



# Sheriff Williams lags in fund-raising race

BY JACK DOUGLAS JR.  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**FORT WORTH** — Arlington police spokesman Dee Anderson has raised more money than any other Republican candidate in the crowded Tarrant County sheriff's race, outpacing incumbent Sheriff David Williams by almost a six-to-one margin, reports filed yesterday show.

In a half-year period, from July 1 through Dec. 31, Anderson raised \$20,855, followed by former Texas Ranger Dave Dunaway, who raised \$15,700, according to campaign disclosure forms that were filed at the county's elections administration office.

In the race for the Democratic candidate for sheriff, Fort Worth policeman Luther Perry reported collecting \$1,300 and Haltom City Detective Johnny

"Shane" Harrison reported raising \$432.

Williams, a Republican who was helped by a hefty war chest during his first two successful campaigns, had raised only \$3,532 in the past six months, according to the reports.

The reports show that one of the sheriff's largest contributions, totaling \$500, came from Hugh Atwell, a former

Tarrant County Jail chaplain who now runs the Faith Restorative Justice Chaplaincy.

Last June, Williams transferred \$327,873 from the jail's inmate commissary fund to Atwell's non-profit agency in exchange for religious assistance and support for prisoners and jail personnel.

Williams could not be reached yesterday to comment. In a recent interview, he acknowledged that his fund-raising efforts had not been as successful as in the past.

"The money will come," Williams said in the interview. "I believe we're going to have what we need to operate ... and execute the game plan."

Anderson said yesterday that he is optimistic that his strong financial support will result in victories in both the March 14 primary and the Nov. 7 general elections.

"I think it [the contributions] shows the strength of the campaign we've put together," he said.



Anderson



Williams

Dunaway said he is also comfortable with what his campaign has accomplished so far.

"It's gone as planned. We knew it would be a grassroots effort to establish name recognition," he said.

Sheriff's candidate Jerry McGlasson, a former North Richland Hills police chief, reported contributions totaling \$7,925, and Fort Worth police officer Brad Patterson reported raising \$7,130.

No contribution amounts were reported for the other two Republicans in the race: John Lewis, a former clerk in the Tarrant County Jail, and Jim Hunter, a private investigator who entered the contest after the filing deadline.

James Stokes, a Reform Party candidate for sheriff, reported raising \$215.

Among Republicans running for county tax assessor-collector, Ernest Richardson raised \$6,081, Betsy Price, \$5,248 and Tom Davis, \$500. Another Republican, Jeff Hodges, said in his report that he did not receive any money in his efforts to become the next tax collector, but he had expenditures of \$26.79.

Diane Roffey, a Democrat seeking her party's nomination for tax assessor-collector, reported raising \$785.

In the race to replace retiring family court Judge Sue Koenig, Republican candidate Debra Lehrmann reported raising \$36,240 during the past six months. Lehrmann is already the associate judge in the 360th District Court, which is being vacated by Koenig.

Family law attorney Don Cosby, an opponent of Lehrmann's in the GOP primary, reported contributions totaling \$17,065. The campaign contribution figures for another Republican candidate in that race, lawyer John White, were not available yesterday.

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# OPINIONS

Star-Telegram

## ■ LETTERS, FAXES AND E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

### Qualified to comment

Floyd F. Clark (Jan. 6 letter) seems to think that, because I live in Forney, I've no right to express my opinion on the David Williams situation.

Mr. Clark, a little background for you: I was born and raised in Fort Worth and spent most of the first 35 years of my life there before moving east. I have a brother who still lives in Tarrant County, as well as other relatives. I have an uncle who is a retired Fort Worth police officer, and I have had other uncles serve on other Tarrant County forces.

I think I'm quite qualified to comment on the place I formerly called home, thank you; the fact is I moved east so my wife

could be closer to her folks has nothing whatsoever to do with my concern for the county.

As for the Sheriff supposedly doing himself in — his only crime, as far as I can see, is to stand up to a commissioners court that seems to want to micromanage all county affairs, right down to telling the coroner how much money he can make in any side endeavor he might undertake.

I certainly wouldn't want to live under those conditions — and if you do, then that's your problem, not mine.

Steve Crager  
Forney



# Late chief has say on race for sheriff

One month after he was diagnosed with terminal cancer, and four months before he died, Fort Worth Police Chief Thomas Windham composed a strongly worded letter that now allows him to speak from the grave.

In it, he endorses a candidate for sheriff and chastises his own

► Police Chief Thomas Windham's letter endorsing Luther Perry, 6B

Republican Party.

The letter, dictated Sept. 8, 1999, to his executive secretary, is classic Windham: to the point, no holds barred and clearly expressing his intentions. He leaves no

room for interpretation.

