



Robert M. Durko



NORTH RICHLAND HILLS — Robert M. "Rob" Durko, 44, passed away Saturday, Sept. 1, 2007.

FUNERAL: 11 Friday at Richland Hills Church of Christ, 6300 N.E. Loop 820, North Richland Hills, with Chaplain David Barrett of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department officiating. Interment: Robert will be laid to rest in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Fort Worth. Visitation: The family will receive friends 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Bearers of Mr. Durko's casket will be Rick Kempe, Tony Stults, Chris Arrington, Gary Adams, Jerry Jefferson, Carlton Hooten and Doug Orr.

MEMORIALS: In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Justin Durko College Fund Account at any branch of Chase Bank.

Robert was born to Robert and Shirley Schultz Durko on May 28, 1963, in Omaha, Neb. As a young child growing up in a military family, Robert traveled to many places, from Nebraska, Texas, England and Illinois. During his adolescent years, Robert developed the love of flying and a deep love for his country. He joined the Cub Scouts and received a medal for assisting an injured classmate. Later, as a young adult, he became a Christian and was close to the Lord. He decided to become a cop because, he said, "the world needed Christian cops."

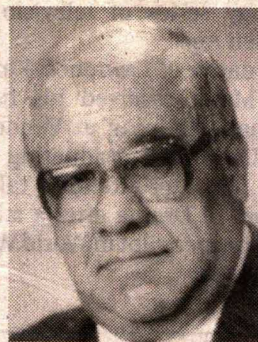
Robert loved to vacation with his family and help everyone with computers. He loved all electronic gadgets and wanted everything high tech. Robert attended all of Justin's events from soccer games, taekwondo classes and school events.

One of his proudest career accomplishments came while he worked for the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office as the lieutenant of communications. He was involved with 911 and was the K-9 officer while patrolling the K-9 unit for the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office. He gave K-9 demonstrations for schools and designed websites for Justin's school activities. He was a master peace officer and in 2003 won the prestigious award of Supervisor of the Year.

SURVIVORS: His wife, Deborah; son, Justin; father and mother, Bob and Shirley Durko; brother, Fred Durko and his wife, Christi; sister, Mary Ledbetter; nephews, Joe Durko, Forest Ledbetter and Sam Durko; and nieces, Annie Durko and Camille Durko.

Shannon Rufe Snow Drive Funeral Chapel
6001 Rufe Snow Dr., 817-514-9100
View and sign guestbook at
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Guadalupe Coronado



FORT WORTH — Guadalupe "Lupe" Cortez Coronado, 72, a retired criminal investigator for the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department, passed away Sunday, Nov. 11, 2007, in the comfort of his home surrounded by his family.

Mass of Christian **BURIAL:** 10 a.m. Thursday at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church. **BURIAL:** Mount Olivet Cemetery. Rosary: 6 p.m. Wednesday in Mount Olivet Chapel.

Lupe was born March 5, 1935 in Fort Worth, to Esteban and Ysabel Coronado. He was the youngest of 14 children and graduated from Parker High School. In 1956, he was working at the downtown Blackstone Hotel as a chef when he met his wife, Amelia. They were married on March 7, 1958 and began their 49 year journey. His 33 year career in law enforcement began in 1965 under Lon Evans. He started as deputy sheriff in radio patrol then advanced to warrant officer and finally into criminal investigations. He retired and started Coronado Investigations in 1992. He touched many lives throughout his life through his hard work and humor. His work was his passion and he is considered one of the best investigators of his time. Our family would like to acknowledge and extend our thanks to the office of James R. Bohnsack and his staff, Joe from Cardiovascular Home Care and Covenant Hospice and Palliative Care, who were a strong support through our father's lengthy illness.

Lupe was preceded in death by his grandson, Robert David Castilleja, Jr.

SURVIVORS: Wife of 49 years, Amelia Coronado; children, Robert Castilleja and wife, Gracie, Alisia Morris and husband, Michael; grandchildren, Emily Morris, Louis Castilleja and his mother, Leticia Castilleja; great-grandchild, Christian Trevino; brother, Estevan Coronado and wife, Lorine; sisters, Joan Yznaga and Carmel Lira; cousins, nephews and a host of other family members and friends.

Mount Olivet Funeral Home
2301 N. Sylvania Ave., 817-831-0511
View and sign guestbook at
www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

MID-AMERICA SERVICES

Tarrant jail food provider indicted in Potter County

By AMAN BATHEJA

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The president of a food service company used in Tarrant County jails has been indicted in another Texas county on bribery charges.

A Potter County grand jury indicted Mid-America Services President Robert W. Austin Jr. on Wednesday. The indictment accuses Austin of bribing the Potter County sheriff to retain a contract for food service at the county jail and its commissary.

Sheriff Michael C. Shumate, 58, was also indicted Wednesday on bribery charges.

Mid-America Services provides food service for Tarrant County jails and its commissary, which sells snacks and personal items to inmates.

In August, the company's contract was renewed by county commissioners for \$4.1 million for the year.

Tarrant County Sheriff Dee Anderson said he was surprised by the allegations.

"Our relationship with them has been completely aboveboard and there's never been any problems with it," Anderson said.

Mid-America Services has had a controversial history because of its previous president, Jack Madera, who was the subject of a grand jury investigation of his dealings with former Dallas County Sheriff Jim Bowles.

In 2004, Tarrant County officials approved a jail food services contract with Mid-America Services amid criticism of the close ties Madera had with several county officials, including Anderson and County Commissioner J.D. Johnson. Months after the contract was approved, Madera died and Austin took over the company.

"Everything that happened with Dallas beforehand, we were very cautious that everything was done carefully," Anderson said.

This report includes material from The Associated Press.

Ethics complaint submitted against sheriff

Anderson says he did not file campaign finance reports after July 2004 because he did not raise or spend money.

By **SUSAN SCHROCK**
sschrock@star-telegram.com

ARLINGTON — A woman who says she is helping Dalworthington Gardens Police Chief Bill Waybourn explore a bid

for Tarrant County sheriff submitted an ethics complaint Wednesday against incumbent Dee Anderson.

Janette Kurban, wife of retired Judge Roy Kurban, alleges in her letter to the Texas Ethics Commission that Anderson has violated state election codes by failing to file campaign contributions and expenditure reports since 2004, a claim Anderson disputes. She also sent

Kurban wrote to Curry that she was told by Brenda Clark of the Tarrant County Elections Office that Anderson had been notified after each reporting period after July 2004 that he had not filed a campaign finance report, but that "Anderson had continually failed to comply."

The Tarrant County Elections Office referred legal questions to the Texas Ethics Commission, which was closed Wednesday.

a letter to Tarrant County District Attorney Tim Curry on Wednesday stating that she believes that Anderson has committed several Class B misdemeanors for failing to comply with local election codes.

"Anyone who commits a Class B misdemeanor, for example a DWI, should not receive a pass, especially

More on CAMPAIGN on 7B



Bill Waybourn, left, Dalworthington Gardens police chief, may be considering a run against Tarrant County Sheriff Dee Anderson.

CONTINUED FROM 1B

the Sheriff. If we do not require our highest ranking county law enforcement officer to abide by the law, then how can we expect the average citizen to obey the law?" Kurban wrote in her letter to Curry.

Waybourn did not return telephone calls Wednesday seeking comment.

Anderson has filed to run for sheriff next year. He said he was surprised to learn about Waybourn's interest in running against him. Candidates have until Wednesday to file for the March 4 primary.

Anderson was first elected sheriff in 2000. He said he did not campaign in 2004, when he was unopposed in his bid for a second, four-year term. He said Wednesday that he has not filed any finance reports since July 2004 and was told by the Tarrant County Elections Office that he did not have to.

"They said as long as you don't have an active treasurer and don't raise or spend any money, you don't have to file. I haven't raised a dime or spent a dime," Anderson said. "Had I filed one, it would have just said zero."

Candidates are typically required to file reports in January and July and by certain deadlines before and after elections. Candidates do not

Primary elections

■ Wednesday is the deadline for candidates to file for the general primary election. The primary is March 4.

■ Feb. 4 is the last day residents may register to vote in the primary election. Early voting begins Feb. 19.

Source: Texas Secretary of State

have to file biannual finance reports if they do not have an active treasurer and do not accept or spend more than \$500 for their campaign during the reporting periods, according to the Texas Ethics Commission Web site.

Anderson reported no contributions or expenditures on his January and July 2004 reports; he did list former Arlington police chaplain Harold Elliott as his treasurer, records show.

Steve Raborn, Tarrant County Elections administrator, said his office routinely notifies candidates and office holders by e-mail of campaign finance deadlines but had no records of correspondence sent specifically to Anderson about missed deadlines.

Kurban said she was asked last week by Waybourn, a longtime friend, to serve on an exploratory committee for a run for sheriff. She said one of the first things she did was call the elections office to request Anderson's campaign fundraising reports because "we need to know what we're up against."

"This is not personal," Kurban said. "The last thing I want to do is accuse someone of something they have not done."

The Ethics Commission has authority to impose fines for violations of state election code.

Anderson said he plans to file a finance report by the Jan. 15 deadline.

Staff writer Anthony Spangler contributed to this report.

Campaign: Anderson disputes the claim

PRIMARY ELECTION

Police chief may run for sheriff

Star-Telegram

DALWORTHINGTON GARDENS — Longtime Dalworthington Gardens Police Chief Bill Waybourn said Thursday that he is leaning toward a bid for Tarrant County sheriff next year.

Waybourn, the city's chief since 1984, has until Wednesday to file to be included on the March 4 general primary ballot. Janette Kurban, who is on Waybourn's exploratory committee, submitted an ethics complaint this week against Sheriff Dee Anderson.

Kurban, the wife of retired Judge Roy Kurban, said she believes that Anderson has violated local and state election laws because he has not filed a campaign finance report since July 2004. She has asked the Tarrant County district attorney's office and the Texas Ethics Commission to investigate.

Anderson, who ran unopposed in 2004, said he was told by the county that he did not have to file semi-annual reports as an office holder because he was not raising or spending campaign money.

— Susan Schrock

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Teenage 'deputies' now behind bars



Berry

Saleh

■ What to do if you doubt that someone is a real officer. 1B

Friday

January 4, 2008

'Where The West Begins'

FORT WORTH — Their black T-shirts bore the word "sheriff" in bold white letters. Their Ford Taurus had flashing red and blue lights.

And when the Taurus got behind a Kia on East Lancaster Avenue, the Kia driver obediently pulled over.

Two passing Fort Worth police officers also pulled over, intending to help the sheriff's deputies if needed. After all, it was about 2

a.m. Thursday, just after bar-closing time.

But something was fishy, the police officers reported later. And it wasn't the Kia driver who got their attention.

Nasr Emad Saleh, 18, of Arlington and Lonnie Lee Berry III, 19, of Fort Worth were in the Mansfield Jail on Thursday night, accused of impersonating law enforcement officers. **Staff writer Deanna Boyd reports, 1B**

By DEANNA BOYD dboyd@star-telegram.com

FORT WORTH — They had a badge.

They had guns (albeit air pistols.)

They even had flashing red and blue lights in their car, realistic enough to get at least two motorists to pull over, police say.

What they didn't bargain for was some unwanted assistance by the real thing.

Two men were arrested early Thursday on suspicion of impersonating officers after police say they pulled over a motorist within sight of Fort Worth police officers who initially believed that the traffic stop was real and tried to help.

Nasr Emad Saleh, 18, of Arlington and Lonnie Lee Berry III, 19, of Fort Worth were booked into the Mansfield Jail on Thursday with bail set at \$5,000 each.

Lt. Dean Sullivan, police spokesman, said officers believe that the two men had pulled over another male motorist in Fort Worth

More on ARRESTS on 6B



What to do

■ If you question the legitimacy of an officer, ask for his or her department or state photo identification card. You should also call 911 and stay on the line until the officer's identity can be verified or other officers arrive.



■ A motorist, especially a woman alone at night, should seek a well-lighted and populated area before pulling over. Most police departments allow only uniformed officers driving marked cars to stop motorists.

Nasr Emad Saleh, top, and Lonnie Lee Berry III

How to help

Anyone who may have been stopped by the men arrested Thursday is asked to call their local police agency and make a report.

CRIME

'Deputies' go to jail

Fort Worth police, believing late-night traffic stop is real, offer assistance but soon grow suspicious of the two men



The car: The men were driving a 1999 black Ford Taurus.



The lights: Red and blue lights were taped to interior door frames.



The props: Among their props were a silver pellet pistol and a fake badge.



Lonnie Lee Berry III sits in the back of a police car after his arrest on suspicion of impersonating an officer. SPECIAL TO THE STAR-TELEGRAM/MIKE ZUKERMAN

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Two teens were out for thrills, police say

Suspected of impersonating police, they hoped to be real officers, a detective says.

By DEANNA BOYD dboyd@star-telegram.com
FORT WORTH — Two teens who were arrested early Thursday on suspicion of impersonating officers after pulling over a motorist in front of Fort Worth police apparently wanted to be real officers, a detective said Friday.

Fort Worth Detective Scott Campbell said he has found no evidence that Nasr Emad Saleh, 18, and Lonnie Lee Berry III, 19, were trying to extort money or had any other ulterior motive in pulling motorists over.

"I think it was just two young kids out there trying to live out their fantasy," Campbell said. "With the red and blue lights, the BB and pellet guns and the badge and sheriff T-shirts, I think they got a power rush off it — an adrenaline rush off the stop and making contact with the violator."

Saleh, of Arlington, was released from the Mansfield Jail on Friday after posting \$5,000 bail. Berry, of Fort Worth, remained in jail Friday after-

More on TEENS on 9B

Teens: 'Kids . . . trying to live out their fantasy'

CONTINUED FROM 1B noon.

Investigators believe that Saleh and Berry had been cruising around looking for traffic violators when a Fort Worth police officer spotted them pulling over a Kia in the 3500 block of East Lancaster Avenue.

The officer, initially believing that the stop was legitimate, offered assistance but soon grew suspicious after noticing the pair's failure to follow protocol and the unusual flashing red and blue lights on their 1999 black Ford Taurus.

The teens, dressed in T-shirts with "Sheriff" in bold letters on the front and in possession of what turned out to be air pistols, were questioned and arrested on suspicion of impersonating officers.

The Kia driver told police that Saleh had told him he'd been stopped for speeding.

Saleh, however, told Campbell that he and Berry had first spotted the Kia near Rosedale and Interstate 35W and had pursued the driver, sometimes reaching speeds of 90 mph, to Lancaster Avenue, where the Kia stopped.

"I asked him: 'Why did you stop that guy? Did you get him for speeding?'" Campbell said. "He said: 'No, sir. I stopped him for reckless driving.'"

Campbell said the pair also admitted to stopping a man in Arlington near Martin High



Berry

Saleh

School that morning.

"I believe he had a back tail-light out," Campbell said.

The teens said they gave only oral warnings, Campbell said.

Terry Grisham, a Sheriff's Department spokesman, said Tarrant County deputies don't wear T-shirts during traffic stops and stop motorists only in fully marked patrol cars. He said deputies also carry state identification cards that include a picture, physical description, fingerprint and a 24-hour number that a motorist can call to verify the officer's identity.

Campbell said Saleh reportedly told acquaintances that he was a Tarrant County sheriff's deputy who was about to be promoted to lieutenant.

Berry, who told investigators that he had worked as a security guard in downtown Fort Worth, also told them that he intended to go to college to study criminology and then apply at a police department.

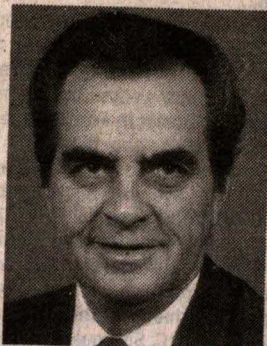
"I think his aspirations, they've just been dashed," Campbell said.


DEANNA BOYD, 817-390-7655

OBITUARIES

Sunday, January 6, 2008

Harvey E. Lantrip



 **NORTH RICHLAND HILLS** — Harvey Lantrip, 76, went to be with our Lord on Thursday, Jan. 3, 2008.

FUNERAL: 10 a.m. Monday, Bluebonnet Hills Memorial Park, Colleyville. Interment: Bluebonnet Hills Memorial Park. Visitation: 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday at Bluebonnet Hills Funeral Home.

Harvey was born June 22, 1931, in England, Ark., to Coley and Wilma Lantrip. During his life, he served in the United States Air Force for over 23 years and was stationed in Europe, Asia and the United States.

Upon retiring from the Office of Special Investigations Unit of the Air Force, Harvey furthered his career in law enforcement as a CID investigator for the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department. He retired from the Sheriff's Department in 1993 after serving 23 years. He was a graduate of Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth.

Aside from law enforcement, Harvey enjoyed horses, fishing and spending time with his grandkids, who lovingly referred to him as "Paps." He was also an active member of the Masonic Lodge.

SURVIVORS: Loving wife and best friend of 21 years, Dorothy; brothers, Marvin Lantrip and wife, Janette, John Lantrip and wife, Pat; sister, Colleen Burgess; family, Chris and Lana Keating, Gary and Olga Snow, Gene and Dot Lantrip, Bill and Debbie Skinner, Marlene Lantrip, Darlene Lantrip, Ron and Kesie Ray, Tessa Brown, Nick Lantrip; 15 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; numerous other family members; and many close longtime friends.

Bluebonnet Hills Funeral Home
Colleyville, 817-498-5894

View and sign guestbook at
www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

Oscar E. "Slow" Miller Jr.



FORT WORTH — Oscar E. "Slow" Miller Jr., 69, a retired Tarrant County constable, answered the Lord's call Monday, Dec. 31, 2007.

SERVICE: 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, at Cornerstone Baptist Church, 5415 Matlock Road, Arlington. **BURIAL:** Cedar Hill Memorial Park. Wake: 6 to 8 p.m. Monday at Williams Funeral Chapel.

He was a 1957 graduate of historic I.M. Terrell High School and attended the University of North Texas.

SURVIVORS: Wife, Patsy; children, Anthony, Etta, Damon, Daryl, Kamisha and Oscar III; brother, Leon "Dooley"; sisters, Mary, Dorothy and Ruthie; 12 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Williams Funeral Chapel
5224 Ramey Ave., 817-534-5781

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FAMILY NIGHTMARE

Sheriff's Department is investigating possible hate crimes

The incidents, including a racial slur painted on a car, occurred at a home.

By **ELIZABETH CAMPBELL**
liz@star-telegram.com

The Tarrant County Sheriff's Department is investigating several incidents at a family's home in southwest Tarrant County as possible hate crimes.

Severo Bara said he and his family, who moved into the house near Benbrook Lake in September, have found graffiti of a swastika and an ethnic slur painted on a car parked at the home. Sunday.

Lico Reyes, president of the LULAC council for Fort Worth, said he is concerned about the hate crime possibility, given the recent incidents in Arlington involving an African-

Bara also said his son-in-law, Jose Garza, was grabbed from behind and had gasoline poured on him when he left the house to check on something.

Garza was not hospitalized, according to the Sheriff's Department.

Also, someone tried to break in to Bara's 10-year-old granddaughter's room, the girl's trampoline was destroyed, the controls on the house's septic tank were damaged, and Garza's car was broken into.

"This is a nightmare for us," Bara said describing what American family.

"The family doesn't like the limelight; this has really traumatized them," Reyes said.

Even after the incidents, Bara said he likes the neighborhood and wants to stay if



Reyes

happened earlier this month.

Terry Grisham, a spokesman for the Sheriff's Department,

said deputies are stepping up patrols at the family's home, conducting interviews and taking other steps.

"The graffiti drawn on the car is unquestionably a racial slur," he said.

The League of United Latin American Citizens has scheduled a vigil and march at the family's home for 5:30 p.m.

he can.

"This is our dream home, but our world has been turned upside down."

ELIZABETH CAMPBELL, 817-390-7696

If you go

The League of United Latin American Citizens will hold a vigil at the home of Severo and Sofia Bara, 4725 Bucking Bronc Drive, at 5:30 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call 817-467-3087.

CAMPAIGNS

Money flowing to N. Texas candidates as primaries loom

The year's first campaign expense reports show who has how much — and from whom.

By **JOHN MORITZ and AMAN BATHEJA**
jmoritz@star-telegram.com, abatheja@star-telegram.com

Tarrant County sheriff Republican Dee Anderson raised no money during the reporting period but still had \$12,020 on hand in his bid for a third term. His primary opponent, Dalworthington Gar-

dens Police Chief Bill Waybourn, had yet to begin raising money and had nothing in the bank.

Last month, a Waybourn supporter filed an ethics complaint against Anderson because he had not filed a campaign report since 2004. Anderson, who ran unopposed in 2004, said he was told by the county that he did not have to file semi-annual reports as an officeholder because he was not raising or spending campaign money.

The only Democrat in the race, University of Texas at Arlington police investigator Hank Pope, raised \$1,250 but had nothing in the bank to start the year.

CHEERS AND JEERS

Saturday, January 19, 2008

Cheers: To J.A. Shelton of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department. Shelton came to our aid after we hit a large pothole and had a flat tire on a cold, rainy night in December. Our flashlight was dead, and our spare tire needed air. He provided the help we needed and saw that we got safely on our way.

— *Marshall and Dotty Sansbury,*
Fort Worth

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Committed felon to be housed at county jail

Convicted murderer Wesley Wayne Miller will soon be free from parole but not from watchful eyes.

By DEANNA BOYD dboyd@star-telegram.com

FORT WORTH — Convicted murderer Wesley Wayne Miller, who will be off parole next month, could soon find himself in a new home — the Tarrant County Jail.

Tarrant County commissioners have agreed to provide bed space for civilly committed sex offenders in the jail's Cold Springs facility in north Fort Worth.

The agreement, called a memorandum of understanding, between Tarrant County and the Council on Sex Offender Treatment was created with Miller in mind but is open to other sex offenders who have been civilly committed, Sheriff Dee Anderson said.



Miller

Though the council cannot disclose where Miller will be placed, Anderson said he expects him to be moved to the minimum-risk facility next month. The date is not being disclosed for security reasons.

Who is Miller?

Miller was convicted of murder and sentenced to 25 years in prison for the 1982 stabbing of Retha Stratton, an 18-year-old Castleberry High School cheerleader who rejected his sexual advances.

At the time, Miller, a Castleberry football star, was also a suspect in a string of other rapes. Two years later, he pleaded guilty to an unrelated charge of burglary with intent to commit rape in Saginaw and received a 20-year prison sentence.

Since 1991, Miller has been paroled on mandatory supervision four times but was sent back each time. The reasons included being accused of stalking a Wichita Falls woman and refusing to participate in sex-offender classes.

After his latest release from prison, in March, parole officials sent him to the North Texas Intermediate Sanction Facility in north Fort Worth.

He has been supervised by parole officials and the council, an agency that monitors sex offenders who have been civilly committed under the state's Sexually Violent Predator Program because they are deemed a continuing threat to society.

Miller was the first convicted murderer to be civilly committed under the 1999 law, which was expanded in 2006 to include killers with sexually motivated conduct.

Why is he being moved?

Miller will be discharged from his 25-year sentence for killing Stratton on Feb. 23, meaning he will no longer be supervised by parole officials. The council, however, will continue to monitor him.

"We are civil in nature and so this is not a punitive program; this is a rehabilitative program," said Allison Taylor, the state agency's executive director.

Taylor said the council sought the memorandum of understanding with the jail to give the agency an option for housing violent sexual predators in Tarrant County. She said the state also has a memorandum of understanding to place violent sexual predators in a halfway house on Henderson Street.

"What we have to look at is what is in the best interest of public safety and our obligation as far as ensuring not only the victims are safe, but ensuring his best rehabilitation or treatment," Taylor said.

Taylor said she could not disclose specifically where Miller will be placed, saying only that "right now his court order says he is to reside in Tarrant County."

Miller will remain civilly committed until a judge, who will review the case every two years, decides that he is no longer likely to engage in predatory acts of violence.

To date, nine violent sexual predators have been committed to Tarrant County and are being monitored by the council, she said.

Anderson said the Sheriff's Department expects to house only Miller next month but said other civilly committed offenders could be placed there in the future. He said Miller will be sleeping in dormitory-style rooms with male inmates who are assigned to the work-release program or who serve their sentences on nights and weekends.

"I think stepping up to assist is the right thing to do," Anderson said. "I've committed to do all I could to keep this county safe. . . . He's going to be here somewhere. Rather than being at a private residence, I felt like we could do a better job of monitoring or keeping up with him."

tion, however, to provide services or supervision once the offender is physically outside the jail.

