KEY ISSUES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE

TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION

Vol. IX, No. 4 Fall 2006

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President, Danny Downes

This year is slipping away quickly. By the time this issue reaches you, we will have gone through all of the painful recollections of 9/11. For some, this day is more painful than for others, but nonetheless a day that changed who we are and what we do as Americans. We will have had troops in Afghanistan for five years and in Iraq for nearly four years. I ask that each one of you, as you read this, take a moment and remember our troops serving abroad to show your appreciation for the sacrifices they make for us every day.

The Texas Jail Association is a thriving organization as evidenced by the recent Jail Management Issues Conference in South Padre Island. We had 178 attendees and 29 vendors (a new record) present at this conference. A good time was had by all. Participants were treated to first class training opportunities; a chance to network with old friends and make new ones; a look at vendors demonstrating the latest in jail equipment, technology and services; lots of good food; and some lively entertainment to help everybody enjoy the tropical climate of beautiful South Padre Island. There may be some pictures in this issue to help explain just what I am talking about!

I would like to thank Past President Kelly Rowe, Carla Stone, Robert Green, Mary Farley and the rest of the Board of Directors for all of the hard work performed to make the Jail Management Issues Conference a success. I would, of course, be remiss if I were not to mention Executive Director Sharese

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT cont'd

Hurst and her assistant Vanessa Farmer who, as usual, brought off all of the details of this conference without a hitch.

The upcoming regional trainings with the Texas Commission on Jail Standards and the Texas Association of Counties are in the final stages of preparation. Many of your TJA Board Members, along with representatives from TCJS and TAC will be visiting different areas of the state serving as facilitators for these programs. I urge you to support this process by looking for the locations and dates in this newsletter and making your plans to attend.

I know some individuals may be reading this who are not TJA members. I will address this portion of my letter to those who have not chosen to join the membership of the best jail association in the United States! I have been and I will always be a passionate supporter of this Association and I would like to recruit you as a member of the Texas Jail Association. Although our membership is considerable, it is only a tiny percentage of the men and women throughout the State of Texas who devote their time and efforts to the profession dedicated to the custody, care and control of those incarcerated in our county jails. As a member of the Texas Jail Association, not only do you get to enjoy the benefits of membership, but you can rest assured that you will be heard as part of the voice of the future in corrections. Nobody can deny that the leadership, past and present, of this Association is a force that is recognized and respected throughout our industry. Besides, what other nationally recognized professional organizations can you become a member of for a mere $20 a year?

I will leave you with this thought. As we go through our daily juggling act of issues such as health care delivery, MRSA, jail overcrowding, staffing shortages, aging facilities, new construction, security and safety of the public, staff and inmates, etc., we sometimes forget to show our appreciation to the workhorse of our industry, the detention officer. Without this stalwart group of officers acting as the glue that holds our county jails together where would we be? I would like to take this opportunity to thank all officers for the job they do and assure them they are appreciated more than they will ever know.

Danny Downes

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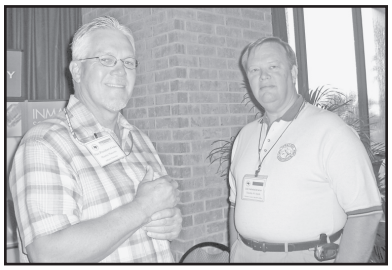
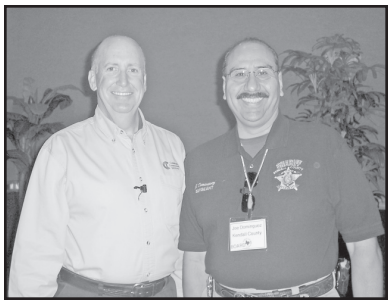
TEXAS JAIL ISSUES
AUGUST 21-24, 2006
by
Danny Downes

Texas Jail Association President **Danny Downes** opened this year's Jail Management Issues Conference Monday morning after the invocation by Association Chaplain **Tim Smith**. President Downes welcomed everyone to the conference, introduced the Board of Directors and turned the floor over to Executive Director **Sharese Hurst** who delivered a brief welcome and orientation. She then introduced **Doug Dretke**. Mr. Dretke recently joined the Correctional Management Institute of Texas as Executive Director. He previously served as the TDCJ DirectorofCorrectional Institutions Division. Mr. Dretke took a few minutes to introduce himself to the group.



The first speaker at the conference, **Mark Warren,** spoke on *Strategic Planning & Visioning* in the morning and came back Monday afternoon with *Communication from the Heart of a Leader* and *The One Minute Apology.* Mr. Warren was well received, as he is a polished speaker with a delivery that keeps everyone on the edge of his seat. Monday evening everyone enjoyed drinks and appetizers at the poolside "Welcome Reception" provided by the host hotel, Radisson Resort South Padre Island.

Tuesday was an all-day affair with **Bob Thornton,** who spoke on work place safety during his topic *Creating Quality Safety Training: An Administrator's Handbook***.** Mr. Thornton is a well qualified expert on officer safety in the law enforcement area. He has numerous publications on staff and officer safety to his credit.



Wednesday began with the **Texas Commission on Jail Standards'** latest version of *Current Issues*. The Commission staff discussed jail issues and answered questions posed by the participants. After lunch on Wednesday, **Carmella Smith** from the Texas Association of Counties presented *Supervising, Retaining & Motivating the Next Generation***.** She offered techniques to deal with the varied generations we are dealing with today. Wednesday evening everyone donned his favorite Hawaiian attire and enjoyed a "Hawaiian" style luau, made complete with a full meal, cocktails and Polynesian dancers.