In his letter, addressed to "Letters to the Editor" of the *Star-Telegram*, Windham bemoans the failure of the Republican Party to identify and elect qualified and respectable candidates for sheriff and steadfastly endorses his long-

(More on SANDERS on Page 6B)

## Windham's endorsement letter

*The following is the full text of a letter Police Chief Thomas Windham dictated to his secretary four months before he died, endorsing Democratic sheriff's candidate Luther Perry:*

Letters to the Editor  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram  
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It has been my great pleasure and personal pride to have known and worked with Luther Perry for almost 14 years. I take equal pleasure in personally endorsing him for Tarrant County sheriff.

I came to Fort Worth as a Republican and I remain a Republican. I must, however, agree with [Tarrant County Democratic Party Chairman] Art Brender, that Sheriff Lon Evans was the last great sheriff we've had in Tarrant County. I doubt there is a single Republican voter out there who could honestly disagree with Mr. Brender.

Since we Republicans took over as sheriff we have had almost eight years of Don Carpenter and an equal amount of time by David Williams. I frame their incumbencies as time because there has not been any noticeable effort over the years that either Carpenter or Williams made any effort to professionalize their department or to serve all citizens of Tarrant County in an efficient, effective way [other] than an egotistical way. The Tarrant County Sheriff's Office could easily be led to being one of the best in the great state of Texas, and indeed one of the best in the country. I have met few members of the rank and file of the Sheriff's Department that I would not classify as strongly committed and dedicated professional law enforcement officers — the blight has been at the top since we Republicans took over. Both recent Republican incumbents have frequently referred to themselves as the "top cop" of Tarrant County. I personally scoff at such a statement.

I believe it is time we Republicans surrendered. It appears obvious to me that we must conclude it doubtful that we can do the job of Tarrant County sheriff. We must turn it back over to the Democrats.

Luther Perry of the Fort Worth Police Department has my personal and professional endorsement as the person most suited and qualified to lead the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office to the professional levels the residents of Tarrant County so richly deserve. He can and will be our top cop, but I bet you won't hear him make that claim very often.

After Windham's funeral, Maria again brought up the letter that the chief had written. She recalled that he had planned to send it right away, but after they talked about it, it was thought that September was a little too early to send an endorsement letter.

"He said he would wait and release it after the first of the year," she said.

The chief never got a chance to personally release his letter, but he had every intent that it be made public, Maria said.

The chief returned to the hospital Jan. 5 and died one week later.

"Since we Republicans took over as sheriff, we have had almost eight years of Don Carpenter and an equal amount of time by David Williams," Windham said in the letter. "I frame their incumbencies as time because there has not been any noticeable effort over the years that either Carpenter or Williams made any effort to professionalize their department or to serve all citizens of Tarrant County in an efficient, effective way [other] than an egotistical way."

Perry was aware that Windham

time assistant, Luther Perry, to be the next sheriff of Tarrant County.

Denouncing Sheriff David Williams and his predecessor, Don Carpenter, as unprofessional and egotistical, Windham declares that it is time for the Republican Party to surrender the sheriff's office and "turn it back over to the Democrats."



Perry

The night he died, Jan. 12, Windham's wife, Maria, proudly told me that her husband had written a letter in support of Perry, a 25-year veteran of the Fort Worth Police Department and a special assistant to the chief for about 14 years (almost Windham's entire tenure in Fort Worth).



Windham





**BOB RAY  
SANDERS**

■  
COMMENTARY

had written something on his behalf but did not receive a copy of the letter until Wednesday, the day after the chief's funeral.

The letter was "more powerful" than he had expected, Perry said, but knowing the chief, the wording didn't really surprise him.

Perry, 45, said he was inspired that the chief, "in the midst of his Atroubles — one month after being diagnosed," would have the strength and will to write such a moving endorsement letter.

Although not sure whether Windham knew that he was dying at the time he dictated the letter, Perry said, "I think he had an inkling that he had a real problem, and as a safeguard, he did not want to risk not adding his voice to this particular race."

Considering Windham's "revolutionary kind of personality," Perry said, the chief "wanted people to know that he [Perry] is the best-qualified person for the job."

Perry's political adviser Steve Montgomery said, "From a campaign perspective, I've never experienced something like this."

He said the campaign will defi-

nately use Windham's endorsement in campaign literature, just as it will use the endorsements of Democratic officeholders U.S. Rep. Martin Frost, D-Dallas, state Sen. Mike Moncrief, D-Fort Worth, and County Commissioner Dionne Bagsby — endorsements that rarely come *before* the party primary.

In the letter, Windham said he scoffed at statements by Williams and Carpenter that they were the "top cop" of Tarrant County.

He said Perry could restore the sheriff's office to the professional level Tarrant County citizens deserve.

"He can and will be our top cop," Windham said of Perry, "but I bet you won't hear him make that claim very often."

Windham was a man who always liked to get his punches in during a tough fight. It seems he's still doing it — even in death.

*Editor's note: The full text of Windham's letter appears on this page.*

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# KEEPER OF THE KEYS

## Heavily contested sheriff's race centers on incumbent's management of the jail

BY JACK DOUGLAS JR.

Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**FORT WORTH** — On the fifth floor of the Tarrant County Jail, in a place reserved for people in big trouble, inmate Willy was having a terrible day.

Thick leather straps bound his writhing body to an ominous-looking black chair. A heavy towel was wrapped around his face and head, allowing him to breathe, but preventing him from biting or spitting at the five jailers who were attempting to restrain him.

Charged only with a misdemeanor, and due to be released within a month, Willy was in a predicament on that particular morning because he had repeatedly slashed his wrist, then torn away the stitches each time they were sewn by jail medics.

A nurse, standing in front of the still-struggling prisoner, said: "This man eats his own wounds."

It is a shocking picture to a visitor unfamiliar with the innards of the jail — a towering, steel-barred repository of humanity where daylight and fresh air are replaced by fluorescent lights and the smell of assembly-line food.

This is the county jail, the fourth largest in Texas, stripped of the political background that has recently made it one of the hottest topics of debate in the upcoming sheriff's race.

Sheriff David Williams, a two-term Republican facing stiff competition this election year, oversees 1,239 deputies, jailers and support workers, and controls an annual budget of \$57.3 million. From that budget, \$39.7 million is earmarked for running the jail, where 888 county employees are assigned.

Other duties of the Sheriff's Department include providing security at the courthouse and in courtrooms, serving civil and criminal warrants and patrolling the rural roads of Tarrant County.

Williams says he has worked hard in the past seven years to modernize the 13-story lockup on the northern edge of downtown.

"The biggest job I have is the safe and secure operations of the county jail," Williams said recently, dismissing as "negative politics" the accusations that he has not performed well.

He noted that the jail has for the past four years met standards set by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. During those years, commission director Jack Crump agreed, Tarrant County's jail facilities have been considered "safe and suitable."

**C**apt. Herb Chambers, a Sheriff's Department spokesman, said of the jail's administration, "They've got good pros in there who are running it, and they're working under him [Williams]."

But the candidates running against Williams — six Republicans, two Democrats and a Reform Party hopeful — say Williams has often ignored the jail, pilfering its staff and budget to launch unnecessary crime-fighting ventures that duplicate those of area police departments.

They say Williams strives to be seen as the county's top cop — the one with the shiny badge who always saves the damsel in distress — but cares little about his "less sexy" responsibilities of caring for more than 3,000 inmates in the jail.

"We have to have a working jail, not just a warehouse for people," said Brad Patterson, a Fort Worth police officer running for sheriff in the GOP primary.

Dave Dunaway, a former Texas Ranger and a Republican candidate, said that if he becomes the keeper of the keys to the jail, "I will not be taking people from there, essential personnel, to satisfy some whim I have in some other area of law



enforcement.”

But if the jail is in disarray under Williams' watch, it was not obvious on the day that Willy was struggling. Jailers seemed to know exactly what they were doing with a man who was out of control. And if morale is low among the staffers, it did not turn to anger when Willy, the towel finally removed from his face, tried to spit in their faces.

Across the jail pod, a more peaceable inmate paced, then paused to peer through the narrow, thick-glassed window of his “special management” cell. Many people would know his name, though jail rules prevent it from being published.

He is accused of kidnapping a little girl. She has not been found, and is feared dead.

Unlike Willy, the kidnapping suspect just stared. ...

And smiled.

Jail is not a pretty place. And when the subject is raised in local politics, it gets downright ugly.

Jim Hunter, a private investigator and former federal agent who is a sheriff's candidate in the Republican primary, said jailers must do a better job in assessing and dealing with prisoners who are in a rage or mentally ill.

They used “poor judgment,” Hunter said, in dealing with James Arthur Livingston, a 30-year-old county inmate who died on July 7 after being squirted with pepper spray and held for more than four hours in a restraint chair.

“It appears there was a breakdown in the system, at least, in keeping that person in restraints as long as they did without getting professional guidance and help,” he said.

Jail officials said they would not comment on the circumstances surrounding the death because of a federal lawsuit filed against the county by Livingston's mother, alleging that her son's civil rights were violated.

Hunter is not the only one in the sheriff's race who is alleging serious mistakes behind jail walls.

Jerry McGlasson, a GOP candidate and a former police chief in North Richland Hills, said Williams' management of the jail has made portions of it an “absolute zoo.”

“They literally lose prisoners who are to be booked in and release prisoners who are not suppose to be released,” McGlasson said.

Last May, Savala Swanson, chief deputy over confinement,

told county commissioners that “mistakes” were being made in booking prisoners in and out of jail. “We're seeing the release of people who shouldn't be released,” Swanson said at the time, adding that the jail needed more personnel to fix the problem.

Fort Worth Police Chief Thomas Windham, who died this month of cancer, had also complained, saying in November 1998 that city officers were being kept from their patrol duties because of long delays in booking their prisoners into the jail. Windham, at the time, accused Williams of mismanaging the lockup, adding, “It's totally unacceptable.”

