THE TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION
KEY ISSUES

Vol XXIV, No. 3

Summer 2020

Summer 2020 Edition

Past President's Passage

Texas Jail Association Members,

I had the unique opportunity to swear in our new President Dan Corbin via a virtual video gathering. I was very disappointed that we were unable to hold our Annual Conference this year. I would have loved to pass the gavel to him in person and it is one of the highlights of my year to get to see you all at the conference. But, I know that this adjustment was only a minor inconvenience compared to what each of you have been enduring every day during this COVID- 19 pandemic. All of you who work in and in support of Texas jails are the best in this country. I am proud of the work you do and I am proud to be a part of this family.

As if a pandemic was not enough, we are now seeing protests across the country. Please remember that those frustrations are not aimed at us. Those of us who pin on a badge are often grouped together as having the same motivations and attitudes; especially, when someone acts inappropriately. But we, as members of the Texas Jail Association, have decided to rise above and to better ourselves and our organizations, always striving to be more professional. It has never been more important to be proactive in our approach to serving our communities. That is what the Texas Jail Association is all about and the communities we live and work in recognize that.

Thank you all for what you do. Please stay safe. Please continue to share ideas and help one another. I look forward to seeing you all again very soon.

God bless you.

Lieutenant Kevin Stuart, CJM
Brazos County Sheriff's Office
TJA Past President

Message from the President

Greeting TJA Members,

I would like to thank the TJA membership for the honor of serving as your President. While we had to unfortunately cancel our 34th Annual Conference, we are already working on a bigger and better Jail Management Issues Conference for September. Work has already begun to modify the JMI calendar to incorporate our Courtroom Challenge, Prayer Breakfast and other key events from our May Conference. I hope to see you there. I would like to thank our Immediate Past President Kevin Stuart and our Executive Director, Sharese Hurst for their unwavering leadership through this very unusual past year.

I would like to congratulate Edwardo Jackson on his election to 3rd Vice President and Levi Vance for his election as a Director. They both are hard workers that I am sure will continue their dedicated service to the Association in their new roles. I have also made the following appointments to the Board: Treasurer Abby Belangeri (Brazos County), Director Greg Pilkington (Tarrant County), Secretary Jaime Rios (Bexar County), Sergeant-at-Arms Johnny Jaquess (Lubbock County), Sheriff Representative Sheriff Ray Scifres (Hockley County), Vendor Representative Kevin Johnson (Correct Commissary), Private Correctional Facility Representative Rodney Cooper (LaSalle Corrections), Historian Carla Stone (LaSalle Corrections), Parliamentarian Eric Hensley (Washington County) and our Chaplain Lynette Anderson (Harris County). I believe we have a group of highly qualified and motivated individuals assembled to lead the Association through these challenging times.

I would like to thank 1st Vice President Ricky Armstrong for his leadership of the training committee over this past year. This group put together a great program for JMI 2019, as well as our May Conference and the regional trainings. I am confident 2nd Vice President Becky Caffey and her new training committee will have another great year for us beginning with JMI.

Next, I would like to extend a thank you to the many vendors who have supported us through the difficult decision of canceling our May Conference. It is a result of your strong support of our Association that we are able to keep our registration fees and dues so reasonable.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly affected one of our primary missions, which is to provide training. Our Association will continue to assist our members through the list serve and other networking venues in dealing with this pandemic, as well as the normal day-to-day issues that continue to pop up in managing and operating our jails. Assistance from YOUR entire board is just a phone call or e-mail away. Through this all, our Association remains strong.

Stay Safe and God Bless you all,

Dan Corbin
President, Texas Jail Association

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Membership Report 1

Training Report 2

Get Ready for the 35th Annual Conference 4

OSS Academy & TJA Partnership 5

COVID-19 Brazos County Action Plan Review 7

The Chaplain's Corner 10

It Takes a Special Person to Do Your Job 12

Vendor Report 13

How COVID-19 in Jails and Prisons Threatens Nearby Communities 15

Courtroom Challenge 18

New TJA Board Members 20

What's Happening Around the State? 22

JOIN TJA AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER 2020!

2020 JAIL MANAGEMENT ISSUES

September 14-18, 2020 | Galveston, TX

TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION TJA

MARK YOUR CALENDARS EARLY!

INFORMATION ONLINE AT TEXASJAILASSOCIATION.COM

Membership Report

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the existing membership. It is the goal of the Membership Committee to continue expanding the membership of the Association. In order to achieve this goal, we need your assistance in recruiting interested individuals you may know; a twelve month membership is $30.00. Adding to our membership not only adds numbers it adds knowledge and experience! Some benefits of the Association are quality training and conferences, access to the list serve for easy dissemination of information and ideas, and promotion of professionalism and leadership.

As a Committee we encourage each of you to reach out to us to let us know what kind of training you would like to see in the future. We strive to bring you the best and most up to date training to all regionals and conferences.

Edwardo Jackson, 3rd Vice President Travis County 512-854-5214	**Jason Davis, Director** McLennan County 254-759-7535
Levi Vance, Secretary Tom Green County 325-659-6597	**Tameika Middleton, Member at Large** Travis County 512-854-5370
Frances Dembowski, Director Travis County 512-854-5391	**Jaime Rios, Secretary** Bexar County 830-513-6371

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS		
PROFESSIONAL – 1012	**ASSOCIATE – 35**	**BUSINESS – 24**

8TH ANNUAL

BLOOD DRIVE

HOSTED BY THE TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION & SOUTHERN HEALTH PARTNERS

September 15th | 12:30pm – 5:00pm

The Blood Drive will take place at the Galveston Island Convention Center. **All Donors are entered in a drawing for a $100 Gift Card.**

TEXANS HELPING TEXANS

KEEP UP TO DATE ON TJA TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES!
CHECK OUT WWW.TEXASJAILASSOCIATION.COM FOR FULL INFORMATION

Training Report

First of all, I would like to say thank you to all of our members for their patience and understanding during the last few months. Our TJA Regional Training came to a screeching halt in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I do want to thank the agencies that hosted our regional trainings and to everyone that helped instruct at various sites. We have met a lot of great people across the State and appreciate the help and support to put on these classes.