Rounding out the week and finishing up the Conference Thursday morning we were very fortunate to have **Steve Chalender** with the Texas Association of Counties speak on *Risky Business.* This presentation has been presented at other locations around the state and is always popular with the participants. Finally,

the conference came to an end and door prizes were passed out as everybody prepared for the trip home.

All good things must come to an end, but not before we thank those behind the scenes. Second Vice-President **Robert Green** and the **Board of Directors** of the Texas Jail Association put together a great conference for the membership. As usual **Sharese Hurst**, assisted by **Vanessa Farmer**, kept the show on track with attention to all of the details necessary to have a successful conference. The staff at the Radisson Resort was exceptional, as usual, in providing help whenever it was requested. Lest we not forget that **Carmella Smith** and **Steve Chalendar,** with Texas Association of Counties, were on hand again to provide audio/visual support. Thanks for another successful conference in South Padre. See you next year!

MEMBERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In an effort to promote membership, the Texas Jail Association (TJA) is in the process of instituting a scholarship fund by which officers interested in becoming members can receive assistance with membership fees. The program will serve two purposes:

(1) Provide a vendor with valuable advertisement and recognition for their services and

(2) offer the means by which smaller counties can receive TJA information and provide officers in these counties with the opportunity of receiving the training in various correctional fields.

TJA has requested contributions from vendors throughout the state in order to develop the scholarship fund. The agencies and companies that have supported us throughout the years have played an integral role in the success of the TJA conferences. Their continued support is needed for the success of the program. Vendors contributing to the scholarship fund will be recognized in our quarterly news bulletin and at the TJA conferences.

Vendors interested in sponsoring members may contact Mary Farley at (254) 933-5783 or email: mary.farley@co.bell.tx.us.

JIM WHITE MEMORIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

by

Cheryl White Mynar

Jim White Memorial Law Enforcement Scholarship winner Corporal Sharri Pyburn

I am pleased to announce the recipient of the Jim White Memorial Law Enforcement Scholarship was once again Corporal **Sharri Pyburn** of the McLennan County Sheriff's Office.

Sharri has been with the McLennan County Sheriff's Office for over 11 years and is a member of TJA. She was a jailer for eight years and worked in the Bond office for another two years. She was promoted to the rank of Corporal in August 2004.

Sharri works full time and is the single parent of an 8 year old son. Sharri holds a certificate in License Chemical Dependency Counseling and a Degree in Legal Assistant from El Paso Community College.

Sharri is currently attending McLennan Community College pursuing a Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice. With all that, she still carries a 3.70 GPA!!

We are proud of her accomplishments and wish her well in her future endeavors.

NUMEROUS DOOR PRIZES WERE WON AT THE JMI CONFERENCE

What a great way to end the summer! Twenty-nine vendors throughout the nation either exhibited, sponsored an event, or both at the 2006 Jail Management Issues Conference. Numerous exhibitors donated door prizes to be won by TJA members. The winners were as follows:

Bryan Crouch from Atascosa County, **Gary Pinkerton** from Smith County, & **Jill McCauley** from Upshur County won $25.00 each from Portland Security.

Roberto Giron from Cameron County & **George Miller** from Jefferson County each won 2 tickets to Schlitterbahn which were donated by the South Padre Island Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Kenneth Hammack from Polk County won an embroidered bag from TJA.

James Kirk from Civigenics won a Dolphin Watch from the South Padre Convention & Visitor's Bureau.

The following participants won a TJA Anniversary briefcase from TJA: **Bryan Crouch**, **Joseph Johnson**, **Martin Gonzalez** from Atascosa County; **Cary Berger** from Bandera County; **Alfred Brown**, **Diana DeFord**, **Sarina Mauro** from Bell County; **Debbie Stennett**, **Laura Delgado**, **Shirlee Spang-Filoteo** from Bexar County; **David Drosche** from Brazos County; **Tim Smith** from Calhoun County; **Gabriel Limon**, **Gilbert Flores**, **John Perez**, **Lisa Fletcher**, **Roberto Giron** from Cameron County; **Amy Lanier** from Collin County; **Ronald Green**, **Rose Sanchez** from DeWitt County, **June Graves, Lorey Norman** from Fannin County, **Domingo Sanchez**, **Santos Aguilar** from Gillespie County, **Jose Perez**, **Jose Villarreal** from Hidalgo County, **Dorothy Gutierrez**, **Noel Benavides** from Jim Wells County, **Cody Scott** from Lubbock County, **Brent Phillips,** and **Carlton Laster**, **Kenneth Fuqua**, **Lisa Severns**, **Martha Nivens** from Wise County.

Jesse Montalvo from Atascosa County won a High Sierra Bag from Securus Technologies.

Kenneth Hammack from Polk County won a Photo CD of the happenings at the conference from the Texas Association of Counties.

The following participants won a Portfolio from TJA: **Israel Lopez**, **Jesse Montalvo**, **Martin Gonzalez**, **Sherry Powell**, **Tommy Williams** from Atascosa County, **Allen Tucker** from Bandera County, **Ryan Blankemeier**, **Jason Dunivent**, **Mary Farley**, **Cheryl Materne**, **Edwin Pacheo**, **Mary Williams** from Bell County, **Lydia Bledsoe** from Blanco County, **Charlie Salinas** from Brooks County, **Veronica Garcia** from Calhoun County, **Carlos Azua** from Cameron County, **Amy Lanier** from Collin County, **Tim Rich** from Denton County, **Shelly McCarn** from Gray County, **Sheila Rathfon**, **Tom Worsham** from Grayson County, **Jose Perez** from Hidalgo County, **Sandra Salas** from Jim Wells County, **Jerry Baggs** from Lubbock County, **Kenneth Hammack** from Polk County, **Mike Towns** from Shelby County, **Carceyn Chalender** from Williamson County, and **Jessica Sims** from Wise County.

