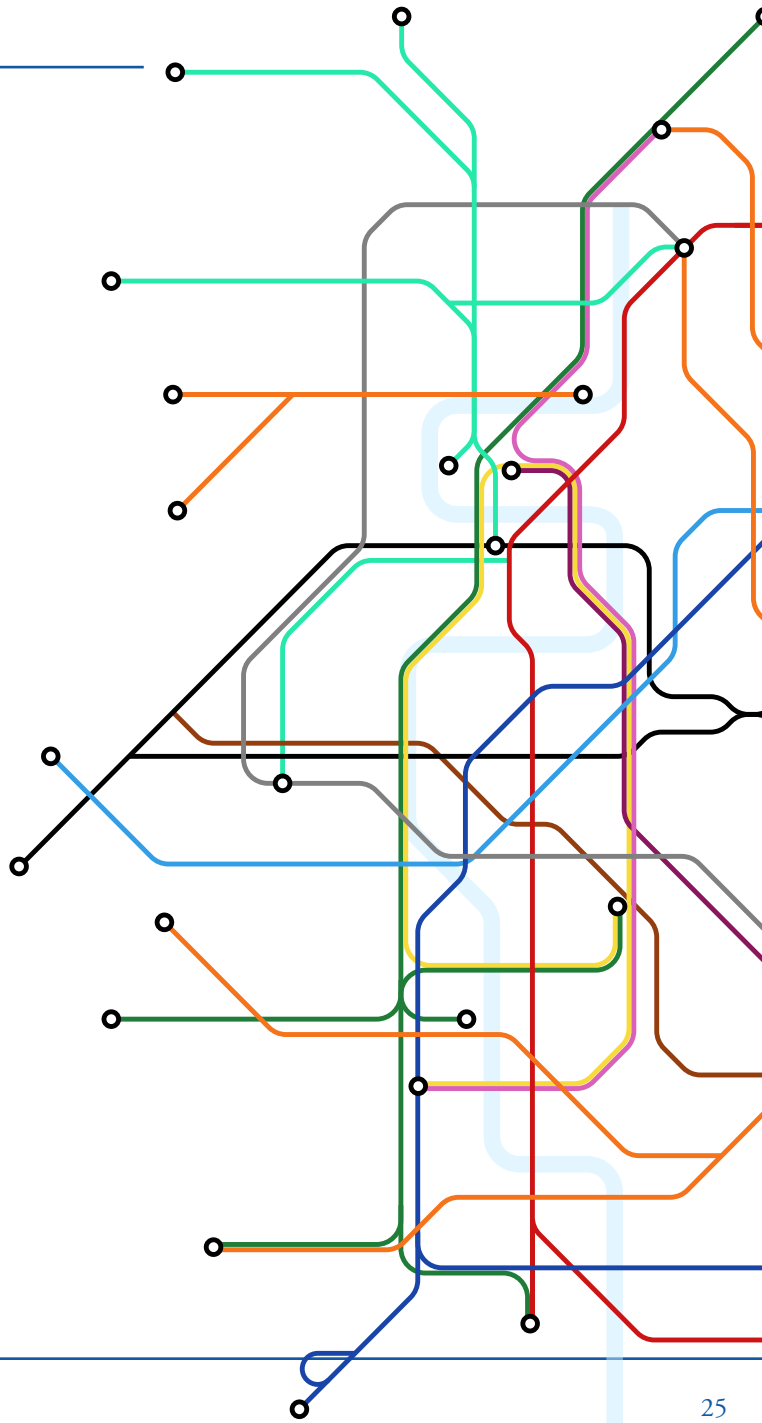
Mortality in State and Federal Prisons, 2001–2019 –

pay less than $70 a year for a training site membership? (Such as www.virtualacademy.com) Skip the name-brand coffee for a month and put those funds where they can do you the best. Improve Yourself!