Lt. Mack West, who is assigned to the jail, said the problem has been fixed. The average book-in times have dropped from over an hour to about 3 minutes, mainly by “realigning” personnel and moving some functions of the book-

ing office to other parts of the jail, West said.

Swanson, in a recent interview, said, “They've gone a long way in resolving the problem.

“That's not to say the problem won't come back, but we think we have it under control.”

Williams' opponents are not so sure.



Dee Anderson, a Republican in the race for sheriff and a spokesman for Arlington police, said, "The last contact I had with Fort Worth [police], they said the delays were still there and still causing a great deal of problems in their patrol operations."

**A**nother part of the jail that needs to be fixed, according to Williams' opponents, is the inmates' commissary fund. In June, Williams transferred more than \$327,000 from the fund — which had been used to buy hygiene items for prisoners — to Faith Restorative Justice Chaplaincy, headed by the sheriff's friend and campaign contributor, Hugh Atwell.

Williams has said the money would be used by the group to provide religious assistance and counseling for the inmates and the jail staff.

"That's absolutely absurd," said Fort Worth police officer Luther Perry, a Democrat in the race who, like Williams, has strong ties with local churches.

Perry and several other candidates said that if they are elected sheriff, they will return the jail chaplaincy to religious leaders who are willing to volunteer their services at little or no cost to local government. The commissary fund, they said, should be used only to purchase toiletries for prisoners.

Shane Harrison, a Haltom police detective who is trying to become the Democratic nominee for sheriff, said he believes Williams moved the money to Atwell's group in a bid for further political support from the

religious right. "There's no doubt about it, he wants to gain favor from those churches," Harrison said, adding, "We've got to get these churches out of the jail."

Williams did not return repeated phone calls for a response. Atwell also could not be reached.

Larry Hester, a chief deputy with the Sheriff's Department, said the commissary fund was tapped after county commissioners eliminated Atwell's position as chaplain and religious services administrator for the jail. That position, according to records, paid Atwell more than \$56,000 a year.

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# County settles suit over jail suicide

**The family wants officials to discuss the case with jailers on duty the night she died.**

By **KAREN ROUSE**  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**FORT WORTH** — Tarrant County commissioners agreed yesterday to pay \$50,000 to settle a lawsuit filed by the family of a 36-year-old woman who hanged herself with a telephone cord in the county jail.

The 3-1 vote comes exactly four years after the body of Jennifer Merriman was discovered in a holding cell.

The suit, filed by Charles and Bette Merriman, was set to go to trial in about a week.

Commissioners Glen Whitley and Dionne Bagsby and County Judge Tom Vandergriff voted in favor of the settlement, while Commissioner J. D. Johnson voted against it. Commissioner Marti VanRavenswaay was absent during the vote.

"I'm not satisfied in my mind that we did anything wrong," Johnson said, explaining his vote.

Michael Ware, the Merrimans' attorney, said the settlement also calls for an official apology from Tarrant County and a meeting between county officials and the Merriman family, and for county officials to discuss the circumstances of Merriman's death with officers on duty Jan. 25, 1996, the night she died.

Ware said the family will also tour the jail to "have a better idea of what kind of input they want to make with the commissioners."

Marvin Collins, chief of the civil division of the District Attorney's office, declined to comment on details of the case before the settlement becomes final.

Collins said only that the matter had been in litigation for several years and that the settlement is the result of mediation.

Debra Dupont, the assistant district attorney representing the county, did not return a telephone call yesterday.

Merriman had been arrested on suspicion of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon after a fight with her boyfriend when she was booked into the county jail. A report said that her boyfriend had

been cut on the hand by a pocket knife and that Merriman was hit in the eye and head.

Officials said Merriman had been placed in a holding cell with other women, but was moved to a holding cell alone after she became violent. An hour later, deputies found her unconscious, according to news reports.

Ware said the Merrimans sued in late 1996 claiming that "the county consciously disregarded the fact that she [Jennifer Merriman] was a suicide risk" and that a failure to take precautions "had been a contributing factor to her death."

Merriman revealed to jail officials during an interview that she had attempted suicide in the past and was taking more than one antidepressant, Ware said.

Merriman was placed in a cell with an instrument that enabled her to take her own life, and was monitored just once an hour, Ware said.

"It could have been every 30 minutes or every 15 minutes or continuous" surveillance, he said.

Ware said the lawsuit was not about money.

"The primary impetus is they want the county to be accountable

for what happened and make some changes," he said.

In other business yesterday, commissioners were briefed in a closed meeting on a recent ruling that favors Denton County in a border dispute with Tarrant County. But the commissioners declined taking any steps to appeal District Judge James Mullin's ruling.

Tarrant County in 1997 sued its northern neighbor, Denton County, over the location of their common border. In November, Mullin ruled in favor of Denton County.

But Mullin did not issue a final judgment. Tarrant County attorneys — while not explicitly saying that they will appeal the case — urged that a final judgment be issued to clear the way for an appeal to the 2nd Court of Appeals in Fort Worth.