Andrew Alwine from Tom Green County won a Shotgun from Digital Solutions.

Lorey Norman from Fannin County won a Sound System from ARAMARK. **Robert Green** from Montgomery County won a Texas Rails Picture from Lone Star Commissary.

Kimberly White from Coryell County won a Tour of the Island from the South Padre Convention & Visitor's Bureau.

Carlos Azua, **Gilbert Flores** from Cameron County, **Kenneth Green** from Coryell County, & **Mary Smithey**, **Naomi Laque** from Wilson County won a TJA Anniversary T-Shirt donated by TJA Board Member Michael Ganzer.

Sandra Salas from Jim Wells County won an umbrella donated by the Radisson Resort.

The following participants won prized donated by Miller Uniforms:

Terrisa Candelaria from Midland County won a Blauer Windstopper Sweater;

Tim Smith from Calhoun County won a 5.11 Denim Undercover Jacket; **Billy King** from Wilson County won a 5.11 Hat; **Mary Farley** from Bell County won a 5.11 Watch; **Tom Worsham** from Grayson County won a 5.11 Thermos; **Michael Dotson** from Burleson County won a 5.11 Polo Shirt**; Rachelle Arrington** from Kendall County won her choice of anything out of the Blauer catalog; **Israel Lopez** from Atascosa County won a 5.11 Casual Monterey Undercover Jacket; **Kenneth Duhon** from Jefferson County won a 5.11 Hat; **Ronny Dodson** from Brewster County won a Blauer Fleece Jacket w/Zip-Off Sleeves; **Richard Miller** from Jim Wells County won a 5.1 Pen & Pencil Set and; **Kenneth Hawthorne** from Polk County won a 5.11 Mug.

THANK YOU TO OUR VENDORS
JAIL MANAGEMENT ISSUES CONFERENCE 2006

by
Karl Wiess

I wanted to thank all the vendors that were at the Texas Jail Association Jail Management Issues Conference. In addition, I want to express appreciation to all those exhibitors that could not make it, but still contributed to make the conference a great success. It is with the help of such vendors that the conference is enjoyable and productive for everyone.

I wanted to also thank all the Texas Jail Association Board members for all the help with the vendors, especially Sharese Hurst. As a vendor, it is great being able to work with such a great group of people that want to make the conference as beneficial to us as possible. The board is constantly looking at new and different ways to help the vendors.

Here is a list of Sponsors for the refreshment breaks and beverages:

Contract Pharmacy
Securus Technologies
Miller Uniforms
Global Tel*Link
ProSTAR Industries
Lone Star Commissary
South Padre Island Convention and Visitors' Bureau
Radisson Resort

We had 29 vendors and sponsors, with 9 of them being first time exhibitors! This Association is growing and so are the numbers of vendors that want to do business with them!

ABL Management, Inc.
ARAMARK Correctional Service
Bob Barker Company
Computer Information System, Inc.
Contract Pharmacy Services
Conversant Technologies, Inc.
Digital Solutions, Inc.
Emerald Systems
Global Tel*Link
GT Distributors, Inc.
Helen's Angels
Infinity Networks
Inmate Calling Solutions
Lone Star Commissary
Mid-America Services, Inc.
Miller Uniforms
Nardis, Inc.
PachyDerm Gloves
Point Blank Body Armor/PACA
Portland Security Hardware
iSecuretrac
ProStar Industries
Securus Technologies
SMART Public Safety Software, Inc.
Texas Correctional Industries
Texas Department of Health Services
Touchpay
Westwood Pharmacy
Willo Products Company, Inc.

I am looking forward to a great next year. Please join us at the 21st Annual Conference, May 13-17, 2007 in Austin, Texas. See you there!

HELEN'S ANGELS

by
Martha Nivens
Wise County Sheriff's Department

There are three members on our team: Martha Nivens, Debbie Taylor, and Jessica Sims. The three of us work together at the Wise County Sheriff's Department located in Decatur, Texas. We have been friends and co-workers for many years.

This will be our first time to participate in the Susan G. Komen 3-Day Walk for breast cancer. My mother, Helen Flores, recently passed away after a long battle with breast cancer. We will be walking in her memory. Debbie was there for our family throughout the surgery, chemotherapy and radiation, as well as being available to help out in any capacity that Mom or I needed. My mother basically adopted Debbie into our family.

When it comes to fund-raising, Debbie is the source of our motivation. She comes up with various ideas and keeps us inspired and on course. We have held numerous dinners, bake sales and raffles to kick start our fund-raising. We also had 3-Texas State Seals made (one hand carved out of oak, and two sandblasted into glass) that were raffled off at the TJA Jail Management Issues Conference in South Padre, which Jessica and I attended. Thanks to all that supported us, we were able to raise $1025.00 dollars. The winners of the Texas State Seals were:

Tom Worsham – Grayson County
Mary Barron - Nacogdoches County
Mary Bledsoe – Blanco County

We are not to far from our endeavor and we are excited. We appreciate all those that have supported us in our fundraising efforts. We would like to also thank the Texas Jail Association for allowing us to be a part of the South Padre Jail Conference.