Since the conference in May was cancelled, we hope that everyone will register for the Jail Management Issues (JMI) Conference in Galveston, September 14 – 18, 2020. Ricky Armstrong and Sharese Hurst put a lot of work into planning the 34th Annual Conference in May and they were able to reschedule most of the instructors to the JMI Conference. I am excited to work with the new 2020-2021 training committee as we plan next year's regional training and conferences. We have a lot of talent and some big resources to help us bring you some of the best training around.

Registration and hotel information for various training being held around the state, can be found on the Texas Jail Association website, www.texasjailassociation.com. Thank you to all of the Jail staff who keep our jails running day and night. Stay healthy and stay safe.

Becky Caffey, 2nd Vice President Brown County becky.caffey@browncountytx.org 325-203-3330	**Jason Davis, Director** McLennan County Jason.Davis@co.mclennan.tx.us 254-759-7532
Abby Belangeri, Treasurer Brazos County abelangeri@brazoscountytx.org 979-361-4818	**Edwardo Jackson, 3rd Vice President** Travis County edwardo.jackson@traviscountytx.org 512-854-5214
Johnny Jaquess, Sergeant-at-Arms Lubbock County 806-549-8001 jjaquess@lubbock.tx.us	**Francis Dembowski, Director** Travis County 512-854-5391 frances.dembowski@traviscountytx.org
Jackie Benningfield, Member-at-Large Burnet County jbenningfield@burnetsheriff.com 512-715-8600	**Marivette Garcia** Brooks County mmirelez@co.brooks.tx.us 361-325-3696

CTC

- Inmate Phone Systems
- Video Arraignment Systems
- Video Visitation Systems
- 911 & Dispatch Recording
- CTC designed and operates the Inmate Telephone and Video Visitation Systems
- Inmate Telephone and Video Systems are internet based and accessible from any computer, tablet, or smart phone
- Superior Customer Service
- Flexible calling solutions equal more completed calls and higher revenues
- CTC provides Facility Administrator Access to real time rates, revenue, and usage tracking
- CTC is family-owned and serves over 260 facilities in 9 states

What sets CTC aside from its competitors?

- Service & Honesty
- Inmate Hotline: Live operators assist inmates and their families set up accounts, provide quality control, and dispute resolutions
- Investigative Features & Alerts: Investigative monitoring through alerts for criminal and facility cases
- Listen live to any number you're tracking
- Look for the City Tele Coin app on your Apple or Android device
- Visit us at www.CityTeleCoin.com

CONNECTING PEOPLE SINCE 1986

OSS Academy®

Proud to partner with the Texas Jail Association [TJA] to provide discounted access to quality TCOLE courses!

- Corrections, Law Enforcement, & Telecommunications Training
- Flexible & Self-Paced
- Over 130 TCOLE Basic & Intermediate and Elective Courses

TJA.OSSFIRST.COM

Get Ready for the 35th Annual TJA Conference in May 2021

By Carla Stone, Historian

As we look toward 2021, the Training Committee is already planning the 35th Annual Texas Jail Association Conference. President Dan Corbin has chosen a conference theme to honor the Association's Past Presidents.

The Exhibit Hall game will feature pictures of our Past President's and several members will win CASH PRIZES! Proceeds from the Exhibit Hall Game go to the Jerry Baggs Memorial Scholarship Fund. We appreciate the vendors who support TJA year after year, and a special "Thank You" to those that donate and participate in the game.

You better start learning about the history of our great Association! We will have a number of opportunities to win prizes during the conference. Each chance to win will involve a piece of TJA history. It might be identifying a picture of a Past President, or naming the Past President when given the year he/she served. There will be several variations of clues, so come join us in Austin next May!

OSS Academy®

Law Enforcement & Corrections Training

OSS Academy is proud to announce our partnership with the Texas Jail Association [TJA]. Adding to the many TJA member benefits, OSS is now offering discounted access to our catalog of online TCOLE courses, thereby supporting TJA's longstanding mission to advance professionalism through training. Working in concert with the numerous opportunities TJA has provided since its formation in 1986, the courses at OSS Academy draw upon an equally historied well of experience and expertise.

OSS Academy and OSS Law Enforcement Advisors apply more than 110 years of combined professional experience in law enforcement, jail, security, correctional care, and criminal justice fields to provide quality services to meet our client's needs. Drawing from a wide range of backgrounds, our Subject Matter Experts [SME's] infuse our services with their wealth of educational credentials, related training, and real-world experience.

Building on the foundation of a three-generation U.S. Army and instructor tradition, David Salmon II serves as OSS's Training Coordinator, overseeing the design and presentation of 1,000s of law enforcement, corrections, and counter-terrorist courses to meet TCOLE training requirements and for professionals worldwide.

Since 1974, OSS has utilized and expanded the knowledge of our experts through our expert witness consulting services, policy & procedures development, risk assessments, and online training, with each facet of the company feeding the improvement of other services.

Recognizing the importance of easily accessible and informative training for the busy officer, jailer, and telecommunictor, OSS provides an ever-expanding catalog of TCOLE certified corrections and jailer courses through our online platform, presenting self-paced training and no-hassle TCOLE reporting. These include required courses for advanced TCOLE certification and continuing education and a wide range of TCOLE electives, such as Jail & Lockup Liability and Inmate Rights & Privileges #3502.

In working with the TJA, OSS intends to further facilitate and simplify the training experience of the TJA members. Through the TJA training portal at www.TJA.ossfirst.com, members can access a large selection of OSS courses at a discounted rate, along with periodic sales, promotions, and new course offerings.

Here at OSS, we truly consider it an honor to have the opportunity to work with TJA and its members. Whether it be a training-related question, an inquiry into our other services, or a general question about mitigating risk within your facility, feel free to contact us at **(281) 288-9190 (Ext. 205)** or **customer.service@policetrainingcenter.com.**

The OSS Academy training discount will be available to active TJA members. The discount code will be emailed to the address TJA has on record. If you have an active TJA membership and do not receive your code please contact Sharese Hurst at sharese@shsu.edu to confirm your membership status and the email address on record.

Texas Jail Association's Key Issues

Call for Articles!