"We are simply acting as the hotel in this equation," Anderson said, adding that he wanted to ensure that Tarrant County taxpayers would bear no expense for the arrangement.

Taylor said all violent sexual predators are under restrictions that include wearing a GPS tracking monitor and undergoing mandatory treatment and polygraphs. She said they cannot leave their facility without authorization and have rigid depart-and-return schedules and transportation restrictions.

Violating the commitment order is a third-degree felony.

The county has the right to terminate the agreement with 30 days' notice.

The victim's family

Rona Stratton Smith, sister of Retha Stratton, said she is glad the county reached the agreement not only for Miller, but also for all current and future civilly committed sex offenders.

"In the last legislative session the Legislature approved more funding to have more trials for civil commitments," Stratton Smith said. "This is one of those things that has to fall in place behind it."

Monday was the 26th anniversary of her sister's death.

Stratton Smith said that the end of parole oversight for Miller next month makes her nervous but that she's grateful that he will still be supervised.

"There's some kind of monitoring going on," Stratton Smith said. "It's not the perfect scenario, by any means, but it's the best we can do with the law being what it is."

That Miller will be housed in a jail eases her mind even more.

"I praise the sheriff's office for allowing this to happen so the citizens of Tarrant County have a little bit of a safety net," she said.

DEANNA BOYD, 817-390-7655

The agreement

The state will pay the county \$70 a day for each civilly committed inmate. The county will provide housing, care, meals and other usual services while the civilly committed offender is in the Tarrant County Jail. The county has no obliga-

Steven Ray Henry



MANSFIELD — Steven Henry, 55, went home to be with his Lord on Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, at a local hospital.

MEMORIAL SERVICE: 10 a.m. Friday at Retta Baptist Church, 13201 Rendon Road, Burleson. Visitation: 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Skyvue Funeral Home.

Steven retired after 29 years' service with the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office. He was ordained a deacon in June at his church.

SURVIVORS: His wife, Lisa Henry; sons, Walter and William Henry; daughter, Sara Bell; parents, Ray and Barbara Henry; brother Bobby Henry; and sister, Becky Chapa.

Skyvue Funeral Home
Mansfield, 817-478-6955
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EDITORIALS

ELECTIONS | RECOMMENDATIONS

Quietly excelling

In the Republican primary for Tarrant County sheriff, Dee Anderson's campaign could easily adapt the cliché "if it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Dee Anderson is the first to say that credit for the turnaround in the reputation of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department during the past eight years goes to everybody who works there, not just the man with the title "Sheriff."

"Being the largest jail system in Texas to continually meet jail standards — we've passed six years in a row — happens because everyone is working hard," Anderson said during a phone interview last week. "People are proud to wear the uniform."



Anderson

Anderson is running in the March 4 Republican primary against Bill Waybourn, chief of the 14-officer Dalworthington Gardens Police Department. The winner will face Democrat Hank Pope, a University of Texas at Arlington police investigator, in November.

Anderson has excelled at the job in a quiet yet determined way. He has saved county taxpayers millions of dollars by cutting overtime among the department's 1,400 authorized employees without risking public safety. He was out front in helping residents understand the need to pass a bond election to build a maximum-security jail and then fought hard for the downtown location.

He has incorporated the latest law enforcement technology into the department's operations, which has been made possible by his good relationship with the Tarrant County Commissioners Court, the holder of the purse strings.

"We are the first to do iris scans on prisoners and have 100 percent certainty of who is here," Anderson said. "We also have computerized TB tracking for inmates through a program that was internally written by the sheriff's IT staff."

In a sign that Tarrant County's reputation extends beyond the state boundaries, representatives from Florida's Broward County Sheriff's Department visited Fort Worth to see how technology is being used here.

"The Broward County department was the gold standard in this country back when I was first elected in 2000," Anderson said. "Everyone would go there to see how it should be done. A delegation coming here is the ultimate compliment for this department."

Anderson's campaign could easily adapt the cliché "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

The *Star-Telegram* recommends **Dee Anderson** in the Republican primary for Tarrant County sheriff.

Wednesday, February 20, 2008

Weldon E. Petty



FORT WORTH — Weldon E. Petty, 71, a retired Air Force master sergeant, loving husband, father and grandfather, passed away Sunday, Feb. 17, 2008, at a local hospital.

FUNERAL: 12:30 p.m. Friday in Laurel Land Memorial Chapel in Fort Worth. Interment: 2:30 p.m. in Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery, Lane B. Visitation: 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Laurel Land.

MEMORIALS: Donations may be made to Saginaw Community Church, 7009 Gillis Johnson St., Fort Worth, Texas 76179, or a charity of choice.

Mr. Petty was born in Lubbock on March 30, 1936. After graduating from Lubbock Senior High School, he enlisted in the United States Air Force. He was a highly decorated Vietnam veteran who specialized in supply management. He served in various locations throughout the world, including tours in Germany and Thailand. In Thailand he met and married his loving wife, Sombat. He retired from the Air Force in October 1976. After retiring from the Air Force, he attended Tarrant County Junior College and received a degree in electronic technology radio/TV repair. In 1980 he started working with the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department as a detention officer. Weldon received his second retirement in March 1996.

Weldon touched the lives of many people and made long-lasting friendships throughout his life. After retirement he became active by serving on many committees and attending Saginaw Community Church. The church was the love of his life. He was an active member of the Tarrant County Retired Sheriff's Association.

SURVIVORS: His wife, Sombat; sons, Donald, Ronald and Nong Sumungsa; daughter, Shonnie Kleinhenz; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren: sister, Lois Riley; and one nephew.

Laurel Land Funeral Home
7100 Crowley Road, 817-293-1350
View and sign guestbook at
www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

Saturday, February 23, 2008

John Wellington Tenery Sr.



FORT WORTH — John Wellington Tenery Sr., 88, a retired Air Force chief master sergeant, passed away Thursday, Feb. 21, 2008.

FUNERAL: 11:30 a.m. Tuesday in Greenwood Chapel. **BURIAL:** Greenwood Memorial Park. Visitation: 5 to 8 p.m. Monday at Greenwood Funeral Home.

John Wellington Tenery Sr. retired as a chief master sergeant in the U.S. Air Force with 30 years of service and retired as assistant chief deputy for the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department with more than 19 years of service.

John W. Tenery Sr. was born Jan. 19, 1920, in Gladewater to the late James B. and Willie Ivy Tenery. John W. Tenery Sr. was a three-war veteran: World War II, Korea and Vietnam. He entered the Army Air Corps on June 11, 1941. He served as a first sergeant of a B-24 bomber squadron in Italy, as a sergeant major of a support group for fighters in Korea and a sergeant major of a unit in Vietnam. He received three Air Force Commendation Medals, numerous campaign ribbons and battle stars for service in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

He retired from the Air Force at Carswell Air Force Base as division sergeant major in 1972, and had a job waiting for him with Sheriff Lon Evans as a deputy sheriff in Tarrant County. He also worked under Sheriff Don Carpenter and retired in 1991.

John attained a B.S. degree from Texas Wesleyan College. He was an active member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8235, Disabled American Veterans, Texas Sheriffs' Association, and the Texas Police Association.

He was preceded in death by brothers, James and Frank Tenery; sisters, Lerlene Whitefield and Annie Sue Morgan; son, John W. Tenery Jr.; and grandson, Nathan Senne.

SURVIVORS: His loving wife of 35 years, Alice; daughters, Nancy Fincher, Karen Ashton and Sharon New; sons, Michael Tenery, Stephen Senne, Elmer "Bill" Senne, Kenneth Senne and Carl Senne; sons and daughters-in-law, Steward Fincher, Joe Ashton, Joe New, Susie Tenery, Marie Senne, Terri Reeves and Deanna Senne; grandchildren, Chad Fincher and wife, Lindsey, Amy Nordyke and husband, Jesse, Lauren Tenery, Paul Tenery, Elissa Tenery, Brenda Tenery, Shawn Senne, Brian Senne, Shamara Senne, Christopher Senne, Justin Senne, Taylor Senne, Jessica Senne, Jason Senne and wife, Misty, Jennifer Ashton, Joseph Ashton and fiancée, Kristina Poling, Aaron Senne, Megan Murdock and husband, John III, Kimberly Clements and Matthew Clements; great-grandchildren, Mason Fincher, Reece Fincher, Devin Nordyke, Kendall Nordyke, Stephen Senne, Savannah Senne, Lilly Senne, Madison Senne, Trinity Senne, Destiny Senne, Faith Senne, Ian Senne, Sidney Ashton, Jazmyne Murdock, John Murdock IV and Jason Murdock; brother-in-law, Henry Wade III and wife, Barbara; special friends, Noemi and Abraham Zerpa; several nieces and nephews; and many good friends.

Greenwood Funeral Home
3100 White Settlement Rd., 817-336-0584
View and sign guestbook at
www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

REPUBLICANS

Sheriff's race pits change vs. experience

The GOP campaign for sheriff is the most high-profile race for a county-wide office in this primary.

By AMAN BATHEJA
abatheja@star-telegram.com

Like the race for the Democratic presidential nomination, the Republican primary for Tarrant County sheriff has become a fight of change vs. experience.

Challenger Bill Waybourn, police chief for Dalworthington Gardens, says the sheriff's office is stuck in neutral and needs to adapt to changing times.

"The 27 years I've been in law enforcement in Tarrant County, the sheriff's office hasn't changed," Waybourn said. "It's an island to itself."

Sheriff Dee Anderson insists that Way-



Anderson



Waybourn

Sheriff: Opponent says department is stuck

CONTINUED FROM 1B

Waybourn's ideas are a throwback to the past, specifically the controversial tenure of his predecessor.

"It's like the ghost of David Williams when you hear [Waybourn] speak," Anderson said, referring to the former Tarrant County sheriff. "This is exactly who the people voted out eight years ago."

The winner of the March 4 primary will face Democrat Hank Pope in November.

Anderson was elected in 2000, replacing Williams, who attracted ridicule and courted conflict with commissioners.

Anderson has based his re-

election bid in part on his record of keeping his office out of the limelight and not overstepping its boundaries.

"We've got 38 or 40 really good police departments and believe me, we help them when we're asked but we don't impose ourselves on them," Anderson said. "They're doing a fine job."

New programs

Waybourn is focusing his campaign largely on two programs he promises to implement if elected. He said he does not know how he would pay for these new programs but predicted that he would

likely be able to without asking the county to increase his budget.

Waybourn wants to create an "intelligence fusion center" that provides police officers around the county with information on sexual predators, gangs and repeat offenders.

Anderson countered that a regional drug trafficking unit already provides area police with needed intelligence. Waybourn said that unit doesn't do enough for police.

Waybourn also wants to enroll the Sheriff's Department in a program that would train local law enforcement personnel to recognize illegal immigrants in county jails and hand them over to federal authorities for deportation.

Anderson said Waybourn's program is unnecessary be-

cause federal officials already check the immigration status of every inmate in Tarrant County jails.

"Once again, it's not understanding the job we do," Anderson said.

Waybourn said he has spoken to immigration officials, jail employees and bail bondsmen who say illegal immigrants routinely slip through the cracks.

Pay raises, education

The Tarrant County Law Enforcement Association persuaded Waybourn to run and is campaigning for him.

Bobby Hardin, a sheriff's deputy and a spokesman for the association, said the group's board is unhappy with Anderson's leadership on several issues, including employee pay. Anderson has pushed for pay raises but distanced himself from the association's

proposals to the county commissioners. Waybourn promised to back the group on that issue, Hardin said.

When he spoke to the members of the *Star-Telegram* editorial board this month, Waybourn said, "I think for the most part, they're doing pretty good on pay," Waybourn said.

Asked again about the issue on Monday, Waybourn said he told the association he would work to provide a united front to the commissioners but that he still needs to assess how the department employees are paid compared with employees in neighboring counties.

"It's better stated [to say] I want to ensure we are competitive," Waybourn said.

Waybourn has also faced questions over the educational background he has claimed in campaign materials. Waybourn said he thought his

Online exclusive

Learn about the issues that hit close to home at

www.star-telegram.com/localections, and find out

where the candidates stand in our online voters guide,

www.star-telegram.com/votersguide

2004 master's degree in conflict management from Trinity College in Newburgh, Ind., was from an accredited university. It was once accredited by two schools in England but is not recognized by any major university in Texas.

Because of the degree, Waybourn is paid an extra \$2,400 per year. Under a 2005 Texas law, it's a crime to apply for a job, collect a bonus or "gain a position in government" claiming an unaccredited degree.

AMAN BATHEJA, 817-390-7695

LETTERS

Anderson versus Waybourn for Tarrant sheriff

Seven years ago, Dee Anderson took over a Tarrant County Sheriff's Department and a county jail in a state of total confusion and lacking leadership. Since then, he has quietly and effectively turned things around and totally transformed the department and jail.

It's significant that Anderson was recognized by his peers as Lawman of the Year in 2006. He also has earned recognition nationally for his contributions to, and as co-founder of, the Amber Plan for Missing Children.

Vote for Dee Anderson for Tarrant County sheriff. We can't afford to lose the momentum that he has begun.

— *Tim and Molly Kenehan, Mansfield*

There's more than one professional police organization in the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department. (See Tuesday story "Tarrant sheriff's race pits change vs. experience.")

Tarrant County Regional Lodge No. 44 of the Fraternal Order of Police has endorsed Dee Anderson for sheriff. He

has proven his ability to effectively oversee a department as large and complex as Tarrant County's.

There will always be disgruntled employees. You can't please everyone. The Tarrant County Law Enforcement Association does not represent the majority of the employees.

— *President Robert W. Evans, Tarrant County Regional Lodge No. 44, Fraternal Order of Police, Fort Worth*

Writer Bud Kennedy is full of bologna. (See Friday column, "Candidate could be tripped up by unaccredited degree.")

Anyone can go to Trinity College's Web site (www.trinitysem.edu/AboutTrinity/Accreditation.html) to see that the source of the degree of sheriff candidate Bill Waybourn has been accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Secondary & Higher Education of the National Association of Private, Nontraditional Schools & Colleges (NAPNSC).

How many other Texas law officers have degrees from this or similar institutions? Plenty! Sheriff Dee Anderson's own chaplain, David Barrett, has a degree from Trinity College and Seminary.

Anderson represents his

non-degree college hours as "majored in journalism," leaving the impression that he has a college degree.

— *Tom Vennum, Arlington*

Thursday, March 27, 2008

Billy Keaton McLemore



ARLINGTON — Billy Keaton McLemore, 77, passed away Wednesday, March 26, 2008.

FUNERAL MASS: 10 a.m. Saturday at St. Maria Goretti Church. Interment: Moore Memorial Gardens in Arlington. Visitation: Mr. McLemore will be available for viewing beginning at 3 p.m. on Friday. Rosary: 7 p.m. Friday at Arlington Funeral Home Chapel.

He was a retired U.S. Navy veteran and Tarrant County jailer and a longtime member of St. Maria Goretti Church of Arlington.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Samuel Donald and Jessie B. McLemore Sr.; and brother, S.D. "Buddy" McLemore.

SURVIVORS: His wife of 48 years, Fumiko McLemore of Arlington; his children, Sophia McLemore of Redmond, Wash., Donald McLemore and wife, Mary, of Arlington, Anne Jeffery and husband, John, of Godley and Perry McLemore of Arlington; sisters, Bobbie Jo Zinn, Ora Mae Voight and Lavona Lehman of Corpus Christi; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Arlington Funeral Home
1221 E. Division St., 817-548-1791

View and sign guestbook at
www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

March 27, 2008

SIDNEY GRANT 1942-2008

Sidney L. Grant passed away Tuesday, March 18, 2008.

He was born March 15, 1942, in Dothan, Ala., to Hubert and Margaret. He retired from the U.S. Air Force and the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office. Sidney graduated from Wayland Baptist University in Plainview with a BSOE.

Survivors: Wife, Jerry Lee Grant; children, Leilani Lewis and David Don of Richland Hills and Dwight Dow of Hurst; sisters, Sylvia Cody and Cindy Grant of Orlando, Florida; four grandsons; and three great-grandchildren.

BRIEFS

Inmate, 44, died of natural causes

FORT WORTH — A 44-year-old Tarrant County Jail inmate found dead in his cell early Friday died of natural causes, an autopsy by the Tarrant County medical examiner's office has found. James Monte Green was pronounced dead by paramedics at 4:35 a.m. The medical examiner's office listed his cause of death as sudden cardiac death due to hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease. Sheriff's spokesman Terry Grisham said Green was recently returned from a state hospital, where he had been sent after being found incompetent to stand trial. Court records show that Green was charged Oct. 1 with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon stemming from a Fort Worth offense that occurred Sept. 28. Jail records show that Green was returned from the hospital and booked into the jail Thursday. Grisham said guards tried to resuscitate Green and used a defibrillator.

— Deanna Boyd

Robert Franklin Ladd



FORT WORTH — Robert Franklin Ladd Jr., 63, passed away after a brief illness Saturday, April 5, 2008.

MEMORIAL SERVICE: 3:30 p.m. Friday in Greenwood Chapel.

"Bobby" was born Oct. 1, 1944, in Fort Worth to Robert Franklin Ladd Sr. and Ruby Mae Chambers Ladd. He spent his life in Fort Worth. He graduated from Eastern Hills High School and attended Tarrant County Junior College and the University of Texas at Arlington.

Bobby started his law enforcement career as a Fort Worth police officer in 1965. He became a Tarrant County deputy sheriff in 1969. Before retiring in 2007, he was a sergeant with the security department at Harris Methodist Hospital, downtown.

Bobby spent most of his life as a family man, business owner and golfer. He married Sally Linnea Tarpley on Feb. 5, 1963. They were married for 45 years.

In 1972, Bobby began working with his family at Ladd Uniform Co. selling fire, postal, police and emergency uniforms and equipment. Most of Bobby's Saturdays were spent playing golf with his friends. He even made a hole-in-one in 1988. Everyone agrees that Bobby always had a joke ready to share to make you smile.

SURVIVORS: Wife, Sally Ladd; sons, Robert F. "Trey" Ladd III and wife, Stacey, and Brent E. Ladd and wife, Mary Beth; daughter, Cynthia Ladd-Jones and husband, James; and grandchildren, Rachel Ladd, Mary Kate Ladd, Meagan Ladd, Hunter Ladd, Marc Jones, Noah Jones and Belle Ladd.

Greenwood Funeral Home
3100 White Settlement Rd., 817-336-0584

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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Plan praised since jail won't look like one

Commissioners don't want the new jail to affect pedestrian traffic downtown.

By AMAN BATHEJA
abatheja@star-telegram.com

Tarrant County commissioners praised an initial drawing of a new maximum security jail planned for downtown Fort Worth at their weekly meeting Tuesday.

"It doesn't look like a jail," County Judge Glen Whitley said approvingly of a concept drawing of the seven-story facility to be built on the current site of the county's Muller Building on West Weatherford Street, across from the Tarrant County Corrections Center.

Commissioners are under pressure from downtown business groups to make sure the jail looks good and doesn't affect pedestrian traffic in nearby Sundance Square.

The facility, scheduled to open in late 2011, will fit in well with other downtown buildings, promised Randy Gideon, co-chairman and chief executive of Gideon Toal, the Fort Worth architectural and engineering firm selected to

More on JAIL on 8B

Jail: Seven-story facility set to open in late 2011

CONTINUED FROM 1B
design the jail.

"It is very attractive, and it matches our original discussion of not giving it an institutional look," Commissioner Roy Brooks said.

County facilities manager David Phillips said the project's costs have increased since voters approved a new jail as part of a \$433 million bond package last year. The increase was due to the decision to build a new kitchen in the new jail to replace an aging one in the Corrections Center. The kitchen was not part of the original bond package. Phillips estimated that the equipment for the new kitchen, which will produce thousands of meals a day for inmates, would cost about \$4 million.

To stay within budget, Phillips proposed keeping one of the maximum-security floors of the new jail unfurnished and paying for it later. Including those 96 beds in the original project would cost an extra \$6 million, he said.

Sheriff Dee Anderson said it is crucial that all 432 beds of the jail are installed at once. He said the costs of finishing the top floor later, while the jail is filled with inmates, would be "astronomical."

Commissioners agreed with Anderson, unanimously approving full construction. They also approved a staging area for inmates about to be transported to a courtroom for an extra \$4.2 million.

They rejected a plan with possible retail space on the street level.

Commissioner Gary Fickes, who is recovering from a liver transplant, was absent from

the meeting.

Phillips predicted that he would be able to keep the project within the \$108 million combined budget that voters approved for the jail, a records management center and new administrative offices for the sheriff.

Commissioners will see a schematic design of the jail along with a more detailed budget in July, Phillips said.

"We've been talking about this the last eight or 10 years," Commissioner J.D. Johnson said. "It's way past time."


Also at Tuesday's meeting:
■ Commissioners voted 3-1 to allow the hiring of a project management firm to oversee the construction of the jail and the medical examiner's office, although no company has been chosen. Whitley argued against spending up to an extra \$1 million to hire a third firm to work on projects that already have designers and construction management firms on board. Commissioners Brooks and Marti VanRavenswaay said they believed that a project management firm would bring valuable experience to the projects.

■ Commissioners approved two gas leases for county-owned land with XTO Energy. For 7.4 acres near the Southwest Subcourthouse, the county received a signing bonus of \$106,044, or \$14,311 per acre, and a 25 percent royalty. For 2.5 acres from various public rights of way in Northeast Tarrant County, commissioners approved a signing bonus of \$29,332, or \$11,777 per acre, and a 25 percent royalty.

AMAN BATHEJA, 817-390-7695

Walter E. Hoyler Jr.



 **GRANBURY** — Walter E. Hoyler Jr., 56, passed away Tuesday, April 15, 2008, in Granbury.

FUNERAL: 2 p.m. Saturday at Wiley Funeral Home. Interment: Holly Hills Memorial Park. Visitation: 6 to 8 p.m. Friday.

MEMORIALS: Disabled American Veterans.

Mr. Hoyler was born April 25, 1951, in McCamey to Walter Eugene Hoyler Sr. and Virginia Elizabeth Willis Holyer. He married Judy Gail Stewart on June 28, 1974, in Burleson. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1969 to 1973. Mr. Holyer was a deputy sheriff in Tarrant County for 26 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two uncles, Vincent Willis and Joe Nelson.

SURVIVORS: Wife, Judy Hoyler of Granbury; sons, Donovan Hoyler of Woodland, Calif., and Monty Lynn Hoyler of Granbury; stepsister, Brenda Crawford of North Richland Hills; stepbrother, Charles M. Hamilton of Fort Worth; aunts, Naomi Nelson of Abilene and Wanda Main of Baltimore, Md.; sisters-in-law, Linda M. Luper of Granbury and Donna D. Schuster and husband, George, of Nashua, Mont.; cousins, Sherry Nix of Carrollton and Velva Nelson of Dallas; best friends, Norman and Rosella Sylvia of Granbury; stepfather, Otto Roesicke of Granbury; stepbrothers, Billy Roesicke and Al Harris, both of Springtown; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Wiley Funeral Home
Granbury, 817-573-3000
View and sign guestbook at
www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

Thursday, May 15, 2008 | 1

CRIME

Sex offender accused of violation, faces prison

The arrest warrant affidavit accused Wesley Wayne Miller of having a secret romantic relationship with a jailer.

By MELODY McDONALD
mjmcdonald@star-telegram.com

FORT WORTH — Wesley Wayne Miller, one of Tarrant County's most notorious sexual predators and killers, has been arrested again.

Miller is accused of having a secret romantic relationship with a female Tarrant County jailer while in custody, which is a violation of his civil commitment order, according to an arrest warrant affidavit.



Miller

In 2006, Miller, a registered sex offender, became Texas' first convicted killer to be committed under the state's Sexually Violent Predator Program. He was forbidden to have contact with unapproved people or with potential victims.

"I'm not surprised that it happened, but pleased that he was where he was and that nobody got hurt. The system worked," said Rona

More on ORDER on 7B

Order: Miller could be sentenced to life in prison

CONTINUED FROM 1B

Stratton Smith, whose sister Retha Stratton was fatally stabbed by Miller in 1982 after she rejected his sexual advances. "You can't predict a psychopath."

Officials said Miller, 45, was formally arrested Tuesday night at the Cold Springs Jail, where he was required to live under the terms of his civil commitment order because he has been deemed a sexually violent predator who poses a continuing threat to society.