Thank You,
Martha Nivens, Debbie Taylor, Jessica Sims
Wise County Sheriff's Department

Mark Your Calendar for the Texas Jail Association's

21st Annual Conference

May 13-17, 2007

Renaissance Austin Hotel
Austin, Texas

Participant Fee: **$130 member**
$150 non-member

For Information Contact:
Sharese Hurst
Texas Jail Association
Phone: 936.294.1687
Fax: 936.294.1671
Email: sharese@shsu.edu

For updates, check www.texasjailassociation.com.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER JONNIE MILLER RECEIVES 2006 SILENT HERO AWARD

On Wednesday, August 30, 2006, Limestone County Communications Officer **Jonnie Miller** was honored with a 2006 Silent Hero Award at the Texas-Nena Conference in Austin, Texas. This award is given to those telecommunicators who daily show the willingness to go the extra mile in performing their communication duties and skills. Mrs. Miller has been employed with the Limestone County Sheriff's Office since July 8, 2003. She was nominated to receive this award by her supervisor, Sergeant **Autumn Cox**. The awards banquet was held at the Double Tree Hotel in Austin, Texas. There were an estimated six hundred in attendance at this year's conference.

Sheriff **Dennis Wilson** stated, "Jonnie Miller is a very valuable employee who we are very proud of at the Limestone County Sheriff's Office. She is a true professional in the performance of her job responsibilities. We are very proud of Jonnie and this award and all of her coworkers who work in the Communications Division at the Limestone County Sheriff's Office." Picture to the right were those who attended.

Bottom Row: Sarah Dutchsman, Kristine Hill, Donna Casstevens, (Heart of Texas Council of Government) Waco, Texas, Limestone County Sheriff's Office employees, Cpl. Debbie Walton, Administrative Assistant Lori Moore, Lt. Chris Henson,
Top Row: Sheriff Dennis D. Wilson, Communications Officer Jonnie Miller, Sgt. Autumn Cox, Communications Officer Kenneth Shields.

"TJA IDOL"

As your President, it is my responsibility to recruit someone to sing the National Anthem at the Spring Conference, our Association's annual business meeting. As I sometimes do, I was thinking "out loud," via email, to Executive Director Sharese Hurst and asked her if she thought it would be a good idea to have a contest for those who might like to sing the National Anthem at our Spring Conference. She immediately responded by praising my "creativity" and assuring me that I had stumbled on an excellent idea. So here is how this process will work!

If you are a Texas Jail Association member, or eligible to become one, then you can submit an entry! Interested contestants should send a CD with a recording of themselves singing the National Anthem. The winning contestant will receive free conference registration, hotel accommodations and membership for one year.

The Texas Jail Association Entertainment Committee will choose one contestant who will sing the National Anthem at the Spring Conference during the opening ceremony on May 13, 2007.

All entries must be received no later than **March 1, 2007**. Entries must be accompanied by a letter from the contestant's Sheriff endorsing and committing his/her support to this process.

Visit the TJA website, www.texasjailassociation.com, for a entry form.

Send entry form, letter and CD to:

Sharese Hurst
Executive Director, Texas Jail Association
Correctional Management Institute of Texas
Sam Houston State University
Box 2296
Huntsville, TX 77341-2296

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TJA MEMBERS RETURN FROM POLAND

by

David Drosche

A diverse group of 16 individuals traveled to Poland to represent the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas (LEMIT) in the Study Abroad International Police Program this summer. LEMIT sponsored four Leadership Command College (LCC) graduates to represent the Institute along with 12 other individuals. This program was offered through the Sam Houston State University College of Criminal Justice.

The four LCC graduates whom were selected to represent not only LEMIT, but also the State of Texas, their respective agencies, and their individual communities were:

Lieutenant **David Drosche**, Brazos County Sheriff's Office (TJA Treasurer); Lieutenant **Dan Norris**, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office (TJA member); Lieutenant **Bill Sala**, Memorial Villages Police Department; and Sergeant **Michael (Shane) Krajewski**, Rusk County Sheriff's Office.

Also on this trip were the LEMIT International and Special Policing Programs Coordinator Carolyn Martinez, Chief Lori Harris, Windcrest Police Department; Lt. Kelsey Hines, Dallas Police Department; two graduate students and seven undergraduate students. These officers and students attended the International Police Program in Poland from July 23, 2006 to August 5, 2006.

This group was able to learn about Polish Law and the Poland National Police Force. There were several different topics covered on this trip, which included: History of Poland and the Slupsk Police School, Justice System in Poland, Criminal Code, Criminal Investigation, Prevention, Water Rescue, Crowd Management, Public Order and the Schengen Information System. This trip showed all who attended that there is not much difference between Poland and the United States. Our ways of training officers are more or less the same, although Poland trains all of its officers in more detail at Basic Training and the United States sends officers to specialized training later in their career. It was amazing to see how far along the Polish National Police have been able to advance in the mere 16 years of its existence.

These participants were also able to see and hear about the extreme history of Poland throughout centuries of unrest. Poland went through several centuries of trying times, from the Medieval Period to the World Wars to Communism to its current status. The group was able to visit several historic towns, such as: Slupsk, Ustka, Sopot, Gdynia, Gdansk, and Warsaw. They were also able to visit the largest Medieval Castle in the world in Malbork.