Key Issues invites **ALL MEMBERS** to send articles, photographs, presentations, papers, announcements, challenges, creative solutions or any submission that may be of interest to the TJA membership.

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION IN THE FALL ISSUE

OCTOBER 1ST, 2020

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION IN THE WINTER ISSUE

DECEMBER 1ST, 2020

SEND SUBMISSIONS OR QUESTIONS TO:

SHARESE@SHSU.EDU

ALL SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOME FOR CONSIDERATION!

COVID-19 Brazos County Action Plan Review

by Abby Belangeri, Sergeant, Brazos County Sheriff's Office

To say 2020 has been an unprecedented year in our world's history is an understatement. As the year began, the world became increasingly familiar with the now infamous COVID-19 virus as many health organizations feared a global pandemic. By mid-march, the US was in the throes of implementing measures to reduce exposure to the COVID-19 virus at various levels of community engagement.

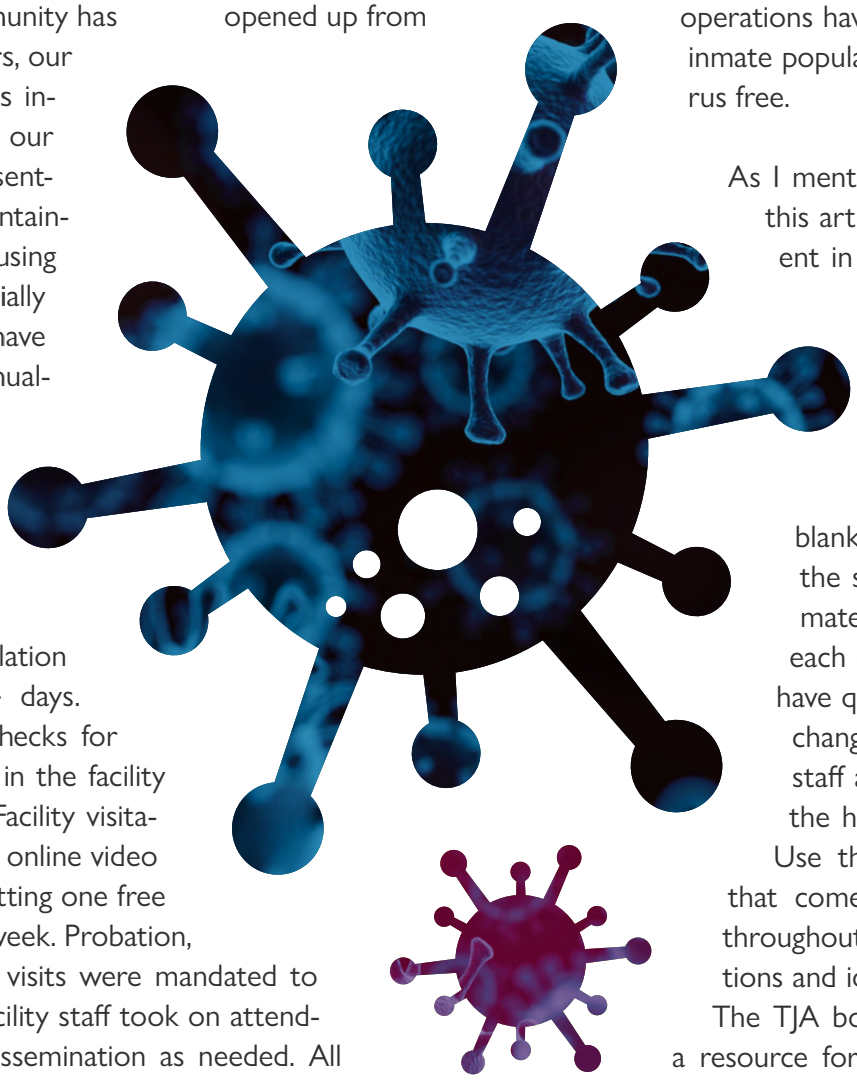
A major concern for many in the criminal justice field has been the impact that COVID-19 could have if able to infiltrate the jail population. Jails are constantly moving and changing. Not one is exactly like another and there are many points of access between staff, visitors, and constantly changing populations opening the door for the virus to come into our jails. Many panicked criminal justice administrators reached out via various networking media outlets in an effort to ascertain best practices on how to keep their facilities safe and virus free. Although we have been facing this challenge head on for over four months, the threat of COVID-19 and other easily spread viruses are far from over. In this article, I will review the procedures we have implemented in Brazos County in an effort to limit the potential for virus exposure to jail staff and population as well as ensure our daily operations are minimally impacted.

As the threat of COVID-19 became a reality in Brazos County, an initial assessment of our population was reviewed. Inmates in jail on child support warrants, minor misdemeanor pre-trial offenders with insignificant criminal histories, and work release inmates were all reviewed for release back to the community if they presented minimal risk to community safety. High risk inmates such as immunocompromised and the elderly were reviewed with a community safety perspective and those whom presented minimal threat to the community were released through the proper authorities. Arrest on misdemeanor class C offenses and warrants through local municipal agencies were limited to those that were necessary to maintain the safety of the community. Local agencies collaborated to ensure that only those offenders from the community that presented a threat to the community were arrested and brought to jail. A standing order for PR bonds on non-violent misdemeanor A & B offenses was implemented as well as long as the offenders criminal history did not present a concern for community safety as well. These were critical initial steps to reduce our jail population and work to protect our remaining inmate population and staff.

We already had a communicable disease screening in place as standard procedure, but we ultimately increased precautions by conducting temperature screenings and the communicable disease screenings on intakes in the sally port as opposed to permitting access to the facility and then completing the screening. Any arrestee presenting with signs or symptoms of illness were rejected for medical clearance prior to acceptance. As CDC guidelines changed, new intakes and staff were required to wear masks at all times in an effort to reduce the spread of germs. Facility sanitation protocols were enhanced and executed on a constant basis to ensure a clean and sanitized environment. We established population cohorts and assigned them to housing on a 14 day quarantine protocol to ensure that our new incoming population did not expose our existing population to the virus.

