

Outlook gloomy for jail contract

JAIL The standoff between Fort Worth and Tarrant County has intensified as a deadline looms on a new contract.

By **GINGER D. RICHARDSON**
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

FORT WORTH — With just weeks to go before Fort Worth prisoners could be locked out of the Tarrant County Jail, city and county officials are millions of dollars — and miles philosophically — apart in a dispute over a new jail contract.

Fort Worth leaders say they will not pay the \$9 million a year the county is seeking to house city prisoners.

And county officials — warning Fort Worth to pay its fair share — have refused the city's offer to pay \$2.27 million a year, a 2 percent increase.

After five years of failed negotiations, the two sides will meet yet again Tuesday in an effort to structure a new contract by the county-imposed deadline, Nov. 20.

But the city has already begun looking at other options for housing Fort Worth prisoners, including opening its own jail in the old cellblocks behind the Belknap Street police station.

"I am a big believer in finding ways to work it out and not taking arbitrary positions," Mayor Kenneth Barr said. "But it's a rather inflexible stance they have thrown back at us."

The county, too, is making other arrangements.

"It is the county's position that we want a fair and equitable payment from the city," county administrator G.K. Maenius said. "But if we can't do that, if we can't get to that, I think it is going to be very difficult to continue the contract."

Fort Worth and Tarrant County have not had a long-term jail contract since a 10-year deal expired in October 1996.

That agreement was among the terms of construction of a city police headquarters — with county jail facilities on the upper floors — at 350 W. Belknap St. The city paid \$10.9 million and the county \$6 million for the building.

At the crux of the dispute is how much prisoners cost the county.

According to the county's estimates, Fort Worth should pay \$150 for intake, \$29 daily for housing and \$76 for release.

Fort Worth officials, however, say they would prefer to pay a flat daily fee for each city prisoner in the jail. They say the county is asking them to subsidize the daily costs of the jail's operations.

"Our hope is to continue the relationship the city has with the county and the Sheriff's Department," Police Chief Ralph Mendoza said. "We're willing to pay for our prisoners."

"My concern is that it seems the intake and the release process are extremely excessive. It's either taking too long or costing too much."

Tarrant County's proposed fees appear much higher than those in Dallas and Austin, where the city government pays to house prisoners in a county lockup.

Under Austin's contract with Travis County, the city will pay \$2.7 million over the next fiscal year to book a maximum of 48,500 prisoners into the county jail.

For each prisoner over that amount, Austin will pay a flat fee of \$55, officials said.

Dallas County, on the other hand, charges the city \$76.95 for booking a prisoner, \$57.65 for release and \$25.15 per day for housing.

The fees are calculated based on anticipated usage, said Ryan Brown, Dallas County's budget officer.

"We're blessed that the city of Dallas and the county have been able to have a good relationship on this," Brown said. "We've been able to make this format work for five years."

All told, Dallas will pay the county about \$6.4 million this year to house approximately 55,000 prisoners at the Lew Sterrett Criminal Justice Center — nearly \$3 million less than Tarrant County is seeking from Fort Worth.

Tarrant County officials, however, say it is impossible to compare costs with other city-county contracts.

They say other cities, such as Dallas, have their own facilities in which to house those charged with public intoxication and other low-level crimes.

According to records, about 56 percent of the 53,559 prisoners booked into the Tarrant County jail last year were from Fort Worth and about two-thirds were charged with Class C misdemeanors.

Those facing such misdemeanors, which include charges for outstanding warrants and public intoxication, typically post bail quickly and remain in jail no more than a day.

Such prisoners are often the most costly to house, the county says.

"You are not dealing with an apples-to-apples comparison here," Sheriff Dee Anderson said. "Dallas doesn't bring any intoxicated persons to their jail, and that does make a difference."

"There are two sides to every story — including this one."

Fort Worth, however, says there are inefficiencies in the county system.

The city says that it asked the county to split the cost of an outside performance review but that the county declined.

"It was point-blank refusal," City Manager Gary Jackson

said. "As a result, we have no benchmark, no evaluation of the jail and its operations."

County officials say that instead of the efficiency study, they offered to perform a less sweeping, activities-based cost study of jail operations but that the city nixed that.

JAIL

Continued

The broader review isn't needed, county officials said, because the sheriff has made progress in eliminating excess costs from the jail system. Since taking office, Anderson has closed the county's oldest and most inefficient jail, at 300 W. Belknap St., and slashed thousands of dollars in overtime from the budget.

He also hired Bob Knowles, formerly Dallas County's jail administrator, as his executive chief deputy.

"I am confident that we have increased the efficiency since [Knowles'] arrival," Anderson said. "To further delay the process with a lengthy study was not something we were interested in.

"And there's always a possibility that someone will dispute the findings."

Such was the case in 1997, after a study of Tarrant County Jail costs by David M. Griffith Associates of Dallas concluded that the county's costs had increased to \$99 for processing a prisoner in and out of jail and an average of about \$40 a day to house each inmate. Both the city and the county paid for the study, but Fort Worth's auditors didn't agree with the findings.

Nor do they agree with the county's cost estimates today.

In an Oct. 5 letter to the county, Jackson offered to increase the city's payments for prisoners by 2 percent, from about \$2.23 million to \$2.27 million, about the same percentage increase as the previous year.

The city also proposed a 24-hour-a-day magistrate to process Fort Worth prisoners to reduce the number in jail.

The county's response was an ultimatum that the city agree to a new contract by Nov. 20 — or find another place for its prisoners as of Dec. 31.

Neither side will say whether it is going into Tuesday's meeting with a compromise proposal or the chances of meeting in the middle.

"I think we are providing a good service for the city, but if they don't want to use that service, then clearly they don't have to," Anderson said. "It's really pretty simple — we are either going to hammer out the contract, or we are going to part ways."

Staff writer Neil Strassman contributed to this report.

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Tuesday, October 30, 2001

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

■ Tarrant County officials said their proposal to Fort Worth for a new jail contract would probably cost the city \$4.5 million to \$5.7 million a year. An article Monday about the contract cited a higher estimate provided by Fort Worth officials. The city officials, who are in negotiations with the county, have offered to pay \$2.27 million a year.

City ups offer for jail service

By GINGER D. RICHARDSON
and NEIL STRASSMAN
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITERS

FORT WORTH — In a last-ditch effort to forge a new jail contract, Fort Worth officials Tuesday gave Tarrant County what they termed a take-it-or-leave-it offer to pay up to \$3.6 million for housing city prisoners in the county jail.

JAIL Fort Worth and Tarrant County officials are trying to reach a compromise on a contract.

The city's latest offer — which backs off previous opposition to a per-prisoner cost — is about 20 percent less than the \$4.4 million the county says it needs to cover expenses.

City officials said they are prepared to open a city jail if the county rejects the plan.

"That's our final offer," City Manager Gary Jackson said. "We hope it will not be rejected. We are optimistic it will not be rejected. We think it's in the best interest of the county and the city to continue a coopera-

More on JAIL on 4B

JAIL

Continued from 1B

"We're close to reaching an agreement or Fort Worth is going to open a city jail."

— Sheriff Dee Anderson

tive arrangement."

County Commissioners are expected to consider the city's offer Tuesday.

"We're close to reaching an agreement or Fort Worth is going to open a city jail," Tarrant County Sheriff Dee Anderson said. "The bottom line is dollars — what is the cost to book, feed, house and release a prisoner."

City and county officials met for more than 90 minutes Tues-

day in an effort to resolve the impasse.

Under its latest offer, the city would pay a per-prisoner cost for booking, housing and release of inmates that is lower than the rates proposed by the county.

The city offer would generate up to \$3.6 million for the county, and is a 57 percent increase over Fort Worth's previous offer of about \$2.3 million, Jackson said.

The city has been under the

gun to negotiate a new jail contract since Oct. 15, when County Judge Tom Vandergriff sent a letter to Mayor Kenneth Barr telling him that the county would stop housing city prisoners after Dec. 31 if the city failed to negotiate a new agreement by Nov. 20.

The city has been pursuing other options, including opening its own jail or contracting with Mansfield to house Fort Worth's

"We are developing contingency plans. But we hope we don't have to put them in place."

— City Manager Gary Jackson

ing, \$23.72 for housing and \$62.17 for release per prisoner, Jackson said.

The county has offered to assume the costs of housing Fort Worth's prisoners who are facing Class A and B misdemeanors until the district attorney accepts charges against them. Once the district attorney files charges, the prisoners become the county's responsibility.

The city, meanwhile, has begun providing a magistrate to speed processing of those arrested to reduce the number of Fort Worth prisoners in the jail. The increased magistrate services will cost Fort Worth about \$308,000 a year, Jackson said.

City Councilman Jim Lane, who has been part of Fort Worth's negotiating team, said Tuesday he believes the offer is a good compromise.

Correspondent Robert Cadwallader contributed to this report.

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prisoners.

Mansfield officials said they would welcome the opportunity. The city's for-profit jail, built in 1990 to maximum-security standards, has had difficulty filling its 240 beds since several contracts fell apart.

Jackson and other city officials declined to comment Tuesday on how much a city jail would cost to operate.

"We are developing contingency plans," Jackson said. "But we hope we don't have to put them in place."

County Commissioner J.D. Johnson, who attended the negotiations, said he, too, hopes an agreement can be reached but left open the possibility of two separate jail operations.

"If it turns out that's the best arrangement, maybe that is what it will be," Johnson said. "All we are

trying to do is collect what it costs all the taxpayers of this county to house Fort Worth prisoners."

According to 2000 jail records, about 56 percent of the 53,559 prisoners booked into the county jail were from Fort Worth. Many were charged with Class C misdemeanors, the lowest level of crime, which includes those arrested for public intoxication and outstanding warrants.

County officials have said they are losing up to \$3 million a year by housing Fort Worth prisoners. In his letter to Barr, Vandergriff said the city should pay per-prisoner fees of \$150 for booking, \$29 a day for housing and \$76 for release.

In the latest offer, city officials said they believe the county can operate efficiently at about 82 percent of its proposed rate structure. That would mean the city would pay \$122.70 for book-

TARRANT COUNTY

Ex-jail commander dies at local hospital

Former Tarrant County Jail Commander Savala Swanson — once the highest-ranking black employee in the Sheriff's Department — dies, apparently of natural causes, officials say. Swanson was pronounced dead at 12:25 a.m. Saturday at Arlington Memorial Hospital, according to records from the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office. Swanson, 52, had worked more than 20 years at the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department.

Savala Swanson



FORT WORTH — Savala Swanson, III, 52, a former Tarrant County chief deputy sheriff for 22 years, died Saturday, Nov. 3, 2001, at a local hospital.

Funeral: 11 a.m. Wednesday at Bridgewood Church of Christ, 6516 Brentwood Stair at East Loop 820. **Burial:** Moore Memorial Garden. **Visitation:** Tuesday 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the funeral home. Family present, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Church of Christ at 6251 Wichita St. in Forest Hill.

He was born in Palestine, Texas and graduated from South Parks High School in Buffalo, N.Y., and was an ordained Elder at Church of Christ in Forest Hill. He was also the first black Chief Deputy.

Survivors: Wife, of 32 years, Cecilia Thompson; sons, Ernest Swanson, Savala Swanson IV, Benjamin Swanson; daughters, Mia Swanson, Malissa Swanson; parents, Savalaa Swanson Jr. (Willie), Camell Hall; brothers, Robert Arnold, Wayne Black, Savala Swanson Jr.; sisters, Marilyn Brookins, Linda Caldwell, Mae Carol Beck, Sandra Ciullo, Kathy Bass; six grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends.

Gregory W. Spencer Funeral Directors
4000 Miller Ave., (817) 531-8666

Former Tarrant County Jail commander dies

By **BILL TEETER**

STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Former Tarrant County Jail Commander Savala Swanson — once the highest-ranking black employee in the Sheriff's Department — died early Saturday, apparently of natural causes, officials said.

Swanson was pronounced dead at 12:25 a.m. at Arlington Memorial Hospital, according to records from the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office.

No additional information

was available Saturday evening.

Swanson, 52, had worked more than 20 years at the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department in a variety of positions.

He started his career with the department as a detention officer and was promoted by then-Sheriff David Williams to chief deputy of confinement, managing a \$34 million budget and overseeing a staff of more than 700 workers.

Swanson was fired from the department in September along with another high-ranking jail

administrator, James Moore, after the men declined demotions from Sheriff Dee Anderson.

Anderson said Saturday that Swanson had a long, stellar career with the Sheriff's Department.

"He served the county for many years with distinction and was well-liked by people in the department," Anderson said.

Swanson was active at the Forest Hill Church of Christ, where he taught Bible study

and Sunday school classes and had been a member of the outreach and steering committees.

Swanson often spoke to students at school career days, telling them that jail is not a place they want to be. To make his point, he would pull out handcuffs and leg irons.

A father of five, he told the *Star-Telegram* last year of his devotion to children.

"I love children," Swanson said. "I think it's important for them to see a positive image of a person in law enforcement."

Wednesday, November 7, 2001

City, county closer to new jail contract

By NEIL STRASSMAN
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

FORT WORTH — In another round of negotiations on a new jail contract, Tarrant County commissioners Tuesday made a counteroffer to Fort Worth that splits the difference over the cost of housing city prisoners in the county jail.

The latest offer from the county leaves the two sides a few dollars apart on per-prisoner costs for the booking, housing and release of inmates.

"We can improve on how we're managing the jail," said Commissioner Glen Whitley. "This gives Fort Worth an incentive to manage the number of prisoners it brings to the jail."

County Administrator G.K. Maenius forwarded the proposal to City Manager Gary Jackson on Tuesday afternoon. The City

JAIL After five years of negotiations, Fort Worth and Tarrant County appear to be near an agreement on the cost of housing city prisoners in the county jail.

Council was expected to discuss the issue late Tuesday, and city officials hoped to respond to the offer by the end of the week.

"It's positive that they made a counteroffer. We are getting closer on the cost of service terms," Jackson said. "But there are a number of outstanding financial issues that we are factoring into our evaluation."

The county has said it will stop housing city prisoners after Dec. 31 if an agreement is not reached by Nov. 20. Fort Worth officials say they are prepared to open a city jail if nego-

tiations fail.

Last week, Fort Worth gave the county what it termed a "final offer" to pay about 20 percent less than the \$4.4 million the county says it needs to cover jail expenses.

In the latest offer, county officials dropped their fee for processing an inmate into jail from \$150 to \$135 in response to Fort Worth's offer to pay \$122. The county dropped its inmate housing cost from \$29 to \$26, halfway to Fort Worth's \$23. The county lowered its proposed cost for releasing prisoners from \$76 to \$69, compared with Fort Worth's offer of \$62.

"That's what it's going to cost per prisoner," said County Commissioner J.D. Johnson. "There isn't any upper limit or lower limit on what the city pays."

County officials have said

they are losing up to \$3 million a year by housing Fort Worth inmates. City officials have said they believe the county can operate the jail more efficiently and contend that they are being asked to subsidize jail operations.

According to 2000 jail records, about 56 percent of the 53,559 prisoners booked into the county jail were from Fort Worth. Many were charged with Class C misdemeanors, the lowest level of crime.

The county has offered to assume the cost of housing Fort Worth's prisoners who are facing Class A and B misdemeanors — as it does for other cities — until the district attorney accepts charges against them. Once the district attorney files charges, the prisoners become the county's responsibility.

Staff writer Ginger D. Richardson contributed to this report.

*A Service Honoring
The Life Of*

Savala Swanson, III

1949

2001



**The Service Held
Wednesday, the Seventh day of November
In the Year Two thousand one**

One hour before high noon

Bridgewood Church of Christ

**6516 Brentwood Stair Road
Fort Worth, Texas 76112**

***Brother Emanuel White, Minister
Officiating***

The Order of Service
Brother Lee Fisher, Presiding
Brother Henry Johnson, Song Leader

The Funeral Cortege Enters

An Uplifting Song..... *Brother Henry Johnson*

The Intercessory Prayer*Brother Richard Stevens*

The Scriptural Readings

Old Testament *Brother Roscoe Rhodes*

New Testament *Brother Billy Young*

A Song of Peace..... *Brother Henry Johnson*

The Resolutions.....*Forest Hill Church of Christ*
Lake Como Church of God In Christ
Please Pass Others In

Remarks *County Commissioner Dione Bagsby*
Officer Robert McGinty

A Tribute From The Family*Elder Jimmy Smith,*
Pastor, Lake Como Church of God In Christ

A Poem *Chad Evans*

A Song of Comfort..... *Brother Henry Johnson*

The Eulogy *Brother Emanuel White*

The Recession of the Funeral Cortege

The Christian Committal and Burial.....

Moore Memorial Gardens
Arlington, Texas

The Benedictory Prayer

The good he did will live

SANDERS The image of Savala Swanson is bright for those who knew him, despite his dismissal from the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department.



Bob Ray Sanders
COMMENTARY

An authentic hero was laid to rest this week in Arlington. It's a shame that his former boss, Tarrant County Sheriff Dee Anderson, didn't treat him like one.

Savala Swanson III, 52, had served this county for 22 years, starting as a detention officer in the Sheriff's Department and working his way up to chief deputy of confinement, supervising a multimillion dollar budget and hundreds of employees.

More on SANDERS on 7B

SANDERS

Continued from 1B

When he became chief deputy, Swanson was the highest ranking African-American in the department.

It is said that he died of a heart attack Saturday.

I would suggest that he died of a broken heart.

You see, Swanson died less than two months after being humiliated by a sheriff who wanted to demote him and who then fired him when he refused to accept the insult.

Another top commander in the department, James Moore, was also fired.

"It just wasn't working out with those two people" was the reason given at the time.

"It wasn't any single thing," Anderson said at the time. "It was a long-term evaluation. They're exempt employees, and they serve at the pleasure of the sheriff"

Indeed, politicians often come into office and then surround themselves with their good old buddies, whom they know and trust and sometimes owe a favor.

As the newly elected sheriff, Anderson certainly has the *right* to reshuffle, demote and fire top commanders. But what he did to Swanson was a tragedy.

You don't just throw away a man of Swanson's experience, character and devotion.

For 16 years before Anderson's election last year, the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department suffered miserably under two incompetent officials.

During those bungled, misguided times, there was always

one calm voice — one sane spirit — that could be counted on. That was Savala Swanson, who continued to work hard in his job regardless of the adversities surrounding the department and its sheriffs.

Swanson was also devoted to his community and to his church.

He was an ordained elder at Forest Hill Church of Christ, where he taught Bible study and Sunday school classes.

The Palestine native was a role model who loved talking to schoolchildren, encouraging them to stay out of trouble so they could stay out of the place he managed.

"I love children," he told the *Star-Telegram* last year. "I think it's important for them to see a positive image of person in law enforcement."

He was also a committed family man with a wife of 32 years, Cecilia, and five children.

Ernest, Savala IV, Benjamin, Mia and Malissa, don't worry. There were many people in this community who knew your father well and had the utmost respect for him. I am one of them.

They knew him to be a God-fearing man who did remarkable things under extraordinary circumstances, often with little or no thanks.

They, as you, knew him to be a hero.

Knowing his commitment to his faith, I'm convinced that Swanson was able to forgive those who had done him wrong.

I'm not sure I can. At least not anytime soon.

Bob Ray Sanders' column appears Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
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FORT WORTH

Sheriff's administrator faces weapons charge

Gun instructor could lose permit

By NEIL STRASSMAN
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

FORT WORTH — Terry Grisham, the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department executive administrator who runs a private handgun-training service, faces a misdemeanor charge of recklessly discharging a firearm in Dallas a month ago.



GRISHAM

The charge is a Class A misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$4,000 and one year in jail, said Mike Carnes, Dallas County first assistant district attorney.

Grisham, who continues to work in the Sheriff's Department while the department conducts an internal investigation, has declined to discuss the incident. He referred all questions to his attorney, John Weddle.

"We're collecting affidavits from people who were there," said Weddle, who is scheduled to meet with Dallas prosecutors on Dec. 5. "We will see if they will dismiss it, and if not, we will set it for trial. Everybody is assuming Terry did something wrong. We're entering a plea of not guilty."

Tarrant County Sheriff Dee Anderson said his office has

SHERIFF The executive administrator for the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department faces a charge of recklessly firing a gun after an incident in Dallas a month ago.

not completed its investigation of the Oct. 5 incident.

"It's in the pipeline, and I don't know when it will be finished," Anderson said. "The criminal aspect is another piece of the investigation, but the internal investigation is separate."

Grisham, 46, a 14-year county employee, was arrested by Dallas police investigating a complaint of gunshots near Lovers Lane and Inwood Road. The police report said he had been shooting a gun in the parking lot of a business and willingly surrendered to the arresting officers. The report said that he was sober and that no one was injured.

He was released from jail after posting \$500 bail. He took a week's vacation and then returned to work in the Sheriff's Department.

Grisham is not a licensed law enforcement officer, but he has a state-issued concealed-weapons permit and instructs others who want permits, Texas Department of Public Safety records show.

Since 1995, he has operated a business called Good Guys

Right to Carry Training. The Fort Worth-based school teaches handgun safety, use and laws. It has held classes in restaurants, hotels and country clubs.

Under Texas law, when someone with a concealed-handgun license is arrested for disorderly conduct, domestic violence, a Class B misdemeanor or a more serious charge — and after a district attorney accepts the case — the state moves to suspend the license, said Tom Vinger, a DPS spokesman.

Someone with a concealed-weapons permit or an instructor's license has 30 days to request a hearing after being notified of the suspension, Vinger said. Licenses are revoked on conviction, he said.

Grisham was an assistant to former County Judge Roy English. He continued in that post under County Judge Tom Vandergriff. Grisham began to work for the sheriff when Anderson took office in January. He earns a county salary of \$86,868, plus a car allowance.

Anderson, who has known Grisham since the two played football together at Eastern Hills High School, has said he knew of no other similar incidents in Grisham's background.

Saturday, November 10, 2001

LETTERS, FAXES AND E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

A man among men

I would like to add my voice to that of Bob Ray Sanders in his Friday accolade to one of our fallen community leaders, Chief Deputy Savala Swanson.