All of the participants were able to make many international contacts and communicate with officers of all ranks and from several different divisions. Participants discovered that participation in this program is a wonderful opportunity to exchange information internationally. With crime being a global issue, journeying across international boundaries opens the door to create a network of cooperation among countries. Our support of these officers and students enables them to actively participate in this program and will facilitate the ongoing creation of these international affiliations.

On the second to the last night in Poland, the group enjoyed a farewell dinner in Ustka with all of the division Directors of the Police School in Slupsk. At this dinner, the participants were able to show their gratitude to certain officials of Poland. Lt. Dan Norris presented a Montgomery County Sheriff's Office badge and Lt. David Drosche presented a Texas Jail Association cap and a Brazos County Sheriff's Office patch to Slupsk Police School Commandant Stanislaw Bukowski, who is also a LEMIT graduate.

KEY ISSUES DEADLINE DATES

December 1, 2006 for January Publication
March 1, 2007 for April Publication
June 1, 2007 for July Publication
September 1, 2007 for October Publication

Send your articles on CD or via email to Sharese Hurst, Texas Jail Association, Correctional Management Institute of Texas, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas 77341-2296; sharese@shsu.edu.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER
FAITHFUL IN STEWARDSHIP

by
Tim Smith

Matthew 25:14 –30

In recent years we have heard a lot about 'family values', 'morality', and 'integrity'. In this article I want to consider what they are and how they should impact our lives as Christians.

Let's consider some definitions because we need to understand what it is we are talking about:

- Value: The worth or importance of something
- Morals: Principles of right and wrong behavior
- Integrity: Adherence to a code of moral values. Completeness or honesty.

Now all of these terms can be applied differently depending upon what we use as a standard. The standard changes the values, the morals, and a person's integrity. Note the term 'honor among thieves'. The standard by which we must define and apply these terms must be the Word of God. It cannot be society because society changes. It cannot be knowledge, because that too changes. It must be the only thing in our world that doesn't change, the Word of an unchanging God.

Every person on this earth is a citizen of one of two different worlds. If he is an unbeliever, he belongs to the world of darkness (Col. 1:13a). If he is a Christian, he is a member of the world of light. Colossians 1:12 – 14 says "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins". Each world has its own system of truth and values: Therefore, the Christian and the unbeliever have radically different identities and views.

The Bible uses the word "darkness" to describe the world of sin. This darkness, which entered the world at the Fall, is the domain of Satan and his spirit helpers (Eph. 6:11-12). Satan has set the secular, material, man-centered and often immoral philosophy that is so prevalent in the world. Like physical darkness, this spiritual darkness blinds. The key is learning to distinguish between the two systems and thereby develop a view with Biblical values and goals.

God sent His Son to be the Light of the World, to deliver us all from this darkness and into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). God provides in His Word all we need to know to make right choices. He has provided role models and examples (both positive and negative) we can learn from.

Having been delivered from the darkness into the light, and having adopted God's values instead of the world's, the believer's life takes on a unique significance. Every believer has one primary occupation: being a steward, or manager, of the resources God has entrusted to him. A faithful steward recognizes that life is a holy trust from God. Being a steward involves understanding three principles: God's ownership, our responsibility and our accountability.

First, God's ownership. We can compare God to the master in this parable. He owns everything in the world; nevertheless He entrusts his servants (believers) with the responsibility of managing His resources for Him. God sovereignly decides what resources He will place in the hands of each of His servants. He decides which ones and how many each of us will have. God owns everything (Ps. 50:10-12). He is the creator: "He made us."

Second, our responsibility. Each believer is like one of the servants in the parable. We are either faithful or unfaithful. The faithful servants put their master's talents to good use, investing them, making them count. The unfaithful steward dug a hole and squirreled his away, wasting it. A faithful Christian uses what God has given him in the wisest possible way, which brings glory to Him.

Third, our accountability. When the master returned from his journey, he called each servant into His presence and required a face-to- face report from each one on how he'd managed his possessions. We, too, will answer for how we've used our master's resources. 2 COR 5:10 says "FOR WE MUST ALL APPEAR BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST; THAT EVERY ONE MAY RECEIVE THE THINGS DONE IN HIS BODY, ACCORDING TO THAT HE HATH DONE, WHETHER IT BE GOOD OR BAD." At the Judgment Seat of Christ, God will judge us on how we've managed the time, money, spiritual gifts and possessions He entrusted to us. The unprofitable servant in Jesus' story did not get away with being lazy and unproductive. He had to look his master in the face and explain his actions. Instead of owning up to his poor stewardship, he chose to make excuses (Matt. 25:24-25).

How easy it is for us to justify what we want to do and rationalize away what we do not want to do! Success, joy and fulfillment can be ours if we acknowledge God's ownership, our responsibility and the fact that we will be held accountable for His resources and dedicate ourselves to being faithful stewards.

LUBBOCK BETTING INMATE LABOR PROGRAM SAVES MORE THAN TAX DOLLARS

by
Beth Aaron
Avalanche-Journal

A new inmate labor program approved by the Lubbock City Council has the potential to rebuild lives while beautifying the city and saving tax dollars.

City officials believe using non-violent offenders housed at the Lubbock County Jail to clean up the Depot Entertainment District and other areas of the Hub City will save money and give incarcerated persons something positive to do.

"(The city is) utilizing inmate labor to basically focus on areas around Lubbock that need extra attention," Emergency Operations Manager Kevin Overstreet said. "It's a win-win for the city, for the county and for the inmates and for the citizens."