Once you have obtained your Basic Jailer's License through TCOLE, it takes additional training along with time in service for you to advance through the proficiency levels. All your continuing education hours add up and can help offset the years in service required to step up to a different level. It takes 4 years of service and 800 hours of training (including certain required classes) to advance to Intermediate Jailer, but only 2 years of service if you have 1200 hours of training. That may sound like a lot but believe me it's easier than you think to start accruing hours.

By the way, I am neither paid by nor do I represent any of the websites I referenced in this article. But I have utilized all of them for training along with other resources. There are plenty of other options out there too, use them! In less than 4 years at my Sheriff's Office I have completed over 1850 training hours. It can be done.

Aren't you worth the effort?



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What's Happening Around the State?

Brazos County

The Brazos County Sheriff's Office would like to announce newly promoted Sergeants and Corporals.

On February 17, 2022, Corporal **James Bennatt** was promoted to Sergeant and assigned to the Intake/Release Division. James Bennatt joined the Brazos County Sheriff's Office July 12, 2012 as a detention officer. Sgt. Bennatt has served as a Corporal, a Special Housing Unit (SHU) officer, and the Senior Officer on his shift.

Congratulations to Officer **Jack Cross**, Officer **Matthew Little**, Officer **Sidney Lyle**, and Officer **Joseph Ruland** on their promotions to Corporal. Jack Cross joined the Brazos County Sheriff's Office in October 2018, Matthew Little in May 2013, Sidney Lyle in January 2015, and Joseph Ruland in January 2017 as Detention Officers.

Congratulations to Officer **Erin McCormick** on her promotion to Corporal and assignment as a Corporal in the Jail Division. Erin McCormick joined the Brazos County Sheriff's Office July 2019 as a detention officer. During her time as a detention officer, she has successfully learned how to work all housing units, Central Control, and the SHU, which allowed her to be a valuable asset to the jail floor and her fellow coworkers.

Congratulations to Officer **Dekedrick Anderson** on his promotion to Corporal and assignment as a Corporal in the Jail Division. Dekedrick Anderson joined the Brazos County Sheriff's Office 09/28/2020 as a detention officer. Cpl. Anderson has served as a Detention Officer, a Special Housing Unit (SHU) officer, and he has assisted Booking/Intake.

What's Happening Around the State?

Congratulations to Officer **Erin McCormick** on her promotion to Corporal and assignment as a Corporal in the Jail Division. Erin McCormick joined the Brazos County Sheriff's Office July 2019 as a detention officer. During her time as a detention officer, she has successfully learned how to work all housing units, Central Control, and the SHU, which allowed her to be a valuable as-

set to the jail floor and her fellow coworkers. Congratulations to Officer **Dekedrick Anderson** on his promotion to Corporal and assignment as a Corporal in the Jail Division. Dekedrick Anderson joined the Brazos County Sheriff's Office 09/28/2020 as a detention officer. Cpl. Anderson has served as a Detention Officer, a Special Housing Unit (SHU) of-

ficer, and he has assisted Booking/Intake.

Congratulations to Officer **Tra'varis Brown** on his promotion to Corporal and assignment as a Corporal in the Jail Division. Tra'varis Brown joined the Brazos County Sheriff's Office 09/23/2019 as a detention officer. Cpl. Brown has served as a Detention Officer, a Special Housing Unit (SHU) officer, he has assisted Booking/Intake, and most recently FTO.

Congratulations to Officer **Gregory Fennix** on his promotion to Sergeant and assignment as a Sergeant in the Jail Division. This promotion is effective on November 27, 2021. Sergeant Fennix joined the Brazos County Sheriff's Office in 2019 as a detention officer. Sergeant Fennix has served as a Jail officer and FTO.

Collin County

On January 28, 2022, the Collin County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with the Collin County Commissioner's Court, participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for

What's Happening Around the State?

phase one of a multi-phase jail construction project at the Collin County Detention Facility.