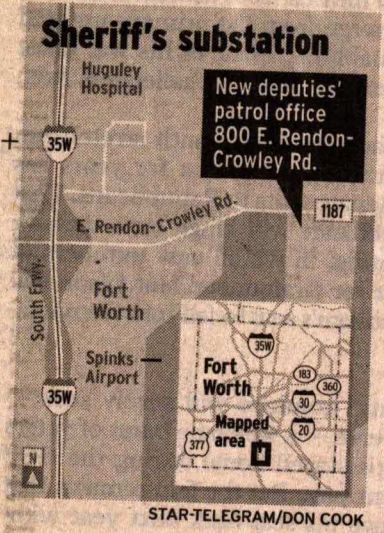
To those of us who had the privilege of working with him in law enforcement at a time when the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department was being constantly ridiculed for inept leadership, it was Swanson who instilled in each of us the fortitude, compassion and patience to continue in our seemingly thankless duties.

As I sat in the church among hundreds who had assembled to pay final tribute to this man among men, I could not help but reflect on the shameful treatment he received at the end of a career dedicated to serving the public — especially the less fortunate. But, knowing this Christian man beyond a boss-employee relationship, I felt confident that his rising spirit would surely echo, "Forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Thanks, Bob Ray. I couldn't have said it any better.

Floyd F. Clark, retiree,
Tarrant County Sheriff's Department,
Fort Worth

Sheriff's patrol division to be split for efficiency



STAR-TELEGRAM/DON COOK

By NEIL STRASSMAN
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

FORT WORTH — In a move to improve service and response time, the Sheriff's Department is moving about half its patrol division to a new substation in south Tarrant County.

About 25 deputies will work out of the Pct. 1 maintenance facility, Executive Chief Deputy Mike Johnston said after county commissioners approved funds Tuesday to remodel an older county building.

Previously, all the sheriff's patrol cars were stationed at the Green Bay jail, near the northern intersection of Interstate 35W and Loop 820. Deputies

wasted too much time traveling to Green Bay from the south part of the county when the shift changed, Johnston said.

"We were losing patrol hours. This is a more effective way to patrol the entire county," he said.

The maintenance facility is at 800 E. Rendon-Crowley Road in Burleson, about one mile east of I-35W.

The roughly 4,000-square-foot building, which is not now in use, will have offices and a briefing room after it is remodeled at a cost of about \$80,000.

About \$51,000 of the construction money was approved Tuesday by the Commissioners

Court.

An additional \$10,000 must be spent on electrical work, \$13,000 on air conditioning and \$6,000 on flooring, said Gary Kirby, county facilities director. The Sheriff's Department has not asked the county to purchase any new furniture, and additional telephone costs have not been factored into the total cost of the project, he said.

"This is a better use of county resources and means better coverage and access for Tarrant County citizens," Commissioner Dionne Bagsby said.

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County, city jail contract dissolved

JAILS The Fort Worth City Council decides to pay the city of Mansfield for jail service, ending a long relationship with Tarrant County.

By **GINGER D. RICHARDSON**
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

FORT WORTH — A longstanding arrangement with Tarrant County for jail services ended Tuesday night when the City Council authorized the city manager to sign a contract with the city of Mansfield.

The five-year deal will cost about \$16 million and will take effect Dec. 1.

"This represents a new partnership, a new opportunity," City Manager Gary Jackson said. "It is the best and most economical option for the city of Fort Worth."

Fort Worth has sent its prisoners to the Tarrant County Jail since 1985. City officials and county commissioners have met numerous times in recent weeks to draw up a new contract, but neither party would yield to the other's demands.

On Tuesday, county officials said that Fort Worth's decision will save them money and that no one will be laid off. As of Nov. 13, the Sheriff's Department had 85 employee vacancies, 59 of them in the jail, according to county records.

"If they have made that decision, we wish them the best. We certainly will be able to save money," Sheriff Dee Anderson said. "Once this is finalized, after the first of the year we will

More on JAILS on 6B

readjust our staffing."

County Commissioner J.D. Johnson expressed similar sentiments: "In my opinion, the sheriff will be able to cut his budget."

Fewer guards will be required, and there will be fewer fights and disturbances in the booking area because most of the drunk and disorderly inmates were fresh arrests that Fort Worth police brought to the jail for processing, Johnson said.

Mansfield officials say they are eager to do business with Fort Worth, in part because they have had difficulty filling 240 beds at their jail, the Mansfield Law Enforcement Center. The for-profit jail was built in 1990 to maximum security standards, officials said.

About 140 beds, plus holding facilities, will be available for Fort Worth's use, Mansfield officials said.

"We appreciate the opportunity to work with the city of Fort Worth and provide this service for them," Assistant City Manager Chris Burkett said. "We look forward to a long-term relationship."

Under the contract, Mansfield will charge Fort Worth a flat fee for jail services rather than use a per-person scale as Tarrant County had sought. Fort Worth has agreed to pay about \$250,000 a month for the next 10 months.

When the fiscal year begins in October 2002, Fort Worth will then pay Mansfield a flat fee of \$3 million. The fee will increase by 3.5 percent every year through 2006, making the

contract's value worth about \$16 million over five years, officials said.

The county's per-prisoner pricing would cost the city more than \$3.9 million a year, and about \$21.2 million over five years, with the same 3.5 percent annual increase, city officials have said.

The contract includes the cost of ferrying Fort Worth prisoners to and from a transfer facility, which will probably be at the Thomas R. Windham Building, the city's police headquarters at 350 W. Belknap St.

Gerald Pruitt, Fort Worth's deputy city attorney, said Tuesday that Mansfield detention officers will staff the transfer facility, where prisoners will undergo a basic registration process. But formal book-in, including fingerprinting, body searching and photographing, will be done in Mansfield.

"We aren't going to send our people off in a bus without knowing who they are or how many of them there are," Pruitt said. "But the formal processing will take place in Mansfield."

According to 2000 jail records, about 56 percent of 53,559 prisoners booked into the Tarrant County Jail were from Fort Worth. Many were charged with Class C misdemeanors, the lowest level of crime, which includes public intoxication and outstanding warrants.

County officials have said they lose up to \$3 million a year booking and housing those Fort Worth prisoners, who are often quickly released.

People arrested by Fort Worth police and taken to the Mansfield jail may end up in

"This is the most cost-beneficial method to deliver detention services."

— Gary Jackson,
Fort Worth city manager

the county jail eventually if the Tarrant County district attorney accepts the police complaint against them and files formal charges or gets an indictment. But until that point in the legal process, prisoners are the responsibility of the city in which the arrest was made.

Appearances before a magistrate, which can be done in person or by video conference with a judge, will take place at both the police administration building and at the Mansfield

Mansfield officials say jail deal offers stability

By **ROBERT CADWALLADER**
SPECIAL TO THE STAR-TELEGRAM

MANSFIELD — It's no Joint Strike Fighter contract and didn't generate cheering throngs for media cameras, Lockheed Martin-style.

But Mansfield officials breathed a sigh of relief Wednesday over the city's five-year, \$16 million jail deal with Fort Worth, which will go a long way toward easing concerns about where the city jail's next prisoner is coming from.

The Fort Worth City Council voted Tuesday night to end its 16-year arrangement with the Tarrant County Jail and use the Mansfield Law Enforcement Center to process and detain the estimated 30,000 people arrested by Fort Worth police each year.

The deal will use only about half of the Mansfield jail's 240 beds. But the for-profit facility, which has struggled the past three years to fill its space, will now have a level of stability that will ease worries about the city budget and the city's bond rating, officials said.

"I don't see this as a big

JAIL A five-year deal to house Fort Worth inmates in the Mansfield jail should eliminate at least one budgeting headache for Mansfield.

money-maker for the city," Mayor David Harry said. "But it's a good contract because it enables us to plan and make long-term projections with some level of certainty."

The \$10 million Law Enforcement Center was built in 1990 with the purpose of generating revenue through housing inmates from other agencies.

It was paying extra on its debt and turning away business until 1998, when the Oklahoma prison system pulled all of its 240 inmates out of Mansfield.

The move came in the midst of increasing competition from expansion in the Texas state prison system and the private prison industry and during a period of declining crime rate. The Mansfield jail has been only partially full since.

On Wednesday, the fluctuating prisoner count was 50, although another 50 prisoners

are expected from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service later this week.

During the 2001-02 budget-making process last summer, the City Council had to bail out the jail with a \$300,000 transfer from the general city budget. A year earlier, the subsidy was \$800,000. Both times, the city offset much of that cost with a freeze on filling new positions and on capital equipment purchases, said city budget officer Gary Cardinale, a former operations manager of the jail.

Officials believe those efforts also have kept jail finances from hurting the city's bond ratings, which improved last year and were maintained in the most recent visit with bond ratings agencies last month.

The jail's current budget is \$3.3 million, and now officials aren't worried about meeting those expenses, which include a \$513,000 debt payment.

"We'll do fine," Assistant City Manager Chris Burkett said. "On the other hand, we'll continue looking for revenue streams for the vacant beds to improve on what we already have."



STAR-TELEGRAM/RICK MOON

Mansfield Police Chief Steve Noonkester says the Mansfield jail, which has 240 beds, is ready for use immediately. The jail held 50 federal inmates Wednesday.

County Judge Tom Vandergriff said Fort Worth and Mansfield appear to be a good match and that it also benefits Tarrant County, which he said was losing money housing Fort Worth inmates.

"It had been a drain on us from a revenue standpoint these past few years," he said. "Our situation is not hurt at all by the decision."

The Fort Worth deal, which takes effect Dec. 1, will require some adjustments, Mansfield Police Chief Steve Noonkester said.

His department will staff a holding facility, probably at the county jail in downtown Fort Worth, where police officers can drop off prisoners for booking and get back on patrol in less time, Noonkester said.

Noonkester said he has 50 employees now, enough to handle 200 inmates, but he said a few more may need to be hired. He said the jail is ready for use immediately and that the only preparation under way Wednesday was putting most of the federal inmates in the west end of the jail.

Mansfield officers will run continual shuttles to deposit inmates at the Mansfield jail, where the inmates will have short-term stays, often only a few hours.

"Most of the time, all they'll be doing is breathing our air," Noonkester said. "We're not feeding them; we're not clothing them. All we have is our booking costs. And we'll be going back and forth all the time."

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

MANSFIELD

**Mansfield approves
Fort Worth jail deal**

The city of Mansfield is officially in the jail business with Fort Worth.

The Mansfield City Council on Monday night approved a five-year, \$16 million contract to provide space at the Mansfield Law Enforcement Center for people arrested by Fort Worth police.

The jail deal, approved two weeks ago by the Fort Worth City Council, allows Fort Worth to end negotiations for continued use of the Tarrant County Jail.

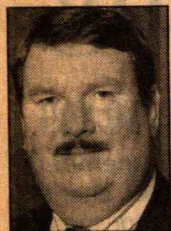
The Mansfield contract will be cheaper for Fort Worth and will provide a measure of financial security for the for-profit Mansfield jail, which has struggled in recent years to raise enough revenue to cover its expenses.

"That should stabilize the facility ... and keep it maybe on a break-even basis," Councilman Dave Anderson said. "And maybe it will help us pay it off."

Sheriff's office heading effort on dumping

By NEIL STRASSMAN
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

FORT WORTH — With Fort Worth no longer part of a countywide program to curb illegal dumping, Tarrant County commissioners decided



ANDERSON

Tuesday that the Sheriff's Department should oversee efforts to corral dumpers.

Sheriff Dee Anderson and Fort Worth environmental officials said they expect less illegal dumping as the county and the city develop their programs to catch people who ditch garbage, construction

ILLEGAL DUMPING Fort Worth and Tarrant County are each going to run their own programs to fight illegal dumping.

materials or hazardous waste. "Our intention is to concentrate on problem areas we know exist in the county's unincorporated areas," Anderson said. The county will have a separate Sheriff's Department unit with three deputies, a sergeant and a weights-and-measures inspector, he said.

The \$156,813 city-county Refuse Enforcement Program has been operated from Constable Jack Allen's office in the Northwest subcourthouse for

the past five years. This fall, the city stopped covering the \$104,403 cost of two investigators.

Fort Worth decided to end its participation in the program as part of extensive changes to the city's trash-collection system, said Brian Boerner, director of Fort Worth's environmental programs. The city's solid waste consultant has recommended a broader plan to curb illegal dumping, he said.

"It's not like the whole program went away," Boerner said. Three code-compliance officers who worked with the countywide program and are responsible for solid waste disposal violations will still investigate illegal dumping, he said.

Enforcement will be handled by marshals and police, he said. The city is also considering conducting more through education and opening four or five disposal centers to take tires, construction debris and recyclables, he said.

State Rep. Lon Burnam, D-Fort Worth, a longtime supporter of environmental issues, praised the idea of collection centers to take things that otherwise might be dumped.

"There need to be more places to legally dispose of these materials, but we can't abandon enforcement or the problem will only get worse," Burnam said.

Last month, Tarrant County Constable Sergio DeLeon

wrote Fort Worth Mayor Kenneth Barr, offering to take over the program because he was concerned about a serious illegal dumping problem along the north side and the Hemphill corridor in his precinct. He campaigned on a promise to clean up the neighborhoods he represents.

"There's enough illegal dumping to go around. I will do whatever I can to assist the sheriff," DeLeon said.

Allen, who has supervised the county's program since 1992 and the joint city-county effort since 1996, said he was sorry to see his precinct lose responsibility for the illegal dumping program.

A county report comparing

program activity for the past two years shows that arrests for illegal dumping increased from 178 to 311 last year. The amount of fines rose from about \$52,536 to \$115,290 over that time, and the amount of illegally dumped trash collected dropped from 146 tons to 36 tons.

"I would hope the sheriff can make the program bigger and better," Allen said. "Response time was always a drag because we were located in one corner of the county."

Commissioner Glen Whitley said it makes more sense for the program to be run out of the Sheriff's Department than one constable's office.

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County opts to lease jail space in Belknap building

By NEIL STRASSMAN
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

FORT WORTH — Tarrant County raised Fort Worth five \$1 bills in the game of jail poker the city and county are playing.

In the last hand dealt, county commissioners voted Tuesday to exercise a contract option with Fort Worth to lease three floors of jail space above the city's police headquarters at 350 W. Belknap St.

The move by the county to use three floors of the building, jointly built by Fort Worth and Tarrant County 16 years ago, comes two weeks after the city decided to pull its prisoners from the county jail, choosing instead to house them in Mansfield's lockup beginning Dec. 1.

In Monday's letter notifying the city of its intent to lease the space, Tarrant County included five \$1 bills to cover rent for the next five years.

Fort Worth City Manager Gary Jackson said Tuesday that he had received the letter

JAIL Tarrant County and Fort Worth add one more chapter to the jail saga.

"For \$1 a year, it seems to me that I would be doing the same thing."

— Gary Jackson,
Fort Worth city manager

delivered by courier to City Hall. He said the county's request did not surprise him.

"They've indicated that they want to exercise that option," Jackson said. "For \$1 a year, it seems to me that I would be doing the same thing."

The city will issue a written response to the county's letter, he said.

It will probably ask county officials to annually declare their intent to lease the floor space — in writing, Jackson said.

The county's desire to use floors of the facility known as

the Thomas R. Windham Building will not interfere with the city's new jail service contract with Mansfield, he said.

The Belknap building was built as a city police headquarters and county jail, with the city paying \$10.9 million and the county \$6 million.

"The reason for the \$1 a year option was so that we could get full use of our investment," Commissioner J.D. Johnson said.

The city and county signed a contract in 1985 for the county jail to process Fort Worth's prisoners from the time of arrest. The city paid \$6 for each prisoner processed and \$1 a day for housing. But by October 1996, the daily housing fee had risen to \$30, but the processing fee for booking and releasing inmates stayed at \$6, and the county said it was losing about \$3 million annually.

City officials countered that the county could operate the jail more efficiently, that Fort Worth was paying its fair share and that the county was probably trying to get the city to subsidize jail operations.

After five years of unsuccessful negotiations over a new contract, Tarrant County gave Fort Worth an ultimatum: Pay up or open a city jail, and that's what Fort Worth has done — in Mansfield.

Fort Worth has entered into a \$16 million contract with Mansfield for jail services. Fort Worth will have access to about 140 beds, plus holding facilities, at the 240-bed Mansfield facility, officials said.

County officials have said that the Fort Worth's decision will save them money, and that no employees will be laid off.

Staff writer Ginger Richardson contributed to this report.

City's inmates sent to new jail

LOCKUPS Work remains to ensure a smooth transition as the cities of Mansfield and Fort Worth embark on a \$16 million inmate-housing arrangement.

By **ROBERT CADWALLADER**

SPECIAL TO THE STAR-TELEGRAM

and **DEANNA BOYD**

STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

The Mansfield Law Enforcement Center was ready to take in its first Fort Worth inmate late Friday night, kicking off a five-year, \$16 million deal between the two cities.

Crews worked until the last minute, putting finishing touches on the 240-bed, for-profit Mansfield jail and on the Fort Worth Police Department's inmate processing facility, which now is staffed by Mansfield police employees.

"They've been working like whirling dervishes the past few days," Mansfield Deputy Police Chief Sherman Baxter said.

The Mansfield jail, which has been leasing space to other law enforcement agencies since it was built in 1990, has struggled the past three years to find enough prisoners to pay its bills. Officials say the Fort Worth deal will ease budget concerns.

"It certainly provides a large measure of stability for the business plan of the jail," Mayor David Harry said. "And we understand that we have an obligation to provide excellent service to the city of Fort Worth, and we're committed to doing that."

The arrangement gives Fort Worth a lower-cost alternative to the Tarrant County Jail, which had kept city inmates

More on LOCKUPS on 14B

for many years. It also eases crowding in the county jail.

Baxter said Mansfield jailers will process and detain 80 to 100 Fort Worth prisoners each day, many for only a few hours.

Prisoners will be taken first to the Fort Worth processing facility in the Thomas R. Windham Building at 350 W. Belknap St. and then to the Mansfield jail in around-the-clock van shuttles.

Officers working in the downtown processing area logged in the first prisoner, a parole violator, at 10:01 p.m.

Officials expect the amount of time Fort Worth officers spend booking prisoners will decrease under the new Mansfield contract.

Under former Sheriff David Williams, Fort Worth officers used to spend up to two hours booking prisoners into Tarrant County. Under Sheriff Dee Anderson, police said the delay has dropped to between 15 and 30 minutes.

Fort Worth police Capt. M.R. Baldwin said the contract with Mansfield includes an addendum requiring a 20-minute turnaround, though he expects the typical time will run closer to 5 minutes.

While Fort Worth police officers must still be present when prisoners are searched and their property inventoried, Baldwin said officers will no longer have to wait for prisoners to be screened for medical conditions, as previously required by the county.

Instead, Mansfield detention officers will do a preliminary medical check at the Fort Worth facility, and a more thorough screening in Mansfield.

"The benefit to the city of Fort Worth and the citizens is that the officer drops off that prisoner, does their paperwork and boom — they're back on the street," Baldwin said.

The Mansfield jail has hired 16 employees to prepare for the new arrangement, bringing the total to about 65. Still, most of the staff recently has been working 12-hour shifts six days a week and will continue to do so during the transition, Baxter said.

But work remains to be done.

"We have a lot of processes we still have to fix because we can't get technology in fast enough, or we're finding stuff we just didn't know was done for us by the county and that's not in place now," Baldwin said. "But as far as basic function of what a jail does, we're ready. All those other wrinkles, they'll work out."

Fort Worth Deputy Chief Larry Curtis said officers from other units assigned to a transitional team will be present during the first few days at the Belknap holding facility to guide officers through the change.

Staff writer Bill Teeter contributed to this report.

"What they do"



Sheriff

The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer for the county, and the Sheriff's Department is the single largest component of the County's budget.

The Sheriff is elected to a four-year term and is responsible for operating the jail and providing support and specialized technical expertise to area municipal police agencies. About two-thirds of the Sheriff's budget goes toward operating the County's three jail facilities, which house about 3,000 inmates.

Other responsibilities include investigating crimes, serving criminal warrants, providing court security and maintaining communication with federal, municipal and state law enforcement agencies. Although the Sheriff has countywide jurisdiction, in practice he concentrates the department's investigative and patrol efforts in unincorporated areas outside cities' limits.

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Prisoner caught after brief escape from hospital

STAR-TELEGRAM

FORT WORTH — A prisoner in the custody of a Tarrant County sheriff's deputy briefly escaped from Harris Methodist Fort Worth hospital Wednesday night after overpowering the deputy and stealing his gun, police said.

The prisoner, whose name was not released, is an Arlington robbery suspect, said Lt. Duane Paul, a Fort Worth police spokesman.

About 10:20 p.m., the prisoner assaulted the deputy who was guarding him, stole his gun and ran from the hospital, Paul said.

The prisoner was found about 5 blocks from the hospital at a home in the 1200 block of Southland Avenue, Paul said. A neighbor who saw officers in the area told them where the prisoner was hiding. He was recaptured and the deputy's gun recovered.

The deputy received a minor cut on his head, Paul said.

Escape from hospital spurs security review

By DEANNA BOYD
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

FORT WORTH — Tarrant County sheriff's officials are re-evaluating their confinement policy after a hospitalized prisoner stole the gun of a deputy who was guarding him and escaped Wednesday night.

Joseph Adrian Allen, 29, was recaptured a short time later at an apartment about 5 blocks from the hospital, officials said.

He was being held in a Tarrant County jail Thursday, facing charges of escape, attempted capital murder, burglary and aggravated assault. Bail was set at \$150,000 on each charge, jail officials said.

Sheriff Dee Anderson said Allen, being held on a warrant accusing him of aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon, had been in the jail's Greenbay facility until he was taken to Harris Methodist Fort Worth on Monday.

"He told the deputies out at our Green Bay facility he had hoarded up some of his blood pressure medicine and taken a bunch of it at once," Anderson said.

Anderson said inmates are usually taken to John Peter Smith Hospital, but for unknown reasons, Allen was diverted to Harris.

Deputy Howard Widmann was guarding Allen in his third-floor room when the attack occurred about 10:20 p.m. Wednesday. Anderson said Allen walked out of the bathroom and began assaulting Widmann as the 66-year-old officer sat in a chair.

"This is a physically big guy. He weighs over 300 pounds.

TOPIC A 29-year-old inmate who escaped Wednesday night from Harris Methodist Fort Worth after assaulting a deputy and stealing his gun was being held in a Tarrant County jail Thursday with bail set at \$600,000, jail officials said.