The population cohorts were established by reviewing our housing plan and identifying appropriate housing locations for new intakes that could maintain separation

from the existing population as well as separation into new groups every three days. Each group was assigned to sequential cells and permitted contact with jail staff only for a period of 14 days. Each group was permitted day room, recreation and court access for specified time frames each day according to their group assignment. Cleaning procedures were implemented to ensure sanitation of shared spaces between each group use. Magistrate court was conducted in multiple groups daily to ensure that no crossover contact occurred. Trustees were not permitted contact with the quarantine population. As the community has opened up from shelter in place orders, our intake population has increased. Increases in our daily intakes has presented challenges in maintaining our cohort housing plan as it was initially designed, but we have been able to continually review and revise the housing plan to ensure no contact between new intakes and the existing inmate population for a period of 14 days. Daily temperature checks for all staff and inmates in the facility were implemented. Facility visitation was modified to online video visitation only, permitting one free visit per inmate per week. Probation, parole and attorney visits were mandated to be video only and facility staff took on attending to paperwork dissemination as needed. All visitor access to the secured facility including professional and programming visitors, was suspended and replaced by video services as they became available.



Inmate transportation in and out of the facility was minimized by implementing video arraignment for all magistrate, county and district courts. Only necessary medical transports were permitted and any inmate leaving the secured facility was required to quarantine for a 14 day period following community exposure. Records and non-essential facility staff were assigned to work modified schedules to limit exposure to staff and inmates in the facility. As time has progressed, we have been able to reintroduce some inmate programming with modifications to limit person to person interaction. Our staff have been diligent to report any potential exposure and ensure they protect themselves and the vulnerable population we serve by self-quarantining when warranted.

To this point, these modifications in facility operations have aided us in keeping our inmate population and staff safe and virus free.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this article, every facility is different in its composition, resources and operations. The precautions taken by one facility may not be an effective fit for another. Although we cannot all implement blanket practices to ensure the safety of our staff and inmate populations, we can use each other as resources. If you have questions on how to make changes to protect your jail staff and populations, seek out the help of others in the field. Use the wealth of information that comes from jail professionals throughout the state by posing questions and ideas via the TJA list serve. The TJA board members are always a resource for information as well and will assist in any way we can to help you execute your job at the highest level as a corrections professional.

Galveston BEACHCOMBING

JERRY BAGGS SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER GAME

Find all of the beach treasures across the exhibit hall during 2020 JMI.
Fill out your game card and enter the drawing for a chance at
one of four cash prizes.

Exhibitors interested in hosting a game booth can find full information on the TJA website.

★ Tailored specifically for Texas Jail Administrators ★ Spaces are limited ★ Apply today! ★

JAMO
Jail Administration Management & Operations

Apply or get more information at www.cmitonline.org

Jan 31 – Feb 5, 2021 ★ Huntsville, Texas

The Chaplain's Corner

Lynette Anderson, Harris County Sheriff's Office

Hello everyone! I would first like to introduce myself as your newly appointed Chaplain for the Texas Jail Association. My name is Lynette Anderson and I am a Detention Lieutenant with the Harris County Sheriff's Office. I have been employed with Harris County since September 16, 1991. I am a graduate of the National Jail Leadership Command Academy (NJLCA), Class #12. I have mentored NJLCA Classes #14, #17, and #29. I am a widow whose husband was a proud Harris County Sheriff's Office Deputy. He served Harris County for 32 years and passed away five months after retiring. I have two children and three grandchildren.

As I write my first article, the world as we knew it before March 23, 2020 has changed. So much has happened since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The way we live and work has changed. I believe the one thing we took for granted was our everyday lives. Before COVID-19 we worked, sent our kids to school, went to church, vacationed, and got our hair and nails done without giving our freedom to do so much thought. Once COVID-19 happened, and the United States began to lock down, we realized that this virus was not something that would go away easily. We had to think of new ways to school our children, many lost jobs, while others had to do their jobs differently. Law enforcement, especially detention facilities, had to figure out a way to not only protect our officers on the streets, but also the ones working in the jails and prisons. We also had to protect the inmates that were in our care, custody, and control.

We have seen many of our friends, family, and co-workers not only test positive for COVID-19, but also die from this horrible virus. This disease has shown us that it does not matter what your race, gender, or economic class, no one is immune. For many of us working in the jail, the greatest concern was taking COVID-19 home to our family. How do you tell your little one to wait on giving you that hug and kiss until you have showered? Or, when they ask if they can go visit their friends because seeing them on ZOOM is not enough. As we continue to move toward opening our States, my prayer is that we keep not only our family safe, but others as well. We can do this by staying home if we are not feeling well and continue to social distance. If you listen to the experts on COVID-19, another wave of this disease is expected to appear sometime in the winter. Pray this does not come to pass.

In closing, I would like to ask that you keep the families and co-workers of fallen officers in your prayers. The Harris County Sheriff's Office has lost two officers to COVID-19. Sergeant **Raymond Scholwinski** and Deputy **Juan Menchaca** passed away after a courageous battle against the virus. Also, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Correction Officers **Jesse Bolton** and **Maria Mendez** lost their lives after contracting the virus. My prayer for all of you is to stay safe, strong and resilient in these trying times.

RSS 1.270.885.8868
1.800.850.6985
ROMAINE SHOWER SYSTEMS

ROMAINE COMPANIES

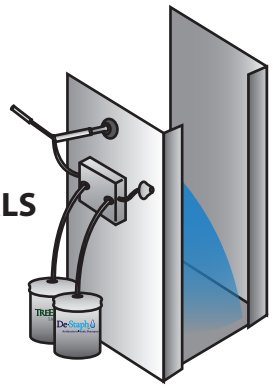
LICE PROBLEMS?

THE PATENTED ROMAINE SHOWER SYSTEM (RSS):

- Rinses away head lice effectively.
- Rinses away nits and eggs.
- Rinses away body lice effectively.

ROMAINE TREE LEAF LICE SHAMPOO:

- 100% INMATE SAFE
- HYPOALLERGENIC
- NO HARMFUL CHEMICALS
- NON-TOXIC
- PESTICIDE FREE
- FAST ACTING



STAPH INFECTIONS?