Mullin ruled Thursday that he will not issue a final judgment until the border is physically marked.

Tarrant County commissioners are expected to discuss the issue again at Tuesday's meeting.

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# Workers of clubs raided 2 years ago sue county

BY KAREN ROUSE

Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**FORT WORTH** — Seventeen people who were employed at several sexually oriented businesses raided by the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department two years ago sued the county yesterday, claiming that their civil rights were violated.

Five adult clubs and five adult bookstores were raided Feb. 4, 1998, and were temporarily closed for not having permits posted or having them posted in the wrong location.

Dancers, bartenders, cooks, disc jockeys, waitresses, club managers and other workers were arrested and jailed for 24 hours or longer. The 10 dancers, two waitresses, two disc jockeys, two managers and one bartender who are named as plaintiffs in the lawsuit were never charged, and their arrest records have been cleared.

Steven H. Swander, who is representing the plaintiffs, could not be reached to comment yesterday, and the lawsuit does not specify what remedy the plaintiffs are seeking.

Assistant District Attorney Larry Thompson said the county was expecting the lawsuit.

The workers had been employed at the New West Club, Dream Clubs or Showcase II adult entertainment clubs.

The lawsuit says that the sexually oriented businesses had been operated legally based on letters administered by the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department and that county officials were aware that the businesses were permitted to operate.

Many of the clubs and bookstores had 1991 letters from the Sheriff's Department that served as temporary permits until a permit hearing could be held. The hearings were never held and the clubs, often patrolled by deputies, stayed open for years.

Swander said Sheriff David Williams ordered the raid after meeting with representatives of the district attorney's office to enforce a "permit posting requirement" in the law.

Swander said the arrests were made without a warrant and were designed to close the businesses.

Thompson said the dancers' records were cleared and the plaintiffs never relinquished their rights to sue the county.

The county agreed to nullify the arrest records because the Sheriff's Department never pursued criminal cases against the dancers, he said.

Sheriff's officials said they ordered the operation based on complaints from residents.

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+



# Sheriff questions some opponents' backers

BY JACK DOUGLAS JR.

Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**FORT WORTH** — Facing stiff competition in the upcoming primary, Tarrant County Sheriff David Williams has suggested that some of his opponents may have been “put up” to run by people who want to buy influence in the Sheriff’s Department.

“They’ve been encouraged by people ... who clearly don’t understand what the job requires,” Williams said in a rare display of political finger-pointing at those who are challenging his bid for a third term.

But Williams, in a telephone interview, stopped short of accusing any of the six other

Republican candidates of accepting campaign contributions in exchange for promised favors if they win.

“I would want to believe that all of the candidates have motives that are proper, and that they are well-intentioned,” he said.

The other candidates in the March 14 GOP primary said they have made it clear to their financial supporters that they will get nothing for their money — except a well-managed Sheriff’s Department.

Referring to Williams’ suggestion to the contrary, candidate Jim Hunter, a private investigator

(More on SHERIFF on Page 6B)

**Despite six challengers in his party, David Williams says he expects to win a third term.**

and former federal officer, said: “I think he’s hallucinating.”

Hunter and others in the race noted that it was Williams, during his first term in office in the early 1990s, who was accused of becoming too cozy with auto parts dealer Ed Max.

Max, who contributed about \$42,000 to Williams’ first race, was often referred to as the “shadow sheriff,” with easy access to the Sheriff’s Department after Williams took office in 1993.

In a recent interview, however, he denied asking for, or receiving, any special favors in return for being Williams’ biggest money-backer.

“Hell, no! What kind of influence would I want? All I want is good government,” he said.

Max, whose father was a Tarrant County deputy, added: “I love the Sheriff’s Department. I was brought up around it.”

The 71-year-old entrepreneur said he has not decided whether to contribute money in this year’s sheriff’s race.

“I don’t know who to put there,” he said. “The man in Arlington is a

real good fella,” Max said, referring to Dee Anderson, a spokesman for the Arlington Police Department.

“But can he run anything? All he’s been is a spokesman for the Police Department,” Max said.

Anderson agreed that his “strong suit” is in communicating with others. “That’s what this job needs right now,” he said, adding that he will work hard to delegate authority. “I will bring in top names of police managers and executives from all over the county,” Anderson said.

Max said he has a strong allegiance to certain current members of the department’s chain of command and does not want to see them lose their jobs under a new boss.

Max said he was considering backing candidate Dave Dunaway, a former Texas Ranger, until Dunaway told him that, if elected, he would “get rid of everyone in high command.”

“So we just thanked him and sent him on his way,” Max said.

Dunaway said in an interview that, as sheriff, he would “closely evaluate” the department’s top commanders before deciding whether any of them should be demoted or fired. Like other candidates, he said that he would not take money from anyone asking for personal favors.

One thing is for sure, Max said: He will not contribute money to Williams. “I don’t intend to spend a nickel. The man’s a total ... embarrassment,” he said.