Alana Minton, Tarrant County assistant district attorney, confirmed Wednesday that Miller has been charged with violating a civil commitment requirement, a third-degree felony. She declined to comment further because the case is pending.

Terry Grisham, a spokesman for the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department, said that the jailer with whom Miller is accused of having a relationship has been suspended pending the outcome of an internal affairs investigation.

"We take all misconduct seriously, especially by em-

ployees," Grisham said.

The background: Miller was convicted of murder and sentenced to 25 years in prison in 1982 for stabbing Retha Stratton, an 18-year-old Castleberry High School cheerleader. Miller, a former Castleberry High School football star, was also a suspect in a string of rapes at the time. Two years later, he pleaded guilty to an unrelated charge of burglary with intent to commit rape in Saginaw and received a 20-year sentence. Over the past two decades, Miller was released from prison on mandatory supervision several times under a state law in effect when he was convicted. Each time, he has been sent back because he refused to participate in sex-offender counseling or was accused of committing another crime, including stalking a Wichita Falls woman.



Stratton

Why was he living in Cold Springs Jail at the time of his latest arrest?

In 2006, Miller became the first convicted murderer to be civilly committed under a 1999 law, which was expanded in 2006 to include killers with sexually motivated conduct. This meant that Miller, once released from prison, would have to live in supervised housing, follow a long list of rules and be supervised by the Council on Sex Offender Treatment. The council is an agency that monitors sex offenders who have been civilly committed because they are a continuing threat to society. When Miller was released from prison in March 2007, he first lived at the North Texas Intermediate Sanction Facility in north Fort Worth and, later, at the Cold Springs Jail.

What rules did Miller violate that led to the latest criminal charge?

According to an arrest warrant affidavit, Miller admitted to starting a romantic relationship with a 21-year-old jailer in March 2008. Miller called the jailer through the in-house intercom and also has called her personal cellphone on numerous occasions, the affidavit states.

Crime Time
Want more crime news? Get your fill at star-telegram.com/blogs

Miller also is accused of contacting his father's home at one point and speaking to two unapproved relatives and a family friend.

According to Miller's civil commitment order, he is not allowed to contact anyone unless it is first approved by his case manager and also could not have contact with potential victims. He was also required to make progress in his sex-offender treatment and to report any violations to his case manager.

What happens now?

Miller's actions could have severe consequences. Since his arrest at Cold Springs Jail on Tuesday, he has been moved to the Tarrant County Jail in downtown Fort Worth. If he is indicted and convicted, he could face up to life in prison because of his criminal record. He also has been discharged from the sex-offender counseling program.

MELODY McDONALD, 817-390-7386

Monday, May 26, 2008

William H. "Red" Denman



 **ARLINGTON** — William H. "Red" Denman, 81, died Saturday, May 24, 2008, in Joshua.

SERVICE: 2 p.m. Tuesday at Mountain Valley Funeral Home Chapel. Interment: Caddo Cemetery. Visitation: 6 to 8 p.m. Monday at Mountain Valley Funeral Home.

Red was born April 5, 1927, in Grapeland to James Howard and Mary Jane Masters Denman. Red married Mattie Carrier July 1, 1951, in Dallas. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

Red served as a Tarrant County deputy sheriff for 38 years. He was also a 32nd-degree Mason and member of Arlington Lodge 438.

Red was a loving husband, father and grandfather.

He liked music and playing many musical instruments. He also liked working on cars.

Red loved his dogs and especially "Eppo" and "Peaches." He liked playing dominoes and reading.

He was preceded in death by brothers, Jack, Buck and Bernard Denman; and a sister, Ouida Denman.

SURVIVORS: Wife, Mattie Denman of Arlington; son, Todd Denman and wife, Rose of Joshua; daughter, Lisa Adams of Corpus Christi; grandchildren, Chance Bogard of Fort Worth and Preslie Adams of Aledo; brother, Charles Denman and wife, Charlene of Austin; numerous nieces and nephews.

Mountain Valley Funeral Home
Burleson, 817-426-3200

View and sign guestbook at
www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Paul E. Colman



FORT WORTH — Paul E. Colman, 85, a Navy veteran, passed away peacefully Monday, June 2, 2008, surrounded by family and friends.

FUNERAL: Mass of Christian Burial will be at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, 2920 Azle Ave. Interment: Greenwood Memorial Park. Visitation: Recitation of the rosary will begin at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Biggers Funeral Home, with visitation following.

Pallbearers: Paul E. Colman Jr., Ronald J. Colman, Dr. Ron A. Kaler, Dr. Ronald Jacob Kaler, Matt Breckbill, Johnny E. Mazon Jr., Barrett D. Guyton, Steve Williams and Randy Hatley. Honorary pallbearers: Merle and Paul Bradley, Kerry and Ray Owen, Dorothy and Sandy Shields, Liz and Randy Hatley, Kathleen and Herb Watts, Dr. William Seger, Dr. Mark Wiley, Dr. Darren Kumar, Dr. Ted Crawford, Nichelle Washington and the staff at Plaza Care Center, residents and staff of Ridgmar Town Village, Odyssey Hospice, the Biggers Family and Lucas Hernandez.

Paul was born April 11, 1923, in Fountain City, Tenn., to Henry and Willie Colman. Paul graduated from Gesu Catholic High School in Miami, Fla. He was a World War II veteran and retired after 23 loyal years of service in the Navy as a senior chief petty officer. After his service in the Navy, Paul retired from General Dynamics after 23 years working in the areas of logistics, technical publications and F-16 program office. He also worked as a bailiff in Judge Fender's court in Tarrant County.

He married his high school sweetheart and the love of his life, Mary Elizabeth Wayland, on Oct. 11, 1943, in Pittsfield, Mass., at St. Mary of the Morning Star. Paul was a member of St. Thomas Catholic Church. He enjoyed traveling, camping, reading, but most of all being with family. His humor and ability to tell a good story will never be forgotten. Paul and Betty loved and enjoyed the company of all of their friends at Ridgmar Town Village, where they had lived since 2006. The family would like to extend their deepest appreciation to

the staff at The Plaza Care facility, Ridgmar Town Village and Odyssey Hospice Care.

SURVIVORS: Wife of 65 years, Betty; sons, Paul Colman Jr. and wife, Linda, and Ronnie Colman and wife, Janice; daughter, Candace Kaler and husband, Dr. Ron Kaler; grandchildren, Jacob, Amy, Becky, Mandy, Allison, Abby, Matthew and Candace; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Biggers Funeral Home

6100 Azle Ave., 817-237-3341


View and sign guestbook at

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Friday, June 13, 2008

William J. "Bill" Head



 **FORT WORTH** — William J. "Bill" Head, 79, beloved husband, "Opi," brother, uncle and friend, passed away Wednesday, June 11, 2008, at a local hospital after a brief illness.

FUNERAL: 3:30 p.m. Saturday in Greenwood Chapel. Interment: Greenwood Memorial Park. Visitation: 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at Greenwood Funeral Home.

MEMORIALS: In lieu of flowers, those who wish may make donations either to the American Heart Association or the Schleroderma Association.

Bill was born Aug. 19, 1928, in Independence, Kan., the youngest of five children of Walter and Ferne McKay Head. Bill grew up during the Great Depression on a farm near Thayer, Kan.

Bill enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1950. He served in the Korean War from 1953 to 1954.

During his 20-year career, his principal duties were associated with munitions maintenance. He was responsible for loading and supervising conventional and nuclear munitions on the B-36 (his favorite aircraft), the B-52, F-86, F-101, F-100 and the F-4.

He was given top secret clearance in 1955. During the '50s, under vigilance of the Atomic Energy Commission, he and his team loaded a B-36 with the first prototype of the Mark-17 thermonuclear bomb.

Bill earned numerous citations, commendations and ribbons, including the Air Force Commendation with three oak leaf clusters.

Bill married Lola Banks on Aug. 21, 1953, at the Methodist church in Thayer, about a year and a half after they met on a blind date. They resided at many Air Force bases abroad and in the U.S., from Yokota Air Base in Japan to RAF Bentwaters in England and bases across the U.S.

After retiring in December 1970 as a chief master sergeant, Bill served as a Tarrant County Sheriff's Department deputy for 23 years, retiring in 1993 as a sergeant in the civil section.

He was a Mason for more than 50 years, a Methodist and a member of the 7th Bomb Wing B-36 Association.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers.

With everyone, he applied his creed: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

SURVIVORS: His wife; sisters, Barbara George of Sedalia, Mo., and Nelda White of Fredonia, Kan.; chosen daughter, Gina Forsythe, and granddaughter, Emily Faith Forsythe of Plano; cousins, John Selmar of Gresham, Ore., and Eldon Goedeke of Oswego, Kan.; godchildren, Antonella Thomas of Lutz, Fla., Amanda Thomas of Scottsdale, Ariz., and Robert Chicarelli of Pahrump, Nev.; numerous nieces and nephews; and many friends, all of whom he loved dearly.

Greenwood Funeral Home

3100 White Settlement Rd., 817-336-0584

View and sign guestbook at

www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

TARRANT COUNTY JAIL

Inmate dies days after complaining about untreated infection

Adrienne Lemons told her ex-husband over the phone that she was not getting antibiotics.

By **ANTHONY SPANGLER**
aspangler@star-telegram.com

FORT WORTH — Calling from a Tarrant County Jail phone in early June, Adrienne Lemons chatted with her 3-year-old son, Chase, and told her ex-

husband in Louisiana that she was not getting antibiotics for an infection.

The Dallas woman, 35, was in jail because of unpaid traffic tickets. Ten days after being booked, she was taken to John Peter Smith Hospital, where she died within hours.

Lemons' relatives said Wednesday that they still don't know why she

Elm. "I can see an infection killing someone in the 1600s or the 1700s, but that shouldn't happen today."

A spokeswoman for the hospital declined to comment, citing federal privacy law. JPS Health Network operates the hospital and provides health care at the Tarrant County Jail.

An autopsy was performed on Lemons' body, but the cause of death

won't be determined until toxicology and histology results are complete, said Linda Anderson, a spokeswoman for the Tarrant County medical examiner's office.

Gene Kent, Lemons' ex-husband, said that in her call, Lemons told him that she had a staph infection and was supposed to be taking antibiot-

More on **INMATE** on 8B

What do you think?

Post a comment on this report at www.star-telegram.com/comments

didn't get medical help sooner.

"It is a tragic thing that my sister goes in for some traffic tickets and comes out dead," said her brother Shannon Woodrome, 37, of Little

Inmate: Lemons was in jail because of traffic tickets

CONTINUED FROM 1B

ics but that she was not being given her medication.

While at the minimum-security Cold Springs jail, Lemons had complained about pain near her shoulder and threatened to cut her wrists rather than endure the pain, Tarrant County Sheriff's spokesman Terry Grisham said. That threat triggered a transfer to a solitary cell at a downtown jail.

Jailers are not involved in medical care. Inmates file requests for healthcare, called kites, which are processed by JPS staff members, who are responsible for distributing medications, Grisham said.

JPS officials, citing privacy laws, declined to say whether Lemons' condition was known when she was booked into jail or if she was being administered any medications.

JPS came under harsh criticism in 2005 for failing to provide adequate medical care at Tarrant County jails. A *Star-Telegram* investigation of healthcare conditions at the jails after 10 inmate deaths in 2005 revealed staffing shortages, inadequate supplies, broken and ob-

solete equipment, and patient records, including inmate requests for medical care, in tatters.

A consultant hired by the county found JPS responsible for many of the shortcomings. JPS responded by bolstering staffing and hiring a new medical director.

Lemons was jailed for driving with a suspended license, a Class B misdemeanor, according to court records. She had a court hearing scheduled June 13, the day she died. Court clerks could not be reached late Wednesday for more details.

Woodrome said he had to wait 3 1/2 hours after his sister's death before he was allowed to see her.

"The chaplain told us that it took so long because the doctor wouldn't sign the death certificate, and we were told they were treating it like a crime scene," Woodrome said. "Something is wrong. . . . For that infection to be so widespread throughout her body, she would have been in pain for days. The whole thing is just kind of fishy."

Kerit, 35, an aviation mechanic at Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City,

La., said Lemons left Louisiana in November. He said she called frequently to speak with her son, described by relatives as a short, blond surfer boy who is always happy.

"She called all the time, and he knew exactly who she was when he talked to her," Kent said. "I tried explaining what happened, but he doesn't understand. He knows something was wrong, though, because he was asking me why I was crying."

Lemons, known as Sissy by friends and family, graduated from high school in 1991 and later became a licensed nurse's aide, her brother said. She also has a 16-year-old daughter.

Lemons' body likely will be cremated and placed into two urns, relatives said.

"The plan is to give one to her family and one to her son so he'll have a place to go see his mama," Kent said. "I still wonder how I will tell him when he gets a little older."

Staff writer Andrew Chavez contributed to this report, which includes material from *Star-Telegram* archives.

ANTHONY SPANGLER, 817-390-7420

JPS NETWORK | INMATE CARE

Infection led to jail death, family says

FORT WORTH — After spending 10 days in the Tarrant County Jail, Adrienne Lemons, 35, died hours after being taken to John Peter Smith Hospital on Friday. Authorities are awaiting test results to determine the cause of death. Jail records show she complained of pain. On the day Lemons, of Dallas, was booked in, she told her ex-husband that she wasn't getting antibiotics for an infection. "For that infection to be so widespread throughout her body, she would have been in pain for days. The whole thing is just kind of fishy," the ex-husband said Wednesday.



Lemons

JAIL MEDIA

Web site aims to give perspective of former inmates

The Tarrant County site is one of 37 in the country owned by Jail Media.

By **ANDREW CHAVEZ**
Special to the Star-Telegram

The Tarrant County Jail has a new Web site — or at least the inmates do.

A Utah company has launched a site allowing former inmates to share their jail experiences.

So far, one inmate participated, and that inmate was paid \$20 by the company to get the site off the ground.

The site is one of 37 in the country owned by Jail Media, and traffic is growing across the company's network, said Katie Nielsen, the site's co-founder.

So far, the lone former inmate, identified only as Heidi, discussed the jail's "mystery meat" dining option and mentioned that it's at times difficult to get along with the other inmates.

Nielsen, 23, said the site's intent isn't to "jailbash," however.

"That's just kind of how it naturally happens given the people that contribute to the Web site," she said.

Heidi also gives advice to people who have a loved one in jail.

"Just remember it is only

Sites for Texas jails

Tarrant County Jail:
www.thetarrantcojail.com
Dallas County Jail:
www.dallascojail.com
Harris County Jail:
www.harriscojail.com



Online exclusives

■ **Crime Time:** Want more crime news? Get

your fill at

star-telegram.com/blogs

■ Comment on this report at star-telegram.com/comments

temporary — take the time to reflect and remember this too shall pass," she wrote.

That's the target audience Nielsen said her company's after.

"Our goal was to help people who have been negatively affected by other people's poor decisions," she said.

Much of the information Heidi offers, though, such as phone charges and visitor information, is already available on the jail's official Web site.

Terry Grisham, a spokesman for the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department, which operates the jail, said the department wasn't aware of the site.

TARRANT COUNTY SHERIFF

Anderson injured at home after fall through ceiling

While working in his attic Saturday, Sheriff Dee Anderson fell through the ceiling and landed on his back, a county spokesman said Wednesday. Anderson remains hospitalized.

Anthony Spangler reports, 4B



Anderson

BRIEFS

Sheriff goes home from hospital

FORT WORTH — Tarrant County Sheriff Dee Anderson was released Friday from a hospital where he had been since July 12, when he fell through the ceiling while working in the attic of his home. Anderson, 52, fell on his back and broke several bones, according to Terry Grisham, spokesman for the Sheriff's Department. Anderson will continue to receive rehabilitation treatment. Contrary to earlier reports, Grisham said, Anderson has remained in charge of the department. "Dee is the ultimate decision-maker," Grisham said. "He takes phone calls just like he's at work."

— Aman Batheja

TARRANT COUNTY

Sheriff broke bones after fall through his ceiling

Dee Anderson remained hospitalized on Wednesday.

By **ANTHONY SPANGLER**
aspangler@star-telegram.com

FORT WORTH — Tarrant County Sheriff Dee Anderson remains hospitalized with broken bones he suffered Saturday at his home when he fell through the ceiling while working in the attic, sheriff's spokesman Terry Grisham said Wednesday.

Anderson, 52, fell onto his back and was taken to a Fort Worth hospital Saturday afternoon. He is in good condition and talking with visitors, county officials said.

"He was doing some kind of work on his air conditioner and fell through the ceiling, but he's going to be fine," Grisham said. "In terms of who is running the department, it's not any different than when he goes on vacation or on a business trip."

One of the department's two executive chiefs — Bob Knowles and Mike Johnston — will assume command of the sheriff's department in Anderson's absence.

Anderson's wife, Rebecca, who answered the phone in his hospital room Wednesday, said: "He's resting and trying to get better." She would not elaborate on the extent of his injuries or when he might return to work.

Tarrant County officials directed all inquiries to Grisham.

"We're aware that he had a fall and that he's in the hospital and that his injuries are not life-threatening," Tarrant County spokesman Marc Flake said.

Anderson was hired as a police officer in Arlington in 1980 and later spent 14 years as that department's spokesman.

He was first elected sheriff in 2000 as a Republican and ran unopposed in 2004.

He drew a Republican challenger in this year's primary election in which he defeated Dalworthington Gardens Police Chief Bill Waybourn by a 60 to 40 percent margin. Anderson faces Democratic challenger Hank Pope in November.

Cheers: To the Air Force Color Guard, Tarrant County Sheriff's Posse and deputies, Edgecliff Village Volunteer Fire Department, mayor, aldermen and the families who participated in or watched our July 4 parade. Events like this and willing volunteers are what make Edgecliff Village a great place to live.

— Larry and Mary Matl, Edgecliff Village

HURST

Tarrant County court bailiff fatally injured when car hits motorcycle

Blake George was on his way to his home in Euless when the wreck occurred.

By **DOMINGO RAMIREZ JR.**
ramirez@star-telegram.com

HURST — Just a few weeks ago, Blake George wished his son well as the soldier left for Iraq.

George, a Tarrant County bailiff, beamed with pride, his friends said.



George

But on Tuesday, George's son was back in Euless to help with funeral arrangements for his 40-year-old father, who died Monday night from injuries he suffered

when a car hit his motorcycle on Texas 10 in Hurst.

"Like any other father, he was concerned for his son," said Sharon Thorn-

ton, manager at Westdale Hills Apartments in Euless, where the George family lives. She had known Blake George for three years. "He was such a great father and husband. He certainly will be missed."

The hurt also was felt Tuesday at the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department, where George had worked for 14 years.

"You could see the pain on their faces," Chaplain David Barrett said of the county deputies. "You would be hard-pressed to find anyone to say anything negative about him. He was just a guy with a lot of friends."

Through Barrett, the George family declined to comment Tuesday.

George died at Harris Methodist Fort Worth Hospital a few hours after the collision, which occurred shortly after 4:30 p.m. Monday at Texas 10 and Norwood Drive.

He was riding a motorcycle east on

Texas 10 when he was hit by a Honda Civic as the car attempted to turn left onto Norwood Drive, police said.

"We don't know if she just didn't seem him or what," Hurst Assistant Police Chief Steve Niekamp said Tuesday.

The 19-year-old Fort Worth driver was treated at the scene. Police are still investigating the wreck.

George was a bailiff in Criminal District Court No. 213, a job he had just started July 12. He had worked at various positions in the Sheriff's Department, including labor details, security and courts.

When he wasn't at work, Blake George was an avid fisherman.

"He was known for talking about his fishing," Barrett said.

George is survived by his wife and three children. Funeral arrangements are pending.

DOMINGO RAMIREZ JR., 817-685-3822

Sheriff's deputies mourn longtime colleague

Friends and relatives remembered Tarrant County bailiff Blake George, who died Monday from injuries he suffered

when a car hit his motorcycle on Texas 10 in Hurst. He was 40 and had been with the Tarrant County



George

Sheriff's Department for 14 years. George started a new post July 12 as a bailiff in Criminal District Court No. 213.

Blake Anthony George



EULESS — Blake Anthony George, a Tarrant County Sheriff's Office deputy, passed away Monday, July 28, 2008, in Fort Worth.

SERVICE: 2 p.m. Friday in Biggers Funeral Chapel. Chaplain David Barrett of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office will officiate. Committal with honors: 10:30 a.m. Monday, Aug. 4, in Ard Cemetery in Dardanelle, Ark. Visitation: 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Biggers Funeral Home.

Blake was born July 21, 1968, in Little Rock, Ark., and had lived in Fort Worth for 16 years. He had served with the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office since 1994. He was a beloved and devoted husband, father, son, brother and uncle and a friend to all who knew him.

SURVIVORS: His wife, Louise Fewster George; children, Joshua Rance George of Russellville, Ark., Hailee Danielle George and Alexa Marie George of Euless and Loren and Benjamin Gardner of Layton, Utah; parents, Roy Luther George and wife, Sandy, of Dardanelle, Ark., and Grace L. Byrd and husband, Paul, of Conway, Ark.; siblings, Rhonda Anderson and husband, Laney, of Eagle River, Alaska, James Edward "Jim" George and wife, Rhonda, of Dardanelle, Ark., Kelley Honghiron and husband, Thara, of Russellville, Ark., and Blyss Byrd of Anchorage, Alaska; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Biggers Funeral Home
6100 Azle Ave., 817-237-3341
View and sign guestbook at
www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

Ouida Johnson



BOWIE — Ouida Johnson, a retired lieutenant in the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department, passed away Sunday, July 27, 2008, at age 55.

SERVICE: 10 a.m. Wednesday at First Baptist Church in Post Oak. Interment: Post Oak Cemetery.

Ouida Rose Clark Johnson was born to Anna May and Truman McCallister of Post Oak.

We all love and will miss our sweet mom, Nana, sister, sweetie.

SURVIVORS: She leaves behind her significant other, Keith Harris; sister, Sharon Blevins; brother, Rex McCallister; daughters, Jennifer Whitmire and Angela Burnham; son, Drew Clark; grandchildren, Weston, Sherry Jean, Kaylee Drue, Waylon and Kaden; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Heritage Family Funeral Home
Bowie, 940-872-1144

View and sign guestbook at
www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

In Loving Memory of

Ouida Rose Johnson

*Who Departed this life
July 27, 2008*

*Date of Birth
September 21, 1952*

*Service
10:00 A.M.
Wednesday, July 30, 2008
First Baptist Church
Post Oak, Texas
Officiating
Rev. Ford McAlester
Interment
Post Oak Cemetery*

*Arrangements by
Heritage Family Funeral Home
Bowie, Texas*

**Ouida Johnson
- 2008**



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We all love and will miss our sweet mom, Nana, sister, sweetie.

Survivors: She leaves behind her significant other, Keith Harris; sister, Sharon Blevins; brother, Rex McCallister; daughters, Jennifer Whitmire and Angela Burnham; son, Drew Clark; grandchildren, Weston, Sherry Jean, Kaylee Drue, Waylon and Kaden; and numerous nieces and nephews.

JULY 31, 2008

Melba "Bebo" Jean Owens



FORT WORTH — Melba Jean Owens, 75, beloved wife, sister and mom, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Monday, July 28, 2008.

FUNERAL: 1:30 p.m. Saturday in Greenwood Chapel. Interment: Greenwood Memorial Park. Visitation: 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at Greenwood Funeral Home.

MEMORIALS: In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Humane Society of North Texas, 1840 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth, Texas 76103.

Melba was born June 10, 1933, to Robert W. Haley and Gatsie Clark in Jenkins. In the early 1960s, she moved to Fort Worth, where she met and, in 1970, married her beloved Herschel B. "Chip" Owens. After working 25 years as a deputy, she retired from the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department in 1994.

Melba constantly demonstrated her love of her family and friends through her words and deeds, and each of us cherishes special memories of times spent with her. Stories of her compassion, generosity and quick wit abound and will bring joy and laughter to family and friends for years to come.

She was an avid animal lover who never let any stray go hungry and cared for.

Melba was preceded in death by her parents, Robert "Son" and Gatsie Haley.

The family wishes to express gratitude to numerous wonderful neighbors, friends and the staff at Baylor All Saints and Dr. Richard Penny for their love, support and special care during this difficult time.