"This is something we haven't taken a hard look at since I've been here because it hadn't surfaced. If we feel we need to make any changes, we certainly will."

— Sheriff Dee Anderson

He overpowered the deputy and beat him," Anderson said.

After taking the deputy's gun, the man pointed it at a nurse in the hallway and later showed it to a maintenance man stepping out of an elevator, he said.

The man then took the elevator to the ground floor and ran out of the hospital. A security guard saw him run toward a nearby neighborhood, where sheriff's deputies and Fort Worth police subsequently set up a perimeter, Anderson said.

A short time later a woman emerged from her apartment and told officers that she believed the man they were looking for was inside.

"He came up and knocked on the door, and they opened it and he kind of forced his way in and said he was trying to hide from the people in the

hospital," Anderson said.

Officers found the man in a back room and arrested him without further incident, Anderson said. The deputy's gun was discovered under a couch seat cushion, he said.

Widmann suffered a head laceration that required stitches and was held overnight in the hospital as a precaution.

Laura Van Hoosier, spokeswoman with Harris, said prisoners are not isolated in one location in the hospital but put on the appropriate medical floor under the supervision of the arresting agency.

"The hospital cares for their medical needs and the agency who had them in custody is responsible for maintaining their custody," Van Hoosier said.

Van Hoosier said the hospital had begun its nightly lockdown when the escape occurred.

"When we were notified, which was almost immediately, our security team followed the patient to the point where he was no longer a threat to our patients and employees and others inside the hospital," she said.

Anderson said officials will re-evaluate the policy on guarding hospitalized prisoners, including specifics addressing when they should be restrained.

"This is something we haven't taken a hard look at since I've been here because it hadn't surfaced," Anderson said. "If we feel we need to make any changes, we certainly will."

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A

Tarrant adopts policy to deter racial profiling

By NEIL STRASSMAN
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

FORT WORTH — County commissioners approved a policy Tuesday to prevent Tarrant County deputies and constables from using racial profiling when making traffic stops or arrests.

The new policy, developed by Sheriff Dee Anderson, will require all county law enforcement officers to document traffic stops by putting additional information — including race, gender, whether a search was conducted and whether the stop resulted in an arrest — into their patrol car computer.

“There can be no stops based on gender or race,” Anderson said. “There must be probable cause or reasonable suspicion.”

The information can be analyzed to see whether racial profiling is occurring within a patrol district or by an individual officer, Anderson said.

The program is designed to catch offenders quickly, and any deputies found to be using racial profiling will be disciplined, he said.

“It might be counseling or more serious discipline,” Anderson said.

The additional record-keeping should take deputies only a few extra seconds, he said.

The county did a pilot program using three patrol cars beginning Nov. 15, but it found no profiling problems, he said.

A law passed this year requires every law enforce-

LAW ENFORCEMENT The new policy will require law enforcement officers to document traffic stops.

ment agency in Texas that does pedestrian or traffic stops to have a policy to prevent racial profiling, said Steve Sparks, assistant district attorney.

The policy must be in place by Jan. 1. Fort Worth and Arlington already have such policies, police officials said.

“I’m glad to hear the fact the leadership in the county and the new sheriff are doing this,” said Richard Navarrete, a former president of the Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and owner of a Fort Worth landscaping company.

“Nearly all my employees are Hispanic, and more than once they have been pulled over early in the morning on the way to a job, only because there were so many Hispanics in a car.”

The state law also requires each police agency to develop a process for complaints on racial profiling, and provides money for police agencies to purchase and install video cameras to tape traffic stops.

“The community will be helped by having an effective written racial profiling policy. It will help promote confidence in the police and increase trust,” said Jesse Gaines, an attorney and a member of the Fort Worth NAACP.

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FORT WORTH

Sheriff suspends top official

By NEIL STRASSMAN
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

FORT WORTH — A top Sheriff's Department official charged with recklessly discharging a firearm in Dallas two months ago has been handed an unpaid one-month suspension by Sheriff Dee Anderson.

Terry Grisham, the sheriff's executive administrator, has been charged in Dallas with a Class A misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$4,000 and one year in jail.

The suspension, which begins Monday, will last 20 working days, Anderson said, but "he's not doing it all at one time."

"He's got some projects that he is working on that he needs to be here for," Anderson said.

Grisham, 46, who also runs a private handgun-training service, declined to comment.

Grisham, a 14-year county

SUSPENDED A sheriff's assistant is suspended for a month without pay after Dallas police accuse him of shooting a handgun two months ago.

employee, was arrested Oct. 5 when Dallas police investigated a complaint about gunshots near Lovers Lane and Inwood Road. The police report says Grisham had been shooting a gun in a parking lot and willingly surrendered to arresting officers. The report says that he was sober and that no one was injured.

His attorney, John Weddle, filed a motion to suppress the statements Grisham made to police the night of his arrest. When police confronted Grisham after a witness identified him, Grisham told them that he knew he had made a mistake and said, "Yeah, it was me," the police report says.

The report says Grisham told police that the weapon was in the console of a 2001 Chevy

Suburban. The handgun contained four spent and two live rounds, the report says.

Weddle argues in a brief filed for a Jan. 17 Dallas court date that Grisham's statements were "involuntary" and that he was "deprived of right to counsel" when he made them.

Grisham is not a licensed law enforcement officer, but he has a state-issued concealed-weapons permit and instructs others who want permits.

Texas Department of Public Safety records show that his personal handgun license and his instructor's license have not been suspended, although state law provides for a suspension after charges have been filed. If Grisham is convicted, his licenses will be revoked.

FORT WORTH AREA Briefs

TARRANT COUNTY Marked cars out in force to stop drunken drivers

Almost every marked patrol car in the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department will be on the street this holiday as deputies search for drunken drivers, officials said.

Most deputies will patrol their regular beat, but at least two will focus solely on DWI

enforcement in problem areas, said Chief Deputy Leon Flowers, who oversees the patrol division. Reserve officers have also been called in to help, he said.

"Their whole focus will be to zero in on drunk drivers," Flowers said.

The increased enforcement began Friday and will continue through Monday. Patrols will be expanded again from Friday

to Jan. 1, Flowers said.

"This is the time when DWI-related accidents and fatalities increase," Flowers said. "We are doing this because we want people to have a safe holiday — one that does not result in tragedy because a person was drunk."

Thursday, December 27, 2001

Jail glitch has cities pointing fingers

INMATES Officials say some glitches need to be worked out in the new jail deal between the city of Fort Worth and the Mansfield Law Enforcement Center.

By **ROBERT CADWALLADER**
SPECIAL TO THE STAR-TELEGRAM

MANSFIELD — More than a week after five inmates with outstanding warrants were released from the Mansfield jail prematurely, area law enforcement officials still don't agree on the source of the problem — or a solution.

Attention centers on apparent miscommunications between the agencies involved in the Fort Worth Police Department's new system of housing its inmates at the Mansfield Law Enforcement Center.

The officials said they expect the glitches in the arrangement, which started Dec. 1, will be remedied in time, but each agency says the problem originates with another.

During the past two weeks, five people who were arrested by Fort Worth police, and who paid their fines or bonds, were released from the Mansfield jail although they had additional county charges pending.

Two of those suspects, both facing misdemeanor charges, were still at large Wednesday.

Mansfield jail administrator Mike Walley said his operation takes responsibility for releasing two of the detainees but that the Sheriff's Department didn't send Mansfield notice of the charges pending against the other three inmates until after they

were released.

Lt. Dan Cauble of the Sheriff's Department warrant division said the teletypes were timely.

"They just overlooked them out there," he said. "When you start a new program that can happen, I guess. But they need to tighten that down."

Walley said he prefers that the county send teletypes to the Fort Worth police, who can then alert Mansfield with a phone call. Teletypes from the county are received at the police station next door to the Mansfield jail and can get lost in the paperwork

because they don't deal with Mansfield city police business, Walley said.

Cauble said teletypes are sent simultaneously to both the Mansfield and Fort Worth police departments.

Fort Worth Police Capt. M.R. Baldwin said the holding facility in Fort Worth, where officers drop off those they've arrested for transport to Mansfield, received improvements last week — including phone and fax lines — that will help streamline notification.

"This is just a process that's going to take some time to work out," he said.

Sheriff, Constables adopt racial profiling policy

The Sheriff and Constables of Tarrant County have adopted a policy to ensure that their employees comply with a law recently passed by the Texas Legislature prohibiting a peace officer from engaging in racial profiling.

Racial profiling is defined as any law enforcement-initiated action based on an individual's race, ethnicity or national origin, rather than on the individual's behavior or on information identifying the individual as having engaged in criminal activity. Therefore, all law enforcement-initiated actions—including all investigative detentions, traffic stops and arrests, as well as searches and seizures of people or property—must be based on a standard of reasonable suspicion or probable cause.

The policy adopted by Tarrant County requires that all peace officers contact a dispatcher whenever they stop a vehicle or subject. At the conclusion of each stop, the officer must fill out a report detailing the event and the facts supporting it. The same procedure will be followed for any searches or seizures of persons or property.

The new policy also establishes a formal complaint process. If an individual believes that a peace officer employed by the Sheriff's Office has engaged in racial profiling, then the individual must file a written complaint before the 180th day after the alleged violation with the Internal Affairs Division of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department on the second floor of 300 W. Belknap Street, Fort Worth, Texas, 76102. If the complaint involves a peace officer employed by a Constable, the complaint must be filed at the specific Constable's office. Appropriate corrective action will be taken against a peace officer employed by the agencies who, after an investigation, is shown to have engaged in racial profiling.

More information relating to the policy and the complaint process is available at the Tarrant County website at www.tarrantcounty.com.

New video cameras may help catch dumpers

By NEIL STRASSMAN
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Beware, illegal dumpers: You could become stars of unusual but not-quite-prime-time videos.

Sheriff's deputies trying to stop people from trashing Tarrant County could soon be armed with the latest digital color video cameras, remote-controlled and capable of zooming in on a license plate or a dumper's face.

On Tuesday, County Commissioners agreed to a Sheriff's Department request to seek a grant for the cameras from the North Central Texas

TRASH County investigators may be armed with high-tech cameras in their quest for illegal dumpers.

Council of Governments.

If the council agrees, deputies could be shooting *Trash, Lies and Videotape* this spring.

"The best-case scenario is that the video can be used as evidence. This is real enforcement," said Mike Johnston, the sheriff's executive chief deputy.

Deputy Jon Siegel, who investi-

gates illegal dumping, said the county has cumbersome 6-year-old cameras that perform poorly and are difficult to rig in trees.

"The newer cameras are supposed to be easier to operate and can see in low light conditions," Siegel said. They could be set up and activated using remote sensing devices, he said.

"In Hunt County they have caught a half-dozen people with their cameras," Siegel said.

A joint city-county Refuse

Enforcement Program, formerly operated out of Constable Jack Allen's office, was scrapped late last year when Fort Worth decided to end its participation. The county and city are now each developing programs to curb dumping.

Cameras, an important tool for law enforcement, have been used successfully in Arlington and Grand Prairie, said Shad Lancaster, an environmental planner with the council of governments.

"Illegal dumping is a crime, and it

is a significant problem in North Texas," Lancaster said.


One year ago, the council, which represents 16 Metroplex counties, launched a three-year program to curtail the illegal disposal of such things as litter, garbage, roofing shingles and hazardous waste.

Under state law, individuals caught dumping can face up to one year in jail and a fine of up to \$4,000.

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Obituary Notices

Josh Ray Hall 1937 - 2002

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Josh Ray Hall, 64, a retired Tarrant County deputy sheriff, died Thursday, Jan. 10, 2002, at a Fort Worth hospital.


Graveside service: 2 p.m. Saturday in Springcreek Cemetery, south of Weatherford with Brother Cable Roberts officiating. Visitation: 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at Galbreath Pickard Funeral Chapel in Weatherford.


Memorials: Community Hospice House of Texas, 301 Medpark Circle, Burleson, Texas 76028.


Mr. Hall was born Jan. 21, 1937, in Sherman. He was a Baptist. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ray and Catherine Hall.

Survivors: Daughter, Donna Hall of California; sisters, Joyce Beene and husband, LeRoy, of Hurst and Jan Rue and husband, Larry, of Granbury; brother, Mike Hall and wife, Kathy, of Weatherford; and numerous nieces, nephews and extended family from the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department.

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Ex-sheriff hired as police chief

By NEIL STRASSMAN
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Former Tarrant County Sheriff David Williams is the police chief of the south Denton County town of Marshall Creek, population 431.

As sheriff of the state's third most populous county, Williams earned an annual salary of \$107,304 and supervised roughly 1,300 county employees.

His new job pays \$28,000 a year with a department of five officers and two reserves.

Williams, 47, was sworn in

WILLIAMS Former Tarrant County Sheriff David Williams takes a job as police chief in a small Denton County town.

as chief Monday night after the Marshall Creek Town Council unanimously approved hiring him.

"I am pleased to be here, and I look forward to serving the people of Marshall Creek," Williams said Tuesday as he finished his first day on the job. "I do enjoy the work and

More on WILLIAMS on 10B

this type of service. Mayor Kevin Jones has a vision for Marshall Creek, and I am pleased to be on his team."

Councilman John Murdock, Marshall Creek's mayor pro tem, said the town had many applicants for the chief's job and added that Williams "has expertise we need out here."

In the past year, Williams worked as a management consultant and spent time with his family, he said.



WILLIAMS

"Consulting assignments have kept me busy, and after eight years, there was a lot of catch-up to do with the children," he said.

The new job could be seen as a big step down, but Williams said, "Any job that's worth doing is important, and I think the people of Marshall Creek are important."

Williams, who served from 1992 to 2000, was often at odds with Tarrant County commissioners over budgets, vehicle purchases and his authority. He sought a third four-year term in 2000 but lost the Republican primary to Sheriff Dee Anderson.

Relations between the Commissioners Court and Williams soured after a Sept. 17, 1997, helicopter crash killed Deputy T.J. Smith and Lt. Maurice Hendrix.



STAR-TELEGRAM/DON COOK

The commissioners had been critical of the department's helicopter program, which Williams started and championed, and the deaths

opened a rift that never healed.

The commissioners also battled with Williams over the purchase of expensive Chevrolet Tahoe police vehicles, and in 1999, they cut Williams' budget request.

They reduced his staff by 36 people, saying Williams manipulated jail staffing levels, using jailers to serve warrants, investigate and work in administration, running up a huge overtime tab.

Williams took the unusual step of suing the commissioners in November 1998, seeking to restrict their budgetary authority. In the suit, he claimed that the commissioners did not allocate enough money for his department and interfered with his authority. The commissioners said they were exercising their state-authorized duty to hold the

Sheriff's Department fiscally accountable.

Williams dropped the lawsuit in February 1999, but the commissioners never forgave him.

"I don't think he is qualified for a police department job," said Commissioner J.D. Johnson, once Williams' most ardent supporter. "Police work is not his cup of tea, but I wish him and Marshall Creek the best of luck."

Commissioner Glen Whitley was more magnanimous.

"I'm glad he is gainfully employed in Denton County and I wish him the best," Whitley said.

In December 1999 it was disclosed that in Williams' military records he had been listed as absent without leave and then as a deserter while serving as an Army police officer

in the spring of 1976. He nevertheless received an honorable discharge.

He said "family problems" caused him to leave base without permission and added later that it was "an aberration in judgment ... that I will always regret."

Williams, who lives in Watauga, said he has no plans to move to Marshall Creek, which is just north of Trophy Club.

Williams said he is "looking to bring some other folks into the reserve ranks" of his small Police Department.

"Right now, I am just looking forward to moving into my new offices and a short drive to work," he said.

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Sheriff's official loses gun licenses

By NEIL STRASSMAN
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

HANDGUNS

A Tarrant County sheriff's official receives

deferred adjudication after pleading no contest to discharging a firearm in Dallas.

DALLAS — The Tarrant County Sheriff's Department executive administrator was handed one year of deferred adjudication Thursday after



GRISHAM

pleading no contest to recklessly discharging a firearm.

Terry Grisham, 46, a 14-year county employee who also operates a private handgun-training service, gave up his state handgun licenses for seven years as part of a plea agreement.

He also paid \$500 in fines and donated \$600 to the Carrollton-based Metrocrest Social Service Center, a United Way agency.

Deferred adjudication is a form of probation that will not leave a conviction on Grisham's record if he completes the one-year term without further incident. Grisham had been charged with a Class A misdemeanor punishable by up to \$4,000 in fines and one year in jail.

"These events have been painful for me on several levels," Grisham said in a written

statement. "I am profoundly disappointed."

Grisham is not a licensed law enforcement officer, but since 1995 he has operated a business called Good Guys Right to Carry Training in Fort Worth. The school provides classes in handgun safety, use and laws.

"A small business I created and cherished is gone," Grisham said in the statement. "Licensees must remember every day that good guys can still make a bad decision."

Grisham was arrested Oct. 5 at 2:20 a.m. by Dallas police investigating a complaint of gunshots fired in the parking lot of a business near Lovers Lane and Inwood Road.

The police report said Grisham willingly surrendered to the arresting officers, saying, "Yeah, it was me." The report said that he was sober and that no one was injured.

Grisham can reapply for a handgun license after seven years.

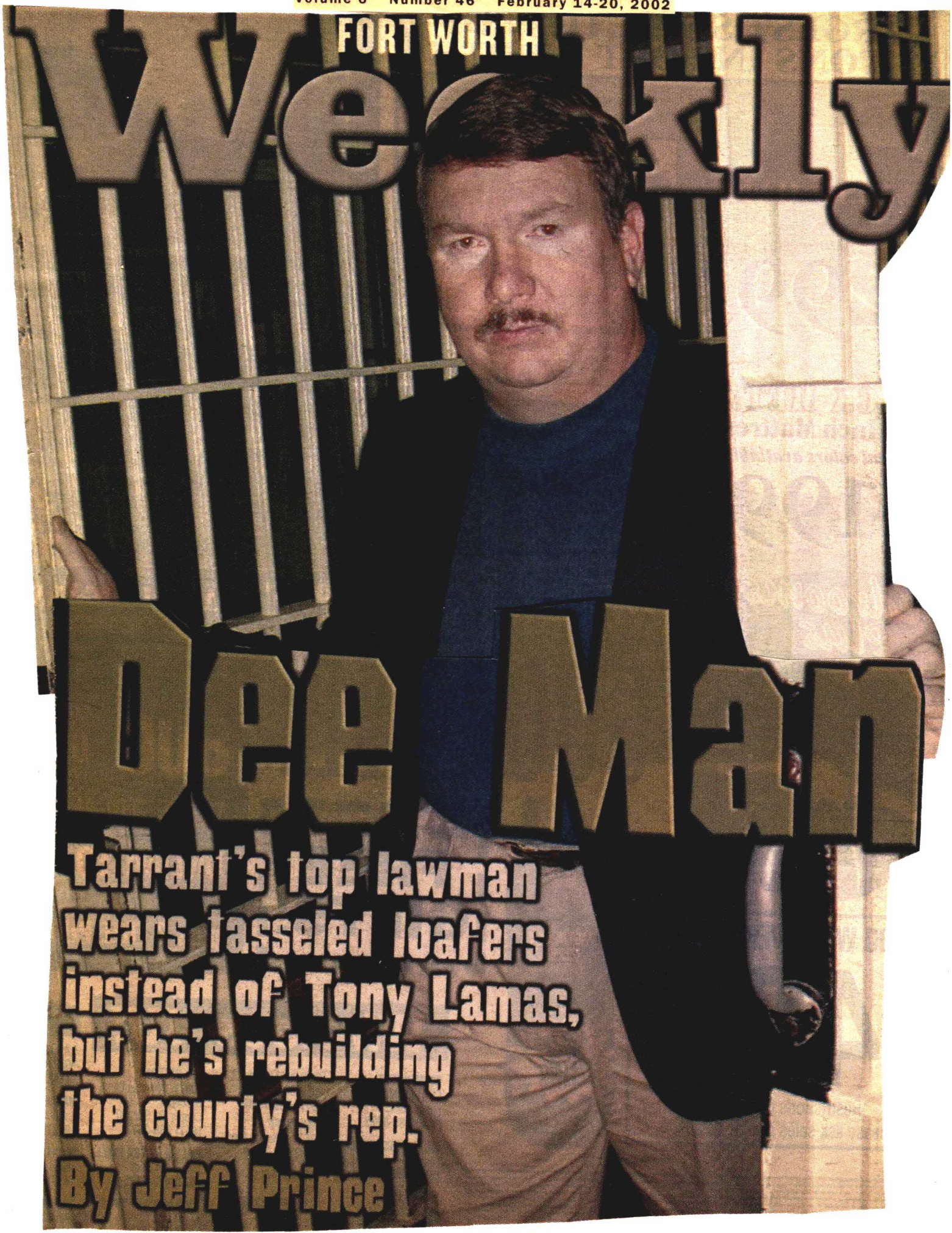
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FORT WORTH

Dee Man

Tarrant's top lawman wears tasseled loafers instead of Tony Lamas, but he's rebuilding the county's rep.

By Jeff Prince



When Dee Anderson took over as Tarrant County sheriff a year ago, he filled his department's top management positions with longtime cronies from the Arlington Police Department. A few resentful county employees dubbed them the Arlington Mafia, never mind that the "mafia" members were law enforcement officers with plenty of awards and sheepskins to justify their hiring.

As it turns out, however, the hire that may have the biggest impact on the county — and on Anderson's legacy as sheriff — is likely to be a Dallas man whom Anderson barely knew before he took office. One of the key players on his team, Anderson said, "just kind of fell into my lap like a godsend."

No one expected Anderson to leave the sheriff's department the way he found it when he was sworn in last January. Far from it. He had spent much of his time on the 2000 campaign trail vowing to return the department's focus to prisoner confinement, rather than the "fast cars and helicopters" that had helped get his unlamented predecessor, David Williams, into trouble. So, before the election, Anderson visited Dallas County's Lew Sterrett Justice Center to study jail operations and develop an administrative plan. He enlisted the help of Bob Knowles, Dallas County's top jailer and a nationally known jail administrator, both in teaching him the finer points of prisoner handling and in finding somebody to run Tarrant County's lockups.

Anderson spent three days learning and admiring the operation of Sterrett. Dallas County's jail housed 7,000 prisoners, twice the number of Tarrant County's inmates. He asked Knowles to keep watch for a talented jail administrator candidate. Anderson didn't figure he could convince Knowles himself to move to a smaller county, a jail beset by morale problems, and a department that had become a laughingstock under Williams.