Staphylococcus Aureas (MRSA) is a common bacterium found on the skin of healthy individuals. MRSA is highly contagious and presents itself as a pimple like sore that can develop into an open wound. These bacterium can become hard to treat and can become resistant to antibiotic treatment.

De-Staph Shampoo is formulated to provide extra gentle cleaning while eliminating bacteria that can cause disease. Specially formulated with mild cleaning ingredients and enriched with moisturizers, lanolin and aloe vera, to leave skin feeling soft and smooth even after repeated washes. Its refreshing scent and rich lather help encourage frequent showering.

- Jails
- Penal Institutions
- Military
- Schools

KEY BENEFITS OF DE-STAPH BODY SHAMPOO:

- 100% INMATE SAFE
- HYPOALLERGENIC
- NO HARMFUL CHEMICALS
- NON-TOXIC
- Ph 4.8-7.0
- FAST ACTING

It Takes A Special Person To Do Your Job…

Ray Scifres, Hockley County Sheriff

Earlier today I was completing daily and weekly routines, such as going over inmate rosters and law enforcement calls for service. Sitting on the desk was the budget for next year that I have been unexcitedly working on over the last few weeks, as well as COVID-19 reimbursement grant documentation that needed to go to the auditor. As I sat in my office dealing with my own tasks, there was a glance at the computer monitor displaying the jail video cameras. It was installed about a year ago and is out of my line of sight, but occasionally catches my attention. Today it was nothing specific that caught my eye, but I just glanced over and saw the activity and goings-on in multiple parts of our small, rural detention center.

I watched as an officer was making rounds and speaking with inmates as he conducted cell checks. He did so with a friendly demeanor and visited with multiple inmates even if only for a minute. Another officer was observed as she oversaw meal preparations for mid-day chow, not as a simple observer, but as an active participant. A shift sergeant was completing the release process for an inmate that received probation during a court hearing this morning all while answering a host of questions with a smile, and a bailiff was aiding in a "Zoom" hearing (that we are all now accustomed to taking part in) for another inmate about to receive a prison sentence. Seemingly mundane and routine activities were occurring in every part of our jail, and I had to smile.

Why a smile? It wasn't what the officers were doing, but how they were doing it. They showed a genuine heart for service to others. They displayed the pride they have in their chosen profession. They exuded confidence that comes from their training and knowledge and showed that same confidence in their fellow detention professionals.

So, why is this important? Around the clock, all day every day, and across our great state, dedicated professionals secure our jails, protect our inmates, respond to mental health emergencies, and serve others in a manner that is unfortunately too often viewed as routine. Anyone that has ever sat in a control room, booked an inmate, talked one out of harming himself during a mental health crisis, or prevented a fight in a cell area knows there is nothing routine about your job. You, our detention officers, whether in a 9-bed jail or a 3000-bed facility, play a vital role in the safety and security of our communities. I have said this during my entire career, and I continue to believe it to this day: it takes a special person to choose to work in detention.

During the week of May 3-9, 2020, we celebrated National Correctional Officers' Week in order to let those who work inside of jails and prisons know how much they are appreciated and how important they are to our criminal justice system. While not as visible as other aspects of the system, your role as a public servant is equally as important. As an administrator and a sheriff, let me assure you that you are visible, and your contributions are noticed. For your professionalism, integrity, and especially your heart for service, I say "Thank You."

Spots are filling up quick in the 2020 JMI Exhibit Hall!

Grab a vendor booth in Galveston, TX this September!

For more information or to reserve a booth visit www.texasjailassociation.com

Vendor Report

As the summer quickly approaches, we are preparing for the 2020 Jail Management Issues (JMI) Conference. We regret that the 34th Annual Texas Jail Association Conference was canceled, nonetheless, we are excited that the exhibit hall is almost sold out for JMI and we have over 250 registered participants.

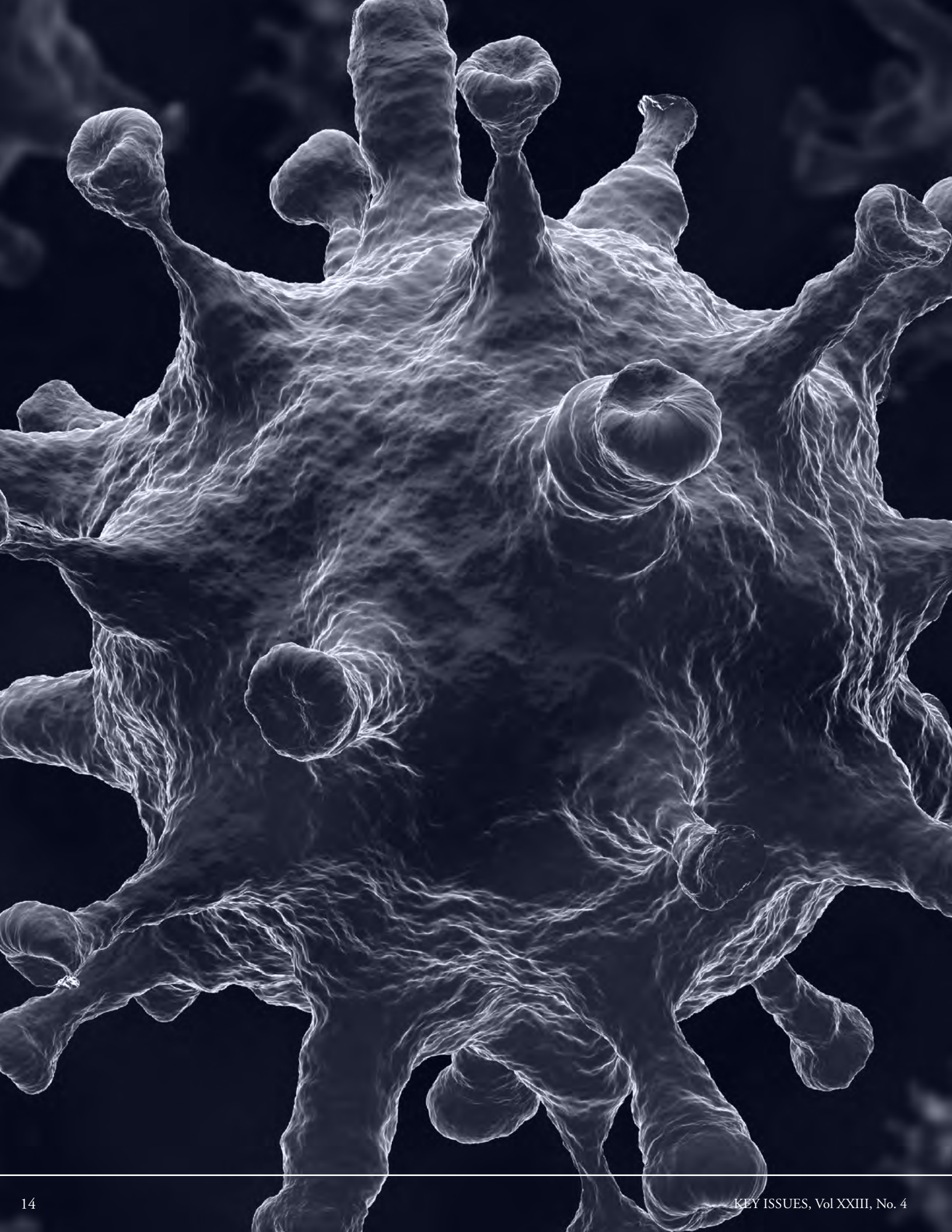
The 2020 Jail Management Issues Conference, September 14-18, 2020, will be held at the Galveston Island Convention Center in Galveston, Texas. The San Luis Resort and the Hilton Galveston are host hotels this year. REGISTRATION IS OPEN and spots are filling up quick, so go to www.texasjailassociation.com to find all needed information, such as, class topics, exhibitor packets, registration forms, schedules, hotel blocks, and sponsorship opportunities.