Earlier this month, city council members unanimously approved the inmate labor program with an estimated budget of $105,000. The money will cover fuel, supplies and salaries for two Sheriff's deputies who will be hired to supervise the laborers.

Joe Don Buckner / Staff
Lubbock County Jail inmates wash a deputy's car Monday afternoon.

If 12 people were hired for manual labor and paid $10 an hour plus benefits, it would cost the city about $404,000, Overstreet said. The inmate labor program will save the city more than $200,000.

"Everything's expensive nowadays and we have to maximize our resources," he said. "We just need to look at other options . . . that are available to us to do what we can to make the city look pretty."

Once the program is under way, two groups of six to seven county inmates will be asked to volunteer to pick up trash, trim trees and cut grass throughout the city for eight to nine hours a day, Overstreet said.

Only non-violent inmates charged with class B and class A misdemeanors will be eligible to participate in the program.

"The citizens should not be worried about any liability issues," Sheriff David Gutierrez said. "And we will select minimal risk inmates to provide the labor force."

If an inmate were to try to escape while participating in the labor program, he could face up to 10 additional years in jail, Overstreet said. Many inmates at the Lubbock County Jail are serving sentences of six months to two years.

Joe Don Buckner / Staff
A Lubbock County Jail inmate changes a tire on a deputy's car Monday.

Laborers may receive up to three days off their original jail sentence for each full day of work, as allowed by state law. A 30-minute lunch break and on-site rest rooms will also be provided, Overstreet said.

This is the first time the city and county have worked together on funding a program to benefit the community, city council member Phyllis Jones said.

"I think it's a very positive thing," she said. "The county has the labor force, and the city is not having to spend that money on labor."

The biggest payoff for inmates is a boost in self-esteem, said a jail official. The opportunity to work in the community and spend time outside of a jail cell makes inmates feel more like free people.

Gary Lawrence, CEO of The Lubbock Economic Development Alliance said he hopes inmates who have the opportunity to improve the community also will make the contacts they need to get a job once they are released from jail.

"It puts people that are not really doing anything - to work," he said. "The money is a side issue."

Lubbock County Commissioners will decide whether to approve the inmate labor program at Monday's meeting, said County Judge Tom Head.

Sheriff David Gutierrez has worked closely with commissioners on this project and believes the program will be approved.

"I expect the commissioners to embrace this inter-local agreement," he said. "I think this is a first for many other programs that we could be working with together in the city and county."

If the county approves the program, citizens could begin seeing workers wearing orange as soon as August.

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INMATES PUT WOODWORKING SKILLS TO USE FOR COUNTY

by
Gale M. Bradford
Star-telegram Staff Writer

Star-Telegram / Ron T. Ennis
Supervisor Larry Jergins, left, oversees Parker County trusty David Simmons as he checks the measurements of bookshelves in the county cabinet shop in Weatherford on Friday. Inmates are building furniture and other craftwork for the benefit of county offices and non-profits.

WEATHERFORD - At this furniture manufacturing shop, saws buzz, sanders hum and routers whirr as they grind away on wood. But the finished products here won't go to stores, and the workers wear orange uniforms that read "Parker Co. Jail Trusty."

The woodworkers are in an inmate education program, and they're building furniture for the benefit of the county and nonprofit organizations. They're also learning a trade that they can use when they get out of jail, county officials said. "Working out here sure beats sitting in a cell all day," said David Simmons, a jail trusty and program participant.

The county is taking advantage of a state law that allows free inmate labor to be used to benefit the county, Parker County Sheriff Larry Fowler said. Participation in the woodworking shop is voluntary.

Recently, the law was expanded to allow work to benefit nonprofits and charities, and trusties have done work for the Hope Foundation, Grace House and others, Fowler said.

Fowler, who took office last year, said he inherited a jail and offices that were in disrepair. Since then, the jail's administrative offices have been redone, complete with Western-heritage furnishings, he said. The work includes Fowler's desk, a large oak piece with the county's logo and rope trim that he said shows great craftsmanship.

Larry Jergins, who heads the program at a cabinet shop in Weatherford, said he's taught woodworking to more than 25 trusties since the program started. He estimates that it saved the county $160,000 the last two years. "It's a win-win situation," Fowler said.

In Parker County, only two trusties have ever walked away from work details. One was gone nine hours before he was picked up, and the other was missing three hours before he was rearrested, Fowler said.

The operation started with a bare-bones carpenter shop, but now it's a full-blown furniture manufacturing facility including professional-grade saws, sanders and routers and a paint booth. The facility has produced work for the newly restored courthouse, the district courts building, the sheriff's office and other offices.

Experience is helpful but not necessary, said Jergins, who had a construction business before working for the county. "Once they learn, I supervise, but I like for them to make some of their own choices, like what kind of wood to use and design," Jergins said. "I give them dimensions for what is needed and allow them to be creative. That gives them a sense of pride and ownership."

Simmons, 36, a trusty who is headed to prison for burglary and family violence, said he likes the work. "First I worked in the laundry room, and I know I'd rather be working with wood," he said. Trusty Allen Notware, 45, is serving time for possession of marijuana. He said he learned to frame houses from his father. Jergins "tells me what he wants, and I put it together," he said. Jergins, a certified precinct jailer, picks the men up at 8 a.m. each weekday. The crew works all day and doesn't mind overtime, he said. "The worst part of the day is heading back to jail," Simmons said.