On Anderson's final day at the jail, Knowles pulled him aside and asked if he were still seeking a jail administrator. "Did you find someone?" Anderson said. "I sure did — it's me," Knowles replied.

Anderson couldn't believe his coup. "You could have knocked me over with a feather," he said. He named Knowles, 54, as executive chief deputy of confinement — one of the highest-ranking positions in the department — and put him in charge of a jail that had been draining the department's budget for years and had become a dumping ground for employees.

Knowles made the leap for several reasons. He was intrigued by Anderson's energy and attention to detail. "The more I got to know him, the more interested I got," Knowles said. And the timing felt right. Knowles was about to qualify for retirement after 25 years. He could draw a pension from Dallas County and take the job in Tarrant County, where he could earn \$7,000 a year more than he was earning at Sterrett. And he relished the challenge.

A year later, the results are obvious. Massive overtime costs have disappeared, procedures have been implemented to prevent good-ol'-boy favoritism in promotions, and employee pride is rising. Some credit

Knowles' experience and knowledge in turning around the jail in such a short time. Others laud Anderson for having the savvy to nab Knowles and for giving him the freedom and support to do his job.

Most don't care who gets the credit; they're just happy that changes occurred. "The sheriff said he was going to make the jail his number-one priority, and he did," said a long-time jailer. "You can feel it in the morale."

Anderson's steady presence and focus on the jail is helping to exorcise the specter of Williams, who starred unfavorably in endless controversies from 1992 to 2000. He battled and belittled county commissioners, bought expensive police vehicles, created a helicopter unit that was later disbanded after a copter crash killed two deputies, developed a Christian-only "God Pod" in the jail that was deemed unconstitutional by the

Texas Supreme Court, sued county commissioners over budget matters, and eventually became a recluse. Williams' shadow was large, and comparisons between him and Anderson still surface in conversations with employees.

Sandra Colwell, for instance, was Williams' executive secretary for eight years, and holds the same position with Anderson. As a leader, she said, Williams pales in comparison. Her former boss' behavior during his final term was so strange that she dubbed him "Goober."

"I was his secretary and, trust me, he was a goober," she said. "There is no comparison. One was a paranoid control freak, and this one is a professional, caring law enforcement officer. It's different as night and day."

Two jailers and their prisoners were riding the county jail's elevator in early February when the door opened and Anderson stepped inside. The jailers smiled and nodded. Anderson told them hello. The prisoners stared but said nothing. A few moments later, the elevator stopped, and Anderson stepped out. "That's the big shot there," a prisoner said to no one in particular.

Despite his understated attire and Everyman face, Anderson is typically recognized wherever he goes. He spent 15 years on television as Arlington Police Department's media spokesman before replacing Williams amid much hoopla.

He has adopted neither Williams' quasi-military uniforms, nor the jeans-and-boots attire that would fit some folks' preconceived notion about a Texas sheriff. Big-city sheriffs are more business administrators than two-fisted lawmen. On this day, Anderson wore a business suit, tie, and dress loafers with tassels. He has never felt comfortable in cowboy hats and pearl-snap shirts, despite being born and raised in Fort Worth during an era when Western attire was popular.

Anderson continued his trek through the jail. Employees didn't seem surprised by his sudden presence. That wasn't the case in the 1990s. Some jailers never met Williams during his eight-year tenure. "I never saw him, but who did?" a jailer said. "Sheriff Anderson is in and out of the building all the time. He's got that open-door policy."

Anderson finally reached his destination, where a man was measuring waists and inseams of employees being fitted for new uniforms. They welcomed Anderson as he approached. "This is a great thing," said Deputy Blake George, who shook the sheriff's hand before stepping in a dressing room to try on a uniform.

Sheriff's department employees in Tarrant County have traditionally been required to purchase their own uniforms, guns, belts, ammunition, and even their badges. Getting hired meant immediately spending hundreds of dollars on accessories. Anderson asked county commissioners to offset these expenses by approving uniform purchases.

Jail employees were the first to be outfitted, which caught many by surprise. A longstanding pecking order put the 400 or so patrol and warrant officers well above the 800 jail employees in terms of prestige and attention. Under previous administrations, jailers might have been the last to get uniforms. The emphasis is changing at Anderson's insistence.

Jailers were relaxed as they spoke to the sheriff. An ability to put people at ease and earn their trust helps explain why Anderson waltzed to an election victory over an incumbent sheriff and a stable of challengers. He's

had years of practice at communication.

Anderson, who is about to turn 45, grew up in Fort Worth, the son of a *Fort Worth Press* sportswriter and editor. He idolized his father and accompanied him on assignments. Anderson regularly sat in the press box with his father at Dallas Cowboys games, and tagged along afterward to the locker room for post-game interviews. He got to meet his sports heroes, including

quarterbacks Don Meredith and Roger Staubach. "It was a charmed life as a kid," Anderson said. "I went to three Super Bowls. I was a sports junkie. I always thought I'd be a sportswriter."

Memories of these years still make Anderson smile, and he'll reminisce with prodding. For instance, when he was about 10, he was walking barefoot at the Cowboys training camp in Thousand Oaks, Calif., when he stepped on a bee. He hobbled painfully around until he found his dad, who took him to the Cowboys training room. "All these players are in there with their various ailments," Anderson recalled. The trainers in the room hovered

over Anderson, examining his foot and discussing treatment methods. Pete Gent, the wide receiver who would later write *North Dallas Forty*, was lying nearby on a training table. He sat up and said, "Don't worry about all of us with broken legs; let's look at the bee sting."

"I wanted to crawl in a hole," Anderson said.

Anderson grew into a strapping fellow who played center and defensive end on

the football team at Eastern Hills High School, and graduated in 1974. He studied journalism at Tarrant County Junior College and the University of Texas at Austin, but didn't graduate. He was young, restless, and ready to start earning a living. He worked as a reporter and editor at area newspapers, including the *Fort Worth Press* and *Arlington Daily News*.

He also served as a sports official for

high schools and colleges and worked part-time at a health studio where off-duty police officers exercised. He became friendly with the cops and sometimes rode with them during patrols on Friday and Saturday nights. He was hooked. "This crazy police bug hit," he said.

Anderson ditched sports writing and in 1980 became a police officer with the Arlington Police Department. The first five years of his career were uneventful — he moved around in the department, working as a patrol officer and a field trainer, and became certified as a fatality accident investigator. In 1985, he married Rebecca Johnson and began raising a family. They have

three children, Kelly, Hannah, and Ben.

Wanting to improve communication and public relations in his agency, Arlington Police Chief David Kunkle was searching for a media-relation coordinator in 1986. Many officers wanted the position, including some "golden boys" with more tenure and accolades, Anderson said. But Kunkle picked the former sportswriter turned cop. "I was probably at the bottom of the list in the betting pool," Anderson said.

On his first day as media coordinator, Anderson was called into Kunkle's office. "He told me something I never forgot — 'Only a tiny percentage of people will deal directly with the police department, and everybody else will get their perception of the police from you,'" Anderson recalled. "I always kept that in my mind."

Kunkle said he chose Anderson because of his journalistic background and his ability to communicate. "He could not have done a better job," Kunkle said. "Ded always found the right words and conveyed the right emotions."

As the middleman between aggressive reporters and wary detectives for 15 years, Anderson became well acquainted with human nature and diplomacy. Police officers and detectives don't enjoy being hounded by reporters clamoring for news. Reporters don't like being stiff-armed by officials. Anderson interviewed police officers and relayed the data to reporters. Detectives trusted him not to reveal information that could hamper their investigations, and reporters trusted him to keep them up to date.

The job wasn't easy. On any day he might answer the same 50 questions from a dozen reporters at different times. Humor and unflappability came in handy. Anderson was usually patient with inexperienced reporters, whose newspapers often assigned them to the tricky police beat with little instruction or preparation. Anderson, by default, trained dozens of reporters to cover the beat (including this writer, who was a cub reporter in the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* Arlington bureau in 1986). "The newest reporters got assigned to the police beat," he said. "You always got the guy who was ready to set the world on fire and win that Pulitzer Prize. Having been a reporter, I had a certain amount of empathy if not sympathy for them."

Anderson was serious during his interviews and at crime scenes, and rarely became emotional. His demeanor was purposeful. He wanted television viewers to see that, regardless of a scene's gruesome nature, Arlington police were professional and in control. In his office, though, he kept things loose and enjoyed wisecracks. Fellow police officers routinely stopped by his office to discuss sports, entertainment, and typical cop talk.

Most journalists liked and respected Anderson, although some grumbled that he could be hard to track down at times, such as on Friday afternoons when he left the office early to referee high school football games. On such days, reporters could be heard simultaneously cursing Anderson and stalling editors, as they frantically sought information on deadline.

Some reporters accused Anderson of being stricken with short-timer's disease after he announced his candidacy for sheriff. "You'd go in his office, and he would be reading a newspaper with his feet on his desk and not paying any attention to you," a former Arlington reporter said with a laugh. Even though many rooted for him privately, few reporters expected him to trounce five other Republican candidates without a runoff and coast to victory against Democrat Luther Perry in the November 2000 general election.



Executive Chief Deputy Bob Knowles and Capt. R.H. Helsey look over a prisoner pod at Tarrant County Jail.



New uniforms for the troops.



The sheriff (far end) oversees his posse of administrators at a staff meeting.

A-plus? "Human beings aren't perfect," Wilder said. "None of us in government can get an A-plus. I'd give myself an A-minus."

If Anderson is making the grade as sheriff, he

of \$1.8 million. The budget was the same both years. Overtime costs are projected to be about \$10,000 in 2002.

Knowles realized shortly after settling into his new position that morale among

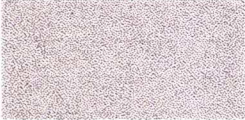


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Obituaries



Obituary Notices

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Dorothy Neal Greene

1944 - 2002

View/Sig



Dorothy Neal Greene, 58, a peace officer, died Sunday, March a Fort Worth hospital.

Memorial service: 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday at Zion Baptist Church service: 1 p.m. Friday in Cedar Hill Memorial Park. Visitation: Thursday at Zion Baptist Church.

Dorothy Neal Greene was born Jan. 4, 1944, in Fort Worth.

Survivors: Husband, Melvin Greene; sons, Roderick M. and Shaun B. Greene; Ronda Greene and Jackie Braggs; brother, Willie Neal III; 13 grandchildren; grandson; one niece; one nephew; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Published in the Ft. Worth Star-Telegram on 3/6/2002.
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New deputy was fired by Dallas County

By NEIL STRASSMAN
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

A chief deputy recently hired by Tarrant County Sheriff Dee Anderson to oversee jail inmate booking and release was fired from Dallas County four years ago amid allegations of sexual misconduct.

David Stromile was an assistant chief deputy over booking at the Dallas County Sheriff's Department until he left in 1998.

Stromile and another new chief deputy, Cederic Simon, who will be in charge of housing inmates, were introduced to county officials Tuesday by Anderson at the Commissioners Court. Each will earn an annual salary of \$61,968.

Anderson said he and Executive Chief Deputy Bob Knowles, who supervises jail operations, are aware of Stromile's past.

"We fully looked at it and

COUNTY

Sheriff Dee Anderson says he is "comfortable with the hire" and has confidence in his new administrator overseeing jail booking.

found out the facts of the case," Anderson said. "I'm comfortable with the hire. Time has passed, and he has not had any problem since."

Stromile, who worked for Knowles in Dallas County, was fired after a Dallas sheriff's captain complained that he had made improper sexual comments to her.

He was terminated "for fostering a hostile work environment," said Sgt. Don Peritz, a Dallas sheriff's spokesman.

After he left Dallas County, Stromile worked for a company that services bank machines, Knowles said.

"It happened in the past, and I am looking to the future,"

Stromile said Tuesday after the commissioners' meeting.

Stromile said that he is eager to get to work improving the county's booking operation, which has been steeped in controversy since the late 1990s, when it was run by the previous sheriff, David Williams.

"We need to look at the overall booking operation and streamline it," Stromile said.

Several commissioners said they trust Anderson's judgment on hiring his command staff.

"It's a sheriff's decision," Commissioner J.D. Johnson said.

The jail's booking operation was at the center of a dispute between Fort Worth and Tarrant County that led Fort Worth in November to contract with Mansfield to handle its prisoners.

Many inmates are booked in

and out of jail quickly, and the short stay is costly because of the hours it takes for fingerprinting, inmate showers, issuance of clothes and the inventory of property.

Fort Worth complained for years that officers couldn't get back on the street quickly enough, and Tarrant County complained that it was underpaid by the city for booking and housing city inmates.

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Extended visiting hours may reduce jail crowds

By **BILL TEETER**
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

FORT WORTH — Visiting hours have been more than doubled at the Tarrant County Jail, a sheriff's department official said Wednesday.

Two weeks ago, the hours were set at 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, he said. The hours had been 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. every day except Tuesday, when there was no visitation, Chief Deputy Bob Knowles said.

The change was made because often as many as 200 people would show up on one day to visit inmates, Knowles said. The crowd was hard to handle in so short a time, and the small jail lobby became overcrowded, he said.

"We've had complaints from visitors on how they were being processed in. We are trying to make it easier, and we are trying to make it a little bit more user-friendly," Knowles said.

The hours also apply to the county's Green Bay facility at North Interstate 35W and Loop 820, and in the lockup upstairs from police offices at 350 W. Belknap St., he said.

The new hours will require no changes in administration or staff, and will cost no more, Sheriff Dee Anderson said.

Visitors must come to the jail at 100 N. Lamar St. and fill out a request form, Knowles said. Once approved, they are sent to a visiting booth to see the inmate, Knowles said.

Bill Teeter (817) 390-7757
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Sunday, April 21, 2002

Malevolent e-mail

Spreading abhorrent political views via the Internet is the best way I know to create bitterness and lose friends. Having received such injudicious garbage via e-mail regarding the Clintons, Jane Fonda and now Wal-Mart, and with more flooding my computer's mailbox almost daily, I can no longer stand by without comment.

Such malevolent e-mail messages smell of McCarthyism. Where were all these writers, who are of an age to know, when similar attacks took place in the 1950s? Are their minds now so clouded with political debauchery that they fail to remember

how many lives were destroyed by that attempt to falsely convict and brand innumerable U.S. citizens as Communists and un-American?

Such malevolent blather needs to be eradicated, not only from our society but from the face of the Earth.

So, enough said! I thoroughly enjoy hearing from my friends via e-mail, and I am interested in their lives and their family ventures. But I will not delve into such political nonsense, nor will I ever pass on such fanatical rhetoric.

Let's keep it all friendly. What do you say?

Floyd F. Clark, Fort Worth



MONIER

Capt. Scott Monier is first lawman killed on duty in White Settlement

Gunman wounded in confrontation is found dead in house after standoff

Officer dies after shootout



A SWAT team officer covers the front of a house where a gunman barricaded himself Wednesday. Fleeing are, from left, neighbor Tanya Webb and her son Michael, Monica Lollless and Brandy Cook.

STAR-TELEGRAM/RON T. ENNIS

Friends say slain captain special

By GALE BRADFORD
SPECIAL TO THE STAR-TELEGRAM

and MELODY McDONALD
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Scott Monier was all cop during the day. He was all dad at home each night and weekend.

Wednesday afternoon, the White Settlement police captain became that city's first officer killed in the line of duty, shot to death investigating a domestic disturbance. Monier returned gunfire, and police later found his 67-year-old attacker dead in the house where he had barricaded himself.

All who knew Monier said they lost someone special.

White Settlement Police Chief David Place called Monier, 37, an 11-year veteran of his department, "one of the strong rocks in my command."

"Society and law enforcement

MONIER

Continued from 1A

lost a good man," Place said.

Ten-year-old Sami Jo and 7-year-old Lacy lost their daddy.

He was their basketball coach at Peaster Elementary School, where their mother, Vicki, is a second-grade teacher. He spent most of his free time with them.

"He was a very giving, wonderful father and husband," said Teri Dommert, who lives across the street from the Moniers northwest of Weatherford. "Everything he and his wife did, they did together. And the kids, oh, gosh. They had golf carts and go-karts."

Vicki Monier, 36, lost her husband of 12 years.

"He was her soul mate. I don't know what she'll do without him," said Monier's sister-in-law, Elizabeth Patterson. "This shouldn't have happened. It's pathetic."

Vicki Monier was at school teaching when she got the call that her husband had been shot.

She left the girls behind at

the school and refused to let anyone accompany her to the Fort Worth hospital because she didn't know what to expect when she got there.

"She's holding up extremely well under the circumstances," Patterson said. "We're all in shock."

In White Settlement, colleagues and friends found Monier's death incomprehensible.

"Losing Scott was almost like losing one of my own kids," former City Councilwoman Sue Miller said. "He was such a great guy. ... He always had a smile on his face."

And he knew how to reach youths in trouble, Miller said.

"I've gone to him to talk to problem kids before they became criminals. He was always willing. ... When he did things like that, he never talked about them. He did it in his own quiet way."

Miller described Monier as a computer whiz who helped the police and fire departments set up their computer systems.

He was promoted from lieutenant to captain in October and was a "rising star" in

the Police Department, said Peter Nuckolls of the White Settlement city personnel department.

"He was a really very versatile and knowledgeable officer," Nuckolls said.

Monier also was a distinguished officer, the holder of a Medal of Valor. He got it in 1991 for risking his life while assisting two other police agencies in pursuing a stolen

vehicle and capturing two armed men.

He began his police career as a Tarrant County detention officer while studying criminal justice through Tarleton State University. He graduated in 1989.

"He put himself through peace school while working full time as a detention officer," said Capt. Kelley Meyer, who was then a sergeant with

the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department. "His goal was to become a street officer."

When Monier resigned to join White Settlement, "he knew exactly what he was going to do," Meyer said. "He was extremely proud and happy and knew his future was bright."

Tarrant County Deputy Michael Beeson, who worked with Monier as a rookie patrol officer in White Settlement in 1991, called his former partner "real laid-back, real cordial. ... He had no temper, was very even-keeled."

Daniela Place, the police chief's wife who had known Monier for years, described him as a "man's man. He was just exemplary morally and professionally."

Neighbor Dommert described the officer as a family man whose passions included raising horses, working on his house, tending his land, and taking his family into town for fairs and other social outings.

His wife and daughters, she said, didn't want for anything. And neither did anyone else who needed his help.

"He would do anything in the world for you," Dommert said. "If we needed a tractor or anything, he was always there."

White Settlement police spokesman John Clapp knows that firsthand.

"I remember one time I couldn't get a water heater installed in my house," he said. "He just went over and did it for me."

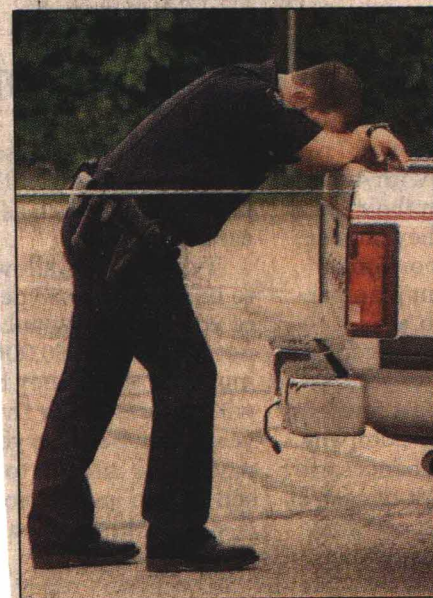
Patterson, the sister-in-law described Monier as "certainly not a run-of-the-mill guy." He was just the sweetest guy on earth ... very compassionate, great and wonderful person."

White Settlement City Manager Gus Pappas said that Monier served as a mentor to other officers and that his death will have a profound effect on the department and community.

"He rushed to the scene to do the job he was sworn to do and it cost him his life, and that's tough," Pappas said.

Or, as Dommert said, "He went out with dignity."

Staff writers Deanna Boyd and Bill Teeter, correspondent Anita Baker and librarian Cathy Belcher contributed to this report.



STAR-TELEGRAM/RON T. ENNIS
Fort Worth officer D.P. Hobbs rests for a moment during the standoff after a White Settlement officer was fatally shot. The officer's assailant, James Southall, 67, was found dead in the house. It was unknown whether he was killed by police gunfire or shot himself.

Girls feared for safety of grandmother

By DEANNA BOYD
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

WHITE SETTLEMENT — A White Settlement police captain investigating a domestic disturbance was fatally shot Wednesday afternoon, and his assailant, wounded by return gunfire, was found dead in a house where he had barricaded himself.

Officials did not know late Wednesday whether police gunfire killed James Southall, 67, or whether he had also shot himself.

Capt. Scott Monier, an 11-year veteran and a former Tarrant County jailer, was shot twice in the abdomen and once in the chest and died in surgery at Harris

More on SHOOTING on 21A

Methodist Fort Worth. He was not wearing a protective vest.

Monier, 37, was the first White Settlement police officer killed in the line of duty. He is survived by his wife, Vicki, a schoolteacher in Peaster in Parker County, and two young daughters.

The shooting occurred shortly after 1 p.m. at 9009 Farmer Road, where Southall had lived for about five years with Betty Cook, 65, Cook's granddaughters said.

The granddaughters, who said they were upset that Southall had been abusive to Betty Cook, called police from a nearby school to report that Southall had pulled a gun after refusing to let them use the telephone. Monier was shot when he entered the home as the granddaughters spoke outside with another officer responding to the 911 call.

One granddaughter, Brandy Cook, 21, said that Southall had recently "gotten more verbal, more physical," and that Betty Cook had attempted to evict him.

"None of the family could get him to leave," Brandy Cook said. "My grandmother wanted him out of the house, but he wouldn't leave."

Police said they had unconfirmed reports that Southall had had mental problems. Brandy Cook said Southall had previously been hospitalized for a mental breakdown.

Officer slain



Monier's slaying stunned the 30-member Police Department.

"It's been very trying," police spokesman John Clapp said at a late afternoon news conference. "Everybody is shocked and very emotional."

City Manager Gus Pappas said the shooting of Monier "seems to have been very random and basically without purpose, a useless act of violence."

Police Chief David Place described the slain officer as "one of the strong rocks in my command. Society and law enforcement lost a good man."