With Max gone, and other supporters backing away, Williams’ campaign war chest is much lighter than in the past, the sheriff acknowledged.

During the first half of last year, Williams raised only \$100 and spent a meager \$32 in his re-election bid, according to campaign disclosure statements filed with the county’s elections administration office. For the second half of the year, the sheriff’s war chest grew by \$3,532.

Reported contributions for the other candidates last year were: \$32,680 for Arlington police spokesman Anderson; \$23,305 for Fort Worth police officer Brad Patterson; \$22,373 for Dunaway, the former Texas Ranger; and \$10,870 for former North Richland Hills Police Chief Jerry McGlasson.

Hunter, the private investigator, and John Lewis, a former Sheriff’s Department clerk and self-described window washer, entered the race late and have not filed campaign disclosure statements.



On the Democratic side, Fort Worth police officer Luther Perry raised \$6,825, and Haltom City police officer Johnny "Shane" Harrison raised \$1,272, the disclosure documents show.

Reform Party candidate Jim Stokes raised \$275.

Williams said that he has recently been "blessed" with contributions, including a "nice little bounce" after he won a straw poll in November.

"I believe we're going to have what we need to ... execute the game plan," the sheriff said, quickly adding, "But we'll always take more money."

Williams said he is determined to keep his job, despite the rigors of one controversy after another, including a helicopter crash that killed two of his deputies, fights with county commissioners and questions about his military service.

The 45-year-old sheriff predicted that when his days end as the county's top cop, it will be through retirement — rather than by defeat.

"There will come a time, someday, when it will be time for me to look to retire," he said. "I don't know when that will be."

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Williams

## SHERIFF'S RACE

Tarrant County Sheriff David Williams has suggested that some of his opponents may have been "put up" to run in the upcoming primary by people who want to buy influence in the Sheriff's Department.



# State high court to hear 'God Pod' case

BY KAREN ROUSE  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**FORT WORTH** — The Texas Supreme Court agreed yesterday to hear appeals filed by both sides in a case in which two former inmates challenged the constitutionality of the Tarrant County Jail's Christian Education Unit.

The state's highest civil court is scheduled to hear the case Feb. 23.

Attorneys for the county and the former

## Ex-inmates say Tarrant County Jail unit is unconstitutional

inmates are appealing a year-old ruling by the 2nd Court of Appeals, which said a trial is needed to decide whether the unit shows religious favoritism.

"I think it's appropriate that the Texas Supreme Court review this case," said Marvin Collins, chief of the district attorney's civil division.

"It gives all of us an opportunity to know where the proper line is between church and state and ... how far we must go to permit the free exercise of religion in the jail."

Richard A. Rohan, attorney for former inmate Ruth Maree Lara, who is Jewish, said, "We felt all along that this is an important issue of church-state separation that warranted review at the highest level."

Lara and former inmate Michael Huff, a

(More on APPEALS on Page 6B)

and diplomas to inmates since 1992.

Last year, the 2nd Court of Appeals said the unit does not violate the two inmates' religious freedom. But the judges said there is so much conflicting evidence about the program's purpose and operation that a trial is needed to determine whether the unit amounts to government favoritism for a particular religion.

In its argument to the Supreme

Court, Tarrant County is taking issue with "whether Huff and Lara have standing since they are no longer in the jail," Collins said.

Rohan said Lara is appealing the Court of Appeals ruling that there are facts that need to go before a trial. He said testimony from Sheriff David Williams and others shows that the God Pod operation "amounts to a violation of the constitution. There is no need for a trial."

Laurance Priddy, Huff's attorney, said he will also argue that a trial is unnecessary and that the God Pod violated Huff's rights because he was not allowed the same type of instruction as other inmates.

"He requested the opportunity for Jehovah's Witness preachers to conduct group sessions and they wouldn't permit that," Priddy said.

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Jehovah's Witness, sued Tarrant County and Sheriff David Williams in 1993, claiming the unit violated their civil rights and the religious freedom provisions of the U.S. and Texas constitutions.

The unit, nicknamed the "God Pod," has offered Bible lessons



01-29-2000

## FORT WORTH

# Driver critically wounded in head after pursuit by Pelican Bay police

By ELIZABETH CAMPBELL  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**FORT WORTH** — A Pelican Bay police officer has been placed on paid leave after he critically wounded a woman early yesterday morning.

The Tarrant County Sheriff's Department is investigating the shooting, Pelican Bay Police Chief Mickey Rogillio said.

Officer Shawn Nance, who has been with the department two years, was pursuing Donna Butler on suspicion of driving while intoxicated when he fired four shots at her 1988 Ford Tempo, officials said.

Butler was taken to John Peter Smith Hospital and was listed in critical condition yesterday with a gunshot wound in the head.

The pursuit began in Azle around 12:30 a.m. in the 1100 block of Southeast Parkway when officers noticed a vehicle traveling over the speed limit, Azle police Lt. Greg Arrington said. He said Butler was also driving erratically.