At the upcoming JMI conference there will be many opportunities to meet and congratulate the newly elected President, Dan Corbin, and members of the TJA Board. The swearing in of the Board took place virtually on May 18th, since the Annual Business Meeting and Awards Banquet was canceled due to COVID-19.

As the vendor representatives, please use us as a resource with any questions, or concerns, for the upcoming JMI Conference. Your experience with the Texas Jail Association is our ultimate priority, and we are here to fulfill your needs!

We hope everyone has a great summer and we look forward to an outstanding conference in September!

Grant Oakley City Tele Coin, Inc. 940-500-0662 grant@citytelecoin.com	**Kevin Johnson** Correct Commissary 281-686-4055 wkjohnson@correctcommissary.com



How COVID-19 In Jails And Prisons Threatens Nearby Communities

by Michael Ollove

COVID-19 has raged throughout U. S. jails and prisons, where people live together in close quarters and there is little opportunity for social distancing, a lack of basic sanitary supplies, and high rates of chronic disease.

While inmates mostly stay behind concrete walls and barbed wire, those barriers can't contain an infectious disease like COVID-19. Not only can the virus be brought into jails and prisons, but it also can leave those facilities and spread widely into surrounding communities and beyond.

The effect may be most pronounced in jails, which mainly house those who are awaiting trial or inmates serving short sentences. Those facilities tend to have more churn than state and federal penitentiaries, with greater numbers of people entering and leaving, thereby increasing opportunities for the disease to disseminate.

Two new studies show that jails can contribute enormously to coronavirus case totals outside their walls. While COVID-19's spread inside the facilities has been widely reported, the research demonstrates just how great an impact it can have in communities outside.

Depending on the social distancing measures put in place, community spread from infections in jails could add between 99,000 and 188,000 people to the virus' U. S. death toll, according to a modeling study recently published by the American Civil Liberties Union in conjunction with researchers from the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Tennessee, and Washington State University.

The report was released in April, when some experts were predicting that the U. S. death toll would remain below 100,000. As of June 30, more than 125,800 people have died of COVID-19 in the United States.

A peer-reviewed study set to appear in the health policy journal Health Affairs echoes that finding. The researchers found that cycling through Cook County Jail was associated with 15.9% of COVID-19 cases in Chicago and 15.7% in Illinois as of late April.

"Although currently available data are inadequate to establish a clear causal relation," the study's authors write, "these provisional findings are consistent with the hypothesis that arrest and jailing practices are augmenting infection rates in highly policed neighborhoods."

Cook County officials, including officials from the Chicago

COURTROOM CHALLENGE

Different variations of the Courtroom Challenge have been a staple at the TJA Annual Conference for many years. With the unfortunate cancellation of the Annual Conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the staff at the Texas Commission on Jail Standards are excited to present the Courtroom Challenge: Quick Draw at the Jail Management Issues Conference in Galveston, Texas, September 14-18, 2020. This will be the third year of the Courtroom Challenge: Quick Draw game testing your knowledge of minimum jail standards.

Last year, we had several teams compete from across the state. First place went to Alexander Nares and Yeisen Olivas-Chavez from Travis County. Right behind in second place was Tracie Sasin and Wade Goolsby from Lubbock County. Rounding out the top three, Kristene Crockett and Eileen Russell from McLennan County. We will have registration on-site the morning of the competition. We welcome as many teams that want to enter. This is an incredible learning environment as well as a competitive setting that everyone enjoys.

In case you did not compete, spectate, or even hear how the game was played last year, here is the format:

Teams are composed of two individuals. Then, by random draw, two teams compete against each other in the round. During the round, questions are projected onto the wall. Teams then respond by selecting their choice with the corresponding color/shape on the computer in front of them within a set time limit. Points are earned for correct answers only. However, more points are earned the quicker your team responds with the correct answer. After a set amount of questions, the round is completed and the team with the most points is declared the winner. As teams progress to the finals, the question time limit for teams to respond is shortened as the stakes become higher.