Brandy Cook said she and her sister, Monica Lolless, 18, went to the Farmer Road home to visit their grandmother Wednesday. They were greeted by a visibly upset Southall, who slammed the door behind them as they entered, she said.

"He said he couldn't take us kids always coming over," Brandy Cook said.

A few minutes later, as they stood on the front porch out of Southall's earshot, their grandmother told them that Southall had hit her Tuesday.

"She said, 'I want him gone, but he won't leave,'" Brandy Cook said. "We were mad. That's when I went in the house to call my uncle."

Southall refused to let her use the phone, which had been unplugged from the jack, she said.

"I went in there and said, 'Can you

hook up the phone so I can make a phone call?' He said, 'No.' I said, 'Well, you've hit the wrong person.'"

As the granddaughters left to call their uncle from nearby West Elementary School, Southall pulled a .45-caliber gun and "ran after me," Brandy Cook said.

The sisters fled to the school and called police.

"The 911 call came in from the school. The caller advised that a man was holding a gun on her grandmother," Clapp said.

The granddaughters were standing in the middle of the street with a responding officer when Brandy Cook spotted Southall on the porch with a gun, and Betty Cook standing nearby.

"She kept telling the officers she could calm him down," Brandy Cook said.

"We didn't think he was going to do it, and then he cocked it."

About that time, police said, other officers arrived and Monier entered the house through a back door, apparently attracting Southall's attention.

Southall "was standing in the doorway. He went back in the house, and that's when the gunfire was exchanged between the two of them," Pappas said. "And then Captain Monier came out the front of the house injured."

Place said officers helped Betty Cook get away from the house and take shelter in a neighbor's house sometime after Southall went inside.

Brandy Cook said she heard five

shots but didn't see the wounded officer.

"I didn't know an officer had been hit until I was next door and I saw them take him out. I thought he [Southall] had shot himself," she said.

The wounded officer was pulled out of the line of fire by other officers and was taken to Harris Methodist, where he died less than two hours later in surgery.

"Captain Monier had apparently, so I understand, told some of his fellow officers when he was being taken away that he believed that he had shot" Southall, Pappas said.

After shooting Monier, Southall barricaded himself in the house as White Settlement police, later replaced by the Fort Worth SWAT team and police snipers, surrounded the residence. Police also ordered West Elementary into a "lockdown" to prevent students or teachers from inadvertently walking into a dangerous situation.

As the afternoon wore on, police repeatedly attempted to contact Southall by phone and loudspeaker but received no response. At 4:45 p.m., they fired the first of two rounds of tear gas into the residence. There was no response. An hour later, after obtaining a search warrant, they fired a second volley of tear gas and stormed inside.

"Once they entered, they found Mr. Southall dead," Pappas said. "Apparently he had died from the wounds that had been inflicted in

the gunshots that were exchanged between him and Captain Monier."

Police did not say where or how many times Southall had been shot.

Brandy Cook said Southall was retired from the military, liked guns and said he had served in "special services."

"My fiance sold him that gun," she said. "If we would have known he was nuts, we wouldn't have sold him the gun."

Brandy Cook said Southall had a horrible temper and was often mean

to her 12-year-old sister, who lived with her grandmother and Southall. The girl was at school at the time of the shooting.

An adult grandson and his wife also live at the home but were away Wednesday afternoon.

Brandy Cook said Southall had never abused the grandmother in front of her family.

"He wants his way or no way," she said. "He's jealous. He wants her for himself."

Late Wednesday night, Betty

Cook, who was at a relative's house, said that police moved too quickly and that more caution might have prevented both deaths.

"They should have listened to me when I told them to stay away from my house," she said.

"He didn't do anything wrong. He was a good man."

Staff writers Bill Teeter and Melody McDonald and correspondent Anita Baker contributed to this report.

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Fort Worth police officer Charlie Cripliver talks with Betty Cook, who shared a house with James Southall, the gunman who fatally shot a White Settlement officer during a confrontation at his house Wednesday. Two of Cook's granddaughters called 911 from a nearby school to report that Southall had pulled a gun on them after refusing to let them use the telephone at the house. The granddaughters said Southall abused their grandmother.



STAR-TELEGRAM/JILL JOHNSON



STAR-TELEGRAM/CAROLYN MARY BAUMAN

Vicki Monier rushes to Harris Methodist Fort Worth where her husband, White Settlement police Capt. Scott Monier, was taken after he was shot Wednesday investigating a domestic disturbance.



A Fort Worth SWAT team surrounds a house where a gunman holed up after fatally shooting a police officer.

STAR-TELEGRAM/JILL JOHNSON



STAR-TELEGRAM/CAROLYN MARY BAUMAN

At left, White Settlement officer John Clapp wipes away tears as he discusses the shootout that left a fellow officer dead. Capt. Scott Monier was fatally shot while answering a domestic disturbance call and died in surgery a few hours later. Monier, an 11-year veteran and former Tarrant County jailer, was the first White Settlement officer killed in the line of duty. At right, a strip of black tape covers part of Clapp's badge as a sign of mourning.



STAR-TELEGRAM/CAROLYN MARY BAUMAN

“He rushed to the scene to do the job he was sworn to do, and it cost him his life, and that’s tough.”

— Gus Pappas, White Settlement city manager

Officer, man fired 17 shots, chief says

SHOOTING Preliminary autopsy reports indicate a police captain and a man shot each other repeatedly when the officer confronted the man in a domestic disturbance case.

By DEANNA BOYD
and MELODY McDONALD
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITERS

WHITE SETTLEMENT — A police captain and a 68-year-old man suspected of domestic abuse killed each other in a brief, 17-shot gunfight in which both emptied their weapons, White Settlement Police Chief David Place said Thursday.

Preliminary autopsy results showed that Capt. Scott Monier, who was not wearing a protective vest, suffered five wounds and James Southall seven, none of which appeared to be self-inflicted, Place said.

"I believe from all indications that when Mr. Southall hit the floor, he was probably deceased," Place said.

Mortally wounded in the chest

and abdomen, Monier staggered out of the house where the shooting occurred and died about two hours later in surgery at a Fort Worth hospital.

Southall was found dead about five hours later when a Fort Worth SWAT team stormed the house after repeated attempts to contact the man failed.

Evidence in the residence at 9009 Farmer Road indicated that Southall fired nine shots, possibly 10, and Monier eight, Place said. Both empty weapons were found in the room where the shooting occurred, he said.

"Both weapons were on the floor with their slides locked back, which is an indication that the weapons are empty," Place said. A loaded clip was found in Southall's pocket.

Monier, an 11-year veteran of the force, was responding as a backup to other officers about 1 p.m. Wednesday when he entered the back door of the house and was shot, Place said. He said evidence indicated that Southall fired at least twice before Monier got off his first shot.

Monier, 37, was the first White Settlement police officer to die in the line of duty and the first to be killed in Texas this year.

Betty Cook, 65, Southall's girlfriend, said she could have calmed Southall, and neither man had to die.

"It was a useless death on Jim and on that officer," she said Thursday. "If they would have listened to me, stayed away from my house, Jim would have never hurt me. I could have went in, and we could have left, and all of this could have been avoided."

"I'm not putting the police down. I'm sure they felt they were doing their job. They were protecting me, but they should not have come in my house."

Police went to the house after Cook's granddaughter, 21-year-old Brandy Cook, called 911 and said Southall had threatened her with a gun.

Monier, who had just returned from taking some employees to lunch to celebrate Secretary's Day, was in the dispatch office when he heard that shots had been fired and that three officers at the scene needed backup, police said.

Monier, who routinely worked in the office and rarely on the streets, quickly rushed to the scene without putting on his protective vest, a policy required only of uniformed officers who work patrol duty, Place said.

"I think he was more concerned about the safety of the

To make donations

Money is being collected for the family of slain White Settlement police Capt. Scott Monier. Checks can be made out to the Capt. Scott Monier Memorial



MONIER

848552044, 101 N. Main St., Weatherford 76086.

Fund and delivered to Omni-American Federal Credit Union, 7800 White Settlement Road, White Settlement 76108, or Weatherford Bank, Account No.

citizens and also concerned for the officers on the scene," the chief said.

Place said he plans to purchase additional equipment and change department policies to ensure that all officers, not just uniformed patrol officers, have instant access to their protective vests.

"There's going to be some changes," Place said. "It's a sad thing that it had to take the life of one of my best officers and

promote this, but that's what's going to have to happen."

Brandy Cook said Wednesday that she called police after Southall pulled a gun on her and her 18-year-old sister after refusing to let them use the telephone. Minutes before, she said, her grandmother had confided to them that Southall had struck her the night before.

However, Betty Cook said Thursday that her granddaughters misunderstood what she told them. She said Southall had thrown a key and hit her, and she doesn't believe that it was intentional.

"Jim had never touched me, he never abused me, he never laid a hand on me," Cook insisted.

Southall displayed the gun to her granddaughters only after they refused to leave the house as he requested, she said.

"He had the gun, and he told them to leave and not to ever come back because they didn't do nothing but cause problems," Cook said. "I said: 'No, Jim. Just get in the house.

Go put that up.'"

Cook said her boyfriend never chased the granddaughters as they told reporters after the shooting. Instead, she said the granddaughters left, and she went to a nearby store to buy cigarettes. She said she returned to find police surrounding her home.

"I told them distinctly: 'Do not go in my house. I can take care of things. Leave him alone. Do not go in my house,'" Cook said. "They said, 'You don't go in there!'"

But Cook said she walked toward the front door, where Southall was standing with the gun.

"I was talking to Jim, and I was backing in the house to get away from them," Cook said.

"I said, 'Jim, go put the gun down.' He backed into the house. He wouldn't look at me. He was scared, but I knew I could hear me."

Cook said she next heard four to five gunshots ring out.

"I heard him hollering, didn't know the officer was even inside," Cook said.

thought [Southall] might have shot himself or was just shooting at him through the window. I couldn't figure out where the gunfire was coming through or who was doing it."

Cook said she believes that Southall did not intend to hurt anyone but was surprised at Monier's presence in the home and fired as a reflex.

"I think it was because he scared him," Cook said. "I'm sure the officer probably thought he could get up behind him and maybe apprehend him. I do feel like he [Southall] did not know he was in there."

Cook said Southall was not as violent as portrayed.

She said she and Southall were childhood friends in Dallas and that they reunited about 10 years ago after Southall, a divorced father, learned that Cook was living in White Settlement.

"We enjoyed each other's company," said Cook, whose husband died years ago. "We both were alone. We enjoyed traveling. We enjoyed being

with each other. We could talk over old times."

Place said Cook called Thursday to complain about the condition of her house after the shooting. The Police Department will provide money from a special fund to help with cleanup and repairs, he said.

Cook said Southall was a retired Air Force pilot in the military's "secret service" unit and once served as a bodyguard to President Eisenhower.

"He'd been all over the country. He was very intelligent, a very well-liked soldier, very capable of what the military demanded of him," Cook said.

However, officials at the Air Force Personnel Center in San Antonio and the Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver could find no records showing that Southall was an Air Force retiree or that he had served.

Cook responded that the records had been sealed because of Southall's classified military assignments.

Staff writer Chris Vaughn contributed to this report.

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"I don't know how many times I've broken down today."

— Santino Flores, White Settlement police dispatcher

Communities rally 'round family of slain officer

By GALE BRADFORD

SPECIAL TO THE STAR-TELEGRAM

and MELODY McDONALD

STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

As slain Police Capt. Scott Monier's family prepared a formal farewell to him for Saturday, friends, acquaintances and strangers informally noted his passing Thursday with flowers, cards, candles and anecdotes about an amazingly affable man.

Monier's funeral is scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday at The Church in Peaster followed by burial at Zion Hill Cemetery north of Weatherford.

"All these are from the public," White Settlement Officer John Clapp said of the tokens that reached from an outside monument of a policeman to the inside of the station.

"He has done a lot for this community; he has touched them."

Meanwhile, Monier's colleagues, the tiny town of Peaster and the close-knit school district where his wife teaches and his two daughters are enrolled wrapped themselves around the mourning family.

"We've got two little girls to raise," Peaster Elementary School principal Roy Ryan said.

The extended family linked by love instead of blood will have to find a way to make it up to Sami

MOURNING People heaped flowers, cards

and candles in memory of slain police Capt. Scott Monier while his family planned his funeral.

Jo Monier, who turns 11 today without the usual birthday celebration with her daddy. And they'll have to reassure Sami Jo even though she can't represent her church at a state Bible competition as planned this weekend.

Peaster Elementary's 45 teachers and aides want to make sure that first grade teacher Vicki Monier, who has 36 sick and personal days remaining for the school year, has sufficient paid leave to grieve the loss of her husband and comfort her children.

"All of my teachers have donated their sick days and personal days to charge against their accounts so [Vicki] won't lose any time from this tragedy," Ryan said.

Two funds have been started for the family, one begun with a \$1,000 donation from the elementary school's Parent Teacher Organization. Students throughout the Peaster district are also contributing.

"We've got some little boys in the fifth grade taking up money, and they want to plant a tree outside Mrs. Monier's win-

dow — let her remember and see that tree over the years," Ryan said.

Ryan explained to 412 students Thursday morning that the husband of Vicki Monier and the father of fifth-grader Sami Jo and first-grader Lacy was killed while working as a policeman.

The principal reminded the children of the deaths of New York City policemen and firefighters on Sept. 11.

"That was far away from us and harder for us to understand," he said. "But yesterday, we had a policeman killed here locally and we do understand that because it was Mrs. Monier's husband."

Peaster teachers set up a schedule to take food to the family for the next two weeks, and a radio station will donate food to police officers who are coming from afar to help honor a fallen brother.

White Settlement police officers wore black tape across their badges Thursday. Outside the police station, dispatcher Santino Flores, who was off duty, stopped by to drop off flowers. Flores embraced a friend at the station.

"I don't know how many times I've broken down today," Flores said. "It's a deafening blow."



STAR-TELEGRAM/CAROLYN MARY BAUMAN

Police public information officer John Clapp fights back tears Thursday as Connie Davis brings flowers in memory of Capt. Scott Monier to the White Settlement Law Enforcement Building.

One little girl left a basket of stuffed bears. As the pair walked away, a flower shop van pulled into the parking lot, undoubtedly with another delivery.

Residents seemed compelled to describe their encounters with Monier.

One man said that when his sister was sick in Illinois seven or eight years ago, White Settlement police were alerted and

asked to deliver him the message, Place said. The man stopped Thursday to say he appreciated Monier's kind approach.

Place said of the response: "It's what I expect from the residents. They know what the trials and tribulations of the police are. It is a community, but again a family."

Correspondent Anita Baker contributed to this report.

OBITUARIES - FORT-WORTH STAR TELEGRAM, 04-29-02

BETTY CAROL RICHARDSON
1935 - 2002

Betty Carol Richardson, 66, a jailer for Tarrant County Sheriff's Department died April 27, 2002 at Harris Methodist Hospital.

Funeral 4 p.m. Friday at Blessing Colonial Chapel, Mansfield.

Carol was born Sept. 3, 1935, the daughter of Cecil and Bertha Mae Coate Hudelson, and married Roy Lee Richardson, April 4, 1958, Gainesville. She was a member of the Church of Christ.

Her husband preceded her in death April 19, 1971.

Survivors: Daughter, Leigh Ann Wright of Mansfield; son, Brad Richardson of Mansfield, and brother, Bud Hudelson of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

Police license lapses could invalidate tickets

By JASMINE KRIPALANI
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

MARSHALL CREEK — Police Chief David Williams and one of his officers have been working with expired peace officer licenses for months, throwing into question the validity of hundreds of the department's citations and several arrests, according to a state agency.

Williams' and Sgt. Kevin Ancelet's

LICENSING A state agency says David Williams' peace officer license expired before he was hired as Marshall Creek police chief three months ago.

licenses expired Aug. 31 because they failed to complete required coursework, said Steve Myers, spokesman for the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education.

"If you have an expired license, you cannot work as a police officer," Myers said.

Williams was hired as police chief in this town of 431 residents in January, about 13 months after ending a stormy eight-year stint as Tarrant County sheriff. He did not respond Wednesday to telephone calls or a written request for comment.

Ancelet, 38, denied that his license

had expired.

"That's not correct," he said. "I'm not going to give information over the phone. If you need to talk to me, send a request. I don't have time to talk to you."

Mayor Kevin Jones would not say whether the town will refund the money collected from the citations.

The amount could run into thousands of dollars. At a recent Board of

Aldermen meeting, Town Secretary Jan Files said the Police Department issued 122 citations during February. The fines and court costs of those citations, if they are all collected, would amount to about \$6,000, Files said.

A similar case in Tarrant County last month forced the Sheriff's Department to refund six months worth of tickets written by Constable Jack Allen, whose license had expired.

Williams, 48, earns \$28,000 as police chief and supervises two officers in Marshall Creek, which is between Roanoke and Flower Mound. When he was sheriff he



STAR-TELEGRAM/DON COOK

earned about \$107,000 annually and supervised about 1,300 employees for the state's third most-populous county.

But he was often at odds with the Commissioners Court, against which he filed a lawsuit claiming the court did not allocate enough money to his department. He later dropped that lawsuit.

When Williams and Ancelet were hired in Marshall Creek, town officials apparently failed to notify the state licensing agency. Consequently, the two did not receive letters notifying them to renew their licenses, Myers said.

Williams did not complete the 40 hours of continuing education courses that the state requires. Ancelet completed the 40 hours but failed to take a required investigative course, Myers said.

The town also faces questions about the Police Department issuing traffic citations on U.S. 377 outside Marshall Creek. Williams and Mayor Jones have previously said the

area in question is a part of Marshall Creek Park, which is federal property, and that the department had an agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to patrol it.

But the town's agreement with the Corps expired in September, Corps spokeswoman Anita Horky said. Under the agreement, the Marshall Creek Police Department needed permission from Denton County to patrol that section of U.S. 377. Permission was never sought or granted, said Kevin Patton, spokesman for the Denton County Sheriff's Department.

After a reporter asked this week about the citations issued on U.S. 377, Williams said the department had ceased that practice.

Stephen Stinnett of Hurst is one of many motorists who

received a speeding citation from Ancelet on U.S. 377 in mid-February. He pleaded no contest and paid \$100 in fines and court costs.

"Unfortunately, I already appeared, and although I find it interesting, I don't imagine Marshall Creek would refund my money," Stinnett, 44, said Wednesday. "It wasn't worth my time in the first place, and it's not worth any more of my time."

Laura Earles of Flower Mound paid Marshall Creek \$154.25 for a speeding citation she received on U.S. 377.

"I'm mad that I paid the whole thing," she said. "I mean, I didn't even know where Marshall Creek was. I thought that was Roanoke."

ONLINE: www.tcleose.state.tx.us

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Scofflaw lawman redux



Bud Kennedy
COMMENTARY

MARSHALL CREEK — Obviously, no job is too small for former Tarrant County Sheriff David Williams.

From sheriff of a county with a population of 1.5 million people, he went to a job as police chief in an 8-block-long town of 431.

He still can't get it right. Hundreds of traffic tickets are unenforceable. More speeding tickets are in doubt because they were written on

KENNEDY Folks in Marshall Creek say they think the news media are making too big a deal of lapsed police officers' licenses.

U.S. 377 a mile-and-a-half away from town — where the mayor says police were “verbally invited” to patrol federal land.

As usual, Williams was nowhere in sight Thursday night when the town council met to learn how the new \$28,000-a-year chief and another officer failed to renew their peace officer's licenses.

Williams has brought a peculiar philosophy to this tiny Denton County town.

Since he took over, a prominent city landowner said, police “won't answer the phone.”

“I tried to report a crime,” said Larry D. Smith, 62, owner of 22 houses in a town that is mostly an old mobile-home park. “I went to the police station” — a converted two-bedroom house — “but they won't even answer the door.”

The Marshall Creek police slogan must be, “Don't Call Us — We'll Call You.”

Instead, police went calling on passing motorists out west of town along nearby U.S. 377, where the highway crosses Denton Creek and a federal floodway between Roanoke and Flower Mound.

A former manager at Lake Grapevine asked for police patrols, said a harried Marshall Creek Mayor Kevin Jones, 36

and a Sears appliance repairman.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contracted with the town to patrol a nearby park until September. The highway crosses a sliver of federal property at the creek.

When the contract ran out, the Marshall Creek police chose to continue the patrols, Jones said.

Of course they stayed. The motorists on U.S. 377 are the town's cash cow. There's no highway in Marshall Creek.

Jones said the “invitation” amounted to a “verbal agreement” that gave the town unwritten permission to patrol the highway, even after the written contract had run out. The town has no proof of the agreement, he said.

“We have provided safety ... with or without a contract, because safety is an issue,” said Jones, elected last May to a two-year term.

This sounds really familiar. Remember Hurricane Harbor?

A brawl broke out one May night in 1998 at the Arlington water park. Police were calming the crowd and reassuring tourists when Williams barged in with an army of officers and a riot squad.

The sheriff said he was

“invited” by police. Dee Anderson, the Arlington police spokesman, said nobody invited the sheriff.

Anderson is now the sheriff. If the Marshall Creek Town Council is embarrassed that the long arm of their law officers was tapping motorists on a highway nowhere near town — without written authority — you couldn't tell it Thursday night.

The council of five aldermen met behind the closed wooden front door of the town hall and declared a “public safety emergency.” On the door, a new sign read, “We Back the Blue. Support Marshall Creek Police.”

Above it, an older sign warned, “Notice. Oridances Will Be Enforced.” That's the spelling.

Little boys rode bicycles and scuffled in the parking lot as about 20 adults stood on the porch shouting complaints.

Alderman Jim McCoy, 75, was among the last to arrive. He said the council had been told it was legal to patrol the highway where it crosses the federal land.

“I try not to get involved in the police business any more than I have to,” said McCoy, a retired mechanic.

Three of the five aldermen

can stay uninvolved for at least two more years. A majority of the town council would have been up for re-election today, but the election was canceled because no challengers filed.

“People don't want to help,” said Alderman John Murdock, 70, a retired bus driver elected last year as a write-in candidate for an open seat. “They'd rather come down here and raise hell.”

After the closed meeting, he and Jones said the town needs a police force. They called news coverage of the lapsed licenses and highway tickets unfair.

“Every time something comes up,” Murdock said, “the media pounces on Marshall Creek.”

From the back of the chamber, Town Secretary Jan Files spoke up.