Azle officers followed the Tempo to the intersection of Texas 199 and Farm Road 730. The car then turned north on 730 toward Pelican Bay, about 30 miles northwest of Fort Worth.

The driver turned on Sandy Beach Road toward Pelican Bay, Arrington said.

"When the vehicle got to the Pelican Bay city limits, that department took over the pursuit," he said.

Meanwhile, Butler continued driving to Long Avenue but refused to stop. Nance pulled his car across the road in an attempt to block Butler's vehicle, officials.

"When Butler drove her car toward Nance, he believed he was about to be struck," City Attorney George Staples said.

Rogillio said it is department policy to request an outside investigation of shootings involving officers.

Elizabeth Campbell, (817) 390-7696  
liz@star-telegram.com



'FIND SOMETHING YOU LIKE TO DO. IT MAY NOT BE DRUMS, BUT IT BEATS DRUGS AND GANGS.'

# Students get tips on leadership, life

By **MARTHA DELLER**  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**FORT WORTH** — The teens looked a bit bored or maybe just sleepy as they watched a drug awareness video yesterday as part of a leadership conference at Leonard Middle School.

But the students quickly woke up when Tarrant County Sheriff's Lt. Leon Flowers Jr. taught them how to play his drums from West Africa, Cuba and Peru.

Seated behind djembe, conga and cajone drums, the teens hesitantly mimicked Flowers' movements in striking

"That was one of my favorites," said Jerry Crimiel, who plays percussion in the Wedgwood band. "He brought it to more modern times and gave us an alternative."

At past workshops, Flowers demonstrated his martial arts skills as part of his anti-drug message, said PTA Council President Ruth Ann Patsel.

Workshops on other contemporary issues such as AIDS and drinking and a ropes challenge course were also popular, Patsel said.

About half the workshops focused on building leadership skills. Schools chose the participants in hopes that they could use those skills to help other students.

In a workshop led by Paschal High School seniors Veronica Flores and Mary Dear, the middle school students silently worked in teams to build houses of cards to learn cooperation and nonverbal communication.

Monnig student Phillip Stephenson, whose team built 22 card houses in 10 minutes, said that adhesive tape, not talking, would have made the task easier.

"The point we tried to get across is that talking is not always the best way," Flores said. "All of you are leaders, so you sometimes conflict. You kind of worked with

each other's ideas. That's what worked."

The students then drew pictures of their ideal leaders. Stephenson's leader had "a light bulb for good ideas, big ears for listening, big muscles for standing up for what he believes, strange clothes for expressing himself, a smile for being happy and a big heart."

Many students left the conference with what sponsors had hoped — plans to carry what they learned back to other students.

"I was in Student Council last year," Dunbar student Kristyn Wagner said. "I hope to be in National Junior Honor Society next year. I'll probably run for an office."

Wedgwood students Lelani Taylor and Brad Cain said the workshops will help them in their respective roles as a Natural Helper and a peer mediator, two groups that help other students.

"This gave us good tips on being a leader and standing up for what you believe," Taylor said.

Linda Fielding, who works with troubled students at Wedgwood Middle School, said that's what she had in mind when she chose them for the conference.

"These are not full-fledged leaders yet, but they're the group learning conflict resolution to help other kids," she said.

## IMPACT

on drug prevention

the drums, then boldly picking up the rhythm that produced alternating low

and high-pitched tones.

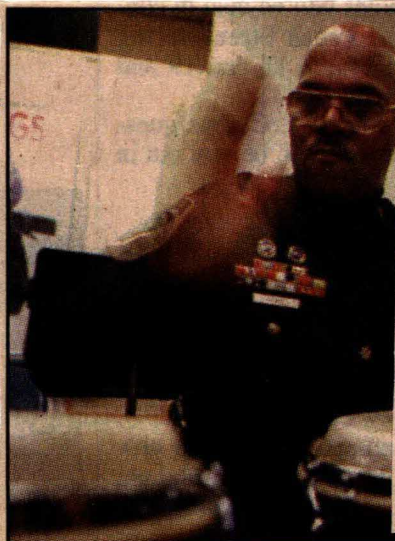
"You're concentrating way too hard. Have fun," he told a few apprehensive teens. "Find something you like to do. It may not be drums, but it beats drugs and gangs."

More than 200 students, mostly seventh graders from about 15 Fort Worth middle schools, chose among a dozen workshops yesterday at the 14th annual Middle School Student Leadership Conference sponsored by the Fort Worth Council of PTAs.

Flowers' workshop, "Beating Drugs and Gangs with Rhythm and Drum," was one of the most popular. He told the teens that he turned to music and martial

arts to escape the drugs and gangs that ruined the lives of some friends and relatives.

**Sheriff's Lt. Leon Flowers Jr. drums** in a classroom at Leonard Middle School yesterday. He encouraged students to become interested in something other than drugs.





■ LETTERS, FAXES AND E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2000

**Anderson for sheriff**

Dee Anderson will speak with the people and for the people as Tarrant County sheriff.