SURVIVORS: Devoted husband of 38 years, Herschel "Chip" Owens; sons, Ron Owens and wife, Michelle, of Hurst and Scott Owens and wife, Linda, of Lofton, Okla.; daughter, Stacey Owens of Arlington; brother, Charles Haley and wife, Shirley, of Lone Star and Richard Haley and wife, Jane, of Texarkana; sister, Mickie Henson and husband, Tom, of Corpus Christi; great-aunt, Reba Zarba of Fort Worth; and numerous nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Greenwood Funeral Home

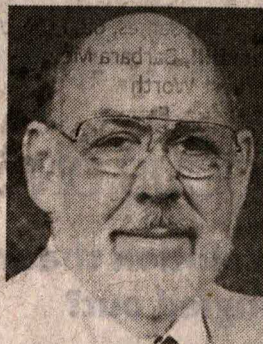
3100 White Settlement Rd., 817-336-0584

View and sign guestbook at

www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

Tuesday, August 12, 2008

William J. McKissick Jr.



FORT WORTH — William J. McKissick Jr., 72, passed away peacefully Sunday, Aug. 10, 2008, in his sleep.

MEMORIAL SERVICE: 1:30 p.m. Wednesday in Greenwood Chapel. Interment: Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery.

MEMORIALS: In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of your choice.

Bill was born July 19, 1936, in Butler, Pa., the only son of Erma and William McKissick. He proudly served his country in Vietnam during 1967 and 1968. After retiring from the Air Force in 1974, Bill joined the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department where he served until 1981. After leaving the Sheriff's Department, Bill went to work for the security department of Bell Helicopter until 1990, at which time he left to become a self-employed contractor. His hobbies included baseball, poker, hunting and fishing, and he was an avid reader.

SURVIVORS: Wife, Valda McKissick; daughters, Debbie Denoma and special friend, Jim Hays, Tracy Switzer and husband, Bryan, Sharon Whitley and husband, Brack; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Greenwood Funeral Home

3100 White Settlement Rd., 817-336-0584

View and sign guestbook at

www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

Floyd -

Thank you so much for your tribute to my wife Melba. Your thoughts were deeply appreciated by our family. She was my best friend for 38 wonderful years and will always be missed.

Chip Owens
on behalf of our children,
grand children and
her brothers + sister,
thanks once again.

TARRANT COUNTY | BUDGET HEARINGS

Commissioners hear pleas for more staffers

By **ANTHONY SPANGLER**
aspangler@star-telegram.com

FORT WORTH — Tarrant County Commissioners heard requests Monday to add spending to the county's proposed \$459 million budget, which includes a quarter-cent tax-rate cut.

Sheriff Dee Anderson, the first department head to testify at the budget hearing, asked for two additional deputies and one sergeant. He said the two deputy slots had been promised to him last year in response to a rising number of 911 calls.

"I would submit to you that we do everything we can do to save money," Anderson said. "It's been a little frustrating this year."

Disappointment was shared by other department heads as they pleaded their cases to commissioners. The proposed 2008-09 budget includes 43 new employees. The county has 4,463 em-

ployees.

"We're trying to cut the tax rate, but you can't do that when everybody keeps asking for more people," County Judge Glen Whitley said.

Commissioners seem united in cutting the tax rate from 26.65 cents to 26.40 cents per \$100 of assessed value, meaning the owner of a \$100,000 home would owe \$264 to the county next year.

District Clerk Tom Wilder asked for four new positions, citing rising court filings.

"The bottom line is: I'm asking you for what I need," he said. "I think I have a track record of squeezing about as tightly as I can."

Whitley said, "You might have to squeeze again."

Commissioners are scheduled to take a final vote on the budget and tax rate on Sept. 16.

ANTHONY SPANGLER,
817-390-7420

CRIME

3 inmates in violent escape attempt

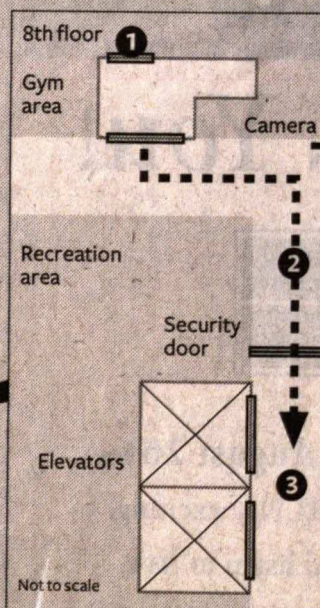
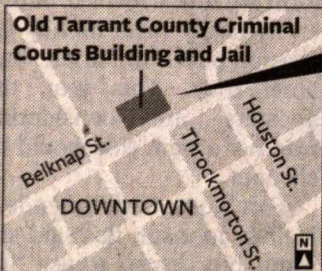
FORT WORTH — In what Sheriff Dee Anderson described as "a pretty violent encounter," three Tarrant County Jail inmates made a break for an elevator from a recreation area on the top floor of the downtown jail Wednesday morning. Two jailers and a maintenance man were injured. The inmates were quickly overpowered by other jailers, a sheriff's spokesman said. All three are accused of violent crimes; one is a defendant in a capital murder case. **Deanna Boyd reports, 5B**



Sheriff's Sgt. Randy Cundiff prepares to reopen the recreation room where the scuffle broke out Wednesday. **STAR-TELEGRAM/RON T. ENNIS**

Attempted escape

1. Three inmates attacked a guard as they entered a gym area.
2. They ran down the hall to the elevators.
3. A jailer and two maintenance men were assaulted as they got off the elevator. Several jailers arrived and subdued the inmates.



TARRANT COUNTY JAIL

3 inmates attack jailers in escape attempt

The inmates, two of whom are accused in slayings, were subdued by other officers who rushed to the scene.

By **DEANNA BOYD**
dboyd@star-telegram.com

FORT WORTH — Three Tarrant County Jail inmates, one armed with a self-made shank, attacked two jailers and two maintenance men Wednesday morning in what sheriff's officials described as an orchestrated, but not well-planned, escape attempt.

The inmates, two of whom are charged in slayings, made it to an elevator before being overtaken by other officers, said Terry Grisham, a Sheriff's Department spokesman.

Grisham said the timing and place of the attack — when the inmates were not handcuffed or shackled and were in the gym — led officials to believe that it was orchestrated.

"A very ill-fated, ill-conceived escape attempt," Grisham said. "Not to mention poorly executed."

One jailer, a woman whose name was not released, underwent tests and X-rays Wednesday afternoon at Harris Methodist Fort Worth Hospital.

The other jailer, 16-year veteran Michael Thompson, and a maintenance man were treated at the hospital and released.

Officials say the inmates involved were housed in single cells, reserved for high-risk offenders.

Erick "Truman" Davila, 21; James Dwayne Edwards, 24; and Herschel Jerome Hurd, 21, will face additional charges that could include aggravated assault on a public servant and attempted escape.

The attack occurred at about 8:30 a.m. in the recreational area on the top floor of the jail at 350 W. Belknap St., above police headquarters.

What happened

Details were sketchy because investigators had not interviewed the two injured jailers.

"Our first interest is in their physical, mental well-being," Sheriff Dee Anderson said. "We have obviously the luxury of the suspects being in custody. They weren't going anywhere before this, and now they're certainly not going anywhere."

Anderson said it appeared that five inmates had been taken to the gym when three of them attacked the two jailers.

"It was a pretty violent encounter obviously," Anderson said. "There was a number of cuts and quite a bit of blood according to people who were there."

During the attack, Grisham said, the inmates demanded answers from the jailers to questions such as "How do I get out of here? Where do these keys go to?"

A shank used in the attack appeared to have been constructed with a metal, wandlike instrument.

"We think it was made out of a piece of allowed property that they use to heat soup and water with," Grisham said.

Officials believe that Thompson was attacked as the inmates were entering the gym. Grisham said the female jailer was believed to have ridden the elevator with Nathan Peters and Charles Tucker, maintenance men who had gone to the eighth floor for supplies.

"The assault was going on when she stepped off the elevator," Grisham said. "They saw her come off the elevator, and they jumped her."

Officials say a swarm of jailers soon arrived and subdued the inmates.

David Phillips, director of facilities management, said Peters suffered a busted nose and had to get stitches. Phillips said he was in good spirits Wednesday and eager to get back to work.

Tucker suffered minor injuries and did not require hospitalization.

"I think they both tried to get in the elevator, and an inmate went in there with them," Phillips said. "They all got in there and wrestled around. These are young, scrapper guys. They're well-fit, and I think they must have held their own."

Security measures

Even if the inmates had made it down the elevator, sheriff's officials said security measures at the jail would have prevented their escape.

"Not only did they not get off the floor they were on, they had absolutely no chance of breathing fresh air," Grisham said. "There were multiple levels of security. Once notified, central security would stop all elevator traffic in the building. Stairwells are locked from the outside."

Anderson said he found no indication that the jailers had done anything wrong.

He said as is routine, the department would look into the incident to determine whether any policies or protocols need to be changed.

Although housed alone in single cells, high-risk offenders must, unless certain exceptions apply, be moved to a day room for one hour a day under state jail standards, Grisham said.

In addition, jail standards require that they leave their cells for recreation and for showers three times a week, he said.

Officials say a new county jail to be built on the site of the county's Muller Building on

West Weatherford Street should help prevent such escape attempts in the future. The jail is expected to open in late 2011.

"What we have begged for the last four years is to increase the number of separation cells — a larger cell where one inmate is kept by himself and included in that enclosure is additional square footage and a shower unit," Grisham said.

With separation cells, several more of which are planned for the new jail, Grisham said day-room and recreational time is not required.

"Now the use of separation cells is a very rare exception and almost a jail management luxury," Grisham said. "When the new jail is built, they will be routinely used for this type of inmate."

"When they're not in those four corners of the cell is when they're the most dangerous."

DEANNA BOYD, 817-390-7655

The inmates

Erick "Truman" Davila, 21, in jail since April, is charged with capital murder in a shooting at a crowded birthday party April 6 that left Annette Stevenson and her 5-year-old granddaughter Queshawn Stevenson dead and four others injured. He is also charged with murder in the unrelated shooting of Darrell Ford, 37, that month.

James Dwayne Edwards, 24, in jail since November on charges of aggravated robbery and evading arrest, also faces a murder charge in the strangulation of a 45-year-old Grand Prairie woman whose remains were found in Arlington last fall.

Herschel Jerome Hurd, 21, is being held on charges involving four aggravated robberies — three in Arlington and one in Fort Worth. He was also charged with unlawful possession of a firearm in Arlington.



Davila



Edwards



Hurd

Thursday, August 21, 2008



Sheriff's Capt. Michael Gravitt closes the door to the jail recreation room where a scuffle broke out early Wednesday.

S-T/RON T. ENNIS

PHONE SCAM

Beware of collect calls from county jail, officials warn

An inmate is accused of perpetrating the scam, which allows free access to others' phone lines.

By **DOMINGO RAMIREZ JR.**
ramirez@star-telegram.com

RICHLAND HILLS — A telephone scam operated by inmates is back.

A Richland Hills business owner was bilked out of more than \$72 in telephone charges last weekend after she became a victim of a scheme called "72" or "72#", in which someone gets free access to a phone line by asking a phone cus-

tomers to forward a call.

Police continued to search Wednesday for a Tarrant County Jail inmate accused of operating the scam on Saturday.

"The owner has managed to stop the process," Richland Hills Detective Tye Bell said. "But inmates apparently do this all the time, and people have to be careful."

The 46-year-old business owner said she got involved only because she thought she was helping an inmate take care of his 2-year-old daughter.

"I wasn't aware that this sort of thing happens," said the woman, who spoke on the condition that her name not be used for fear of retaliation. "I was just trying to help because he talked about his little girl. If he had called asking help for himself, I wouldn't have listened."

The scam

Generally, the scheme involves an inmate calling collect to someone who accepts the call. The inmate asks the person to dial "72" and a telephone number, which for-

wards the call. The charges for these calls are placed on the forwarding customer's account, giving the inmate free telephone calls.

The case

On Aug. 4, an employee of the business owner declined a collect call from the Tarrant County Jail. But on Saturday, the owner accepted a collect call after she heard a man yelling, "Mom, Mom. It's an emergency. Pick up the phone."

"He told me if his mother was there," the woman said. "When I said no, he asked

please call a telephone number to get his mother because his daughter was with him down in jail and he needed someone to take her."

The woman said she promised to make the call.

"When I did, this young woman answered and she didn't know what I was talking about," the victim said. "When I called the jail, I told them what had happened and they said I had been scammed."

With her telephone number, the inmate also opened a separate telephone account so he could call other people, police said.

The investigation

Police determined that the inmate had made about a dozen calls worth about \$75 that were charged to the business owner's telephone number.

But Bell said it may be difficult to prove which inmate made the call because more than two dozen are in areas where the telephones are located.

Terry Grisham, spokesman for the Tarrant County Sher-

iff's Department, said Wednesday that the scam happens from time to time, but that officials are working with a private telephone company to warn people who receive the collect calls that they should be cautious if they are asked to call another telephone number.

"People should just never accept a collect call from a jail unless it's a relative or friend," Grisham said. "Call us first if you want to help somebody."

Telephone tips

Here are ways to avoid fraudulent callers involved in scams called "72#" or "72#".

■ If you doubt the identity of a caller, hang up. Fraudulent callers may misrepresent themselves.

■ Be careful about disclosing personal information over the telephone.

■ Read telephone bills carefully and make sure you are charged only for calls you make.

■ Contact your telephone company and ask about your account if you find calls that you did not make.

Source: Area telephone companies

DOMINGO RAMIREZ JR.,
817-685-3822

ARCHITECTURE

New county jail to have classic Fort Worth look

Designers of Tarrant County's new jail say the five-story building will have a brick and stone facade that "won't look like a jail." Instead, it will resemble the architecture of classic Fort Worth buildings. The \$96 million project on West Weatherford Street will add 445 maximum-security beds. The cost will be \$6 million less than earlier estimates.

Anthony Spangler reports, 1B

Jail: Groundbreaking hoped for fall 2009

CONTINUED FROM 1B

that resembles buildings such as the Texas & Pacific Terminal and the tower at Will Rogers Memorial Center.

The new jail will be built on the lot now occupied by the Muller Building, which has been used for records storage and as an early-voting site.

"It is a building that is not intimidating and makes it a good neighbor for downtown, fitting into the downtown fabric," said Randy Gideon, principal partner with the architecture and planning firm. "We wanted to maintain the scale appropriate for our neighbors."

Commissioners, who unanimously approved the design plans and proposed project budget Tuesday, said they were pleased that the plans add more jail beds and that the project's cost is below earlier estimates, especially given the rising cost of construction materials in recent years.

Exterior

The building will be on a sloping lot nearly the same size as the county's family courts building. The main entrance will be off Weatherford Street, and a sky bridge across Burnett Street will connect the jail with the existing 13-level corrections center. Cells won't have outside windows; there will be a buffer space between the building exterior and the cells for utility and maintenance workers.

Interior

The 195,850-square-foot building will provide 445 maximum-security beds, a new kitchen, visiting areas and a medical infirmary, which will be connected to the old jail's infirmary by sky bridge. The new jail will allow the Sheriff's Department to segregate male and female inmates in separate infirmaries. The sky bridge is expected to increase medical staffers' efficiency.

Cost and schedule

The total cost of the proposed project is \$96,155,023. The 2006 bond program also included the cost of moving the Sheriff's Department's administrative offices, which will be about \$6 million — putting the total cost about \$6 million below the \$108 million approved by voters. The county will begin accepting construction bids next summer, with groundbreaking targeted for fall 2009.

ANTHONY SPANGLER, 817-390-7420

COMMISSIONERS

Officials get 3 percent pay raises

By ANTHONY SPANGLER
aspangler@star-telegram.com

FORT WORTH — Bob Knowles doesn't mind doing extra work for next year's pay raise.

But the chief of the Tarrant County Jail's operations was surprised to learn Tuesday that he will earn more money than his boss, Sheriff Dee Anderson. "It bothers me," Knowles said. "I don't think it is fair that I make more than the man who has to oversee the entire department and who is accountable for the entire department."

Knowles, who has worked for Tarrant County for nearly eight years, worked for the Dallas County Jail system for 26 years. His tenure and experience will help bring his salary next year to about \$141,000. Anderson will earn about \$139,000 next year.

County officials said Tuesday that they did not realize that Knowles' salary had crept above that of his boss. Knowles' position is evaluated by a county human resources committee, whereas the sheriff's salary is bumped up periodically, along with those of other county elected officials, to ensure that elected officials' salaries are higher than those of the employees they directly supervise. Tarrant County's top elected officials' salaries are lower than those in larger counties but higher than those in smaller counties.

Elected officials' salaries were open to a public hearing Tuesday, but there was no public comment. Commissioners then approved the new salaries, which include 3 percent raises.

Anderson said he is not concerned that he will make less money than his jail chief. "The day I'm doing this for the money is the day that something is wrong," he said. "The county just has to be careful to prevent this kind of thing from happening."

ANTHONY SPANGLER, 817-390-7420

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

George Robert Patton



FORT WORTH — George Robert Patton, 56, passed away Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008, at a Fort Worth medical center.

FUNERAL: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday in Callaway-Allee Memorial Chapel, the Rev. Ray Patton officiating. Military graveside services will follow in Conner Cemetery.

MEMORIALS: In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department, 100 East Weatherford St., Fort Worth, Texas 76196.

George was born Jan. 1, 1952, in Clute and had resided in Fort Worth for 15 years. He proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps and was currently employed by the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department. George will be greatly missed by all.

George was loved and cherished by all of his family and friends. He was known as a man who always had a smile on his face and always a willingness to help others. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lewis and Oma Lee Patton.

SURVIVORS: Sister, Kay Preuss of Arcola; brothers, Kenneth Patton and wife, Sylvia, of Fulshear, Tommy Patton and wife, Linda, of Rosharon, and their extended families; numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives; and a host of friends who cherished him.

Callaway-Allee Funeral Home
Crockett, 936-544-2244

View and sign guestbook at www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

TARRANT COUNTY | MEDICAL CARE IN CUSTODY

Jail death might have been prevented, doctors say

abscess was healed and that they were unaware of the prescription.

Sheriff Dee Anderson said he remains concerned about medical care in the jail: "I think every case where a fatality is involved is a red flag for all of us."

Staff writer Anthony Spangler reports, 1B

Deaths in custody

■ Six inmates, in their 30s or 40s, died while in the custody of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department during the 12 months ending in April. 8B

■ **What do you think?** Post a comment on this report at star-telegram.com/comments

Timeline of Lemons' illness

Adrienne Lemons, 35, was arrested in Dallas County on an Arlington warrant on a charge of driving with a suspended license.

■ May 30: Lemons is taken into custody at the Dallas County Jail.

■ May 30: Lemons is evaluated by Dallas County medical staffers. She is treated for an abscess under her arm and prescribed a 10-day supply of an antibiotic and a drug that helps prevent antibiotic-resistant infections.

■ June 3: Dallas County medical staffers note Lemons' abscess and her prescriptions on a state-mandated form.

■ June 3: Lemons is transferred to the Tarrant County Jail.

■ June 3: JPS Health Network staffers evaluate Lemons and determine that her abscess is healed, but she does not continue to receive the antibiotics.

■ June 10: Lemons complains to jail staffers that she hurt her shoulder. JPS doctors evaluate her injury and prescribe Motrin, a pain reliever. Her vital signs are reported as normal.

■ June 11: Lemons is seen by a specialist for her shoulder injury. Her vital signs remain normal.

■ June 11: Lemons threatens to harm herself because of the severe pain and is moved to solitary confinement for closer observation.

■ June 13, 7:44 a.m.: Lemons walks to the jail medical ward as her vital signs begin to decline.

■ June 13, 8:13 a.m.: Lemons is taken by ambulance to John Peter Smith Hospital.

■ June 13, 7:15 p.m.: Lemons dies.

■ Sept. 14: Tarrant County Medical Examiner Nizam Peerwani rules that Lemons died of "flesh-eating" pneumonia with septic shock caused by an antibiotic-resistant staph infection.



Lemons

The death of a woman in the Tarrant County Jail on traffic warrants might have been prevented had she received antibiotics prescribed for her, doctors say.

Adrienne Lemons, 35, died June 13 as the result of an antibiotic-resistant staph infection that caused "flesh-eating" pneu-

monia, the medical examiner has ruled.

While in the Dallas County Jail, she was treated for an abscess with an aggressive antibiotic regimen. But after her transfer to Tarrant, she didn't get the antibiotics. The JPS Health Network staff members who provide care at the jail said that her

Death: Woman, 35, was not given medicine prescribed at Dallas jail

Prescriptions not given

to prisoner

JPS officials say they had no reason to suspect that the woman was infected, and they deny seeing the health status form sent by Dallas County listing her prescriptions.

By ANTHONY SPANGLER
aspangler@star-telegram.com

FORT WORTH — When Adrienne Lemons was transferred from a Dallas jail to the Tarrant County Jail, records show that she told jailers here that she had a staph infection under her arm.

Lemons had been started on an aggressive combination of drugs designed to knock out staph infections, even those that are resistant to com-

monly prescribed antibiotics, according to a legally required health form accompanying her from Dallas.

But the JPS Health Network staff at the Tarrant County Jail concluded the day Lemons was transferred that the abscess was healed, and she did not. Prosecutors have built a circumstantial case against Hartsfield to try to tie him to the Kilgore KFC store from where the five victims were taken the night of Sept. 23, 1983. They were found shot to death the next morning about 15 miles away along a rural oil-field road near Henderson.

Killed were David Maxwell, 20; Mary Tyler, 37; Opie Ann Hughes, 39; Joey Johnson, 20; and Monte Landers, 19. All but Landers worked at the restaurant about 25 miles east of Tyler and 115 miles east of Dallas. Landers was a friend of Maxwell and Johnson and was visiting them as the restaurant was closing for the night.

Hartsfield is on trial almost a year after his cousin, Romeo Pinkerton, took a plea bargain midway through his own trial, agreeing to five life prison terms.

DNA tests on blood from a box found at the restaurant identified Hartsfield as being there, according to testimony. Defense lawyers have questioned the reliability

of evidence taken from the crime scene and have challenged whether the evidence was kept secure over the years.

Among the final prosecution witnesses Thursday was former Rusk County District Attorney Kyle Freeman, who related earlier grand jury testimony from Hartsfield in which Hartsfield said he and Pinkerton were cousins and occasionally did things together.

"There is no indication in medical records that she arrived with a prescription or the medications Bactrim or Rifampin from the Dallas County Jail," wrote Dr. Jay Haynes, JPS medical director. "Ms. Lemons never indicated to our medical personnel that she was still taking this medication or whether she was to continue it."

Tarrant County Medical Examiner Nizam Peerwani's inquest into Lemons' death called the infection "rapid and catastrophic." Autopsy results show that the toxins raging in her lungs developed what is referred to as a "flesh-eating" pneumonia and septic shock, which was compounded by her rapidly declining level of white blood cells that are necessary to fight infections.

"I don't delve into the practice of clinical medicine. Whether her death was because of negligence on the part of the medical care that was provided, those are clinical aspects and I think those should be answered by a clinician," Peerwani said. "These infections can take hold pretty rapidly. I have seen other cases in which septic shock sets in within 24 hours."

Requests for attention

Relatives say that Lemons had complained to them more than a week before her death, via telephone calls, that she was not getting antibiotics she was prescribed.

Lemons' pain became so severe that she threatened to cut her wrists, according to jail documents.

Lemons — a 35-year-old mother of two who was arrested in Dallas County on an Arlington warrant for driving with a suspended license — died 10 days later of "flesh-eating" pneumonia caused by an antibiotic-resistant infection, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, or MRSA.

At the Dallas jail, Lemons was prescribed the antibiotic Bactrim DS and Rifampin, a drug that helps prevent the development of MRSA.

Doctors say Lemons' death might have been prevented had she taken the entire 10 days of pills, a portion of which she received during her four-day stay in the Dallas jail. Not completing prescribed antibiotics can leave bacteria intact, a person may become sick again and the remaining infection could become resistant to antibiotics, according to the federal Food and Drug Administration.

JPS officials said they had no reason to suspect that she was infected. They deny seeing the health status form sent by Dallas County listing the prescriptions, according to an e-mail response late Thursday to questions submitted in writing the previous day. JPS officials would not say what their protocols are when an inmate arrives for a jail medical screening without the health status form, which is required by state law for jail transfers and can alert medical personnel to potentially infectious diseases.

"We've been left not knowing whether it [her death] could have been prevented, and it just tears you up," said Lemons' brother, Danny Branson, 31, of Carrollton. "There's not a day that goes by that I [don't] think about it once or twice."