SOURCE: Parker County Sheriff's Department

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IN REMEMBRANCE...

I would ask the readers of this newsletter for a moment of indulgence while I remember someone who was very special, not only to me, but to our organization. In April of this year we lost Officer Margaret "Margi" Fesperman to her valiant battle with cancer.

From the moment of her arrival at the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office it was quickly apparent that she would be someone special and a truly exceptional corrections professional. I was exceedingly fortunate to know and be able to work with Margi on several different levels. As the Captain in the Detention Division, I saw first hand how she conducted her business as a corrections officer and later as a Training Officer, and how she demonstrated her expertise in every facet of her assignment.

Later, she volunteered and was selected for the Honor Guard. For someone with no experience, heading into a unit like this could easily have become overwhelming. Yet again, she showed tremendous resolve and determination as she became one of the best, setting an example for all others to follow. Seeing this drive, I made the easy decision to move her into a position of leadership within that team to Adjutant, and with that she took over all the administrative and scheduling responsibilities for the Honor Guard.

Approximately two years ago, an idea was brought forward to pursue the Lubbock Regional Public Safety Memorial. Margi was selected to represent the Sheriff's Office for this endeavor. As with all other responsibilities, she gave everything she had to see that the project went from an idea to a reality. In fact, and as fortune would have it, once a sculptor was selected Margi was our representative and model for the actual statue. The Sheriff's Office recognized her service and hard work on that project by presenting her with the Meritorious Service Award in 2004.

Margi's final assignment came after being selected to the Office of Transition Planning for our new detention facility. It certainly was no surprise that like everything else, she jumped right in and made a difference. Even when she became ill, she maintained that "trooper" attitude which I had come to know over the years. She even continued working at home through her tough cancer treatments.

This will be one of my fondest memories of Margi. As we were preparing for her funeral and all of the honors we were going to be conducting, her husband Randy told me some of her final words. This was a message I know I should have been expecting. She told her husband simply this, "Tell my boys they had better not screw up."

Officer Margaret "Margi" Fesperman 1949-2006
She embodied that true one percent.
We will all miss her deeply.

Kelly Rowe

MARGI FESPERMAN

Margi Fesperman, 56, died Friday, April 28, 2006 at her home. Born on May 7, 1949 in Tacoma, Washington, she moved to Levelland in 1990 from Waco, Texas. She married Randall Fesperman on October 1, 1988 in Waco. They were the last couple to marry in the Brookview Methodist Church prior to its consolidation.

Fesperman was working as a transition team member for the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office and had been a corrections officer with that same office. She was awarded the Meritorious Service Award by the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office in December 2004. Fesperman was also a Field Training Officer for the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office. In addition, she was a member of the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard and served as Adjutant. She had worked for the Levelland Schools as an aide. She will receive her associate's degree in law enforcement technology from South Plains College in May. She was preceded in death by her parents, and a brother, Kenny Bowles in 2005.

Survivors include her husband, Randy Fesperman of Levelland, five sons, Gary Lee Vassar, Jr. and his wife, Liz of Charleston, SC, Mark Wayne Vassar and his wife, Rhonda, of Ft. Worth, TX, William Justin Vassar of Enid, OK, Michael Scott Vassar of Levelland, Randall David Fesperman of Austin, a daughter, Kristina Mae Wiatrek of Austin, two brothers, Jasper Maryland Stanley, Jr. and Joseph William Stanley, both of Spokane, WA, two sisters, Maryland Louise Gooch of Spokane, WA, and Anette Windsor of Olympia, WA, and eight grandchildren.

TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION BULLETIN BOARD

Brown County

Brown County Sheriff **Bobby R. Grubbs** has named **Becky Caffey** as his Jail Administrator. Mrs. Caffey was selected from several applicants and Caffey began her new duties on August 1, 2006. The Brown County Jail Administrator's position was vacated on June 20, 2006 by T.J. Medart, who accepted a position as the warden for a private prison facility in Sierra Blanca, Texas. Caffey was formerly the Jail Administrator for Comanche County where she served as Jail Administrator for the past 6 years. She has 14 years experience in jail corrections and 10 years experience in jail administration. The Brown County Jail has a capacity of 196 inmates and is currently housing 170 inmates. The jail is staffed with 29 employees. Caffey is married to Doug Caffey who is the Chief of Police at Gorman. Caffey is from the Sydney area and enjoys spending time with her family.

Limestone County

Limestone County Sheriff **Dennis D. Wilson** is proud to announce the recent promotions of three Limestone County Correctional Officers. Sgt. **Steve Morton** was promoted to the rank of Captain. Captain Morton will be replacing Captain **Earlene Moore** who is retiring on January 1, 2007. Capt. Morton has been employed since August 5, 1987. Sheriff Wilson stated, "I would like to recognize the outstanding job that Capt. Morton has performed during his employment at the Limestone County Sheriff's Office. Capt. Morton will be responsible for the daily operation of the Limestone County Jail. This is a job responsibility that I know Capt. Morton can handle."

Also, receiving a promotion is Corporal **Thomas Graves**. Cpl. Graves was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and assigned as the nightshift supervisor. Sgt. Graves has been employed since January 11, 1992. Sheriff Wilson stated, "Sgt. Graves is also an outstanding employee and performs his job assignments well."

Jailer **Loria Blacknall** was also promoted. Jailer Blacknall was promoted to the rank of Corporal and will be assigned as a dayshift supervisor. Sheriff Wilson stated, "Cpl. Blacknall is a very well respected Jail employee and also performs her job assignments well."