The expansion will include a new admission/release area, vehicular sallyport, 180 bed orientation housing unit and corridor to the main compound. These improvements will assist in jail operations from intake to release by providing more resources and space for both staff and inmates.

Construction on this phase is expected to be completed in approximately 24 months. We would like to introduce Lieutenant **Rowdee Edwards**. Lt. Edwards comes to the Collin County Sheriff's Office from Hockley County Sheriff's Office.

He will be overseeing our Training and Compliance department. He is a graduate of the National Jail Leadership Academy (Class President) and serves as Director for the Texas Jail Association.

We are excited to have him join our team in the Detention Facility.

Lubbock County

Officer Christopher Keen was recognized for Employee of the month for January 2022.

After serving over 22 years with the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office, **Captain Ronald Jenkins** retired. Jenkins served over 43 years in Law Enforcement, serving the communities of West Texas!

What's Happening Around the State?

On January 27, 2022, Sheriff Rowe announced the promotions of three Sergeants and one Lieutenant. **Edna Moya** who was promoted to Lieutenant, Corporal **Martinez**, Corporal **Durham** and Corporal **Daughenbaugh**, were all promoted to sergeant assigned to the Detention Center.

Smith County

Elsa Green began her career at the Smith County Sheriff's Office February 1, 2002. I first met Elsa at a local business in Whitehouse, Texas. I asked her if she was looking for a career change. I was trying to find a secretary for the Jail Administration.

Elsa served as the Secretary for 5 years and later received her Peace Officers license and TCOLE Instructors license. She served in the Training Division, Training Sergeant, Mental Health Deputy and Administrative Lieutenant. Lt. Green has served the Citizens of Smith County with dignity and respect for 20 years. Congratulation on your career in law enforcement and the professionalism you have displayed in the field of corrections.

Tarrant County

Chief Deputy Emily Pedigo started her career in 1998 with the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office after graduating from Burleson High School. Chief Pedigo began working at TCSO when she was 18 years old as a clerk inside the jail and then as a Detention Officer, when the age requirement was lowered. Chief Pedigo quickly began to take an interest in Law Enforcement and enrolled in the University of North Texas Police Academy. Chief Pedigo had a strong desire to learn more about the department and see what the department had to offer. Chief Pedigo promoted to a Dispatcher. While working in Dispatch, Chief Pedigo graduated from the Police Academy and went on to work Patrol at the age of 22.
During her time in Patrol, Chief Pedigo worked as a Field Training Officer, Sergeant and Lieutenant. Chief Pedigo has spent 5 years working in Internal Affairs, both as a Sergeant and Lieutenant. With her desire to still learn more, Chief Pedigo became a Captain returning to the Detention Bureau

What's Happening Around the State?

in 2012, where she began her career. While serving as a Detention Captain, Chief Pedigo supervised operations in Housing, Booking and Support Services. In 2016, Chief Pedigo was appointed as the Acting Chief Deputy over Judicial Services by Sheriff Dee Anderson. In 2017, Chief Pedigo returned to the rank of Captain under Sheriff Bill E. Waybourn.

In May of 2022, Sheriff Waybourn appointed Chief Pedigo to Chief Deputy over Investigations. In her current position she oversees Criminal Investigations, Crime Scene, Warrants, Human Trafficking Task Force, Tarrant Regional Auto Crimes Task Force and Victim Assistance.

Chief Pedigo is licensed as a Master Peace Officer, Master Jailer, Telecommunications Officer and Basic Instructor through Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. Chief Pedigo is a graduate of the National Jail Leadership Command Academy class #31 and of the FBI-LEEDA Trilogy Award.