“I want to ask the media something,” she said.

“Would y'all be here today if this didn't involve David Williams?”

No. Definitely not.

Marshall Creek didn't have this problem until it hired David Williams.

Bud Kennedy's column appears Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. (817) 390-7538 budk@star-telegram.com

Sunday, May 12, 2002

EDITORIALS

Lack of license

Former Tarrant County Sheriff David Williams was back in the news recently for working as police chief of Marshall Creek long after his state peace officer's license had lapsed.

Poking fun at Williams is about as sporting as kicking kittens — it doesn't take much effort. But there's a bigger issue here than just the continuing travails of North Texas' Barney Fife.

It would be a mistake to think that Williams and Marshall Creek Sgt. Kevin Ancelet were the only two peace officers in the state whose licenses expired yet who were still performing police duties.

The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) requires that all certified peace officers, reserves and jailers complete legislatively mandated continuing education every two years to keep their licenses current. The clock for the 1999-2000 cycle ran out at midnight Aug. 31, 2001.

According to TCLEOSE records, 1,800 officers — "give or take," says spokesman Steve Myers — may be working somewhere in the state without having completed that course work.

"May be working" is the operative phrase. Internal record keeping is apparently not the strong suit of the law enforcement world.

TCLEOSE officials said that any one of several reasons could be to blame for why these individuals' records are incomplete — they left law enforcement, they took the training but their employers didn't get proof to TCLEOSE, the commission improperly logged the training, or the officer died.

Commission officials are in the process of contacting individuals through their last known employers to find out which of these applies.

The seemingly lackadaisical approach to record keeping is a symptom of a bigger problem of deflected responsibility. Individual officers bear the obligation of staying current in their training.

People with state-issued licenses — from a driver's license to a cosmetology license — have the responsibility to make sure they comply with state regulations.

When the license in question gives someone the right to carry a gun, that personal burden is magnified. There should never be a question as to whether a police officer is legally qualified to write a ticket or make an arrest.

Unfortunately, too many peace officers think it's the exclusive duty of their employers to keep tabs on their records. But the license isn't issued to the department — it's issued to the individual and goes where he or she goes if employment changes. Employers aren't babysitters: officers must pay attention.

CERTIFICATION Texas peace officers working without proper credentials may be setting up law enforcement agencies for a legal fall.

That said, it is the department's job to make sure that every officer knows the state requirements for maintaining an active license, and department administration must make sure that officers are taking the courses. An agency that allows a person with an expired license to work as a peace officer is subject to civil liability lawsuits. And a chief administrator who continues the appointment of an unlicensed person is subject to criminal penalties under the state's occupations code.

Tarrant County has already refunded money for tickets written by Constable Jack Allen in the six months after his license lapsed.

The issue of unlicensed people performing the duties of licensed law enforcement agents is more serious than refunding traffic tickets, although that in itself is a pain.

Imagine an unlicensed homicide detective gathering crime scene evidence or making an arrest. A savvy defense attorney will be all over the legality of those actions.

It may not be an automatic disqualification of the detective's work, but it would require the district attorney's office to do some fancy footwork to defend the department.

Law enforcement agencies bear the blame for not notifying TCLEOSE in a timely manner when training is completed or when officers leave their employment. Unfortunately, there is no consequence written into the law or commission policies for negligent departments.

TCLEOSE doesn't escape some of the burden, either. Spokesman Myers says that some of the records that the commission receives from law enforcement agencies are handwritten, and it's hard to decipher the writing.

"We use Social Security numbers as identifiers, and sometimes they can be transposed," Myers said.

TCLEOSE is responsible for certifying more than 70,000 peace officers, reserve officers and sheriff's department jailers across Texas.

In this day of computers, the notion that TCLEOSE accepts handwritten records for the more than 70,000 individuals whom it certifies is mindboggling. Standardized, computerized forms should be the first order of the day.

If a department is so small — or so poor — that it isn't computerized, then the information can be submitted in a form not unlike standardized testing in schools — fill in the appropriate bubble with a No. 2 pencil.

Williams quits as town's chief

By JASMINE KRIPALANI
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

MARSHALL CREEK — Police Chief David Williams announced his resignation at a hastily called meeting Monday night, 11 days after the Board of Aldermen said he could keep his job despite an expired peace officer's license.

RESIGNATION
David Williams gives no reason for his resignation as Marshall Creek chief of police.

Reading from a handwritten note, Williams offered no explanation for his decision, officials said. He could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

His resignation will be effective the first week in June, Mayor Kevin Jones said.

Williams, a former Tarrant County sheriff, and Sgt. Kevin Ancelet were the focus of the board's May 2 meeting, which was prompted by revelations that their licenses had expired months earlier.

An officer cannot perform his duties without a license, according to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education. Hundreds of citations and several arrests have been thrown into question as a result of the expired licenses, but Marshall Creek officials

More on RESIGNATION on 10B



David Williams was hired by Marshall Creek in January.

RESIGNATION

Continued from 1B

declined to say whether the town will issue refunds to people who have already paid fines and court costs.

"That's pending, and [we] cannot comment on that," Jones said.

Alderman Jim McCoy said the issue is none of his business.

"I try to keep my nose out of police business because I'm not up well on it," he said. "Laws in Austin change so much that I don't think people down there can keep up."

Williams was hired as chief on Jan. 29, 13 months after ending his tenure as sheriff of the state's third most populous county. As Tarrant County sheriff, Williams earned \$107,304 and supervised about 1,300 employees. As chief of police for Marshall Creek, he earned \$28,000 a year and supervised two officers.

"Any job that's worth doing is important, and I think the people of Marshall Creek are important," he said when he was hired.

Alderman Lonnie Egerton said he expected Williams'

resignation. "I figured he would leave as soon as he got his license renewed, and sure enough he did," Egerton said.

Jones said Ancelet has also completed the required course work to have his license renewed and will remain as sergeant. Williams' resignation leaves the town with two officers.

"Ancelet returns to his normal duties," Jones said.

The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education was closed late Tuesday and could not confirm whether Williams' and Ancelet's licenses had been reinstated.

Jones did not say whether Ancelet will continue issuing traffic citations on U.S. 377, which is outside the town's limits. Upon being questioned about the practice, Williams previously said the town had stopped issuing citations on that stretch of highway.

McCoy said aldermen will discuss appointing a new police chief at a future meeting.

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Tuesday, May 21, 2002

TARRANT COUNTY

Sheriff's jail worker arrested in rape case

A Tarrant County sheriff's jail employee arrested Sunday on accusations of sexually assaulting a 17-year-old Pelican Bay woman has been suspended with pay, sheriff's department officials said Monday.

Albert Mitchell, a 40-year-old civilian employee, was released from Westworth Village jail Monday on \$50,000 bail.

Pelican Bay Police Chief Robert Loar said Mitchell and the woman had apparently known each other about a month. The woman told police Mitchell had come to her house at her invitation Wednesday

Star-Telegram | Saturday, June 15, 2002

TARRANT COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE LEGAL NOTICE

The following person(s) have registered with the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office as a convicted sex offender:

Christopher "Jason" Garrett a 24 year old W/M, 5645 Bellaire Dr. S. #506, Benbrook, TX 76109. Indecent Exposure, victim - F/40 year old. This offender's risk level is unknown. Photo of offender can be viewed on the internet:

<http://records.txdps.state.tx.us>

La Siguietes personas se han registrado con el Departamento Del Sherife de Tarrant County como personas convictas de ofensas sexuales:

Christopher "Jason" Garrett, 24 años edad W/M, 5645 Bellaire Dr. S. #506, Benbrook, TX 76109. Indecente Exposicion de Genital, victima - F/40 años. El nivel de riesgo de este delincuente no es disponible. Fotos del delincuente en el Internet:

<http://records.txdps.state.tx.us>

"The deputies are ... glad to see the management people out there that time of night."

— Tarrant County Sheriff Dee Anderson

Top sheriff's officers hit the streets

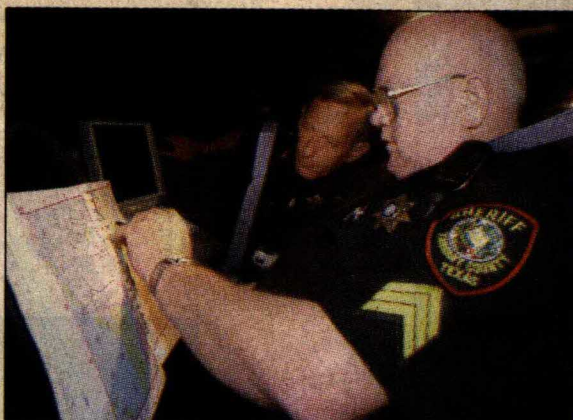
PATROL Tarrant County Sheriff's Department managing officers return to the streets to be more accessible for weekend deputies.

By PEYTON D. WOODSON
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

FORT WORTH — Executive Chief Deputy Bob Knowles stood on the side of busy Saginaw Boulevard on a recent night and watched as a Sheriff's Department sergeant and deputies worked a minor traffic accident near the Saginaw city line.

Knowles was there as part of a shift in responsibilities and duties at the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department. Since the first of the month, command-level officers have been working weekend night shifts. They are supposed to advise deputies and volunteer reserve officers handling major crime calls.

Weekend nights sometimes mean



SPECIAL TO THE STAR-TELEGRAM/RICHARD P. RODRIGUEZ

Tarrant County sheriff's Sgt. Leo Rice outlines his patrol area for Executive Chief Deputy Bob Knowles during Knowles' recent weekend night shift. The department's top officers are rotating overnight shifts to be more accessible to the night-shift deputies.

tougher calls for patrol deputies. Homicides, volatile domestic disturbance incidents, hostage situations and other similar high-priority calls require notification of a command officer.

In the past, managing officers would be called at home for guidance. But now, the managing officers'

new night duty, from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. Friday and Saturday, overlaps the two night patrol shifts.

"It creates an extra person to assist on a call," Patrol Deputy Mark Smith said. "Some nights we run short. Any time you have any kind of question, it's good to have someone

More on PATROL on 13B

PATROL

Continued from 1B

with the knowledge they have. It's a good benefit to have them on."

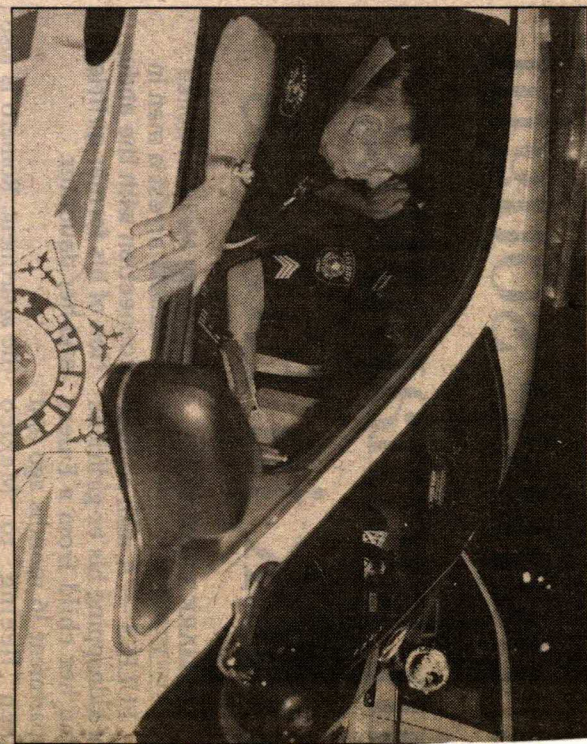
The initiative was started by Sheriff Dee Anderson, who this month was the first to work the managing officer rotation. He said it was his first return to night duty since he worked patrol with the Arlington Police Department. Anderson was sworn in as Tarrant County sheriff in January 2001, replacing David Williams, who had held the post for eight years.

"I was really interested in watching the deputies work," Anderson said. "I tried not to intervene. I was really impressed with the work they did on the calls. I was impressed with their ability to problem-solve."

The duty will rotate each week among Anderson and nine other command officers.

Deputies typically patrol the unincorporated parts of Tarrant County, but they also have jurisdiction within city limits. In May, patrol deputies worked an average of 254 calls a day Sundays through Thursday. They logged 197 calls on Fridays in May and 167 calls on Saturdays.

During summer months, weekend night calls tend to increase, Smith said. "When it gets hotter,



SPECIAL TO THE STAR-TELEGRAM/RICHARD W. RODRIGUEZ
Tarrant County Executive Chief Deputy Bob Knowles and Sgt. Leo Rice discuss a prowler call with Deputy Howard Johnson.

domestic disturbances and bar fights go up with people's elevated temperatures," Smith said.

The Sheriff's Department is not the first local law enforcement agency to return managing officers to patrol shifts. Last year, as a quick fix for a shortage of patrol officers, the Fort Worth Police Department returned more officers to the streets. The rotation included all officers through the rank of captain from such divisions as homicide, burglary, auto theft, gangs, narcotics and SWAT.

Knowles, who supervises the Tarrant County jails, normally works 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. He occasionally works nights to monitor jail operations and staff, but working patrol was

something new.

On this night, Knowles rode shotgun as Sgt. Leo Rice prowled the back roads of northwest Tarrant County checking bars and convenience stores. It was a quiet night with no calls requiring a command officer's input.

"It's been a positive experience," Anderson said of the rotation. "The deputies are surprised and glad to see the management people out there that time of night. Everyone has said they've learned things. "We said all along the command people will have an open-door policy," he said. "This is another way to get us close to these people."

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Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Probation assessed in indecency case

By **MELODY McDONALD**
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

FORT WORTH — A former Tarrant County jailer accused of indecency with a child has been sentenced to five years' deferred adjudication probation.

As part of a plea agreement, 32-year-old Michael Nicholas Depalo II of Azle pleaded guilty last week to injury to a child. Prosecutors said they offered Depalo a plea bargain because the child, during trial preparation, had trouble remembering what happened.

Deferred adjudication

means that if Depalo completes the terms of his probation, including sex-offender counseling, his case will be dismissed without a conviction on his record, although the arrest will remain. If he fails to complete his probation, however, he will be exposed to the full range of punishment, which is up to 10 years in prison.

"He decided to take the plea. That way he would have a shot of keeping it off of his record," said defense attorney Ray Hall Jr. "You never know what a jury is going to do."

Depalo turned himself in to Azle police last summer after learning that a warrant had been issued for his arrest on suspicion of indecency with a 6-year-old. The child's mother had called authorities after learning that Depalo might have inappropriately touched her daughter, authorities said.

Depalo, a jailer for four years, was suspended with pay shortly after his arrest. But in November, he was terminated for conduct unbecoming an officer, sheriff's officials said.

Melody McDonald, (817) 390-7386
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Saturday, June 29, 2002

Cheers: To Tarrant County Sheriff Dee Anderson for personally delivering a shoulder patch for our Texas map. My students were thrilled by his visit. He demonstrated just what I hoped the children would learn from our Police Pals unit: Law enforcement officers really are here to help us.

Third-grade teacher **Karen Russell**,
North Joshua Elementary School, Burleson

Jail fund sound; use by ex-sheriff raises questions



David Williams transferred \$354,000 to a friend's religious organization.

By **NEIL STRASSMAN**
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

FORT WORTH — The Sheriff's Commissary Fund is managed properly, Tarrant County auditors said Tuesday, but no county official can say how most of \$354,000 transferred three years ago to a religious nonprofit organization by former Sheriff David Williams was spent.

In an audit covering the year that ended Sept. 30 — the end of Williams' term and the beginning of Sheriff Dee Anderson's — County Auditor Renee Tidwell found the account — used to buy inmates soap and toothpaste, law books, basketballs and TV sets — to be in good shape.

Nearly \$99,000 had been spent on inmate supplies and jail facilities, and the account had a cash balance of almost \$76,000, she said in a report submitted to the Commissioners Court.

But the contract with Mid-States Inc. to provide the service in the jail expired Feb. 11, 2001, and must be rebid, Tidwell's report says. The Sheriff's Department will solicit bids for the contract to operate the commissary in the next few months, Anderson said. Mid-States has been doing the job month to month.

The bulk of the money Williams moved to the nonprofit Faith Restorative Justice Chaplaincy run by a former jail chaplain, the Rev. Hugh Atwell, has never been fully accounted for, county officials said.

"There has never been any

MONEY Tarrant County's jail commissary fund is in good shape, but questions remain about expenditures made under former Sheriff David Williams.

public accounting of that money. There is no record of what happened to it," Anderson said. When he took office in 2001, the commissary account was "a separate checkbook," Anderson said, adding that he moved the account to the county treasurer's office.

Neither Williams nor Atwell could be reached to comment.

When Williams was sheriff, Texas law gave the county sheriffs exclusive control of commissary funds. The money in the fund comes from \$2 the commissary operator pays to the county for each inmate, based on the average monthly jail census. All expenditures must be used for the benefit of inmates.

On June 1, 1999, Williams signed a contract with Atwell's organization, and eventually the \$354,000 was shifted to the nonprofit chaplaincy. While Williams was required to maintain records of money spent from the fund, the nonprofit was not required to keep such records and was not subject to a county audit.

"No elected official should have that kind of authority without oversight," Commissioner Glen Whitley said. "It was state law at the time that the sheriff could make that decision. He entered into a con-

tract with a friend of his and gave him \$300,000 to do what."

Atwell told the *Star-Telegram* in March 2000 that he is not required to make public how his group was spending the funds because "this money is no longer considered commissary money once it comes to us."

Part of the money, Atwell acknowledged later, was used to pay for a \$770-per-month apartment in downtown Fort Worth that he used as an office.

The Sheriff's Department under Williams maintained that it was following the law by recording only the bulk payments made to Faith Restorative.

In June 2000, a state district judge issued an order temporarily blocking Williams from going into business with a national vendor, Aramark Corp., and the jail ministry group after the county sued the sheriff. The suit became moot when Anderson was elected.

After the flap with Williams, county commissioners successfully lobbied to get a state law passed solely for Tarrant County that required Commissioners Court approval of any sheriff's commissary contract and of expenditures from the fund.

"Somewhere between the sheriff [Williams] and the chaplain, that money was used or paid out," Commissioner J.D. Johnson said. "I don't have an answer as to where it went."

Star-Telegram | Sunday, July 7, 2002

THE INSIDER REPORT

Hey, a road trip is a road trip

Wearing a name tag that said "former sheriff," **David Williams** — Tarrant County's former, two-term top cop who was trounced in the last election — attended a recent National Sheriffs' Association conference in Tulsa, Okla., where he ran into his replacement, **Dee Anderson**.

police department in Marshall Creek, population 431. ■

Williams told Anderson that he was there because he had "a lot of old friends" attending the five-day conference.

"It was all fairly pleasant," Anderson said of Williams' appearance, but "just a little puzzling."

Williams even attended an event for sheriffs from urban counties with a population of more than 500,000 residents. Some thought that was a little odd, given that Williams recently resigned as chief of a two-office

+

Sheriff gets tough on hair

By NEIL STRASSMAN
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Big hair and cornrows are out at the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department. Neat and trim is in.

Sheriff Dee Anderson, who implemented new grooming and uniform standards this week, is checking the color of the hair and taking the measure of the mustaches among his employees.

REGULATIONS The Tarrant County Sheriff's Department has a new policy on employee grooming.

His own whiskers, which do not hang over his top lip and are shaved close to the corners of his mouth, follow the new regulations, he said.

"I have to keep it trimmed to

maintain the standard," Anderson said.

The new rules were prompted by sheriff's employees who wanted "professionalism" brought into the agency and are designed to ensure that prisoners cannot gain an advantage by grabbing hair, Anderson said.

"We need to look and act the
More on REGULATIONS on 3B

REGULATIONS

Continued from 1B

part," he said. "Everyone wants to be treated like a law enforcement professional. From the day I got here, that is what I have heard."

Sheriff's employee organizations voiced support for the new grooming and dress standards.

"There's nothing in there that should create any heartburn," said Sgt. Don Kraul, president of the Fraternal Order of Police organization, which represents some Tarrant County sheriff's employees.

"Common sense has got to play a big part."

Under the new rules, uniformed men cannot have hair that touches the collar or extends over the ear.

Uniformed women are not permitted to wear loosely hanging braids, ponytails, pigtailed, cornrows, dreadlocks or large bouffant hair. Only secured ponytails and

braids may be worn.

Sheriff's employees who don't wear uniforms must follow similar rules and avoid styles that "do not present a business-like image," according to the policy.

"The length and bulk of the hair will not be excessive or present a ragged, unkempt or extreme appearance," and "exotic, fad or eccentric haircuts, colors or styles" are out, the regulations state.

The rules even dictate acceptable "frosting color." Some is allowed, but not so much that it contrasts "to an unusual degree" with remaining hair color, the policy states.

A diverse sheriff's department committee of men and women of various races came up with the new rules, Anderson said.

"This is all subjective," Anderson said. "We are trying to keep people from streaking their hair green or purple. As long as it looks professional and acceptable, that is our concern."

Supervisors will talk with employees who appear to violate the code, Anderson said.

Last year, tougher grooming standards at the Dallas Police Department led to the firing of two officers for insubordination, said Dallas police spokeswoman Janice

Houston. Most of nearly two dozen officers whose hairstyles were questioned, including a department spokesman, got haircuts.

Most other large sheriff's departments in Texas said that they have similar grooming rules but that they are less specific than the new guidelines in Tarrant County.

In Bexar County, where the sheriff recently wore a beard, the rules are a little looser, said Chief Deputy Jim Templeton.

"I have seen some of the young ladies with braids," Templeton said. "For some of the African-American women, it could be a good thing having short braids close to their heads."

Templeton said that styles change and that some civilians are now wearing braids.

"Nobody says anything if someone can do their job and it doesn't interfere," he said. "It keeps racial harmony, and braids can give an opportunity to be well groomed."

In Harris, the most populous Texas county, which includes Houston, the policy is "very generic," said sheriff's spokesman Lt. Robert Van Pelt.



ANDERSON

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Report: Mansfield jail saved city funds

JAIL The Mansfield Jail contract brought savings to the city but costs more than last year's contract with Tarrant County, a cost report indicates.

By ANNA M. TINSLEY
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

FORT WORTH — Booking inmates into Mansfield's jail saved the city about \$130,000 off what it would have cost to use Tarrant County's jail, according to a cost study released Friday.