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

Texas Commission on Jail Standards

PRESENTS THE 3RD ANNUAL

Two (2) Person Teams

Double Elimination Tournament Style

Compete Against Teams Across The State

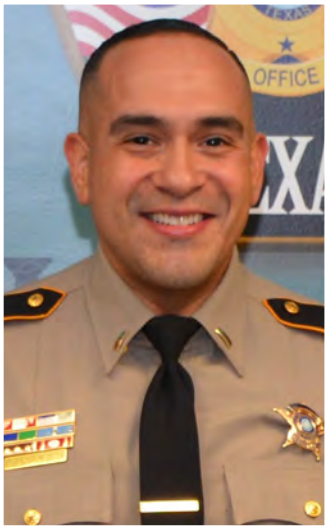
Test Your Knowledge Of Minimum Standards

Team Trophies Awarded To First, Second, And Third Place

Signup will be at the 2020 Jail Management Issues Conference

I would like to thank you, the TJA membership, for your time and consideration in voting for me this year as I ran for a director position on the TJA board of directors. Although I accepted an appointment for Treasurer instead of the Director position, I am ever so thankful for your confidence in me and vote to serve on the TJA Board. The role that we play in the professionalization for the field of corrections is crucial to maintain the safety and security of Texas jails and communities. Please know that I appreciate your confidence in me to serve in this capacity. I am always available to you as resource for information. If I do not know the answer, I will seek it out through the extensive network of jail professionals available through this awesome association. I look forward to my continued service with TJA and helping to make Texas jails a better place to serve.

Thank You,
Sergeant Abby Belangeri, Custodian of Records / NJLCA Class #28 / 979-361-4871



I would like to formally thank you for electing me to serve in the position of 3rd Vice President. During my time as the Association's Secretary and also Director, I have given my all. I promise to continue this same hard work and dedication for years to come.

As I stated in my campaign emails, my commitment to you as your 3rd Vice President is to continue providing training across the state, increasing our funds for scholarships, and additional networking opportunities. Specific training focuses will be on jail leadership, mental health topics related to our profession, and preparing yourselves for advancement in your career as a Corrections Professional. If there is anything I can do to assist you, or your agency, in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me via the TJA website.

Thank you all and God bless,
Edwardo Jackson

I would like to thank you for electing me to the Texas Jail Association Board of Directors. I look forward to serving everyone in the corrections profession. It is an honor to be a part of a great organization such as the TJA. I will continue to serve the membership in any way I can. If you ever need anything at all, feel free to contact me.

Lieutenant Levi Vance
Tom Green County Jail
122 W. Harris
San Angelo, TX 76903
Jail (325)659-6597
Office (325)655-5720
Cell (325)450-2301

COMMUNICATIONS

INTELLIGENCE

EDUCATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

PAYMENT SERVICES

SECURUS Technologies™

TEXAS BORN, TEXAS PROUD

Connecting what matters®

Securus is dedicated to partnering with you, innovating toward a future with better outcomes for all

At Securus, we develop solutions that improve daily life for every person involved in the correctional system in this country. That includes the individuals in the system and the communities around those individuals - the family structures, support networks, and employees who need their work environment to feel safe and their careers to be fulfilling.

SECURUS IS THE LEADING PROVIDER OF CORRECTIONS TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

sales@securustechnologies.com

www.securustechnologies.com

What's Happening Around the State?

Bexar County

Civics Classes for Inmates

The Bexar County Sheriff's Office is one of the first of a few jails in Texas, to provide civics classes for inmates, which helps them learn about local, state, and federal government, but more importantly teaches inmates what voting rights they have while incarcerated. In partnership with MOVE Texas and Texas Organizing Project (TOP), Sheriff Javier Salazar identified that many inmates incarcerated at the Bexar County Jail did not know what voting rights they still had, but also identified that many of the inmates truly did not understand the electoral process. This course has been such a success that it was recently highlighted by CNN to help get the story out on the importance of teaching civics to the incarcerated.

Dealing with COVID-19

The Bexar County Jail has taken on the task of mass testing 100% of inmates and staff for COVID-19. Currently, we have begun to see a slight decline in the number of positive cases on both officers and inmates alike. This has been a task considering the population of nearly 3,500 inmates. These initiatives have proven to be effective in the containment and preventing the spread of the virus within the facility and staff. Once again the Bexar County Sheriff's Office has stepped up to the challenge and took it head on.

Safety Bumper Stickers

Sheriff Javier Salazar created the Bexar County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) Safety Bumper Stickers. These BCSO Safety Stickers are geared to assist people with special needs and specific medical conditions, these safety stickers which are of free cost to the community are intended to assist law enforcement to better understand that the individual they are interacting with may have one of the following conditions: autism or special needs, diabetes, deaf, or Alzheimer's. As we have seen throughout the nation and here locally, oftentimes a medical condition can give the impression that the person they are interacting with may be under the influence, when in fact the person is actually suffering from a diabetic episode. Here in Bexar County, the safety sticker program has been an absolute success, so much so, that agencies throughout the United States have begun to adopt the same type of safety program for their department.

BCSO Liaison Program

Sheriff Javier Salazar created the first-ever Bexar County Sheriff's Office Liaison Program in 2017, and it is now the biggest law enforcement liaison program in Texas. The BCSO currently has liaisons for the following communities: LGBTQ, Asian, Muslim, Hispanic, African American, Jewish, Faith-based, Military, Indian, Autism and Special Needs, and Deaf liaisons. Through the diversity of the liaison program, the Bexar County Sheriff's Office is able to create unique relationships with each community, to include having the ability to successfully recruit members from those community to the Sheriff's Office. Several of the liaisons have been featured by local media due to the success they have had in their communities and the diversity they add to the Sheriff's Office.

What's Happening Around the State?

Houston County

On April 1, 2020 **Justin Killough** was sworn in as Sheriff of Houston County. He was sworn in by Houston County Judge Jim Lovell. Prior to becoming sheriff, Killough served as Chief Deputy. He began his law enforcement in 1995 and has been with the Houston County Sheriff's Office since 1997. Killough began as a deputy, working in the capacity of a sergeant and a lieutenant.

On April 2, 2020 Investigator **Jerry Kaelin** took the position as Chief Deputy. He has been with the Houston County Sheriff's Office since 2014. Kaelin began his law enforcement career in 1995 also, retiring from Texas Department of Public Safety before coming to the Sheriff's Office.