Washington County

The Washington County Sheriff's Office recognized at the Western Regional Jail Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona for promoting advances in jail and detention facility operations. Washington County Jail Chief Deputy Eric Hensley received the Western Region Corrections Professionals Award for Detention Facility Innovation. The National Institute for Jail Operations says the Detention Facility Innovation Award is given to detention facilities that demonstrate "exceptional achievement in developing and/or enhancing a particular aspect or feature in the facility or in the operations of the facility in line with the mission of the sheriff's office during the past year." Washington County Sheriff Otto Hanak nominated the jail and Hensley for the award after Hensley, assisted by local MHMR staff and Texas A&M University Tele-Mental Care staff, designed policies and procedures to provide on-site counseling services at the jail 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

What's Happening Around the State?

Tarrant County

Chief Deputy **Henry Reyes** has 23 years of jail operations experience and serves as the Assistant Jail Administrator of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office.

Henry is certified as a jail professional through the American Jail Association (AJA), American Correctional Association (ACA), and National Institute for Jail Operations (NIJO) and is a DOJ certified PREA auditor.

He is a graduate of the National Jail Leadership Command Academy #28, ELITE #1, and FBI National Academy #279. He served on AJA's Veteran's Committee and the Jail Management Certification Committee (JMCC) and has been elected to serve a 3 year term on AJA's Board of Directors.

Additionally, he has spent much of his professional and academic career helping professionalize the field of corrections and examining the impact working in jails has on officers' physical, mental, and spiritual health.

Henry is actively involved in several civic organizations and believes in transparency in jail operations and public safety. Henry holds a Master's in Public Administration, a Master's in HR management, Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, and an Associate's degree in Mathematics.

Henry will be co-chairing the Corrections Workplace Committee. The Corrections Workplace Committee will address human resource issues such as recruitment, selection, and retention of personnel; affirmative action concerns; and career development opportunities; develop relevant training opportunities to bring to the AJA's annual and conference; provide subject matter expertise to other committees regarding human resource issues such as recruitment, selection, and retention of personnel; affirmative action concerns; and career development opportunities; work with AJA's Gender Equity Committee; work with the conference planning committee to develop the framework related to staff wellness related to recruitment/retention and resiliency and other HR issues which affect the workforce in the nation's jails; and Evaluate equity, inclusion and diversity and any supporting data on the charges of this committee.

What's Happening Around the State?

Travis County

Major Sally Pena retired January 31, 2022, more than 30 years of service at the Travis County Sheriff's Office (TCSO). The agency's first female Jail Administrator, Major Pena literally grew up at TCSO, dedicating her entire career to service within its jail facilities.

In 1991, she was hired as a Corrections Officer, and worked her way up through the ranks to Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain and ultimately to Major/Jail Administrator in 2018. In her impressive 30 years here at TCSO, she worked in almost every unit and building within the Corrections Bureau. That list includes Central Booking, Buildings 3-12, Records & Classification, Travis County Jail (downtown), Prisoner Transportation Unit and Corrections Security Threat Unit.

As she promoted into higher and higher ranks, she was routinely tasked with changing the culture to revitalize the staff in each building she supervised because her passion and wholehearted commitment to TCSO, her peers and the inmate population was that contagious.

Peña is a Graduate of the National Jail Leadership Command Academy and the Austin police Department's Westpoint Leadership Academy. She holds Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Master Peace Officer and Master Jailer Certifications and is an FBI-LEEDA Leadership Trilogy Award Recipient.

Known for her very direct approach, she never forgot where she came from, and connected on a personal level with employees across the ranks. She served as a mentor and role model to countless staff, and the depth and breadth of her experiential knowledge is hard to match. She will be greatly missed.

TCSO celebrated Pena's last day with a retirement parade around the grounds of the Travis County Correctional Complex. Tricked out with a DJ and two Lieutenants serving as MCs, the float literally traced the path of her illustrious career. As the rowdy parade approached each building, MCs recalled Pena's time and experiences within it. Employees lined the streets, offering their warm wishes and thanks. The event culminated in a special surprise; retirees who worked with her in Central Booking greeted her with great appreciation and a healthy dose of ribbing. Oh, and of course, there was a pinata!

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