Dallas medical staff prescribed medications to treat her abscess.

"We did not send the antibiotics with her when she was transported because the move occurred at 4 a.m. and our pharmacy folks are not available at that time," said Kim Leach, a spokeswoman for the Dallas County Sheriff's Department. "That's why they sent the form indicating she needed to continue those meds."

Lemons filed four requests for medical attention, called kites, at the Tarrant County Jail, but she did not raise concerns about the infection or the antibiotics in those written requests, according to records obtained by the *Star-Telegram*. Two requests were related to trouble sleeping and a hernia.

On June 10, she wrote that she hurt her shoulder and that painkillers weren't helping. "Pain is too severe. Need X-rays or hospitalization."

The same day she wrote in a separate kite, "Hurt my shoulder very bad. Pulled out of socket or dislocated. Major PAIN! Cannot sleep [because] of pain." A doctor's appointment was scheduled for her.

Dr. Alan Byrd, who oversees JPS medical care at the county's jails, treated Lemons on June 11.

"When I saw her, I was treating her for a strained shoulder," he said. "There was no indication that she was sick, because her vital signs were normal."

Byrd said that she walked a quarter of a mile through an underground jail tunnel the next day to see an orthopedic doctor and to get her shoulder X-rayed.

"I would think that if the infection was affecting her that she would at least have been winded or that she would have been short of breath," he said. "I don't know that we could have done anything any differently."

She died the next day, after being taken by ambulance to the emergency room at John Peter Smith Hospital.

JPS physicians said they did not give Lemons any antibiotics until after she arrived at the hospital.

"I don't see that she got any antibiotics when she was incarcerated in Tarrant County," Haynes said. "It looks like she had completed her treatment with the antibiotics."

'More common scenario'

Dr. William Goins, an infectious disease expert and assistant professor at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, said it would be difficult for a physician to link Lemons' shoulder pain to the infection if her vital signs were normal.

"But her recent history of infection should raise suspicions that the shoulder pain is due to a reoccurrence of the infection or that the infection was never eliminated," he said.

Goins also said that the medications she was prescribed would likely have knocked out the infection.

"Community-acquired staph infections, even MRSA, usually respond to the antibiotic she was prescribed, especially in combination with the Rifampin," he said.

Dr. Daniel Casey, the JPS physician who treated Lemons at the JPS emergency department, said he was unaware that Lemons was prescribed Bactrim and Rifampin while she was in the Dallas County Jail.

"It could have made a difference; there is no question that someone should complete their regimen of antibiotics," he said. "But she also could have picked up an infection while she was in the jail here."

Casey also said that had the infection entered her bloodstream, his recommended treatment would be intravenous antibiotics for four to six weeks.

JPS physicians speculate that Lemons fought the infection, with no outward symptoms, until it became fatal.

"It's scary how quickly this infection affected her," Casey said. "We gave her antibiotics, but the toxins in her system were just overwhelming."

He said blood tests completed the day after Lemons' death revealed that she had MRSA.

Peerwani did not issue a ruling in Lemons' case until this week because JPS had not provided records that he requested immediately after her death.

Lemons had a history of depression, and drug and alcohol abuse, according to information she gave jail officials.

Penicillin-resistant infections can occur in healthy people, but intravenous drug users are among those at high risk, said Dr. Greg Moran, a professor at the UCLA School of Medicine. For hospitals, identifying such infections sometimes takes days waiting for test results, meaning doctors must decide whether the patient is at high risk for the infection.

"This is becoming a more common scenario," Moran said. "There are increasing reports now of bad pneumonias with very high mortalities caused by these strains of ... [bacteria] that are going around the community."

JPS oversight

Healthcare at the Tarrant jail was the focus of sharp criticism in 2004 by consultants hired by the county at the behest of Sheriff Dee Anderson. Among the deficiencies they found was that inmates could not count on receiving life-sustaining drugs. That study found that JPS was culpable for many of the problems.

A *Star-Telegram* investigation in 2005, examining the deaths of 10 inmates, found that JPS officials had overlooked numerous signs of a medical crisis at the jail. Some of the inmates who died, as well as other inmates, had not received appropriate medications.

JPS employees at the jail complained that prescriptions went unfilled and medications that were ordered weren't always provided to patients.

David Cecero, then the chief executive officer of JPS, said that the county health-care system had been well on its way to correcting many of the problems by early 2005, and was increasing its correctional budget by millions of

dollars to add staffers and equipment. Even after that, some inmates continued to say they couldn't get medicines, and JPS received anonymous letters from people who said they worked on the jail medical staff citing numerous concerns, including inmates going weeks without medications.

Anderson said he is working with JPS' interim administration to improve healthcare issues in the jail. But he said problems remain.

"I think every case where a fatality is involved is a red flag for all us and is an opportunity to look at what could have been done differently," he said. "This is a grave concern for all of us. It certainly is not taken lightly by anyone."

Staff writer Darren Barbee contributed to this report.

ANTHONY SPANGLER, 817-390-7420

Over 12-month span, 6 died while in custody

All of the inmates were in their 30s or 40s.

By **DARREN BARBEE** dbarbee@star-telegram.com

They were accused of violence, robbery, burglary and theft. Six inmates, in their 30s or 40s, spent their last days of life in the custody of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department. During the 12-month period ending in April, four died of heart ailments, one of a blood clot and another of toxic shock.

It's not clear from state and local records when they were last checked or what medical care they received at the jail.

James Monte Green, 44, died at 5:15 a.m. March 28. The day before, Green was transferred



Green

from North Texas State Hospital, a mental health facility, to the jail at 100 N. Lamar St. At 4:35 a.m. the day he died, an officer saw Green facedown on the floor of his cell, his head near the door, a pool of blood by his feet. An emergency medical code was called, and lifesaving procedures were started. The Fort Worth Fire Department arrived at 5:02 a.m. and took over CPR. Green was pronounced dead 13 minutes later. The medical examiner ruled the cause as sudden death due to hypertensive atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease. Green, of Fort Worth, had been charged

with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, according to Sheriff's Department records.

John L. Fain, 44, died Feb. 9. At about 4:20 p.m., an officer went to the gym area after inmates began to yell and pound



Fain

on a window. The officer looked in the gym and saw Fain sitting on the ground, leaning against the wall. An inmate yelled, "He's not breathing!" The officer called an emergency medical code while another inmate began CPR. An ambulance left for John Peter Smith Hospital at about 5 p.m. Fain was pronounced dead at 5:20 p.m. at JPS. The medical examiner ruled the cause as sudden death due to ischemic

heart disease. Charges against Fain, of North Richland Hills, included robbery, aggravated robbery and possession of marijuana, records show.

Santana Marquice Smith, 34, died Oct. 26. An officer entered his cell to check on him when he did not respond to a call for



Smith

breakfast. The officer shook Smith's legs, checked for a pulse and lifted the inmate's eyelid without getting any response. Jail medical staffers arrived about two minutes later. The medical examiner determined that Smith died of hypertensive heart disease with congestive heart failure. Smith, of Fort Worth, had been convicted of unlawful possession of a firearm, according to Sheriff's Department records.

Steve Labronge Moore, 37, died Aug. 21, 2007. At 4:55 a.m., an officer heard Moore call out for help. The officer and a nurse responded, and an emergency code was called three minutes later. MedStar ambulance personnel took over CPR at 5:15



Moore

a.m. Moore was pronounced dead at 6 a.m. at JPS. The medical examiner ruled the cause a massive pulmonary thromboembolization, or blood clot. Moore, of Arlington, had been convicted of theft of property under \$1,500, records show.

Barbara Ann Wheaton, also known as Barbara Langston, 49, died July 30, 2007. Wheaton was taken to JPS after jail medical staffers found it difficult to take her vital signs. The medical



Wheaton

examiner had no record of an autopsy for Wheaton, who spent two days at JPS before dying. A Sheriff's Department spokesman said that the sheriff asks for autopsies on all inmate deaths but that the medical examiner has final discretion on whether to perform the examination. A custodial death report submitted to the Texas attorney general's office lists her manner of death as "cardiac arrest, toxic

shock syndrome." Wheaton, of Fort Worth, had been charged with burglary of a habitation, records show.

Steve Robledo, 39, died May 12, 2007. At 6:27 a.m., an inmate activated an emergency intercom. Officers found Robledo breathing hard and complaining of chest pains. Medical staffers took Robledo to the medical



Robledo

station for treatment before deciding that he needed to go to JPS. In the ambulance, Robledo stopped breathing. An EMT and a jail officer revived him. He then stopped breathing again, and a defibrillator was used to shock him several times. At 7:17 a.m. the ambulance departed for JPS, where Robledo was pronounced dead at 7:55 a.m. The medical examiner ruled the cause as sudden cardiac death due to atherosclerotic coronary artery disease. Robledo, of Fort Worth, had been convicted of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, records show.

DARREN BARBEE, 817-390-7126

LAW ENFORCEMENT

15 held, 300 eight-liners seized in raid on illegal gambling

By **BILL MILLER**
wmiller@star-telegram.com

Tarrant County sheriff's deputies arrested 15 people and seized 300 eight-liner gaming machines early Friday in what they called their largest raid ever on illegal gambling sites.

The raid began about 3:30 a.m. at five game rooms within walking distance of each other on Jacksboro Highway in a peninsula that juts into Lake Worth between the cities of Lakeside and Lake Worth.

Deputies also seized an estimated \$40,000 in cash, Chief Deputy Mike Simonds said.

Eight-liner machines are not illegal as long as they award noncash prizes worth no more than \$5 or 10 times the "wager," whichever is less, Terry Grisham, the sheriff's spokesman, said in a news release.

But game-room operators break the law by paying cash awards, Grisham said.

"All five of these locations paid cash out to their customers as they win playing these slot machines," Simonds said. "They may claim ignorance of the law, but they know exactly what they're doing."

"One reason it's so obvious is that they restrict admittance to individuals they know and who have memberships. They're trying to keep police out."

About 40 deputies participated in the raids,



James Sanders moves a gaming machine out of Pot of Gold, a business in the 7600 block of Jacksboro Highway, one of five that police raided. S-T/IAN McVEA

Simonds said. The eight-liners were towed away.

The game rooms are the O.K. Arcade, the Pot of Gold, the I Don't Care, the Beach House and Southern Gold.

A few people were arrested on suspicion of illegally operating the eight-liners, a misdemeanor offense punishable by fines and jail time, Simonds said.

However, most were arrested for outstanding warrants.

BILL MILLER, 817-390-7684

Jim Glenn

FORT WORTH — Jim Glenn, 63, beloved dad and grandfather, passed away Friday, Oct. 17, 2008.

MEMORIAL SERVICE: 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at Fellowship of the Parks Church, 9900 N. Beach St., Keller.

Jim graduated from Texas Wesleyan with a B.S. degree in criminal science. He was a member of the Fort Worth Police Department for 18 years, and was a criminal investigator for the Tarrant County D.A.'s office.

He was a member of the Masonic Lodge.

SURVIVORS: Daughters, Dorene Payne and husband Bill, and Daneen Hall; son, Richard Hale and wife, Jennifer; and grandchildren, Kaylee, Kyn-dal, Luke and Demi.

Greenwood Funeral Home

3100 White Settlement Rd., 817-336-0584

View and sign guestbook at

www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

VOTERS GUIDE

Sunday, October 19, 2008

Sheriff

The sheriff serves a four-year term. The job pays \$135,189.08 annually and comes with a county-owned car.

Dee Anderson-R (i)



Age: 52, Kennedale
Occupation: Tarrant County sheriff
E-mail: deebanderson@sbcglobal.net
Background: An-

derson attended Tarrant County Junior College and the University of Texas at Austin, majoring in journalism. He served as an Arlington police officer from 1980-2000, working in patrol, field training and accident investigation, and graduated from the Arlington Police Department Tactical School. He was the media relations coordinator for the Arlington Police Department from 1986-2000. Anderson co-founded the Amber Plan, a system for missing or abducted children and missing senior citizens.

Did you know:

- Anderson has been a high school football referee, with Fort Worth Football Officials, since 1983.
- He has worked the instant-replay booth for the Mountain West Conference and Western Athletic Conference since 2007.
- He is a volunteer at Kennedale schools.
- Anderson worked as a freelance journalist and full time for the Daily Texan at UT, the Fort Worth Press and the Arlington Daily News.

Hank Pope-D



Age: 58, Saginaw
Occupation: Senior detective for University of Texas at Arlington
E-mail: hank-pope4sheriff@aol.com

Background:

- Senior detective for UT-Arlington since 2006
- Chief deputy, Tarrant County Sheriff's Department, 2000-05
- Executive chief deputy, Sheriff's Department, 1993-2000
- Patrol officer, detective and member of gang task force for Arlington police, 1986-93
- Patrol officer, sergeant, lieutenant and assistant police chief, Haltom City Police Department, 1977-87
- Member of Tarrant County Historical Commission since 1996

Did you know:

- Pope says he has more than four times as many training hours logged with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Education as his opponent.
- He is endorsed by the Tarrant County Law Enforcement Association, which represents deputies and jailers at the Sheriff's Department.
- He is also endorsed by the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas.

PARKER COUNTY

Tarrant deputy investigated in incident

He is alleged to have shot into the radiator as 2 men and a boy, 4, sat in a pickup.

By ANDREW CHAVEZ
Special to the Star-Telegram

A Tarrant County sheriff's deputy is under investigation in Parker County after he fired two shots into a pickup truck's radiator as two men and a 4-year-old sat inside, according to sheriff's deputies.

Clifton Paul O'Flaherty is on administrative leave pending an internal investigation by the Tarrant County Sheriff's

Department, sheriff's spokesman Terry Grisham said.

Parker County deputies said they believe that the altercation stemmed from an incident on Oct. 14, when O'Flaherty reported prowlers in the neighborhood to Parker County authorities and requested additional patrols near his home, according to a statement Thursday from the Parker County Sheriff's Department.

Deputies were called back to the home Tuesday by a woman who lives with the

deputy, because the men were trying to get her to answer the door.

The woman, who authorities said is disabled, also called the deputy, who cares for her at the home, according to the Parker County Sheriff's Department.

O'Flaherty told Parker County officials that shortly after he got home, the two men came back. He tried to detain them for Parker County authorities, according to the statement.

"As the driver of the truck

attempted to leave the property, the Tarrant Deputy stated that he discharged two rounds into the truck's radiator, disabling the vehicle," the department wrote in a statement.

No one was injured in the shooting, and no one has been detained.

The men told deputies that they had approached the house to try to get business for their tree-trimming service and that they visited the home Oct. 14 to seek baby-sitting services from the woman.

Parker County officials didn't release the names of the two men involved in the shooting but did say they both had lengthy criminal histories.

Parker County investigators are handling the criminal investigation, Grisham said. They will present the case to the district attorney's office, according to the statement.

O'Flaherty has worked for the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department for 14 years during three periods dating to 1985, Grisham said.

TARRANT COUNTY

Sheriff, challenger offer views on running agency

Candidates for Tarrant County sheriff share their thoughts on how to run the department best.

By ANTHONY SPANGLER
aspangler@star-telegram.com

FORT WORTH — Voters will decide whether to approve a third four-year term for Tarrant County Sheriff Dee Anderson, a Republican, or elect one of two challengers: Demo-

crat Hank Pope, a former Sheriff's Department assistant chief, and Libertarian Charles Hibbler III, a metal works designer who ran unsuccessfully for Fort Worth mayor in 2007.

The sheriff oversees 1,370 employees, or nearly one-

third of the county's work force, and a \$99.7 million budget. The agency has several departments such as patrol, investigations, warrants and confinement. The most significant duty is operating the county's jails.

The job pays \$139,244 annually and comes with an assigned vehicle.

What can the sheriff do to help control the jail population?

Anderson: "Each day my staff literally goes over our jail roster name by name, looking for those who can be transferred, who are eligible for release, who have posted bond, etc. It requires constant vigilance but it helps move people out of our jail system who no longer need to be here. Beyond that, the excellent working relationship we have with our criminal judges and county staff make for a great team approach. We have been very successful and remain one of the few large counties in Texas to avoid serious overcrowding issues."

Pope: "Alternative sentencing such as the labor detail and weekend confinement can help to keep down the jail population and keep heads of household providing for their families. While these programs originate out of the courts, the sheriff can keep them working efficiently by staffing them with employees who understand and support the process. The intake and release sections of the jail must also be staffed with team players working toward a common goal of processing individuals through to the best of their ability, another factor crucial to the retention of employees."

There were no public candidate forums this year for the sheriff's race, so the *Star-Telegram* posed questions to the hopefuls. Hibbler could not be reached, but Anderson and Pope responded.

How can you best improve the Sheriff's Department while remaining fiscally responsible to the taxpayers?

Anderson: "We will continue to manage each area of the department with an eye on effective scheduling, and cost management at all levels. Managers are accountable for their budgets and held to strict standards for overtime. In every area we look to provide the best service at the best possible price. I am proud of the record we have accomplished in so many of the fiscal areas. The year before I took over, the jail alone spent \$2.1 million in overtime. The last two years, under my guidance, we are



Anderson

Pope

running the jail on less than \$10,000 overtime."

Pope: "The employees are the department's greatest asset. They need a safe, pleasant working environment, and they need training and the resources to perform the task on a day-to-day basis effectively and efficiently. This can all be accomplished by working within the existing budget providing administrative support from first-line supervision, mid-management and all levels of supervision."

What level of pay raises is appropriate for deputies and jailers, or are they paid adequately?

Anderson: "This is a tough issue that varies from year to

Online extra
For complete political coverage, go to star-telegram.com/elections

year. The economy, the tax rate and comparisons to other agencies all figure in to what makes for a fair, equitable raise. I fully support keeping our salaries competitive with those agencies which we compete against for employees, whether jail personnel or peace officers. Our deputies have received raises each year of my administration. The excellent working relationship we have established with the Tarrant County Commissioner's Court has proved valuable in negotiations of all kinds."

Pope: "Annual surveys or studies should be performed on Metroplex area departments and salaries should remain in line with these. Retention is important to the sheriffs' office, the cost of training and outfitting new employees is one of the greatest expenses to the taxpayers of Tarrant County."

ANTHONY SPANGLER, 817-390-7420

TARRANT COUNTY

Third term as sheriff looks likely for Dee Anderson

Sarah Lee Anderson



Tues

FORT WORTH — Sarah Lee Anderson, 51, a retired Tarrant County deputy sheriff, passed away Sunday, Nov. 2, 2008.

FUNERAL: 11 a.m. Thursday at First Missionary Baptist Church, with the Rev. Gene Peyton officiating. Interment: Cedar Hill Memorial Park. Visitation: Noon to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at Morris-Bates Mortuary, with family hour 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

SURVIVORS: Children, LaToya Anderson and Nicole Selmon; mother, Alma Jean Dennis; stepfather, Herman Dennis; sisters, Lenoa Broughton, Jessie Wilburn and Michelle Lee; brothers, James III (Diane), John and Larry Lee (Michelle); grandchildren, Kennedy Anderson and Jakobie Hughes; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Morris-Bates Mortuary
1700 Evans Ave., 817-926-6263
View and sign guestbook at
www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

By **BILL HANNA**
billhanna@star-telegram.com

While Democrats were making big gains nationally, local Republicans were running strong Tuesday in Tarrant County races.

Tarrant County Sheriff Dee Anderson appeared to be on his way to an easy victory against two challengers in unofficial results with 20 percent of precincts reporting.

Anderson, a Republican, was leading with 55.2 percent to 42.2 percent over Hank Pope, a Democrat and former executive chief deputy of the Sheriff's Department. Libertarian Charles Hibbler had 2.5 percent of the vote.

Anderson, a former Arlington police spokesman, was seeking his third term as sheriff.

"With all of the big push coming



Anderson

from the very top of the ticket, I felt like Tarrant County Republicans would hold," Anderson said Tuesday night.



Fickes

Pope, a Saginaw resident, is a senior detective at the University of Texas at Arlington. He contended that he was the more qualified candidate. Hibbler did not respond to the *Star-Telegram's*

request for information.

Precinct 3 commissioner race

In the Tarrant County commissioner Precinct 3 race, incumbent Gary Fickes of Southlake had 64.8 percent

of the vote to Democratic challenger Jerry Lee Phillips' 32.1 percent and Libertarian candidate Mark F. Frohman's 3.1 percent.

"I think probably the main thing is I stuck with my plan and talked about issues, like traffic congestion and economic development and so did my opponent," Fickes said.

"I think that speaks to the character of both candidates that we managed to keep it out of the gutter and talk about the issues," Fickes said

Judicial races

In the 17th District judge race, Republican Melody Wilkinson led 55.5 percent to 45.1 percent over Democrat Randy Turner. Wilkinson was immediate past president of the Tarrant County Bar Association. Turner is co-founder of the Russell and

Turner law firm.

The 67th District judge race pitted Republican incumbent Don Cosby against Democratic challenger Warren H. Gould. Cosby, with 54.7 percent of the vote, was ahead of Gould, who had 45.3 percent.

Cosby was the highest-rated judge in a 2008 Tarrant County Bar Association poll.

Gould had represented disabled people before the Social Security Administration for 25 years and was worried that many people had been priced out of the legal system.

In the Criminal District Court No. 2 district judge race, incumbent Wayne Salvant, a Republican, had 54 percent to Democratic challenger Maureen Tolbert's 46 percent.

BILL HANNA, 817-390-7698

TARRANT COUNTY

Fast-acting sheriff saves choking woman at eatery

By ANTHONY SPANGLER
aspangler@star-telegram.com

FORT WORTH — Sheriff Dee Anderson heard the cry for help while eating lunch and spotted an elderly woman in distress nearby.

A younger woman with her was screaming for help and asked whether anyone in the Old Neighborhood Grill knew CPR.

"I could tell she was clutching her chest and throat," Anderson said. "I



Anderson

tried to get her to cough. Time is a weird kind of thing in these situations. I don't know how much time passed, but she still couldn't breathe. Then I noticed a panicked look on her face."

Anderson, who received lifesaving training as a police officer, used the Heimlich maneuver, which helps

force objects out of the airway.

"She was kind of a small woman, and I'm a pretty big guy, so I got the spot where I think you've got to be and pushed real easy," he said. "Then I waited a second and I kind of felt her go limp . . . then I really cranked on it. A piece of chicken-fried steak came flying out on the table."

A Tarrant County assistant district attorney who was eating lunch with Anderson had called 911 but called

off emergency responders when the woman said she would be all right.

The restaurant's owner, Peter Schroder, called Anderson a hero.

"The lady said she was thrilled that she put the sheriff to work," he said.

Assistant District Attorney Steve Sparks said he was surprised at how quickly Anderson responded.

"Without any hesitation, he ran to her aid," he said. Sparks regrets that

no one got the woman's name.

Anderson said it is only the second time he has used the lifesaving technique on a choking person.

"You practice it a lot in CPR training, and the only other time was many years ago when my mother was choking on a potato chip," he said. "I certainly would have yielded to a doctor, fireman or paramedic."

ANTHONY SPANGLER, 817-390-7420

Friday, December 5, 2008

TARRANT COUNTY

Jail design wins initial approval from review board

By SANDRA BAKER
sabaker@star-telegram.com

FORT WORTH — The Downtown Design Review Board on Thursday gave an initial nod to the architectural-concept design of Tarrant County's planned \$96 million jail but asked the project's architecture firm to redesign the sky bridge that will connect the new jail to the existing jail across Burnett Street.

As currently drawn, the sky bridge is mostly an understated smooth metal structure with small windows at the top. It will be used to transport inmates between the buildings at the fourth-floor level.

In the past, the board has strongly discouraged the use of sky bridges. Although board members acknowledged why a sky bridge is needed in this project and the safety issues that surround it, they asked that it at least complement the classic design of the new building. Construction could begin next year on the five-story jail, at the northwest corner of Burnett and Weatherford streets.


The board will again review the project when construction documents are 50 percent completed. The project needs approval from the Downtown Design Review Board before building permits can be issued.

The new maximum-security jail, with 445 beds, is scheduled to be completed in 2011. Tarrant County Commissioners approved its design in September.

SANDRA BAKER, 817-390-7727



John Curran Burruss

 **GRANBURY** — John Curran Burruss, 71, of Granbury died Friday, Dec. 26, 2008, at a Fort Worth hospital from respiratory failure.

MEMORIAL SERVICE: 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, at the Indian Harbor fire station in Granbury.