Kendall County

Emmanuel Cerda was promoted to Corporal this week. Cerda has been with the Kendall County Sheriff's Office for two years. Prior to his employment with Kendall County, Cerda was a Detention Officer with the San Patricio County Sheriff's Office for 10 years where he attained the rank of Sergeant. Pictured are Corporal Cerda and Sheriff Al Auxier.

What's Happening Around the State?

Lubbock County

Following the Covid-19 guidelines, inmates worked diligently to make face masks for anyone entering the Lubbock County Detention Center, under the guidance of **Tammy Smith**, the Education Coordinator.

Lubbock County Detention staff enjoyed hamburgers and hotdogs in appreciation for their hard work and dedication during Correctional Officer week. In addition to the meal, Monster Energy Drinks donated drinks, Chick-Fil-A donated gift cards and Keefe Commissary donated chips and candy. The staff in Programs raised money throughout the year to stock goody bags full of treats for each officer.

Lubbock County

Lubbock County Sheriff **Kelly Rowe** promoted Corporal **Tanner Jasper** to Sergeant in the Detention Center. Sergeant Jasper has been with the Sheriff's Office since August of 2013.

Have a story or updates about your county? LET US KNOW!

Submission Deadlines

Summer Issue
June 1st, 2020

Fall Issue
October 1st, 2020

Winter Issue
December 1st, 2020

Spring Issue
March 1st, 2021

Send submissions to Sharese Hurst
sharese@shsu.edu

wellpath℠

To hope and healing.

The Nation's Leading Provider of Medical and Behavioral Healthcare in Jails

At Wellpath, across our jails, prisons, and inpatient and residential treatment facilities, we care for more than 300,000 patients each day and employ nearly 16,000 professionals at 550 facilities in 33 states and Australia. We take pride in our successful partnerships in 20 Texas facilities as we are focused on patient care, clinical innovations, transparent operations, and a commitment to "Always Do The Right Thing!" We are committed to creating healthier communities — wherever we go, wherever we grow — one patient at a time.

1-800-592-2974 // www.WellpathCare.com

TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020–2021

Dan Corbin, *President*
Lubbock County Sheriff's Office
P.O. Box 10536
Lubbock, TX 79408
Phone: (806) 775-1495
dcorbin@co.lubbock.tx.us

Greg Pilkington, *Director*
Tarrant County Sheriff's Office
200 Taylor Street
Fort Worth, TX 76196
Phone: (817) 884-3711
jpilkington@tarrantcounty.com

Johnny Jaquess, *Sergeant-At-Arms*
Lubbock County Sheriff's Office
P.O. Box 10536
Lubbock, TX 79408
Phone: (806) 549-8001
jjaquess@co.lubbock.tx.us

Kevin Stuart, *Past President*
Brazos County Sheriff's Office
1835 Sandy Point Road
Bryan, TX 77807
Phone: (979) 361-4846
kstuart@brazoscountytx.gov

Jason Davis, *Director*
McLennan County Sheriff's Office
3201 E. Hwy 6
Waco, TX 76705
Phone: 254-757-2555
jason.davis@co.mclennan.tx.us

Rodney Cooper, *Private Jail Representative*
LaSalle Corrections
117 Briar Meadow
Huntsville, TX 77320
Phone: (512) 858-7202
rcoop1984@gmail.com

Ricky Armstrong, *1st Vice President*
McLennan County Sheriff's Office
3201 E. Highway 6
Waco, TX 76705
Phone: (254) 757-2555
ricky.armstrong@co.mclennan.tx.us

Frances Dembowski, *Director*
Travis County Sheriff's Office
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767
Phone: (512) 854-5391
frances.dembowski@traviscountytx.gov

Kevin Johnson, *Vendor Representative*
Correct Commissary
1122 Bittersweet Dr.
Richmond, TX 77406
Phone: (281) 686-4055
wkjohnson@correctcommissary.com

Becky Caffey, *2nd Vice President*
Brown County Sheriff's Office
1050 W. Commerce
Brownwood, TX 76801
Phone: (325) 641-2202
becky.caffey@browncountytx.org

Bill Jennings, *Director*
Comal County Sheriff's Office
3005 W San Antonio St.
New Braunfels, TX 78163
Phone: (903) 746-6172
jenniw@co.comal.tx.us

Grant Oakley, *Vendor Representative*
CTC Company Inc.
701 Hulme St.
Bowie, TX 76230
Phone: (318) 629-1595
grant@citytelecoin.com

Edwardo Jackson, *3rd Vice President*
Travis County Sheriff's Office
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767
Phone: (512) 854-9770
edwardo.jackson@traviscountytx.gov

Terry McCraw, *Director*
Collin County Sheriff's Office
4300 Community Ave.
McKinney, TX 75071
Phone: (972) 547-5208
tmccraw@co.collin.tx.us

Lynette Anderson, *Chaplain*
Harris County Sheriff's Office
21218 Nottinghill Drive
Spring, TX 77388
Phone: (713) 516-0980
lynette.anderson@sheriff.hctx.net

Abby Belangeri, *Treasurer*
Brazos County Sheriff's Office
1835 Sandy Point Road
Bryan, TX 77807
Phone: (979) 361-4818
abelangeri@brazoscountytx.gov

Eric Hensley, *Parliamentarian*
Washington County Sheriff's Office
1206 Old Independence
Brenham, TX 77833
Phone: (832) 335-9797
ehensley@wacounty.com

Sharese Hurst, *Executive Director*
Correctional Management Institute of Texas
Box 2296
Huntsville, TX 77341
Phone: (936) 294-1687
sharese@shsu.edu

Levi Vance, *Director*
Tom Green County Sheriff's Office
122 W. Harris
San Angelo, TX 76903
Phone: (325) 655-5720
levi.vance@co.tom-green.tx.us

Jaime Rios, *Secretary*
Bexar County Sheriff's Office
200 N. Comal
San Antonio, TX 78207
Phone: (830) 513-6371
jaime.rios@bexar.org

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 2021 Semester - December 1, 2020
Fall 2021 Semester - July 1, 2021

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.

JOIN TJA IN MAY 2021

35th Annual TJA Conference

May 10-14, 2021 | Austin, TX

TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION TJA

Registration Opens November 1, 2020

REGISTER ONLINE AT TEXASJAILASSOCIATION.COM