Sheriff Wilson would like to congratulate these three employees for the services that they perform each day as members of the Limestone County Sheriff's Office.

Montgomery County

Detention Officer **Reuben Simonton** was promoted to Deputy by Sheriff **Tommy Gage** on August 25, 2006. Two of Deputy Simonton's great-grandfathers served as Sheriff of Montgomery County in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

Smith County

Captain **Gary Pinkerton** has been promoted to the rank of Chief Deputy. Chief Pinkerton has been employed with Smith County for over 21 years and will command the detention division. Chief Pinkerton is also a Past President of the Texas Jail Association.

Lieutenant **Deal Folmar** has been promoted to the rank of Captain. Captain Folmar has been employed with Smith County for over 23 years and will supervise the detention division.

Commitment Officer **Hope Blalock** has been promoted to the rank of Sergeant and will supervise the support services division. Sergeant Blalock has been employed with Smith County since 1993.

Detention Sergeant **Justin Hall** has been promoted to deputy in the Patrol division. Deputy Hall has been employed with Smith County since 2003.

Detention Officer **Gerald Atchison, Jr.** has been promoted to the rank of deputy in the Patrol division. Deputy Atchison has been employed with Smith County since 2003.

Detention Officer **Keven Fite** has been promoted to the rank of Detention Sergeant. Sgt Fite has been employed with Smith County since 2004.

Detention Officer **Brandon Bennett** has been promoted to the rank of Detention Sergeant. Sergeant Bennett has been employed with Smith County since 2003.

Kimbrick Jones has been with the Smith County Sheriff's Office since June 27, 2004 as a detention officer and was promoted recently on May 14, 2006 to Patrol Deputy.

Mark Your Calendar for the Texas Jail Association's

Jail Management Issues

August 20-23, 2007

South Padre Island, Texas
Radisson Resort

Participant Fee: **$130 member**
$150 non-member

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For updates, check www.texasjailassociation.com.

2006-2007 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES
Texas Jail Association

Date	Workshop Title	Location
Oct. 16 – Nov. 1, 2006	Basic County Corrections (96 hours)*	Conroe, Texas
October 19-20, 2006	Texas Commission on Jail Standards Fall Regional**	Kerrville, Texas
October 25, 2006	The Truth About Stress*****	Abilene, Texas
October 25-26, 2006	Texas Commission on Jail Standards Fall Regional **	Conroe, Texas
November 1-2, 2006	Grant Writing for Criminal Justice *****	Waco, Texas
November 1-2, 2006	Texas Commission on Jail Standards Fall Regional **	Midland, Texas
November 7-8, 2006	Neurographics for Interviewing *****	College Station, Texas
November 8-9, 2006	Texas Commission on Jail Standards Fall Regional **	Fort Worth, Texas
November 14-15, 2006	Gangs Conference	Midland, Texas
November 15-16, 2006	Texas Commission on Jail Standards Fall Regional **	Amarillo, Texas
November 15-17, 2006	Experienced Officer Training ****	Huntsville, Texas
November 29-30, 2006	Texas Commission on Jail Standards Fall Regional **	Kilgore, Texas
December 5-8, 2006	Neurographics for Interviewing *****	El Paso, Texas
December 12-13, 2006	Courtroom Security *****	Huntsville, Texas
January 9-10, 2007	Interpersonal Communications in the Correctional Setting***	Kerrville, Texas
Jan. 16-Feb. 1, 2007	Basic County Corrections (96 hours)*	Conroe, Texas
February 13-14, 2007	Interpersonal Communications in the Correctional Setting***	Corpus Christi, Texas
February 13-14, 2007	Interpersonal Communications in the Correctional Setting***	Tyler, Texas
February 20-21, 2007	Interpersonal Communications in the Correctional Setting***	Denton, Texas
February 20-21, 2007	Interpersonal Communications in the Correctional Setting***	Odessa, Texas
February 27-28, 2007	Interpersonal Communications in the Correctional Setting***	Amarillo, Texas
Feb. 28-Mar. 1, 2007	Interpersonal Communications in the Correctional Setting***	College Station, Texas
May 13-17, 2007	21st Annual Texas Jail Association Conference	Austin, Texas
August 20-23, 2007	Jail Management Issues Conference	South Padre, Texas

* This course provides 96 hours of TCLEOSE credit. For more information, please contact Andrea Herr at the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Training Academy, 936-760-5859, 936-760-5809 or academy@mctx.org.

** This workshop focuses on "The Basics" and offers 12 hours of TCLEOSE credit. For more information, please log onto www.tcjs.state.tx.us or call Jody Kalmbach at 512-463-8079.

*** This course provides 16 hours of TCLEOSE credit. It is free of charge to county employees. This class is one of the Intermediate Core courses required to receive an Intermediate Certification as a County Corrections Officer. This course is sponsored by the Texas Association of Counties, the Texas Jail Association and the Correctional Management Institute of Texas. For more information about the course or to register on-line, log onto www.county.org.

**** This workshop will provide 16 hours of TCLEOSE credit. Topics will include Real Colors Personal Inventory, Strategies for Building Effective Work Teams and Stress Management for Professionals. For more information, please contact Amanda Bilnoski at 936-294-1227 or icc_ajb@shsu.edu.

***** These programs are sponsored by the Correctional Management Institute of Texas–Institutions and Corrections Division. For more information, please call Joe Serio at 936-294-1705 or jdserio@shsu.edu.

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