John lived a life dedicated to service. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, John spent nearly 30 years as a peace officer before retiring from the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department in 1997. In retirement, John served as a volunteer firefighter and community leader for the Indian Harbor subdivision on Lake Granbury.

SURVIVORS: His wife, Peggy L. Burruss; brother, Bill Burruss; son, John C. Burruss Jr.; daughter-in-law, Tammy Burruss; grandson, Ronnie

Burruss; and eight stepchildren. John was also grandfather to 18 and great-grandfather to 12.

View and sign guestbook at <http://www.star-telegram.com/obituaries>

Saturday, January 3, 2009

CHEERS AND JEERS

Cheers: To Sheriff Dee Anderson. It's nice to know that we have man in charge who is first and foremost what he was trained to be, a first responder!

— Curtis Millett, Keller

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

CRIME

Inmate escaped and stole woman's SUV, police say

By **MARTHA DELLER**
mdeller@star-telegram.com

FORT WORTH — A Tarrant County Jail inmate who escaped from probation officers Tuesday afternoon and carjacked a SUV in far southeast Fort Worth remained at large late Tuesday, authorities said.



Donald

The man was identified as Gregory Donald, 21, who was being returned to jail from a drug treatment program in Mansfield when he escaped from a van near the interchange of Interstate 20, Loop 820 and U.S. 287, said Terry Grisham, a spokesman for the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department.

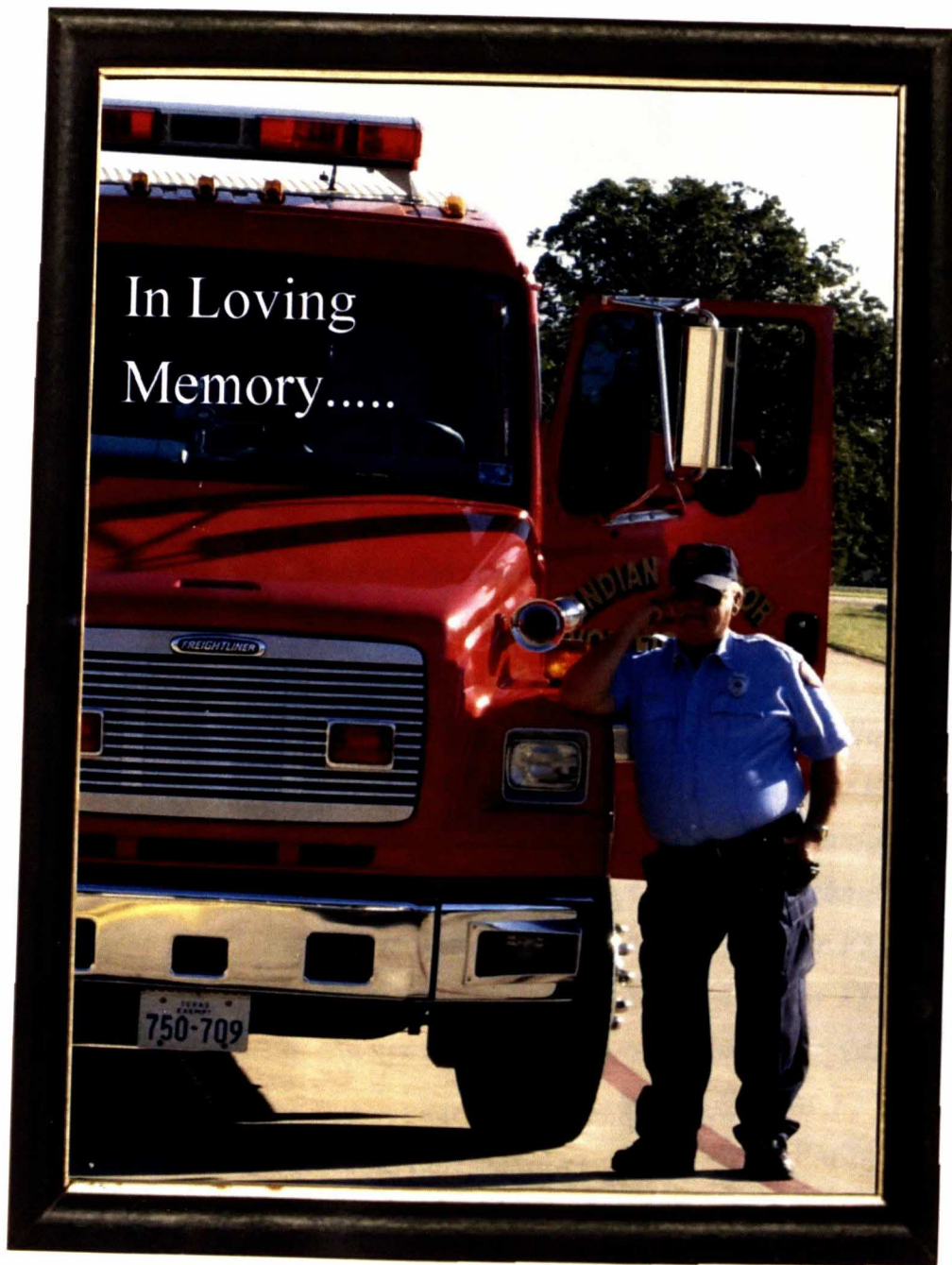
Court and jail records indicate that Donald was serving four years' probation on an aggravated assault con-

viction in 2006 when he was arrested in May for failure to appear in court in a drug case.

Jim Sinclair, assistant director of the county's community supervision and corrections unit, told Fox 4 News that a probation officer was driving a 15-passenger van back to the jail about 12:45 p.m. when Donald walked toward the front. When the driver slowed the van, Sinclair said, Donald jumped out, rolled down a hill and ran away.

Within minutes, Fort Worth police were assisting with the escapee call when they received word of a carjacking, according to Lt. Paul Henderson, a police spokesman. A woman told police that a man threatened her with a gun and took her 1998 blue four-door Mercury Mountaineer, police said.

MARTHA DELLER, 817-390-7857



John Curran Burruss
November 17, 1937 - December 26, 2008

The Posterity of John and Peggy Burruss



Children

Grandchildren

Great-Grandchildren

John F. Burruss

Patricia K. Lindauer

Steven Lindauer

Shawn Lindauer

Adam Lindauer

John C. Jr. and Tammy Burruss

Ronnie Burruss

David B. and Cindy Hartman

Rachel Hartman

Gary W. and Debra Hartman

Jennifer and Paul LeCavalier

Courtney

Tyler

Ian

Chris and Alecia Hartman

Kaitlyn

Jonathan

Nick and Becky Hartman

Noelle

Jonathan Donahue

Brandon Murray

Christopher Murray

801 W. APACHE TRL

GRANBURY TX. 76048

INDIAN HARBOR VFD.ORG

Pamela J. and Louis Jordan

James and Theda Jordan

Sydney

Madison

Morgan

Brenda S. and David Trester

Jason and Jennifer Trester

Addison

Mason

David Trester

Destiny

Teddy R. Hartman

Kathy Hartman

Michael Hartman

Timothy M. and Merideth Hartman

Jeremy and Brittany Hartman

Cory and Tiffany Hartman

Ciara Hartman

Tessa Hartman

Tommy L. Doghyian

Baylee

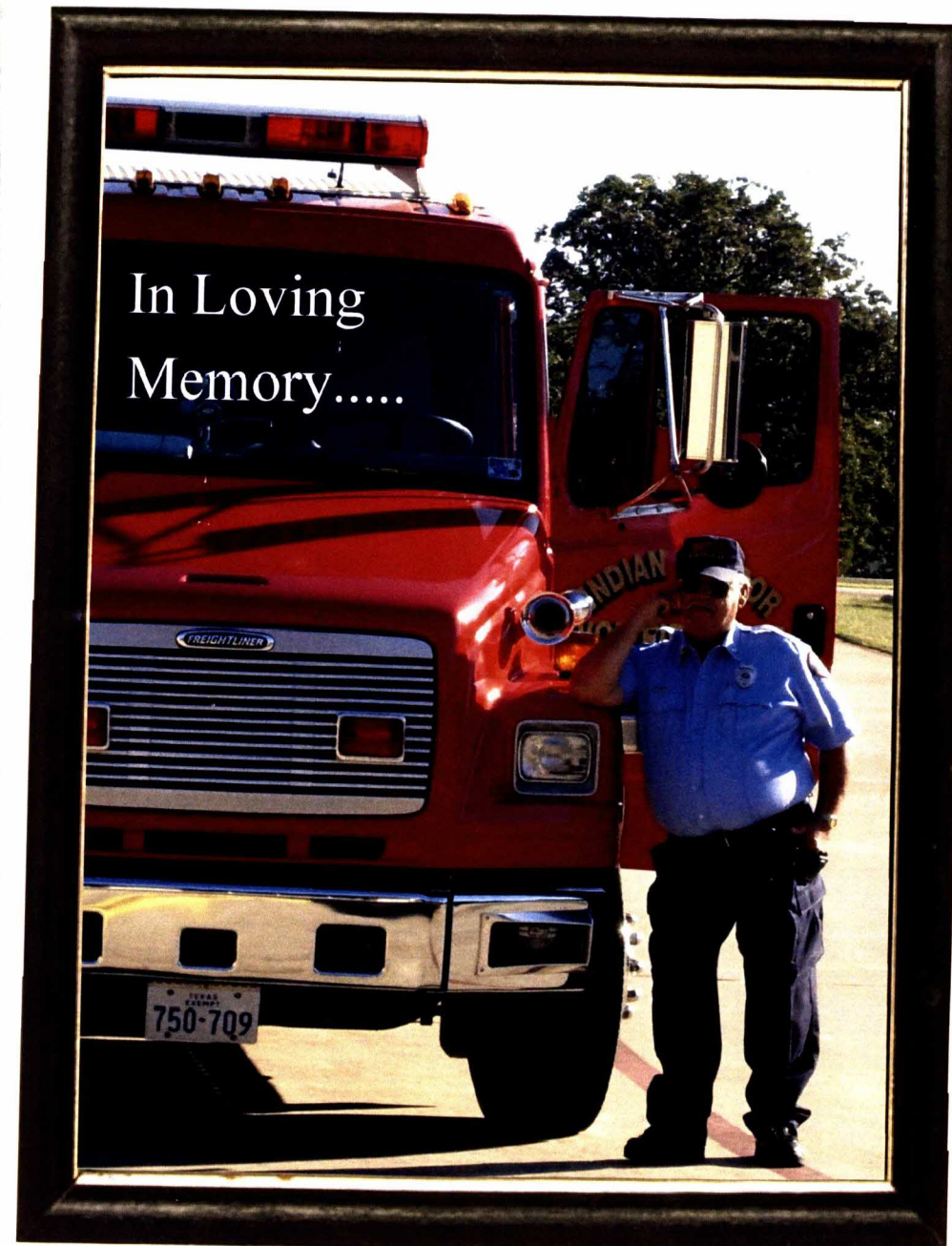
Blake

Tammy L. and Don Miller

Tommy and Tina Miller

Justin Tatum

Jesica Tatum



John Curran Burruss

November 17, 1937 - December 26, 2008

A Fireman's Prayer

*When I am called to duty, God
Wherever Flames may rage
Give me the strength to save some life
Whatever be its age
Help me embrace a little child
Before it is too late
Or save an older person from
The horror of that fate
Enable me to be alert and
Hear the weakest shout
And quickly and efficiently
To put the fire out
I want to fill my calling and
To give the best in me
To guard my every neighbor
And protect their property
And if according to your will
I have to lose my life
Please bless with your protecting hand
My children and my wife.
A.W. "Smokey" Linn*



*Memorial Services for
John Curran Burruss
Saturday January 3, 2009*

*Conducting/Opening Remarks.....Joe Phillips
Chaplin, North Hood County VFD
EulogyFamily
Chief's RemarksRandy Schmelz
Fire Chief, Indian Harbor VFD
Department PresentationIndian Harbor VFD
John's Final AlarmHood County Dispatch
Bell CeremonyIndian Harbor VFD
Closing RemarksJoe Phillips
Chaplin, North Hood County VFD*

*The family respectfully requests in lieu of flowers
donations be made to the
Indian Harbor Volunteer Fire Department*

We, as a family would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to family and friends for every kindness extended in word or deed for our beloved Husband, Father, Brother, Grandfather, and Great-Grandfather.

Escape: Prisoners are regularly taken to Mansfield for drug program

LAW ENFORCEMENT

After escape, county to revisit inmate policies

Gregory Donald, who remained free late Wednesday, was not handcuffed when he jumped from a van.

By **ALEX BRANCH**
 abranch@star-telegram.com

FORT WORTH — Tarrant County probation officials will review procedures for transporting jail inmates after a prisoner escaped by leaping from a moving van, an official said Wednesday.



Donald

Gregory Donald, 21, who is suspected of carjacking a woman's SUV shortly after his escape Tuesday, remained free late Wednesday, authorities said.

Donald, who was not handcuffed, opened a van door and jumped out as an unarmed staff member drove him back to the Tarrant County Jail from Mansfield, said Jim Sinclair, assistant director

More on ESCAPE on 7B

CONTINUED FROM 1B

of the community supervision and corrections unit.

Donald is required as a condition of his probation to undergo drug treatment, according to court records. The program is conducted in Mansfield.

Donald rolled down a grassy hill near the Interstate 20-U.S. 287-East Loop 820 interchange and fled.

Staff members are not required to handcuff prisoners during transport, and it is not unusual for the van doors to open from the inside, Sinclair said.

He said he had not seen an official report on the escape but was not aware of any procedural violations.

"Anytime there is an unusual incident — whether it is as dramatic as this or more mundane — we will take another



Crime Time

Want more crime news? Go to star-telegram.com/blogs

look at our policies and procedures for anything that should be revised," Sinclair said.

Terry Grisham, spokesman for the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department, declined to comment on the probation department's transportation procedures. But, he said, sheriff's officers transport prisoners differently.

"When we transport prisoners, they are handcuffed," Grisham said. "We have small, compartmentalized cells in the back of the van where each [prisoner] is secure. We transport prisoners like that 24 hours a day and have never lost one."

'It was so scary'

Donald was serving four years'

probation for an aggravated-assault conviction in 2006 when he was arrested in May for failure to appear in court in a drug case, according to court records.

As a condition of his probation, Donald was ordered to remain in the Tarrant County Jail and participate in a five-day-a-week intensive drug treatment program, the records show.

Probation department staff members regularly transport prisoners to Mansfield for the program, Sinclair said.

Grisham said that jail officials housed Donald in a single-cell area "that we house people that we want to keep secure, more secure than most." But he said it was unclear whether probation officials knew that.

Donald was the only prisoner in the 15-passenger van,

Sinclair said. About 12:45 p.m. Tuesday, he jumped when the driver slowed down after noticing the prisoner stand up and walk toward the front of the van.

A short time later, Reva Wair, 57, was approached in her SUV outside her apartment at 6045 Village Course Circle by a man in an orange-striped jumpsuit, the same outfit worn by prisoners in the drug program.

"He said, 'Ma'am, give me the keys. Hand 'em over,'" she said.

The man said he had a gun and threatened to shoot her if she did not cooperate, she said.

"Whatever he had, it was in his pocket," Wair said Wednesday. "He pressed it against me and it felt like it could be a gun. I gave him the keys and just said, 'Lord, have mercy on

me.'"

She fled into a breezeway, dialing 911 on her cellphone, she said. He drove away in her blue four-door 1998 Mercury Mountaineer with license plate 133 CRV.

Although she was not injured, Wair said, she was badly shaken.

Relatives in area

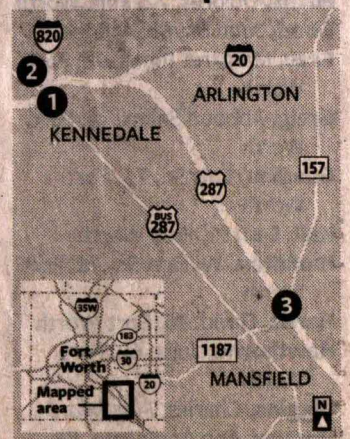
Donald is believed to have relatives and friends in Dallas and Tarrant counties.

"He is probably receiving help from someone," Grisham said. "You can't get very far walking around in a striped jumpsuit. We are out looking for him, and I don't doubt that we will find him."

Anyone with information about Donald's whereabouts is asked to call 911.

ALEX BRANCH, 817-390-7689

Prisoner escaped



1. Gregory Donald, 21, jumped from a van taking him back to the Tarrant County Jail from a drug treatment program in Mansfield.
2. Roughly 10 minutes later a woman was carjacked at an apartment complex at 6045 Village Course Circle.
3. The stolen vehicle was last spotted on U.S. 287 and Farm Road 157 in Mansfield.

TARRANT COUNTY

ID of carefree robber sought

The Sheriff's Department posted videos of the man on YouTube in hopes of someone identifying him.

By DEANNA BOYD
dboyd@star-telegram.com

Who knew robbery could be so relaxing?

A man who investigators say robbed a Tarrant County 8-liner gaming machine business last week was captured on surveillance video yawning, stretching and picking lint from his sweater as he waited for employees to let him inside.

On Thursday, the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department posted two videos of the man on YouTube in hopes that someone will recognize him.

The robbery occurred about 5:15 p.m. Jan. 22 at the Fast Track in the 8100 block of Mansfield Highway in southeast Tarrant County.

The video shows the man waiting more than two minutes in the foyer. He rings the doorbell on several occasions as he waits to be let in. He looks around casually at items stacked inside the foyer and even glances at the bottom of his shoe.

But once let in by a manager, the robber was all business, Detective Danny Nutt said.

"He's pretending to be a customer. Almost immediately once he gets in the doorway, he grabs her," Nutt said.

On footage from a different camera, the man takes something from his waistband, grabs the woman from behind and guides her to the office.

Nutt said the man stole a "significant amount" of money from the safe before fleeing. He said that on other footage, the man gets into the driver's seat of a car but that the make and model are unknown.

The manager and a customer who was playing games during the robbery were not hurt, Nutt said.

The customer "told me he



A still image of the robber taken from video surveillance.

TARRANT COUNTY SHERIFF

Online extra
See the surveillance videos at star-telegram.com/extras

To help
Anyone with information about the man is asked to call Nutt at 817-884-1275 or Crime Stoppers at 817-469-TIPS.

didn't even realize the robbery was going on until the woman started screaming after [the robber] left," Nutt said.

The man is described as white or Hispanic, about 25 years old, 5-foot-9 and 170 pounds. He has short dark hair, was cleanshaven and was dressed nicely.

For years, the Sheriff's Department had been raiding 8-liner businesses to crack down on illegal gambling. Spokesman Terry Grisham said the department would investigate to see whether Fast Track is breaking the law.

DEANNA BOYD, 817-390-7655

CHEERS AND JEERS

Saturday, February 7, 2009

Cheers: To the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office deputy who responded to assist the injured basset hound that was struck by a car and was suffering at Highway 1187 and West Cleburne Road. I know you had more important things to take care of, but your show of compassion and understanding was very much appreciated. You are a credit to your department.

— Lanaya Wood, Burleson



Inmates injured in crash of jail van

All but one jail inmate and a Tarrant County sheriff's deputy were released from hospitals late Wednesday after a collision caused a jail transport van to overturn on East Loop 820, officials said. Eleven inmates went to the Tarrant County Jail, and the van's driver was sent home, said Terry Grisham, a Sheriff's Department spokesman. Two inmates had broken ribs. The van was struck by a silver Chevrolet Trailblazer and veered out of control, police said.

S-T/IAN McVEA

Thursday, February 12, 2009

CHEERS AND JEERS

Saturday, February 14, 2009

Jeers: To the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office and the Sheriff's Department for failing to close down the illegal gambling houses on Jacksboro Highway in Lake Worth.

— Charles R. Kazelis, Fort Worth

Monday, March 2, 2009

Ethics panel fines sheriff over campaign reports

FORT WORTH — Tarrant County Sheriff Dee Anderson paid a \$750 civil penalty after an investigation by the Texas Ethics Commission into paperwork snafus. Anderson didn't file campaign finance reports from July 2004 to January 2008, according to commission documents. He failed to file two yearly reports for 2005, 2006 and 2007. Finance reports filed before February 2006 are not within the commission's jurisdiction. Anderson did not raise or spend money from July 2004 to January 2008, said his spokesman, Terry Grisham. Anderson had a campaign balance of about \$12,000 from 2004, later corrected to about \$13,300. Anderson thought he was following the law because he had not raised or spent money until the Republican primary last year, Grisham said. He spent no money in the general election against his Democratic opponent, Grisham said. "Dee went back and rectified all the paperwork and sent it in with zero raised, zero spent," Grisham said. "The commission said we'll hit you with a little fine, we'll settle the whole thing, and he paid the fine."

— Darren Barbee

Ernest "Ernie" Briggs



FORT WORTH — Ernest "Ernie" Briggs passed away Tuesday, March 3, 2009, to be with his Lord and Savior.

FUNERAL: 1 p.m. Friday in Laurel Land Memorial Chapel, Fort Worth.
BURIAL: Laurel Land Memorial Park.
Visitation: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday at Laurel Land Funeral Home.

MEMORIALS: In lieu of flowers the family requests you make a donation to your favorite charity.

Sgt. Maj. Ernest Briggs was a highly decorated war veteran who served his country for 26 years as a proud member of the U.S. Army. He served during World War II and the Korean War and retired from active duty. He worked for the Tarrant County Sheriff and probation offices. He was a member of Travis Avenue Baptist Church for over 40 years. Ernie was a member of the Fort Worth Moslah Shrine and a Mason.

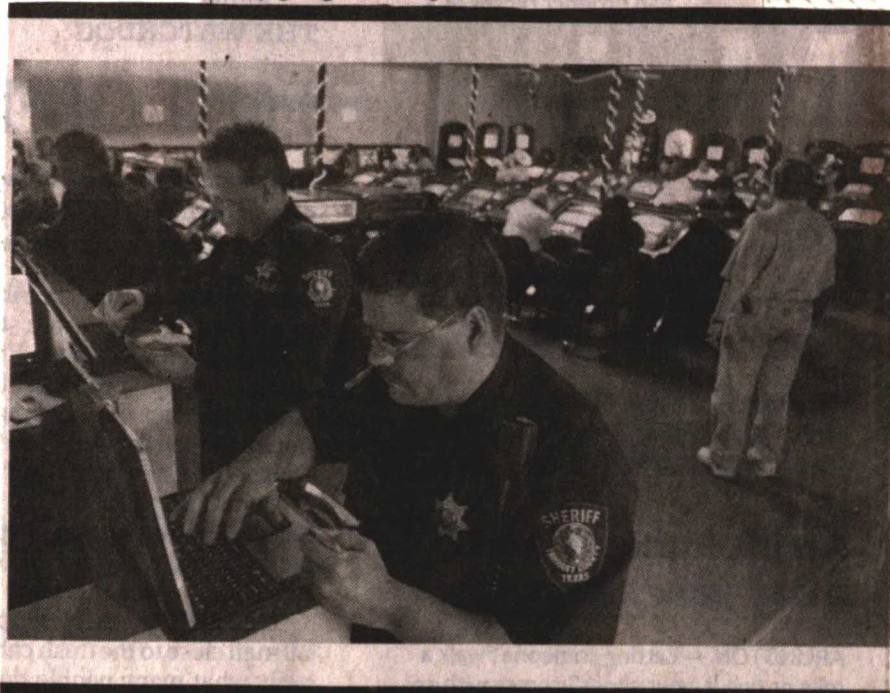
He will be greatly missed by his loving friends and family.

SURVIVORS: His loving wife of 58 years, Mathilde "Tillie." They were married June 17, 1950.

Laurel Land Funeral Home
7100 Crowley Road, 817-293-1350
View and sign guestbook at
www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

Deputies seize 8-liners, cash in game-room raid

Tarrant County Sheriff's Deputies G. Shaw, left, and C. Wiesman use laptop computers to run driver's license checks on patrons during a raid Thursday night at J&S Game Room in the 5300 block of Rendon-Crowley Road in far south Tarrant County. Deputies reported finding more than 70 eight-liner machines and stacks of cash, which they seized, said Sheriff's Department spokesman Terry Grisham. Four people were arrested on unrelated warrants, Grisham said. Deputies planned to raid four more game rooms Thursday night. "At the last count, we had 60 of them operating in the county," Sheriff Dee Anderson said. "We're just going to keep going until we get them all shut down."



Gaming raids take new tack

The Sheriff's Department is going the civil route, rather than seeking prosecution.