But the city of Fort Worth may need to amend its contract with Mansfield — and increase its costs — because of unexpected administrative expenses, City Manager Gary Jackson said.

The study is the first public look at jail costs since the city ended a longtime agreement with Tarrant County and transferred its prisoners to Mansfield.

The costs, however, are hundreds of thousands of dollars more than the city paid last year under the old contract with the county, the report shows.

"This year, the cost would have gone up significantly, and more under the Tarrant County proposal than under the Mansfield contract," Jackson said.

These issues are coming up as the city reviews the jail contract and prepares for possible negotiations on the second year of the contract, he said.

Councilman Chuck Silcox voiced concerns about the possible increase in jail costs.

JAIL

Continued from 1B

"I'm not too sure we made the right decision with this contract," he said. "When we made the deal with Mansfield, it was to save \$1 million a year, and now that's down to several hundred thousand a year.

"I just want to make sure we are getting the right deal for our taxpayers."

The city paid the county \$1.7 million for jail services between June and November 2001. But the county's last proposal, before negotiations with the city ended, would have cost \$2.2 million in its first six months, from December 2001 to May 2002, according to the study.

County Administrator G.K. Maenius questioned the city's calculations of what Tarrant County's proposal would have cost. "There's no way anyone can determine what the cost of the county contract would have been, unless you take the number of inmates sent to Mansfield and utilize the cost elements we proposed," he said.

City Council members will be briefed on an evaluation of the jail contract — and asked how they want to proceed with contract negotiations — in 30 days, Jackson said.

"At this point, I don't see a compelling reason to discontinue the contract," Jackson said. "But this will be a council decision."

Fort Worth signed a deal with Mansfield that started Dec. 1. It can be renewed each year for five years.

The study concluded that the city saved \$130,570 by comparing the first six months of the Mansfield contract against costs that would have been incurred under the last terms the county offered.

The study also shows that operating costs during the first six months under the Mansfield contract were \$423,762 higher than the city paid the county during the last six months of its old contract.

Assistant City Manager Libby Watson said Mansfield officials are seeking additional funds to cover an increase in administrative costs incurred when some duties were shifted from their jail to the Thomas R. Windham Building holding facility at 350 W. Belknap St.

Those include magistrate services, fingerprinting and photographing of inmates, and release of Fort Worth's Class C and public-intoxication arrests.

Because of that, Watson said, costs might go up in future years, although she declined to cite any estimates.

Through September, Mansfield is charging Fort Worth a flat fee, about \$250,000 a month, for jail services instead of using the per-person scale that Tarrant County had wanted.

Starting in October, Fort Worth will pay Mansfield a flat fee of \$3 million a year with a 3.5 percent increase every year through 2006, making the deal worth about \$16 million over five years, officials have said.

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Marion Evans, widow of ex-county sheriff

By PEYTON D. WOODSON
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

FORT WORTH — Marion Evans, a tenacious political wife and energetic club woman, died Friday of respiratory failure. She was 88.

Mrs. Evans was the widow of former Tarrant County Sheriff Lon Evans, who was in office for 24 years and is remembered as the "Purple Lawman" for his support of Texas Christian University athletics.

Lon and Marion Evans were married 58 years until his death in 1992.

"Mother beat the pavement for her man," said daughter Kitty Evans Loveless. "She traveled the county all day in the sweltering heat campaigning for the sheriff."

The funeral will be at 3 p.m. Monday at University United

OBITUARY

She was an avid fan of the Green Bay Packers, and supported the career of her husband, former Tarrant County Sheriff Lon Evans.

Methodist Church.

Mrs. Evans was born April 27, 1914, and grew up in Cleburne.

She was named for her father, Marion, a rancher. Her mother was Mettie Kathryn, the daughter of a former Denton mayor.

She met Lon Evans while the two were students at Texas Christian University. Lon Evans, a TCU all-conference football player, was offered a contract with the Green Bay Packers.

The couple married and headed to Wisconsin, Loveless said.

Lon Evans played under Curly Lambeau, who founded the football franchise. Mrs. Evans would assume the role of godmother of the group. Her devotion stretched a lifetime.

In 1998, she told the *Star-Telegram* "that time when we were there was the beginning of the most wonderful memories on Earth for me."

Later, Lon Evans entered politics and served as the Tarrant County sheriff from 1960 until he retired in 1984.

Don Carpenter, who served under Lon Evans, succeeded him as sheriff.

Wherever Lon Evans was, Marion Evans was always close behind, Carpenter, 71, recalled.

"She was always supportive of Lon," he said. "Anything he did, she was behind him. To

make a good sheriff, you have to have a good lady."

Mrs. Evans entered the real estate business at age 50 as an agent for Helen Painter & Co. Realtors and worked for 20 years. She was an active member at University United Methodist Church and in groups such as the Westcliff Garden Club and Women's Club of Fort Worth.

"Marion had a delightful personality. She made the other person feel very important," said Howard Green, 81, a former state representative and Tarrant County judge. "Tarrant County will miss an outstanding citizen."

In addition to Loveless, survivors include her daughters Marlon Evans Seghetti and Peggy Evans Dulaney.

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Cooling breakdown at jail steams workers

By DEANNA BOYD
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

FORT WORTH — On the fifth and seventh floors of the Thomas R. Windham Building, the loud hum can be almost deafening at times.

Water-cooler fans and box fans work to cool the halls and cellblocks that house about 125 Tarrant County Jail inmates and 38 staff members, a task that a malfunctioning air conditioning system has not done all summer.

As female inmates in one area work on each other's hair and chat, a woman is napping on the concrete floor just feet

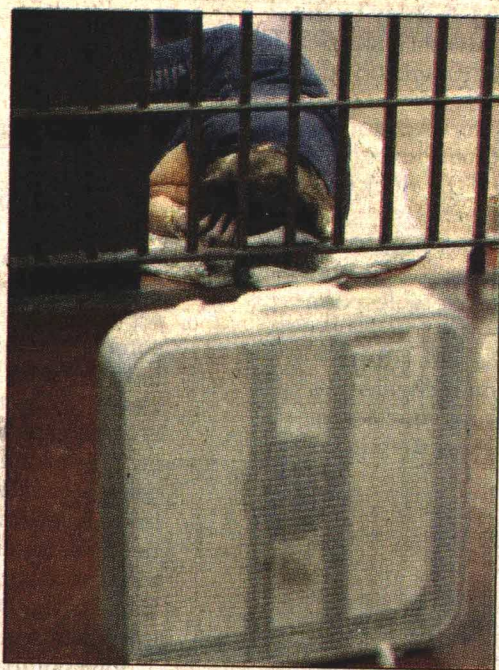
HEAT Officials say fans and ice are a short-term solution until a new air conditioning and smoke removal system can be installed in a county jail atop police headquarters.

from a box fan. Two floors up, in a cellblock housing men, a thermometer gauges the temperature at 82 degrees.

"It's not the best solution," Chief Deputy Bob Knowles acknowledged, "but it's certainly not intolerable."

For months, the air conditioners on the top three floors

More on HEAT on 26A



STAR-TELEGRAM/RON JENKINS

A female inmate rests near a fan outside her cellblock on the fifth floor of the Thomas R. Windham Building in downtown Fort Worth.

are bringing [lice or ice packs] to put around their neck to keep cool. It is not just the inmates; it's the people who are working over there as well."

Drenda Witt, a spokeswoman for John Peter Smith Hospital, said nursing staff members stationed at the jail have reported no heat-related illnesses.

But the employees say some staffers have complained of dizziness and nausea, although they did not require hospitalization.

"We have on black uniforms," the second employee said. "We run up and down those halls. We sweat. We don't have time to drink a lot of water. At the end of the night, I truly feel bad. I'm clammy."

A third employee fears that the heat is also putting staff members at higher risk as they deal with inmates who typically are housed at the jail because they are violent and cannot get along with the jail population at the county's other two facilities.

"It's a known fact when people are hot they become agitated. For the officers working there, it increases their risk factor," the employee said. "These are people that are in there for a reason already. A

lot of violent people are housed in that Belknap facility. They become hot and they become more likely to be hostile."

While almost all of the state's prisons are not air conditioned, the Texas Commission on Jail Standards requires that temperatures in jails be maintained between 65 and 85 degrees Fahrenheit.

One employee said the jail temperature has risen as high as 88 degrees.

Tarrant County Sheriff Dee Anderson said temperatures in the jail teeter around the maximum allowed, but he said the fans help keep the floors under a daily average of 85 degrees.

County officials say they're trying to implement temporary solutions to the heat by using fans, giving ice to inmates and trying to draw cold air from air-conditioned floors on the connected sheriff's department building.

"No one wants to be

uncomfortable," Anderson said. "It's a short-term problem, obviously. We're looking at another month or six weeks of hot weather, and it will be somewhat self-corrected. But we do need to find a long-term solution on it and we're working on that diligently."

The long-term solution is a new smoke removal and air conditioning system. Phillips said the county has spent almost \$50,000 for engineers for its design, and plans are expected to be completed by Sept. 9.

But getting it will take time.

The county budget, scheduled to be voted on by county commissioners next month, includes a request for \$1.9 million to cover the costs of building the new air system. Phillips said county commissioners have given a preliminary indication that they will approve the funds.

Phillips said the department hopes to have the system in place before next summer, a time frame that has left some employees fuming.

of the building at 350 W. Belknap St. have not worked properly, leaving inmates and employees to sweat out the summer. The bottom four floors, which serve as police headquarters, run on a different air system and have not been affected.

Additionally, some areas of the jail did not meet standards during a routine smoke evacuation test last spring, said David Phillips, assistant director of the county's facilities management department. To fix the problem, the floor's combined smoke removal and air conditioning system had to be modified, lessening the system's ability to cool and forcing the closure of the jail's sixth floor.

"We made a decision: safety first, comfort second," Phillips said.

But three county employees, who asked not to be identified for fear of retaliation, say they believe that the heat is having a negative effect on the health of the jail staff members.

"The employees over there are suffering very much," one employee said. "Some of them



STAR-TELEGRAM/RON JENKINS

Fans cool the halls and cellblocks that house about 125 Tarrant County Jail inmates in the Windham Building's jail facility. The air conditioning system on the top three floors of the building has not worked properly for months.

"They knew this was broken way before. Why didn't they fix it then?" one employee asked. "Why are they waiting until the summer is here, and we're burning up and it's going to take months to work? It's nonsense."

Anderson said that if temperatures soar above the jail standard guidelines, inmates could be moved into the county's other two jail facilities.

"We've got the capacity to hold them, but it will put us at maximum capacity if we have to do that," he said.

Anderson said the issue of fixing the system is complicated by the fact that the city of Fort Worth owns the building, but the county leases the top three floors.

Greg Simmons, facilities manager in the city's Transportation/Public Works Department, said that under its agreement with the city, the county is responsible for maintenance in the areas it occupies.

County Commissioner J.D. Johnson said he believes that the governments involved should first fix the problem to meet jail standards, then worry about who will shoulder the costs.

"I think that the fix needs to be made so that we can safely utilize the jail cells in that building," Johnson said. "I think that we have to meet that requirement first. As far as negotiations with the city, that will be something we will work out after the fact."

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Marion Payne Pace Evans



FORT WORTH — Marion Payne Pace Evans, 88, passed away Friday, Aug. 9, 2002, at a local hospital.

Funeral: 3 p.m. Monday at University United Methodist Church, 2416 W. Berry St. Burial: Private in Greenwood Memorial Park. The Rev. Carol Walther, Chaplain of Trinity Terrace, will officiate. Visitation: The family will receive friends in the church solarium following the service.

Honorary Pallbearers: her grandsons and great-grandsons, Lon and Miles Loveless, Tony Dulaney, Cameron Clifton and Evan and Ethan Walker.

Memorials: University United Methodist Church, 2416 W. Berry St., Fort Worth, Texas 76110 or Union Gospel Mission, 1331 East Lancaster, P.O. Box.2144, Fort Worth, Texas 76113.

Marion Payne Pace Evans was born in Haskell, Texas, to Mettie Kathryn Payne Pace and Marion Pace. Her parents met in Denton, where her grandfather, William Payne, was mayor, and her mother was organist at the Methodist Church.

"Pace Park" in Salado was named for her father's family, long-time ranchers in Bell County.

Marion Payne, as she was called by her oldest friends, spent her childhood in Cleburne and graduated from Cleburne High School. She enrolled in Texas Christian University and became immediately immersed in campus life.

These were unique years in TCU's history and throughout the decades she generously shared her many recollections. It was there she met Lon Evans an all-Southwest Conference guard on TCU's 1932 championship team. Lon was spotted by Curley Lambeau in the East-West game in Chicago (renamed the All-Star game the following year) and was offered a contract with the Green Bay Packers.

Lon accepted, asked for Marion's hand in marriage and after three weeks of whirlwind wedding preparations she was whisked away as a bride to Green Bay, Wis.

It was quite a different place to this girl who had never been beyond the boundaries of Texas, but she

Star-Telegram | Monday, August 12, 2002

thrived and together they made many lifelong friendships.

Lon was elected Tarrant County Sheriff in 1960, and Marion became his best campaigner - organizing, hosting and literally "cruising the streets" in a people-packed yellow Jeepster with loudspeakers and patriotic music booming. Lon served 24 years, and upon his retirement he became Tarrant County's longest-serving sheriff.

At the age of 50, Marion decided she wanted her own career, and entered the business world. She became an award-winning Realtor at The Helen Painter Company.

Marion's activities included charter memberships in the TCU Women's Ex's and the Westcliff Garden Club, serving as its president. She was a member of the DAR, a lifetime member of Woman's Club of Fort Worth and was president of the Methodist Women of University United Methodist Church, where she was a 55-year member.

She was a loyal alumna and active member of the Quinq Club of Texas Christian University.

Throughout the years, Marion kept a collection of stories, experiences and photos of the interesting life she and Lon had experienced. This became the premise of their book, "The Purple Lawman."

As a widow and always independent, she sold the family residence of 45 years, which she and Lon had built, and proudly moved to Trinity Terrace.

Marion will be remembered for her devotion to her family and friends, her integrity, her kindness, her charm and her "special flare and zest for life."

She was predeceased by her husband, Lon Evans; her sister, Frances Pace Wright; and her son-in-law, Fred Seghetti.

Survivors: Children, Marlon Evans Seghetti, Kitty Evans Loveless and her husband, Jim, and Peggy Evans Dulaney and her husband, Richard; grandchildren, Brenda Johnston, Janet Walker and her husband, Scott, Lon and Miles Loveless and Tony Dulaney; and great-grandchildren, Cameron Clifton, Sara and Hannah Johnston and Evan and Ethan Walker.

Greenwood Funeral Home

3100 White Settlement Road, (817) 336-0584

Jail air conditioning to be fixed next year

By NEIL STRASSMAN
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

FORT WORTH — Tarrant County officials are moving ahead to repair faulty air conditioning in a downtown jail, but there will be no relief this summer for sweltering inmates or their jailers.

A new cooling system is expected to be installed by May, county Facilities Manager Gary Kirby told the Commissioners Court on Tuesday.

The county expects to advertise for bids in October, award a contract in December and have the new equipment on site and ready to be installed by February, Kirby said.

The repairs could cost as much as \$1.9 million, an expenditure the county has included in next year's proposed budget, he said.

But for the next six weeks or so, the fifth and seventh floors of the Thomas R. Windham Building at 350 W. Belknap St. will remain a hothouse for the approximately 125 inmates and 38 jailers there.

"We are doing everything humanly possible to cool the jail," Sheriff Dee Anderson said.

Special fans that "water-cool" the air have been set up in the jail, and cool air is being shunted into the lockup from

JAIL Jail cooling problems will be fixed, but not this summer.

an adjacent county building that houses the sheriff's headquarters, Anderson said.

The air conditioners on the top three floors have worked improperly all summer. The bottom four floors, which serve as the Fort Worth police headquarters, run on a different air system and have not been affected.

The Texas Commission on Jail Standards requires jail temperatures to be between 65 and 85 degrees. Some employees and inmates have said the temperature has been higher.

"It's terrible on us," said one inmate, who works and lives at home during the week and is serving a 90-day sentence on weekends.

"I was going to call the SPCA [Society for the Prevention Against Cruelty to Animals], because a dog shouldn't be treated this way," said the inmate, who declined to be identified.

Anderson said temperatures have been 85 degrees or less and were low enough last week to pass a state inspection.

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Commissioners Court, judges named in boot camp lawsuit

By ANTHONY SPANGLER
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

FORT WORTH — The family of a Mansfield boot camp inmate who died last year of a rare lung infection is claiming the county's commissioners and criminal judges are responsible for their son's death.

Attorneys representing relatives of probationer Bryan Alexander, 18, of Arlington, filed a motion Thursday to add Tarrant County's 19 criminal court judges, four county commissioners and county judge to a lawsuit connected to their \$755 million wrongful death case.

The motion cites civil rights violations by officials who supervised the Tarrant County Community Correctional Facility in Mansfield.

"The judges and commissioners all acted with deliberate indifference ... and fostered a culture at the [boot camp] of denying medical care and treatment to the probationers," according to the motion filed

LAWSUIT An Arlington family claims the county's judges and commissioners are responsible for their son's death at a Mansfield boot camp in January 2001.

"The judges and commissioners all acted with deliberate indifference ... and fostered a culture ... of denying medical care ..."

— motion filed by plaintiffs

in the 352nd District Court.

Alexander died of pneumonia Jan. 9, 2001, two days after he was taken to a Fort Worth hospital. In May 2001, Alexander's parents filed suit against the probation department, the private company that ran the boot camp and the camp's former nurse and doctor.

The judges direct the county's branch of the Texas probation system, which ran the

boot camp and residential substance abuse programs in Mansfield. The facility is owned and leased by Tarrant County.

An attorney representing 17 of the judges said his clients deny liability in the Alexander case.

"We intend to assert all the manifold defenses if we are added to any litigation," said David Fielding, one of three attorneys representing the county's judges.

Montague County State District Judge Roger Towery will conduct a hearing on the motion to add the Tarrant County officials.

Because the county's criminal judges have been potential parties in the lawsuit, visiting judges have frequently been used during the past year in cases defended by attorneys representing the Alexander family.

Citing a \$2.5 million budget shortfall, the county's criminal judges closed the 370-bed Mansfield facility in June 2001. It was reopened three months later as an outpatient substance abuse program for probationers.

The judges also voted to discontinue using a private company to run the facility.

Two months ago, the camp's former nurse, Knyvett Reyes, was convicted of negligent homicide in Alexander's death for failing to provide him proper medical treatment. She is scheduled to be sentenced Aug. 30 and faces up to two years in state jail.

"In light of everything that has happened since Bryan's death, such as the depositions and the nurse's trial, it appears naming the judges and other county officials is the appropriate action," said attorney Charlie Smith, who represents the Alexander family.

Friday, August 23, 2002

A sheriff's gratitude

As president of the Sheriffs' Association of Texas, I recently had the pleasure of experiencing the incredible hospitality of Fort Worth while attending the association's 124th annual training conference.

I was in the company of about 1,600 law enforcement personnel from across the state. The conference was a huge success, partially because of the variety of interesting things to do and see while visiting your amazing city.

The people of Tarrant County and Fort Worth have much to be proud of. Sheriff Dee Anderson, his lovely wife, Rebecca, and his staff demonstrated superior representation of the residents, the city and Tarrant County.

I have yet to meet a more professional, courteous or positive group of law enforcement officers anywhere. Whether our conference attendees were in training sessions, participating in afternoon activities, enjoying Sundance Square, shopping at the Stockyards, dining in one of Fort Worth's many fine restaurants or just taking a leisurely stroll around their hotel, the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department was there to extend a warm welcome and to ensure everyone's safety.

I wish to extend my appreciation to the sheriff and his wife and to the staff of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department for contributing to the overwhelming success of this year's conference.

Collin County Sheriff **Terry G. Box**, McKinney

"I'm the only gay person over here. ... I'd rather be around my own kind because I would get treated with more respect."

— John Coleman



STAR-TELEGRAM/RODGER MALLISON

John Coleman, who is housed in a disciplinary pod, says he has suffered retaliation for complaining.

Gay inmates file complaint

Sheriff told privileges sacrificed for protection

By **NEIL STRASSMAN**
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Five gay inmates in the Tarrant County Jail have filed a complaint with Sheriff Dee Anderson, saying they are being punished with loss of privileges because of their sexual orientation.

The inmates say that because Tarrant County — unlike other large counties in Texas — does not have a special housing unit for gay prisoners, they are being forced to

choose between protection and privileges.

If inmates fear for their safety, they may request special protection. But in Tarrant County, they are placed in a disciplinary unit and lose rights typically available to others in the general jail population.

Anderson said that officials have studied the issue since receiving the complaint and that they believe that the current policy is

the best option.

"The vast majority of our gay inmates enjoy the rights and privileges of everyone else," Anderson said. "Unless they are a discipline problem or are asked to be put in protective custody for their own safety, we don't treat them any differently."

In a letter last month, the five inmates complained that after an initial jail interview, they were

More on JAIL on 5B

Ex-Tarrant sheriff gets job at jail in Oklahoma



WILLIAMS

By JACK DOUGLAS JR.
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Former Tarrant County Sheriff David Williams, who resigned in June as a small-town police chief after issuing traffic tickets without state authorization, has landed a new job as the county jail captain in Norman, Okla.

Williams, who made \$107,304 as Tarrant County's top lawman, started work Aug. 26 as detention division captain at the Cleveland

WILLIAMS Former Tarrant County Sheriff David Williams gets a new job in Oklahoma as the county jail captain in Norman, Okla.

County Sheriff's Department, headquartered in Norman. His yearly salary is \$37,200, according to officials there.

Neither Williams nor his new boss, Cleveland County Sheriff F. DeWayne Beggs, could be reached

Thursday to comment.

"We're just tickled to death to get him," said Lt. Hart Brown, one of about 40 employees who work under Williams at the Cleveland County Jail, where the average daily inmate population is 175.

Brown said the 99-member sheriff's office will probably profit from Williams' experience as leader of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department, with its 1,300

More on WILLIAMS on 5B

WILLIAMS

Continued from 1B

employees and average jail population of between 3,000 and 3,500 inmates.

Because of Williams' experience, he offers a "wealth of information" and new policing ideas that "hopefully, we can implement up here," Brown said.