By **DEANNA BOYD**
dboyd@star-telegram.com

TARRANT COUNTY — Authorities seized 202 gaming machines and about \$24,000 in raids of four gaming businesses overnight Thursday and early Friday.

The raids are part of a new approach by the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department to eliminate such business: civil forfeiture, which allows for the seizure and quicker destruction of gaming machines in lieu of criminal prosecution.

"Our whole goal is to stop the operations," said Terry Grisham, a spokesman for the Sheriff's Department. "If it's through seizures, fine. If it's through fear of seizures, that's fine. Whatever. We just want them to stop operating."

Previously, sheriff's deputies routinely arrested business owners on charges ranging from promoting gambling to engaging in organized crime if they owned more than two businesses. The Sheriff's Department then had to store the gaming machines until

the cases were resolved.

"We were taking up a ton of space all over," Grisham said. "We had them everywhere. I mean *everywhere*."

Lloyd Whelchel, an assistant district attorney in the criminal division, said that although prosecutors have been widely successful in such criminal prosecutions, delays in taking such cases to court are inevitable. He said any criminal case can take almost a year to go to trial.

"If the state is successful, you're potentially looking at another year if the case is up for appeal or even 18 months," Whelchel said. "Even in the fastest of courts, you're looking at potentially 2 ½ years holding on to all that evidence."

Under civil forfeiture, a magistrate can order the seized machines destroyed far more quickly, unless timely cause is given against it. The contester must then prove in a hearing that the machines are not for gambling.

Gary Ritchie, Precinct 6 justice of the peace, signed the search warrants for the Thursday night raids. He said that no one had contested the seizures as of Friday afternoon, but that the business

owners will be notified that they have the right to do so.

David Hudson, a Tarrant County assistant district attorney in the civil division, said such civil forfeitures of eight-liner machines have been contested in the past, but "I'm not aware of there ever being a single successful protest in Tarrant County on this."

In the recent raids, only one of the four businesses — J&S Game Room in the 5300 block of Rendon-Crowley Road — was operating when deputies swarmed in, Grisham said.

"They open and close alternately," Grisham said. "For all the folks in Rendon that wanted to gamble, this was the only game in town last night because the other ones were shut down."

At J&S, deputies found two employees and 28 patrons. Both employees and four patrons were arrested on outstanding warrants. Deputies also found stacks of cash, Grisham said.

He said that most of the games seized were eight-liners but that "some true Las Vegas slot machines" were found.

DEANNA BOYD, 817-390-7655

Trevor Joseph Litzerman



FORT WORTH — Trevor Joseph Litzerman lost his battle with acute myeloid leukemia at a Dallas hospital Wednesday, March 4, 2009.

FUNERAL MASS: 11 a.m. Monday at St. John the Apostle Catholic Church, 7341 Glenview in North Richland Hills, Texas 76180.

BURIAL: Trevor will be laid to rest with military honors at 1:30 p.m. Monday in Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery, Lane B, in Dallas. Visitation: The family will receive friends 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday at Lucas Funeral Home, 1321 Precinct Line Road in Hurst.

MEMORIALS: In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Trevor's children's college education by donating to the Trevor Litzerman Fund at Legend Bank, 3001 Western Center Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas 76131, or the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Trevor was born at Clinton Sherman Air Force Base in Oklahoma on Sept. 20, 1965. He attended schools in the Philippines and Reading, England. Trevor loved the sea and as a young boy was a Sea Scout. He graduated from Richland High School in North Richland Hills in 1984. He served in the United States Navy for 14 years and was last stationed in San Diego, Calif. His passion was law enforcement. He was a reserve deputy sheriff in Kings County, Calif., and a jailer with Tarrant County Sheriff's Department. After moving his family back to Fort Worth, Trevor graduated from the Basic Police Officer Academy at Tarrant County College and went to work in 2005 for the Watauga Police Department, where he was serving as a field training officer at the time of his death.

Trevor loved his family and his fellow police officers, his second family. Both were there for him these past several months during his illness. Trevor's family is very grateful for those who traveled near and far to help, including the many police officers and their families who provided so much assistance. The family also appreciates all the doctors and staff of the Oncology Unit at 6 Roberts and the Blood Marrow Transplant Unit at 4 Collins.

SURVIVORS: Trevor was a loving father to his children, Kaylie Bonnie Anne, Sydney Nickole and Ethan James. He is also survived by his adoring wife, Laura Jean; his parents, Burton and Rosemary; his brother, Mark, his wife, Steph, and son, Andrew; his sister, Claire, her husband, David Hennessey, and sons, Sean and Thomas; and uncles, Tony Allen of Tasmania, Australia, and Stephen Allen of Celle, Germany.

Lucas Funeral Home
Hurst, 817-284-7271

View and sign guestbook at
www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

13 arrested as four game rooms raided

Tarrant County sheriff's deputies raided four game rooms overnight Thursday, seizing 163 gaming machines and \$42,208.21 in cash and arresting 13 people on outstanding warrants, sheriff's spokesman Terry Grisham said. All four businesses, in the 7600 and 7700 blocks of Jacksboro Highway, were open and operating when raided late Thursday and early Friday, he said. On March 6, deputies raided four similar businesses in southern Tarrant County. They confiscated 202 gaming machines and about \$24,000 and arrested six people on outstanding warrants. The raids are part of a different approach by the Sheriff's Department to eliminate such businesses through civil forfeiture, which allows the seizure and quicker destruction of gaming machines in lieu of criminal prosecution.

— Deanna Boyd

Patricia Bernice Everett Peoples



DENTON — Patricia Bernice Peoples, 67, of Denison passed away on Friday, March 27, 2009, in Denton.

SERVICE: Her life will be celebrated at 3 p.m. Tuesday at Trinity Lighthouse Church, 2915 Spur 503, Denison, conducted by the Rev. Denis Henderson of Sherman Bible Church and the Rev. Raymond England of Trinity Lighthouse Church. Interment: Fairview Cemetery in Denison. Visitation: 6 to 8 p.m. Monday at Johnson-Moore Funeral Home.

Pallbearers: Chris Hansard, Clay Jones, Tony Pellman, Stephen Sackville, Michael Moore, Josh Neasbitt.

Patricia was born Aug. 2, 1941, at Smith Point to George and Helen Sutherland Everett. She graduated from L.D. Bell High School in Hurst and was a member of the Parkside Baptist Church in Denison before moving to Fort Worth.

Patricia graduated from the Police Academy at Grayson County College. She worked for the Denison Police Department, Grayson County Sheriff's Department and Tarrant County Sheriff's Department and retired from there in 2008.

Patricia will be greatly missed by all who knew and dearly loved her. Patricia was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Marilyn.

SURVIVORS: Those left to cherish her memory are children, Jim Clowers and wife, Diana, Darrin Peoples and wife, Kendra, of Denton, Celeste Ivy and husband, Danny, of Denison and Jonathan Peoples and fiancée, Angela Nesmith, of McKinney; brother, Roger Everett and wife, Kay, of Odessa; sisters, Delores Dillard of Denver, Colo., Mary Sackville of Denton, Carolyn Cruz of Denison; uncle, Daniel Sutherland of Denison; aunts, Emma Waymire of Denison and Betty Kuykendall of Dallas; grandchildren whom she loved so dearly, Josh Neasbitt of Denison, Jerianne Solano of Denison and Presley Solano of Sherman.

Johnson-Moore Funeral Home
Denison, 903-465-3345

View and sign guestbook at www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

CONSTRUCTION PLANS

Jail budget is approved

Officials also approve architectural aspects of the building.

By ANTHONY SPANGLER
aspangler@star-telegram.com

FORT WORTH — County officials, architects and designers spent more time Tuesday talking about the color of the bricks for a new jail than how to pay the \$14 million indirect costs of renovating vacated space, building a sheriff's property room and installing a security and fire alarm system.

Commissioners put off discussing how to pay for the peripheral projects not included in the \$108 million jail budget approved by voters in the 2006 bond program.

The current estimate is \$95.7 million.

"I'm fine with any color; just build it fast," said Tarrant County Sheriff Dee Anderson, who began asking for a maximum-security jail shortly after first taking office, in 2001.

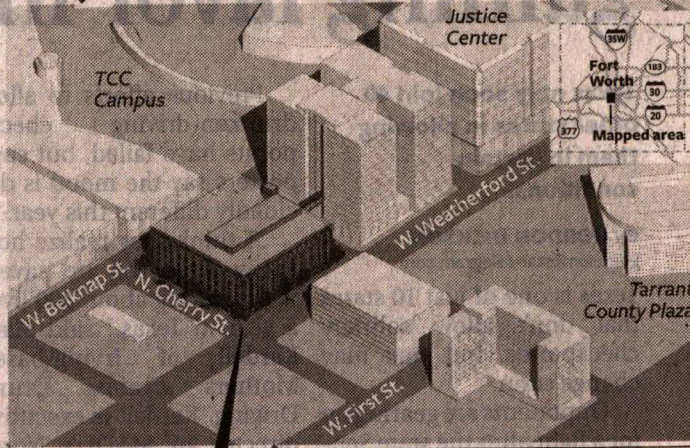
Tarrant County commissioners on Tuesday approved the jail's budget, the exterior elevation and the design and floor plans, excluding the color of the materials.

The items not approved included \$4.8 million to convert the kitchen to a court holding area, laundry storage and place for commissary items.

The court also did not address an \$8.7 million proposal for the security and fire alarm systems, which need to be replaced in the old jail. Anderson said that they are outdated and that it would be more cost-effective to replace the old system while installing new equipment in the new jail.

Those add-on projects are expected to be part of the county's deferred maintenance budget, which will not be addressed until this summer during the county's budget process.

New jail



Construction is expected to begin in February on a 444-bed, maximum-security jail in downtown Fort Worth at a cost of about \$96 million.

Sources: Gideon-Toal, David M. Schwarz Architects

STAR-TELEGRAM

The design

Commissioners were pleased with the design of the building, whose style resembles that of the Texas & Pacific Terminal and the tower at the Will Rogers Memorial Center. The jail, which will be built between Weatherford and Belknap streets adjacent to the existing downtown corrections center, will have a granite base, brick facade, cast stone cornices and a connecting bridge to the old jail.

"The county was interested in a comfortable fit into the downtown setting and have the project not stick out like a sore thumb," said Michael Swartz, a partner with David M. Schwarz Architects. "We avoided making this a red brick building. . . . I think it better integrates you into the downtown. Creating different colors on different blocks helps you fit better into downtown."

Commissioners Marti VanRavenswaay and Gary Fickes said they would prefer bricks that are more red or brown than the gray-tone bricks presented in artist's renditions of the jail. Commissioners Roy C. Brooks and J.D. Johnson said the grayish-tan bricks are acceptable. Judge Glen Whitley did not express a preference.

Brooks praised the design, saying the colors will create a continuum between the new jail at the west end of county buildings and the red brick family law center at the east end.

What's in it

The five-story, 207,700-square-foot building will have 444 beds, an infirmary that will allow separate treatment areas for male and female inmates, a new kitchen and a ground-floor visitation area.

Construction of the jail will incorporate environmentally friendly concepts from separating recyclable materials during building to using solar reflecting materials on the roof to cut energy costs. The kitchen will use a water and waste filtration system. Two units will cost \$50,000 to \$75,000 each.

David Phillips, Tarrant County facilities manager, said the green construction will save the county money in the long run.

The environmentally friendly construction and equipment will add about \$1.5 million, or 2 percent of the total project cost, but will be recouped within five years, Phillips said.

"I'm fine with any color; just build it fast."

Tarrant County Sheriff Dee Anderson, referring to the new jail

What's next

The county is expected to open bidding for construction of the jail in October, months later than last year's estimates. The goal is to break ground in February. Construction may not be completed until February 2012.

The most recent delay in the timetable was due to reconfiguring the floor plan after one level was removed.

ANTHONY SPANGLER, 817-390-7420

Saturday, April 11, 2009 |

Cheers: To the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office Courtesy Patrol officer who recently changed my flat, put out flares and would not accept a gratuity. He said that taxpayer funds provide his salary and that it is his responsibility to travel the roadways seeking travelers in need of assistance. Not only did he help me get to work on time but he also relieves the roadways of possible fatalities and abandoned cars.

— Anita Ramirez, Azle

Sunday, April 26, 2009

CONTRABAND

Jails, inmates play a daily game of hide-and-sneak

Officers have found prohibited items in air vents and toilets.

By DEANNA BOYD

dboyd@star-telegram.com

Prison wardens love calls like this.

On the phone was the mother of an inmate who, at her son's request, sent a cellphone and money order to a P.O. box, apparently unaware that it's illegal for him to have a phone.

"Her son was telling her he wasn't getting good cellphone reception," said Inspector General John Moriarty with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. "Being a good mother, she called the warden and said, 'Can you move my son? He's got bad cellphone reception.'"

The warden promptly answered, "Absolutely. Who is your son?"

Busted.

But more often than not, officials say, finding contraband in jails and prisons is a daunting task. Inmates will go to great lengths to hide contraband, even concealing it in their orifices.

"It's a constant assault on the security operations," said Moriarty, who recalls how an X-ray once exposed that an inmate had hidden a cellphone and charger in his rectum. "That's what the prison system has to deal with — the constant daily assault on beating the security to get stuff in."

Inmates caught with contraband can face at least third-degree felony charges.

In 2007 and 2008, the Special Prosecution Unit, which prosecutes most crimes in Texas

prisons, accepted about 280 cases involving prohibited substances in a correction facility, including tobacco, cash, drugs and cellphones. In 191 of those, inmates were defendants.

The rest were against correctional officers and civilians, often relatives and friends of inmates, said Gina DeBottis, executive director of the unit. Inmates caught with contraband also risk internal discipline, such as visitation restrictions and loss of "good time" privileges.

In Tarrant County, jailers find contraband daily through shakedowns of the various housing units, ranging from minor things like more books than allowed to homemade weapons, said Alan Dennis, supervisor of confinement housing.

Dennis said officers have found contraband tucked inside bags and secured with a string, then flushed in the toilet or tucked into air vents. Inmates later pull the string to retrieve their goods.

Most commonly, Dennis said, officers find extra food stored away. "A lot of times they try to make homemade alcohol, so they will save fruit and bread products to make that," he said. "They are very ingenious."

A few times prison officials get lucky, Moriarty said, like when an inmate in Beaumont used his illegal cellphone to call 911 and complain about an officer with whom he'd had an altercation. "A lot of them are not rocket scientists," Moriarty said.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Keeping cellphones, drugs out of the wrong hands isn't easy — especially if jailers do the smuggling



Chief Deputy Alan Dennis with some of the contraband seized from the Tarrant County Jail. S-T/JOYCE MARSHALL

Jails struggle to slam door on banned items

By DEANNA BOYD
dboyd@star-telegram.com

FORT WORTH — The bills were piling up, and Enrique Segura said he was falling behind.

So the 26-year-old Tarrant County jailer began moonlighting as a smuggler.

In exchange for a \$40 "delivery fee," Segura said, he sneaked in cigarettes and a lighter to Tarrant County Jail inmates on three occasions.

But during a fourth delivery attempt, on March 29 — this time he also had marijuana on him — sheriff's investigators were waiting.

Last week, Segura was charged with bringing a prohibited substance inside a correctional facility, a third-degree felony punishable by two to 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

"I know what I did was wrong," said Segura, who has since resigned. "I was just trying to make money because I needed to pay bills."

Jail and prison officials acknowledge that fight-

More on **CONTRABAND** on 4B

A closer look

Found during lockdown

Contraband found on Texas state prison property during an October lockdown ordered by Gov. Rick Perry

Cellphones: 128
Chargers: 117
Batteries: 13
SIM cards (a device used to store information in mobile phones): 26
Money: 44
Tobacco: 87
Marijuana: 184

Found since lockdown

Contraband found on Texas prison property since the lockdown (through Jan. 15)

Cellphones: 220
Chargers: 170
Batteries: 21
SIM cards: 44
Money: 59
Tobacco: 109
Marijuana: 86
Weapons: 316

Source: TDCJ

Sneaking it in and keeping it hidden

Inmates go to extremes to hide items. 4B

"Basically, when you're talking about the jail, it's the equivalent to running a small city," said Alan Dennis, chief deputy over confinement housing.

The sheriff's office conducts background checks on all employees before allowing them access to inmates, whether they're a food service contractor or an officer. But routine searches of officers and contract employees are not performed.

"It's just not feasible with the short turnaround times we have for shift changes and the number of employees that come in and out," Grisham said.

To help find contraband, the sheriff's office in 2007 bought Bosco, a Belgian Malinois trained to search for narcotics in jails.

"One of our goals was to use him as a deterrent," Dennis said.

But the dog died a few months after arriving, and officials are still trying to find a replacement.

Officers are subject to polygraph tests and random drug screens, Dennis said.

"You put things in place you hope are going to be enough of a deterrent upfront to where

they won't even consider stuff like that," Dennis said.

On occasion, however, some jailers choose reward over risk.

Making arrests

In 2005, two former Tarrant County jailers were sentenced to two years' probation and 30 days in jail after pleading guilty to recklessly having a prohibited substance in a correctional facility.

Sheriff's investigators had arrested the jailers three years earlier on accusations that they smuggled marijuana in for inmates in exchange for money from a visitor. The men, however, contended that they didn't know the packages contained marijuana.

In the more recent case, a confidential informant told sheriff's officials that Segura was sneaking in cigarettes, cocaine and cellphones for inmates and that his next delivery was expected March 29, according to a probable-cause affidavit.

When Segura arrived at work that night, he was questioned by investigators and admitted that he had brought in marijuana and cigarettes. In his blue net bag, officers found

11.5 grams of marijuana and three packs of cigarettes. In his uniform jacket, investigators found Segura's personal cellphone.

Segura says that he never brought in cocaine or cellphones and that he simply forgot that his cellphone was in his pocket.

Segura, who was hired in September, said he had previously brushed off requests by inmates to sneak in contraband, changing his mind when he began struggling to get by on his \$15- to \$16-an-hour job.

"The economy is really bad. Everybody needs to make money somehow," Segura said. "I know it wasn't honest doing that, but I wasn't trying to get rich. I was trying to pay bills."

A lucrative business

It's hard to measure how often correctional officers smuggle contraband, officials admit.

"The problem with putting a number on it is it's such a secretive operation," said inspector John Moriarty, whose office investigates crimes in Texas prisons. "Even when an inmate is caught with the contraband, very rarely do they give up how they got it in."

The Special Prosecution Unit tries criminal cases for roughly two-thirds of the state's more than 100 correctional facilities, said Gina DeBottis, executive director of the unit.

Of the approximately 280 contraband cases involving cellphones, drugs, tobacco and cash accepted by the unit for prosecution in 2007 and 2008, 33 were against correctional officers.

"One corrupt employee can really compromise the security of the operation tremendously," Moriarty said. "They can keep bringing and bringing stuff in."

In prisons, smuggling can be a lucrative business. Getting

a cellphone into Death Row can bring in up to \$2,200, Moriarty said, with the average rate closer to \$500 in a less-secure prison.

Cellphones are in such high demand, Moriarty said, that the price for smuggling them can often exceed that of sneaking in drugs.

CONTINUED FROM 1B

ing contraband is an uphill battle.

Last fall, a governor-ordered lockdown of Texas prisons uncovered, among other contraband, 128 cellphones and 185 weapons. More security measures have been added since then, but prison officials say the smuggling attempts go on.

And though family members, friends and even inmates themselves are usually responsible for bringing in the contraband, occasionally, like in Segura's case, those to blame are the very people tasked with keeping it out.

"I don't think you'd find a jail anywhere in Texas that hasn't had to fight this battle. It's just one that never ends," said Terry Grisham, a sheriff's spokesman. "You fight it every day and you try to win a few. That's what we did in this case."

'A small city'

Of the Sheriff Department's roughly 1,400 employees, almost 1,000 work in Tarrant County's four jail facilities.

In addition, 450 to 500 contract workers in services like commissary, food and medical care have access to the facilities.

Contraband: Cellphones in high demand

He recalled a female correctional officer who, in an undercover sting, agreed to smuggle in a phone for \$200. When asked to also take in heroin, the officer remarked, "that will be another \$50."

"When I was coming up, it was always dope," Moriarty said. "Of course, cellphones were big, giant shoe phones back in those days."

Full of regret

Last year's lockdown was prompted by cellphone calls made by a Death Row inmate to a state senator.

Since then, more security measures have been implemented, including pat-down searches of every employee entering a secured facility, said Jason Clark, spokesman for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Still, efforts to get contraband in continue. It's been found lying outside perimeter fences. At a prison in Mineral Wells, a person was spotted trying to toss it over a perimeter fence.

A recent package of shipped ink cartridges was found to actually contain cellphones and cellphone components, Clark said.

"We've seen steps taken by individuals to try to circumvent these new policies that have been put in place, but the vast majority of those are not breaching our security," Clark said.

At Tarrant County's jail facilities, random bag and container searches have been stepped up since Segura's arrest. And policies such as requiring employees to carry their items in clear bags are more strictly enforced, Dennis said.

"I think everybody, officers included, are just a little bit more aware of what can potentially happen when you do relax your procedures a little bit," Dennis said.

Segura said he regrets his actions.

"It wasn't worth the risk," he said. "After all this, I lost my house. I almost lost my son. I lost my girlfriend. It was a big mistake, and I can't take it back. All I can do is apologize."

Still, Segura said, he knows others will make the same mistake.

"I know I wasn't one of the first and probably won't be one of the last."

DEANNA BOYD, 817-390-7655

Saturday, February 20, 2010

Former jailer gets probation for assault

FORT WORTH — A former Tarrant County jailer was sentenced Wednesday to two years of probation after pleading guilty to assaulting an inmate who threw food at him and another jailer May 23. Tariq Salahuddin, 31, of Fort Worth was indicted Sept. 23 by a Tarrant County grand jury. The indictment accused Salahuddin and Don Curtis Taylor of using their official positions to mistreat inmate James Hunter, knowing that their actions were unlawful. The maximum penalty for official oppression, a Class A misdemeanor, is one year in jail. Under the plea bargain, his one-year jail term was probated for two years by 432nd District Judge Ruben Gonzalez Jr. — *Martha Deller*

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Jails ramp up screening to guard against virus

Although area jail officials say they've seen no swine flu cases among inmates, precautions are being taken.

By DEANNA BOYD
dboyd@star-telegram.com

FORT WORTH — Medical staffs at area jails are on heightened awareness as officials work to keep the threat of swine flu at bay.

As of Monday morning, no cases of swine flu had been identified at Tarrant County Jail, the Fort Worth Jail or the Mansfield Jail, which houses inmates arrested by Fort Worth and Mansfield police. Still, officials say they have ramped up medical screening of arriving inmates and are prepared to isolate and treat ill inmates should the swine flu emerge.

"Any kind of flu like this that is contagious could certainly fly right through a jail facility, so we're taking every precaution we can," said Terry Grisham, spokesman for the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department.

Visitation was suspended over the weekend at state prisons, but it has gone on as usual at local jails since physical contact with inmates is prohibited.

Tarrant County Jail

At Tarrant County's four jail facilities, nurses conducting routine medical screenings of arriving inmates are on heightened lookout for flulike symptoms, Grisham said. The county's facilities department will be placing hand-sanitizer stations in visitation areas, and labor detail crews are disinfecting rooms where visitors use phones to speak to inmates separated from them by glass.

Inmates who have at least two symptoms — a temperature of over 100.4 degrees F and a cough, sore throat or gastroenteritis — will be immediately sent to the medical unit for further testing, Grisham said.

"We're being aggressive," Grisham said. "We don't want to take a chance at a facility that has so many people in such close proximity — and not just inmates. We have a lot of employees that have to work in there right along-

side them."

Dr. Alan Byrd, who oversees JPS Health Network medical care at the county's jails, said that no inmates had met the criteria for influenza A testing as of Monday morning and that staff had tested one inmate as a precaution. That test came back negative.

If an inmate does test positive for influenza A, Byrd said the inmate will be isolated and started on Tamiflu while further testing is conducted by the JPS laboratory. If swine flu is confirmed, medical staff will continue to treat and monitor the inmate to determine whether hospitalization is necessary, he said.

Fort Worth Jail

At the Fort Worth Jail, where people arrested by Fort Worth police are booked and held until they can be arraigned and transferred to the Mansfield Jail, arrivals are asked a series of questions, including whether they have been to Mexico in the past two weeks and whether they have vomited or had diarrhea in the past 24 hours.

Lt. Duane Paul said those who answer yes to any question and whose temperature is higher than 99.7 F must be taken by the arresting officer to JPS for medical review before being let into the jail.

Paul said only a handful of detainees had gotten a medical review. As of Monday morning, jail officials had not been alerted to any swine flu cases, he said.

Mansfield Jail

At the Mansfield Jail, which houses 150 to 250 inmates per day, Mansfield Police Chief Gary Fowler said a few inmates have tried to claim flulike symptoms.

"It didn't turn out to be anything," he said.

He said that in addition to the jail's medical screenings, officials are reminding staff and inmates to wash their hands frequently and cover sneezes or coughs.

Fowler said inmates confirmed to have swine flu will be treated with Tamiflu, and, if necessary, taken to a hospital under guard.

DEANNA BOYD, 817-390-7655

FORT WORTH | ESCAPE ATTEMPT

Man gets 60 years for attacking jailer

By **MARTHA DELLER**
mdeller@star-telegram.com

FORT WORTH — A 22-year-old Arlington man has been sentenced to 60 years in prison for assaulting a Tarrant County jailer during an escape attempt last year.

Jurors deliberated for about an hour last week before convicting Herschel Jerome Hurd of aggravated assault on jailer Michael Thompson, whom Hurd attacked with a shank as he and two other inmates tried to escape in August, prosecutor Tiffany Burks said. Thompson was one of four county employees injured.

Hurd received a 50-year prison sentence in April for an aggravated robbery in April 2008, one of four he was charged with committing over three weeks in Arlington. After hearing about the other injured jail employees, Hurd's robbery spree and his 2006 convictions for robbery and injury to a child, the jury deliberated for about three hours before recommending the 60-year prison term, Burks said.

Visiting state District

Judge Juanita Pavlik ordered the sentences to be served at the same time.

Hurd will not be eligible for parole until he has served half the sentences.

Four other aggravated robbery cases are still pending against Hurd, she said.

The two inmates who tried to break out of jail with Hurd have also been sentenced.

One is Erick Davila, who is on Death Row for killing 5-year-old Queshawn Stevenson and her grandmother, Annette Stevenson, during a birthday party at their southeast Fort Worth home. Davila was not tried in the jail break, but evidence about it was presented to jurors during the sentencing phase of his trial.

The other is James Dwayne Edwards, who was sentenced to 35 years for stabbing and kicking a jailer. Edwards is serving a 35-year term for an aggravated robbery and a 10-year term in the strangling of a Grand Prairie woman.

MARTHA DELLER, 817-390-7857

Melvin Lloyd Mosier



ROANOKE — Melvin Lloyd Mosier, 77, passed from this walk of life Tuesday, July 21, 2009, after a courageous battle with cancer.

FUNERAL: 9:00 a.m. Saturday at Wiley Funeral in Glen Rose. Interment: Squaw Creek Cemetery in Rainbow.

Melvin was born Sept. 1, 1931, in Weatherford. He served three tours of duty during the Korean War while serving in the U.S. Army. He was a sergeant, a paratrooper and a military police officer. Mr. Mosier retired as a security officer for Bell Helicopter after 20-plus years and then went to work for 10 years as a deputy for the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office. He coached his son in youth baseball for 12 years and served as president of the Richland Youth Association for two years. He was dearly loved by all his family and deeply respected by all who knew him.

SURVIVORS: Children, Dana Powell, Dawn Pope and Lloyd Mosier; grandchildren, Jared Walls, Laura Ochsner, Lauren Walls and Andrew Mosier; three great grandchildren; and sister, Louise Mosier.

Wiley Funeral Home
Glen Rose, 254-897-2288
View and sign guestbook at
www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

Cheers: To the Tarrant County Sheriff's Posse for its yearly participation in the Edgecliff Village Fourth of July parade. Twenty beautifully groomed horses and uniformed riders made our parade a special event!

— Wanda Hill, Fort Worth

**Hedwig "Heidi"
Jell Niamtu**



FORT WORTH — Heidi Jell Niamtu, 67, passed away Friday, Aug. 14, 2009, in Fort Worth.

Memorial Mass: 10 a.m. Thursday at St. Thomas The Apostle Catholic Church, 2920 Azle Ave., Fort Worth. Vigil service: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the church.

MEMORIALS: ASPCA.

Born Dec. 25, 1941, in Obergangkofen, Germany, Ms. Niamtu proudly received her U.S. citizenship in 1966 and was an area resident since 1975. She worked for the Boy Scouts of America, Board of Realtors, Appraisal Review Board and retired from Tarrant County Sheriff's Office in 2005. A member of St. Thomas Catholic Church, she loved helping others. The jobs that made her happiest were "Gwanny Happy" and "St. Francis" animal advocate.

She was predeceased by a daughter, Lorita Ann Richardson; sons, Charles Wayne Niamtu and John Edward Niamtu; and sister, Lena Wilds.

SURVIVORS: Daughter, Christine Terhune; grandsons, Joshua Wyatt, Christopher Terhune and Johnathon Niamtu; the Wilds clan of Georgia; and siblings, Maria Jackwerth, Wastl Jell and Hein Jell of Germany. She will be missed by many friends and animals near and far!

Biggers Funeral Home
6100 Azle Ave., 817-237-3341
View and sign guestbook at
www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

Sunday, September 20, 2009

Cheryl Ann Bishop



FORT WORTH — Cheryl Ann Bishop, 64, passed away Thursday, Sept. 17, 2009.

FUNERAL: 11:30 a.m. Tuesday in Greenwood Chapel. Interment: Greenwood Memorial Park. Visitation: 6 to 8 p.m. Monday at Greenwood Funeral Home.

MEMORIALS: In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the American Cancer Society, the Humane Society, MDA, or Cook Children's Medical Center.

Cheryl was born Jan. 28, 1945, the daughter of Robert and Evelyn Thompson. She was a lifelong resident of Fort Worth.

Cheryl was an incredibly warm and generous person. No matter where she went, she touched the lives of everyone she met. When she walked into a room it was warmer and brighter because of her presence. Her children and her grandchildren were her pride and joy, her world. MiMi, as her grandchildren called her, spent countless hours playing with, laughing with, and doting on her grandbabies. MiMi and her grandbabies had a special song, "I love you, a bushel and a peck! A bushel and a peck, and a hug around the neck!" She was a kid at heart. Cheryl loved her animals dearly. Family and friends were always near, drawn to her love of life. So many people commented on her eyes, the most beautiful blue eyes they had ever seen. No one was prepared for her passing.

She graduated from Arlington Heights High School in 1964. Cheryl took great pride in her work with the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department, a position she held for 10 years.

Cheryl was preceded in death by her father, Robert Luther Thompson, and husband, Harold Edgar Scaling.

SURVIVORS: Mother, Evelyn Thompson; brother, Steve Thompson; sister, Joni Horton and husband, Dwight; daughters, Monique Scaling and husband, Nathan Brown, and Melanie Macha and husband, Craig; son, Chad Walker and wife, Allison; grandchildren, Blake and Peyton Macha, Evelyn Scaling Brown and Bailey Walker; Edgar's sister, Barbara and husband, Bruce; nieces and nephews, Christi, Barry, Little Roger, Whitney, Cameron, Joel and Zachary; and countless friends.

Greenwood Funeral Home
3100 White Settlement Rd., 817-336-0584
View and sign guestbook at
www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

TARRANT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Improvements in jail healthcare allow cuts in JPS spending

Commissioners were comfortable with the move because the sheriff supported the changes.

By **ANTHONY SPANGLER**
aspangler@star-telegram.com

FORT WORTH — Tarrant County commissioners approved the public hospital district's \$649.5 million budget Tuesday, including cuts in jail medical spending from the previous year.

The hospital district, which provides medical care to Tarrant County Jail inmates, is holding spending to 2008-09 levels while shifting some resources and expanding patient care.

The district, which does business as the JPS Health Network, will also have the same tax rate next year of 22.7897 cents per \$100 of assessed

value.

Commissioners were comfortable with making the medical operation leaner mostly because Sheriff Dee Anderson supported the changes and because JPS administrators say they have already reduced staffing in the jail.

"There could be some surplus labor in the jail medical," Commissioner J.D. Johnson said. "We all agree that we don't want to have some of the problems we've had in the past."

JPS' 2009-10 budget calls for reduced spending on correctional health staff to bring the equivalent of 145 full-time employee hours to 120. JPS officials say the reduction follows a jail consultant's recommendation in a 2006 report commissioned by

county officials.

JPS Chief Operating Officer Bill Whitman said that the jail medical department was spending too much on contract labor and overtime.

"We've got a new manager there who has noticed some areas where we can be more efficient," he said. "I think there was a time when we just threw a bunch of people at problems but were not staffing to a proper level."

The 2006 report recommended 120 full-time employee hours based on a 40-hour workweek. JPS uses a 36-hour workweek to staff the jail. Anderson said the California-based consultant may have modified the recommendation for staffing had she known that the jail medical staff was on a different schedule.

The 2006 study was a follow-up investigation into problems that surfaced in 2004 when it was discovered that JPS had drastically cut spending on jail medical staff and services. An evaluation that year found numerous problems with the medical care provided by the hospital district, including criticisms that inmate medical records were "in a state of chaos" and that care was unreliable for the sickest inmates. After reporting health problems, inmates sometimes waited days to receive medications or see a physician.

Anderson said that medical grievances are down from a few years ago, that inmate families complain less about medical problems in the jail, and that pharmacy services are now available after hours and on week-

ends.

"There is just a better basic level of care in the jail now," he said. "There was a time when we got an inmate on Friday who needed a prescription, we couldn't get that person medicine until Monday."

The sheriff was briefed on the JPS budget Monday. He said JPS administrators said that the cuts would be in contract labor and overtime spending and that ultimately the jail would have more full-time employees.

"We all agree that we're not interested in going backwards," he said. "We're being told by JPS folks that we're not going to lose any positions that are crucial."

ANTHONY SPANGLER, 817-390-7420

09-25-09
Betty Loy Chamberlain



BURLESON — Betty Loy Chamberlain, 84, a devoted grandmother, mother, sister and friend, passed away Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009.

FUNERAL: 3:30 p.m. Saturday in Greenwood Chapel. Interment: Greenwood Memorial Park. Visitation: 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at Greenwood Funeral Home.

Betty was born June 1, 1925, in Tulsa, Okla. She made everybody laugh and had a story to tell. Betty loved gardening, reading, cooking and deer hunting. She was a longtime member of Riverside Baptist Church and a member of the Pythian Sisters. Betty retired from Montgomery Ward in 1981. Despite being blind, she continued to be active and was learning Braille. She worked in the home healthcare business until her blindness forced her to retire.

Betty was preceded in death by her husband, Olan, in 1990; grandson, Christopher Van Natta; and sister, Delores Whitehead.

SURVIVORS: Daughters, Katie Hargrove and husband, Jim, Rhonda Chandler, Dollie Garcia and Danlyla Hart; sisters, Aline Hart and Geraldine Ward; grandchildren, Jessica, Jordan, Nolan, Amber, Lauren, Alison, Chase and Danlyla; 12 great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Greenwood Funeral Home
3100 White Settlement Rd., 817-336-0584
View and sign guestbook at
www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

Tasers gain widespread acceptance, but Tarrant sheriff is rare holdout

Tarrant County Sheriff Dee Anderson bucks the trend with his decision not to have his department use Tasers.

By **ELIZABETH ZAVALA**
ezavala@star-telegram.com

Tarrant County Sheriff Dee Anderson appears to be the lone holdout among the state's largest metropolitan law enforcement agencies in refusing to issue Tasers to his deputies.

on the House floor to Baker and his family: wife Jacqueline and daughter Amanda, who were in the gallery.

In his prayer, Vaughn said: "Grant us understanding, grant us wisdom and grant us courage for the facing of these days. Give us as well the gift of

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is one of Taser International's latest clients, and the Texas Department of Public Safety is seeking to add Tasers to its arsenal as well.

Proponents say officers who use Tasers, which deliver a 50,000-volt shock that can temporarily immobilize a suspect, fire a gun less often, helping protect both the suspect and officer in potentially deadly situations.

Taser's law enforcement reach continues to grow, and last month, it signed an undisclosed contract with Customs and Border Protection.

Tuttle said the market penetration shows how successful Tasers are.

Authorities "now have a safer, more effective, yet an accountable, system to safely incapacitate a dangerous suspect," he said. "Officer safety is paramount, as well as protecting the suspects, and that mission has not only been accomplished, it has exceeded expectation throughout the country."



Anderson

Sheriff's departments in Bexar, Dallas, Harris and Travis counties use the weapons that deliver an electric shock. Locally, more than 10 police departments — including Arlington, Dallas/Fort Worth Airport and Fort Worth — have trained their officers and equipped them with Tasers.

their best chance of making it to the governor's desk in 2011, said Nelson, R-Flower Mound.

She cautioned that the dire condition of the state's coffers will give both initiatives more momentum than they have had in the past, though she vowed to oppose them.

The Texas DPS hopes to add Tasers to its force of 3,000 commissioned officers, "as soon as we can find the money," spokeswoman Tela Mange said. Mange said Tasers could be an additional safety precaution for troopers because they are often in remote areas by themselves in the middle of the night.

Anderson, the Tarrant County sheriff, said he realizes that his decision is controversial.

"I took a lot of criticism," he said, "but I have to do what's best for the people of the county and my employees."

ELIZABETH ZAVALA, 817-390-7418

Saturday, November 21, 2009

Ronnie Ray Haack

HALTOM CITY — Ronnie Ray Haack, 61, died Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2009.

GRAVESIDE SERVICE: 10 a.m. Monday in Mount Olivet Cemetery.

SURVIVORS: Wife, Joyce Haack; children, Leanne Sims, Justin, Jeffrey and Heather Haack; mother, Lucille Haack; brother, Gary; and sister, Gwen.

Mount Olivet Funeral Home
2301 N. Sylvania Ave., 817-831-0511

Saturday, November 28, 2009

Cheers: To Sgt. Brad Gantt of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office for purchasing breakfast Nov. 10 for the residents and staff of Lakewood Village Assisted Living at the Bluebonnet Café in Haltom City. He made our residents' day.

— *Suki Smith, activity director, and Laura Myles, assisted living director, Lakewood Village, Fort Worth*

John R. Rhoads

ARLINGTON — John R. Rhoads, 62, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2009.

FUNERAL: 9:30 a.m. Monday at Pleasant View Baptist Church, 4400 Pleasant View Drive, Arlington. Interment: 11:30 a.m. Monday in D-FW National Cemetery, 2000 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas. Visitation: 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday at Arlington Funeral Home, 1221 E. Division, Arlington.

MEMORIALS: In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in the name of John Rhoads to the Fort Worth Humane Society, 817-332-4768.

John Rhoads was born Aug. 3, 1947, in Granite City, Ill., to William and Mary Lou "Mrs. Daisy" Rhoads. John enlisted in the United States Army upon his graduation from high school. John served active duty and as a reservist for approximately 30 years obtaining the rank of command sergeant major. Command Sergeant Major Rhoads received numerous citations and medals during his service to our country.

John began his career with the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department in July 1979. During his tenure with the Sheriff's Department he had numerous assignments that he always carried out with prestige, honor, and integrity. During John's military and law enforcement careers he served as a mentor to innumerable men and women. John was a true "cut above" and will be truly missed by colleagues and the citizens of Tarrant County. John was a loving and caring husband to his best friend and soul mate, Karen Rhoads. His honesty, sense of humor, and loyalty are the legacies he leaves behind.

John was preceded in death by his father, William Rhoads; mother, Mary Lou "Ms. Daisy" Rhoads; and brother, James Rhoads.

SURVIVORS: Wife, Karen Rhoads; stepson, Stephen Miller and his wife, Lisa; daughter, Michelle Goodman; and many close friends.

Arlington Funeral Home
1221 E. Division St., 817-548-1791

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Petition spurred by talk of eliminating Police Department

The Sheriff's Department discussed the idea with the former city manager.

By **ELIZABETH CAMPBELL**
liz@star-telegram.com

FOREST HILL — The idea of turning over the city's police protection to the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department to cut costs may result in a May 8 charter amendment election to block the effort from happening without residents' approval.



Miller

Former Forest Hill City Manager David Miller talked to the Sheriff's Department about patrolling the city. The

idea could save about \$1 million for the city, which has been dealing with budget woes in the tough economy.

While the City Council says it has no intention of eliminating the 29-member Police Department, the Forest Hill Police Officers Association submitted petitions for a charter amendment election that it hopes will block such a plan.

"This would be a devastating blow not only to the Police Department but to the citizens of Forest Hill," said Sgt. Jerry Cozby, president of the officers association. "The two major things we were looking at were the citizens and the police officers' careers and their families."

Cozby said 460 signatures — more than the required

Proposed amendment

This is the language on the proposed charter amendment: In order to provide local control of public safety services for the citizens of Forest Hill, the city shall maintain and staff police and fire with an adequate number of employees for each department.

"This would be a devastating blow not only to the Police Department but to the citizens of Forest Hill.

Sgt. Jerry Cozby, president of the Forest Hill Police Officers Association

number — were turned in to interim City Secretary Grace Edwards this month for verification. He said the association got an overwhelming response from residents who gathered the necessary signatures.

Mayor James Gosey was

aware that Miller had discussed the idea of utilizing sheriff's deputies, but talks went no further.

"It was just information gathering. That's all it was," Gosey said.

"The council has no intention of dissolving the Police

Department."

Gosey said he met with Cozby and was told that work on a petition to amend the charter started when Miller was still the city manager. The current charter doesn't address the Police Department, he said.

Terry Grisham, a spokesman for the Sheriff's Department, said discussions took place with several small cities, including Forest Hill, to look at contracting with them.

"Nothing was agreed to; it was just in the talking phase," Grisham said.

Councilman Gerald Joubert said that after a budget workshop last fall, Miller was told to "immediately" come up with ways to reduce Forest Hill's property tax rate, which

was raised from 95 cents per \$100 of assessed property value to \$1.06 to cover a budget shortfall. Now there are concerns that the council may have to cut employee salaries and consider layoffs.

But even with those budget problems looming, Joubert didn't have an opinion on the proposed charter amendment.

"I have no problem one way or another with the petition," he said.

Miller could not be reached for comment. However, he previously told the *Star-Telegram* that the council told him to develop a five-year plan to "streamline government" to lower the tax rate.

COMMISSIONERS

\$11.2 million designated for health services

By **DARREN BARBEE**
dbarbee@star-telegram.com

FORT WORTH — About \$11.2 million will go to pay for the county health department and mental health and mental retardation services for county jail inmates, the Tarrant County Commissioners Court decided Tuesday.

The Tarrant County Hospital District, which does business as JPS Health Network, is under contract to provide \$8.5 million to Tarrant County Public Health as well as \$314,207 for utilities. Also, \$2.3 million will go for services to county inmates' mental health needs and \$64,500 for the Rehabilitative Alternatives for Probationers and Parolees program.

Last year, commissioners approved a similar contract for about \$11.14 million.

Commissioners also approved this year's \$1.6 million contract among the county, JPS and Mental Health Mental Retardation of Tarrant County. The contract requires JPS to pay MHMR \$132,887 a month.

The 2009 contract was for about \$1.8 million. The difference was due to the inclusion of about \$167,000 for fiscal 2008 payments in last year's contract, said Jay Singleton, assistant county administrator.

Among other services, the new contract provides \$301,489 for inpatient hospital services and \$500,000 for behavioral health crisis services.

Jim McDermott, CEO of Tarrant County MHMR, said the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services and the Texas Department of State Health Services require the county to put up local money for a match of state dollars.

Including the money approved Tuesday, the county has allocated \$4.8 million to MHMR, McDermott said. A large amount is for services related to criminal justice.

DARREN BARBEE, 817-390-7126

Patricia Ann Terry



FORT WORTH — Patricia Ann Terry, 40, a devoted mother and daughter, passed away Friday, Feb. 26, 2010.

FUNERAL: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday in Greenwood Chapel. Interment: Greenwood Memorial Park. Visitation: 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Greenwood Funeral Home.

Patricia was born Nov. 23, 1969, in Milwaukee, Wis. She completed her high school studies in Milwaukee. After relocating to Dallas, she went on to complete her bachelor's degree in computer information systems at Dallas Baptist University. Patricia was employed as a booking clerk at the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department, where she worked for the past couple of years. She previously worked as an officer at the Dallas County Sheriff's Department.

As a working mother, her first priority was always the love of her life, her son, Javon. Her incredible love was abundantly evident in the way that she raised, nurtured, guided and protected him throughout her life.

At an early age, Patricia professed her love for Christ. She remained active in her church through adulthood. For several years, Patricia attended the Potter's House in Dallas where she served in the new member fellowship ministry. She recently began attending LifePointe Church in Fort Worth.

Patricia was preceded in death by her father.

SURVIVORS: Son, Javon; mother, Lula Mae Terry of Fort Worth; brothers, Leophis Webster (Clorsteen) of Oklahoma City, Okla., and Morris Webster of Milwaukee, Wis.; special friend, Trey Childers of Fort Worth; and a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Greenwood Funeral Home
3100 White Settlement Rd., 817-336-0584

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www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Tarrant sheriff will speak to Forest Hill council

Dee Anderson will describe his talk in the fall with the former city manager.

By ELIZABETH CAMPBELL
eliz@star-telegram.com

At a special meeting of the Forest Hill City Council called for Tuesday, Tarrant County Sheriff Dee Anderson is to discuss his talk in the fall with former City Manager David Miller about the possibility of the county's providing law enforcement for the city.

The surprise move comes a week after the Forest Hill Police Officers Association succeeded in getting a proposed charter amendment on the May 8 ballot that would require a vote by all residents, not just the City Council, before the Police Department could be dissolved.

Mayor James Gosey said Friday that he asked Anderson to speak to the council.

"We want to go straight to the horse's mouth and ask what actually transpired between Mr. Miller and the Sheriff's Department," Gosey said. "Nothing was ever brought before the council regarding the sheriff's office taking over the Police Department."

Miller, who was fired in December, said he talked to the sheriff because he was under instructions to find ways to save money.

"The council gave me clear direction to come up with a plan to lower the tax rate as quickly as possible," Miller said Friday. But talks with the sheriff went no further than that, he said.

Gosey said he was aware that Miller had met with An-

derson. "David told me the idea was dead," Gosey said.

He questioned why the police officers did not bring their concerns to the council before launching the petition drive for the charter amendment.

"I don't understand why the police officers association jumped and did what they did. We support our Police Department," Gosey said.

As for the Tuesday meeting, "we want to find out what information was transferred to the police officers association and not to the council," Gosey said.

Association President Jerry Cozby said it is difficult to know what to think of the mayor's inviting the sheriff to make the presentation.

"It creates uncertainty for us," Cozby said. "We just want to make sure we take the nec-

essary measures to protect the officers and to allow the citizens to have and maintain control of their public safety services."

Cozby said the success of the petition drive showed that residents want to have their own police force.

"I am confident in the citizens of Forest Hill to do the right thing for themselves and for the Police Department," Cozby said.

Gosey noted that the city has financial problems and that sales tax revenue is down. The current budget is about \$6 million.

He said he did not have information on how much of a shortfall the city might face.

"If finances change and we need to get rid of three officers, I don't think we need to take it before citizens," Gosey said.

If the city needs to make cutbacks, they will be across the board, affecting all departments, he said.

Another item on Tuesday's agenda refers to "financial exigency."

No further details were available Friday night.

Terry Grisham, a spokesman for Anderson, said Gosey had "asked the sheriff to tone down any rumors on what may or may not happen."

No negotiations are taking place now, he said.

Edgecliff Village and Haslet, much smaller communities, contract with the Sheriff's Department for public safety services, he said.

Kirby Ray Humberson



Wednesday, March 10, 2010

ARLINGTON — Kirby Paul Humberson, 51, of Arlington died Thursday, March 4, 2010, in Dallas from leukemia.

MEMORIAL SERVICE: 2 p.m. Saturday at Arlington Hillcrest Church of Christ.

MEMORIALS: May be made to the Leukemia Society.

Kirby was born Nov. 16, 1958, in Dallas. At the time of his illness he was attending Tarleton State University in Stephenville.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Frances Humberson.

SURVIVORS: Father, Leon Humberson of Stephenville; sons, Jared and Tyler Humberson of Arlington; dear friend, Linda Ramon of Mansfield; former wife, Tammy Humberson of Arlington; and several cousins.

Stephenville Funeral Home
Stephenville, 254-965-3161
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