Brown said he was not aware of the numerous problems that plagued Williams during his two terms as Tarrant County's sheriff, from 1993 through 2000, including his management of the County Jail and its controversial worship-oriented "God Pod."

He also fought with county commissioners over his funding of a jail ministry, using hundreds of thousands of dollars in jail commissary profits. He also reassigned some jail guards to positions outside of the jail.

After failing to win a third term as sheriff, Williams landed a job as police chief in the small community of Marshall Creek in Denton County. He resigned in June when it was learned that he and another officer issued

\$4,300 in traffic tickets without having valid Texas peace-officer licenses.

Marshall Creek's attorney said at the time that the town would offer to reimburse people who had paid the traffic fines.

Williams, who has relatives near Norman, became a certified peace officer in Oklahoma in 1978, when he worked for the Purcell Police Department, then the department in Perry.

He moved to Fort Worth in 1980, first working as a security guard for Kenneth Copeland Ministry, near Eagle Mountain Lake, and then the Haltom City Police Department before he ran for sheriff.

Williams does not need to update his Oklahoma certification if he plans to work only as a jail administrator, said Charlie Spencer, assistant director of the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training, that state's police licensing agency.

But if he wants to utilize the full authority of a police officer, including the ability to make arrests, he must take a 40-hour "refresher course" on law enforcement and undergo an additional 16 hours of police training within a year, Spencer said.

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Program eases jail crowding

By NEIL STRASSMAN
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

FORT WORTH — Overcrowding in the Tarrant County Jail has prompted Sheriff Dee Anderson to reinstate a good-time policy that lets some inmates out before they complete their court-imposed sentences.

Felons, violent criminals,

SENTENCING A new early-release program based on earned good time helps ease overcrowding in the Tarrant County Jail.

deadbeat dads and inmates headed for a state prison need not apply for early release. The new policy covers only inmates convicted of misdemeanors who

have been sentenced to a county jail.

"We had to drop our population, and now we are more in line with what other counties are doing," Anderson said. "We were close to running out of beds."

Under the new guidelines that began Aug. 29, trusties, the most responsible inmates who work

while in jail, can knock three days off their sentences for every well-behaved day served. Other inmates can reduce their sentences by two days for every good-time day served.

Previously, trusties earned two days for good time and other inmates earned nothing.

More on SENTENCING on 6B



ANDERSON

SENTENCING

Continued from 1B

Under Texas law, sheriffs are allowed to release prisoners who earn good-conduct credit. County judges recognize that the sheriff is the sole authority over such policies, but not all of the local judges are pleased at the changes.

"I hate to see it," said Judge Billy Mills, the county's longest-serving judge, who for 26 years has presided over a county criminal court. "It kind of makes a farce out of the sentencing to give them so much good time. I didn't like it last time, and I don't like it now."

Tarrant County District Attorney Tim Curry said he does not have a problem with Anderson's new policy.

"I have every confidence in Dee Anderson and the way he runs the jail," Curry said. "I'm sure it's population control and he wouldn't do it if it wasn't necessary."

The last time such a good-time policy

was in place was in the early 1990s, when county jails like Tarrant's were bursting at the seams with state prisoners. New state prisons eventually eased the overcrowding.

New problems that contribute to overcrowding confront Anderson and his staff: North Texas' population is booming. The configuration of the county's newest jail makes it difficult to use all the beds and still separate categories of inmates who must be kept apart. The old Belknap jail closed. Air conditioning problems plague several jail floors in another building. And the old minimum-security Cold Springs jail, remodeled several years ago, is being used for office space.

The state's Fair Defense Act, adopted last year, which requires attorneys for indigent defendants, is also adding to the jail population, officials said.

The county jail, with space for about 3,500 inmates, has roughly 3,200 inmates. Of those, about 500 would be eligible for early release, said Chief Deputy Bob Knowles, who supervises

county jail operations.

"Early release is a valuable management tool to promote good conduct and discipline in the jail. It encourages better behavior from inmates because they know it can be taken away," Knowles said.

About 115 trusties are now earning three days good time for each day served and 130 inmates are earning two days, Knowles said. About 220 inmates have been released early, including some on work-release programs and others serving time on weekends.

Trusties who serve time for fines can earn \$150 per day against their fine. Others eligible for early release can earn \$100 per day against the amount due on their fines.

Most of the misdemeanor sentences range from a few days to several months, though some sentences can be as long as a year. Inmates sentenced to jail as part of their probation are not eligible for early release, Knowles said.

"Thirty days was 30 days, 100 years ago," said County Criminal Court Judge

Brent Carr. Now, most misdemeanor sentences are a result of a plea bargain, he said.

"It is within the sheriff's discretion to release people early. But the prosecutors and attorneys know the math," Carr said. "It may well raise minimum offers on plea bargains. Any time there's a shift in status quo, it needs to be chewed on a little while."

Judge Jamie Cummings, whose county court deals primarily with family violence issues, said she knew the new good-time policy was coming because the jail was getting overcrowded again.

Cummings said she would be supportive of the good-time program if it can help get inmates into counseling by getting them "to do something" to earn their early release.

"I am very much in favor of in-custody counseling. I'll stuff the counseling down their throats any way I can," she said.

The good conduct early-release policy is widely used at other large county jails in Texas.

JAIL

Continued from 1B

classified by sexual orientation and assigned to "single" cells, meant for inmates with disciplinary problems.

The inmates may leave their cells for only one hour each day and do not get the same access as others to television, telephones, the day room or the law library, the letter says.

"There are those of us who have exhibited nothing but good behavior while in custody ... who have shown no signs of being a disciplinary problem," the letter says. "Yet you are showing us that our sexual orientation is a serious disciplinary matter."

Inmates are questioned about their sexual orientation when they are admitted to the jail, but officials said they could not say how many of the 3,200 inmates now in the jail are gay. Anderson also said he does not know how many inmates in protective custody are there solely because they are gay.

Anderson and Chief Deputy

Bob Knowles, who is in charge of jail operations, said it is wrong to segregate an individual based on race or sexual orientation.

"There is a fine line to walk," Knowles said. "We do have homosexuals in the general population. But if they feel their safety is threatened, we move them into protective custody."

Protective custody is the only way to keep them from other prisoners, Knowles said.

John Coleman, 37, jailed on a parole violation and one of the prisoners who signed the letter, said gay prisoners should have a choice to go to a separate housing unit or to be in the general population.

"I'm treated really badly," Coleman said. "I'm in a disciplinary pod, and I'm the only gay person over here. Now they are retaliating against me for complaining. I'd rather be around my own kind because I would get treated with more respect."

Knowles said the county has gone to great lengths to accommodate Coleman, moving him about a dozen times to different cells since March. Coleman's history of discipli-

nary problems and grievances does not invalidate his request for protection, he said.

In Dallas, Bexar and Harris counties, gay prisoners can be housed separately.

Harris, which has about 7,000 prisoners, has about 150 gay inmates housed on a separate floor, Lt. Robert van Pelt said.

"It's set up for their own protection," van Pelt said. "They have their own day room, their own trusties and are treated like any other inmate. If they are gay and don't request to be separated, they won't be put there against their will."

Gay inmates in Dallas County — about 55 now — are housed in their own unit "for their own protection" and have the same rights as other inmates, Sgt. Don Peritz said.

Bexar County, with 3,500 prisoners, has about 35 gay inmates housed separately, Deputy Tom Carnes said. The county also separates transgender individuals from gay inmates.

None of the jails reported any requests from women to be housed separately.

Lee Taft, regional director

of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, said gay inmates should have an option of separate housing.

"A separate but equal facility does sound like a good approach," Taft said, "as long as the separate accommodation makes sure the gay inmate has the same access to programs and facilities and can earn the same credits as others toward early release."

Lambda is a nonprofit organization dedicated to establishing civil liberties for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

The Texas Commission on Jail Standards has no rules or regulations on how jails should treat gay inmates, commission officials said.

Tarrant County's main jail, at 100 N. Lamar St., has large housing units that would make it difficult to set up a separate unit for gay inmates, officials said.

The Green Bay jail near Loop 820 and Interstate 35 has smaller housing units that can handle 24 and 48 inmates. It could lend itself more toward a separate housing unit, the officials said.


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Monday, September 16, 2002

OBITUARIES

Joseph Robert "Bob" Sullivan



 **FORT WORTH** — Joseph Robert "Bob" Sullivan, 62, a sergeant in the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department, died Saturday, Sept. 14, 2002, in Fort Worth.

Funeral: 11 a.m. Tuesday at Cornerstone Community Church. Burial: Greenwood Memorial Park. Visitation: 6 to 8 p.m. Monday at Greenwood Funeral Home.

Joseph Robert "Bob" Sullivan was born Sept. 1, 1940, in Granite City, Ill. He was a member of Cornerstone Community Church in Arlington, member of Cook Peavy Masonic Lodge, member of Moslah Shrine Temple and was a United States Navy veteran.

Survivors: Loving wife, Sandra Sullivan; daughters, Veronica Lou Cain of Troy, Ill., and Sherry Ann Childerson and husband, Roger of Altamont, Ill.; sons, Kevin Allen Marvin of Denver, Colo., and Joseph Wilkins Fraer of Arlington; grandchildren, Rachel, Justin and Nathan Cain and Matthew, Jacob, Annie, Simon and Samuel Childerson.

Greenwood Funeral Home
3100 White Settlement Road, (817) 336-0584

Racism suit filed against constable

LAWSUIT A Tarrant County constable is accused in a federal lawsuit of using racial slurs.

By NEIL STRASSMAN
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Tarrant County Constable Jack Allen has been accused in a federal lawsuit by a former employee of frequently using racial slurs and targeting minorities in enforcing the law.

The suit, filed by Dionicia Gaucin, an 11-year county employee who worked one year as a clerk in Allen's office, accuses the constable of using derogatory terms for Hispanics and African-Americans and of "telling others that the bullets in his gun were meant to shoot browns and blacks."

Allen acknowledged using the word "wetback" and apologized to Gaucin for the comment, according to the county's written response to the suit.

Allen, a constable since 1990 in northwest Tarrant County, declined to comment on the suit. Assistant District Attorney Ward White III, who is representing Allen and the county, denied the other allegations.

Gaucin and her attorney met with county officials Tuesday at the direction of U.S. District Judge John McBryde in an effort to settle the complaint, but no agreement was reached.

"My client wants to see something done so that people can work in the precinct without being subjected to racist comments," said Robert Lee, Gaucin's attorney. "This should be addressed right now."

Allen has had his share of troubles recently. In March, the county

More on LAWSUIT on 7B

LAWSUIT

Continued from 1B

was forced to dismiss six months' worth of tickets that he had written and refund fines because his peace officer's license had lapsed in September 2001.

In January 2001, Allen shot out a tire on a Springtown man's vehicle while attempting to arrest him for dumping tires illegally.

According to the lawsuit, Gaucin worked as a clerk for Allen from November 2000 to September 2001. She now works as a clerk for a constable in another precinct.

The lawsuit, filed Aug. 13, alleges that Allen initially did

not want to hire Gaucin because she is Hispanic. The suit says Allen used derogatory terms such as "wetback" in referring to her as a potential employee, and derided Hispanics as "all lazy and not trustworthy."

The suit accuses Allen of treating Hispanics and African-Americans "with total disdain and contempt," and says he disproportionately ticketed, arrested and mistreated Hispanics and African-Americans.

The suit alleges that Gaucin was given a heavy workload with no assistance or support.

She is seeking monetary damages for emotional distress, the lawsuit says.

The county argued in its written response to the suit

that Gaucin is not entitled to damages for termination because she has continuously been employed by the county.

Gaucin initially complained to Assistant County Administrator Jay Singleton, but she was told that she had missed a seven-day deadline for lodging a complaint. That deadline has since been extended to 30 days.

She then filed a complaint with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, but the agency declined to rule in her favor.

McBryde is expected to rule in about 10 days on whether there is enough evidence to proceed with the suit, White said.

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Wednesday, October 2, 2002

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

2B | www.star-telegram.com

Two Tarrant jailers put in lockup they guarded

STAR-TELEGRAM

FORT WORTH — Two Tarrant County jailers became prisoners Tuesday after investigators accused them of bringing illegal drugs into the jail, Sheriff Dee Anderson said.

The men were arrested at the jail, he said.

"They are in the very jail they were guarding a few hours earlier," Anderson said.

Their names were not available Tuesday night.

"The investigation is still very much ongoing. We don't

know exactly what happened and how it happened, and I don't want to talk about it yet," he said.

The two men were being kept away from the rest of the jail population for their own protection, Anderson said.

Anderson said he was aware of no similar incidents during his tenure.

"I'll say it is something we are not going to tolerate. We are demonstrating that with our stance by putting them right back into the facility they were guarding," he said.

2 jailers arrested in jail drug sting

ARRESTS An undercover sting Tuesday night led to the arrest of two Tarrant County jailers who investigators believe have been sneaking packages to inmates in exchange for cash.

By DEANNA BOYD
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

FORT WORTH — Two Tarrant County jailers arrested Tuesday evening had been sneaking items, including illegal drugs, to inmates in exchange for money, Tarrant County Sheriff Dee Anderson said Wednesday.

Ollie L. King, 30, and Joey Janice Jr., 21, were arrested about 8 p.m. after Anderson said the men tried to deliver a little more than 5 grams of marijuana to an inmate after accepting money from a visitor.

The transaction, actually a covert sting by sheriff's officials, was witnessed by an undercover officer from another police agency, Anderson said.

"They thought they had it down to a science," Anderson said. "They thought it was taking place without anybody knowing any-

thing about it."

King, who had worked more than four years as a jailer, and Janice, hired two years ago, were released on bail Wednesday. The men face charges of bringing a prohibited substance into a correctional facility, a third-degree felony punishable by two to 10 years in prison.

"We are requesting the D.A. push for maximum punishment," Anderson said.

King did not return a message left with his mother. Janice could not be reached for comment.

The men have been temporarily suspended without pay.

Paperwork is being drawn up for their terminations, Anderson said.

Sheriff's officials were first alerted to possible wrongdoing involving the two night shift jailers in August by an inmate, Anderson said.



"It gives us a bad name and we're not going to stand for it."

— Sheriff
Dee Anderson



KING



JANICE

and the inmate would tell Janice, who worked upstairs guarding inmates.

Janice would then call down to King, who manned the jail's visitation desk. King would collect the item and money when the visitor returned an identification card to King, Anderson said.

Later, Janice would stop by the visitation desk, split the money with King and deliver the package to the inmate, the sheriff said.

Both jailers were arrested in front of their colleagues after the undercover officers witnessed the transactions and Janice walked back into the confinement center to deliver the drugs.

Anderson said more arrests are likely.

"We believe it is isolated to a small group of people. This is not a widespread operation, but we have intelligence that leads us to believe there are a few

"We believe it is isolated to a small group of people. This is not a widespread operation, but we have intelligence that leads us to believe there are a few more people involved."

— Sheriff Dee Anderson

more people involved."

The sheriff met Wednesday with other night shift jailers to inform them about the arrests.

"It's just troubling, but we're dealing with it aggressively," Anderson said. "I told them, 'All you hard-working people that are honest should be as outraged as I am. It gives us a bad name and we're not going to stand for it.'"

He said he also encouraged other jailers involved in the illegal activity to come forward voluntarily.

He promised the jailers all those involved would eventually be caught.

"I said that the next time they saw us, they'd see us with a pair of handcuffs," Anderson said.

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Sheriff questions Amber Alert in out-of-state case

By PEYTON D. WOODSON
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

FORT WORTH — For the first time since its creation, Texas' Amber Alert network was used this week to help out-of-state authorities in an abduction investigation.

Nevada police asked for help

ALERT A founder of the missing-child recovery system warns that statewide uses for out-of-state abductions should be monitored.

finding an abducted teen-ager who was believed to be in the

Austin area, said Tela Mange, a spokeswoman for the Department of Public Safety. The department oversees the statewide Amber system, which started in September.

Texas authorities agreed, and an alert was issued Tuesday that included a description of a

truck seen near where the girl disappeared in Elko, Nev.

On Wednesday, a truck driver near Pleasanton called authorities. The girl was found, and two people were arrested, including her biological mother.

The incident ended safely. But Tarrant County Sheriff Dee

Anderson, one of the founders of the original Amber Alert system, cautioned Thursday that the Nevada case might have been judged differently if it occurred in North Texas.

"We would have had questions in the review process — the issue of [the suspect] being

a parent and what factors led them to believe the child was in imminent danger," he said.

As a public affairs officer for the Arlington Police Department, Anderson was instrumental in establishing the plan after the slaying of Amber Hagerman in 1996.

Anderson was a consultant to the governor's office when the statewide Amber Plan was being developed. He also sits on a Metroplex panel of local enforcement agencies that meets quarterly to review the validity of the alerts that have been issued.

"We worked really hard to make sure it's not overused locally," he said.

The Nevada case started when Nicole Lightfoot Hellman was reported missing Saturday in Elko by her adoptive family, with whom she had lived since 1995. Witnesses reported seeing a white pickup nearby.

After the Texas Amber Alert was issued, Hellman was found Wednesday about 30 miles south of San Antonio after sheriff's deputies stopped the pickup in which she was riding. Hellman's biological mother, Lois Lightfoot, 32, and James Westmoreland, 37, were arrested and face kidnapping charges.

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Thursday, October 17, 2002

Tarrant jailer arrested in Temple

By MELODY McDONALD
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

FORT WORTH — A Tarrant County jailer was arrested in Temple last week after authorities said he tried to snatch a woman's purse and then fought with police officers who arrived at the scene and tried to arrest him.

Michael Keith Price, 36, who had worked as a jailer with the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department for two years, was booked into the Bell County Jail on Friday on charges of robbery, resisting arrest and unlawful carrying of a weapon.

He was released two days later after posting \$60,000 bail. He could not be located to comment Wednesday.

Mike Johnston, executive chief deputy of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department, said Price resigned from the Sheriff's Department on Monday.

"Normally, if he came back here on bond and hung around, we would do an internal affairs investigation and suspend him," Johnston said.

ARREST A Tarrant County jailer resigned Monday, three days after he was arrested in Temple on accusations of trying to rob a woman.

"He beat us to the punch."

Temple authorities said officers were dispatched to the First National Bank in the 1800 block of Main Street in downtown Temple about 3:20 p.m. Friday to investigate a report that a man was assaulting a woman.

"When we arrived, we found a crowd gathered around a green Jeep," Temple police Lt. Edward Best said. "There was a 58-year-old female who was very upset that told us that the suspect, Michael Price, had attempted to take her purse."

Best said the victim told police that her daughter had gone into the bank while she remained in the vehicle with an infant and a 9-year-old girl. The woman said a man approached and demanded her purse.

When the woman refused,

the man reached into the Jeep, twisted her arm and grabbed her head, hurting her neck, Best said.

The 9-year-old girl, meanwhile, grabbed the infant and ran into the bank to get help, Best said. A crowd of people formed around the Jeep, thwarting the robber's plans, he said.

Best said Price, who was still at the scene when police arrived, fought with authorities who tried to arrest him.

"He had to be taken to the ground," Best said.

Later, police found a .45-caliber gun in his vehicle.

The victim and Price, who claimed to have an injured knee, were taken to a Temple hospital.

Price, who police said lives in North Richland Hills, was then taken to the Bell County Jail.

"I have no idea what he was doing in Temple," Best said. "He has no ties whatsoever to Temple."

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Ex-jailer is sought in sex-abuse investigation

By DOMINGO RAMIREZ JR.
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

HALTOM CITY — An arrest warrant has been issued for a former Haltom City jailer indicted this week on suspicion of sexual abuse of female inmates.

Clint Wade Weaver, 22, of Azle remained at-large Thursday, according to Tarrant County Sheriff's Department records.

The warrant was issued Tuesday for Weaver, who was indicted on a count of sexual assault and two counts of improper sexual activity with a person in custody.

The charges stemmed from reports to police by two female inmates that they were sexually abused.

A conviction could lead to a maximum of 20 years in prison on the sexual assault charge and two years each on the other charges.

Earlier this year, Weaver pleaded guilty to official oppression and was sentenced to two years' probation in a case involving a third female inmate.

Weaver is the focus of a federal civil rights lawsuit filed in late August by six female inmates who claim they were sexually harassed and abused. The lawsuit includes current and former employees of the Haltom City Police Department. Weaver is the only person identified in the lawsuit.

Three of the women have alleged that they were promised early release from jail in return for sexual favors.

The lawsuit says that the abuse occurred from June 2000 to March 2001.

Weaver was a jailer from October 1999 to April 2001.

At the request of Haltom City police, the Texas Rangers joined the investigation of the reported sexual abuse.

New policy makes promotion easier for jailers, sheriff says

SHERIFF

A new policy removes obstacles to promotion for some Sheriff's Department employees.

By NEIL STRASSMAN
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

A new personnel policy for the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department will make it easier for jailers to move up the career ladder, Sheriff Dee Anderson said Tuesday.

At a ceremony marking the promotions of 29 employees in the county commissioners courtroom, Anderson said he was fulfilling a campaign promise to overhaul jail management and create advancement opportunities for people who are not sworn peace officers.

"This is a fairer system, and it better serves the employees and the county," Anderson said. "It used to be a rule that you had to be a peace officer."

Under previous sheriffs, some employees could work for the department for a decade without a promotion, and a new employee with much less experience could become their supervisor, Anderson said.

On Tuesday, Mary Hendrix and Amy Ferrell — both sworn peace officers — were promoted to the rank of captain and assigned to the jail.

Three sheriff's employees became lieutenants, seven were promoted to sergeant and eight to corporal, and nine became sworn deputies.

"This is an opportunity we've never been



STAR-TELEGRAM/RICHARD W. RODRIGUEZ

Amy Ferrell, left, and Mary Hendrix stand for the Pledge of Allegiance before a ceremony at which they were promoted.

afforded," said Michael Fehler, 51, of Fort Worth, an 11-year department veteran who was promoted from Tech II to sergeant.

"The sheriff has opened doors for many of us."

Fehler will work as a supervisor scheduling officers and handling problems in the Green Bay jail. "It's a nice raise and more responsibility," he said.

Before the policy change, jailers had to go to school on their own time and expense to obtain a peace officer's license, and many could not because of family responsibilities, Anderson said.

Employee turnover was high and morale suffered because of the old policy, he said.

"In making these promotions, I take an extra measure of pride knowing that a promise has been fulfilled," Anderson said.

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