He is the son of the late Andy Anderson, longtime sportswriter for the *Fort Worth Press*. He has a strong background in communications.

Dee and his wife, Rebecca, have been my friends for 15 years. I have shared in watching his family develop with his concern, love and guidance.

Please join me in voting for Dee Anderson.

**Gloria F. Dunson**  
*Fort Worth*



## *Chief's letter is a factor, Anderson says*

Sheriff candidate **Dee Anderson**, speaking at a Republican Forum luncheon, suggested that his party should be concerned about a letter written by since-deceased Fort Worth Police Chief **Thomas Windham**, blasting Republicans and endorsing

assistant **Luther Perry**, a Democratic candidate.

the  
**INSIDER**  
report

Anderson,

considered by some a front-runner in the GOP primary, said that Windham's letter could be an effective "hammer that will follow us from now until November."

"If you don't think the Democrats believe they can win the sheriff's race [with help from the endorsement letter], I submit to you that that's wrong," he said to his hushed audience.

Fellow sheriff candidates in the Republican primary were quick to disagree, saying in interviews that they do not believe the letter, written by Windham before his death last month from cancer, will hurt the GOP.



## El Paso to get Tarrant County helicopters

BY KAREN ROUSE  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**FORT WORTH** — Two helicopters remaining from a Tarrant County Sheriff's Department program grounded since a 1997 crash that killed two deputies will be taken to El Paso next week, officials said.

Jerry Rucker, a grant manager for the Sheriff's Department, told Tarrant County commissioners yesterday that the state Criminal Justice Department approved Tarrant County's transfer of the aircraft — a Bell OH-58 and a Hughes OH-6 — to El Paso.

The Criminal Justice Department oversees the federal military surplus program that allows law enforcement agencies to acquire equipment from the Defense Department.

El Paso officials are expected to begin transporting the aircraft today from a hangar at Fort Worth

Meacham Airport, Rucker said.

Tarrant County Sheriff David Williams, who promoted helicopter use for narcotics enforcement, was not available to comment. His spokesman, Capt. Herb Chambers, said the department is pleased with the transfer.

"It's something we've been working on for a long time and we're glad it's going to another law enforcement agency in Texas," he said.

Commissioners said they were relieved that the county will soon be rid of the helicopters.

"Wonderful," Commissioner Dionne Bagsby said.

"Excellent," Commissioner J.D. Johnson said.

The commissioners grounded the aircraft Sept. 29, 1998, citing safety concerns. Lt. George Maurice Hendrix and Deputy Thomas Jay Smith were killed when a helicopter in the sheriff's program

crashed on Sept. 17, 1997, east of Eagle Mountain Lake.

A federal air safety report attributed the crash to pilot error.

Federal regulations forbid the county from selling the helicopters to El Paso. But the Sheriff's Department will collect \$45,000 from El Paso as compensation for equipment, including decals and antennae, that had been installed on the aircraft.

The money will be added to the sheriff's crime forfeiture fund for law enforcement programs, sheriff's officials said.

El Paso officials have said they will use the aircraft to support patrol operations. The department, which has been using helicopters since 1988, has three helicopters and one Cessna airplane.

Karen Rouse, (817) 390-7620  
karenrouse@star-telegram.com



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2000

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

**NAME:** Savala Swanson Sr.

**AGE:** 50

**CITY:** Fort Worth

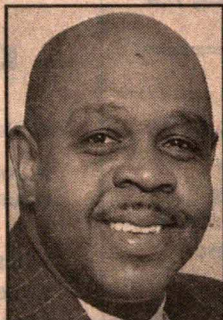
**CLAIM TO FAME:** Swanson, who started his law enforcement career as a detention officer with the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department, has been chief deputy of confinement since 1983, manages a \$34 million budget and oversees a staff of more than 700 workers.

After almost 21 years, Swanson has held just about every position at the jail.

When Swanson is not managing the county's three confinement units — the Tarrant County Corrections Center on North Lamar Street, the Belknap building and the Green Bay facility — he teaches Bible study and Sunday School classes at Forest Hill Church of Christ, where he is also a member of the outreach and church steering committees.

He also speaks to students at school career days.

"I love children," said Swanson, a father of five. "I think it's important for them to see a



positive image of a person in law enforcement."

Too often, he said, children see police officers and sheriff's deputies in a negative situations, such as when they make arrests.

He also warns youngsters that jail is not a place they'd want to live, even temporarily. To make his point, he pulls out handcuffs and leg irons.

Swanson credits his career and life successes to his personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

"That's my lifeline," he said. "Without the Lord and without my church involvement, I really would not have a life."



# Dream world images fill

## Williams' Web site

**S**heriff David Williams is living in a fantasy world.

First, he imagined that he deserved credit for both the lower crime rate and the booming local economy.

Now, in his newest delusion, Williams has created some imaginary friends.

They're very influential friends.

In Williams' vivid imagination, his friends include Gov. George W. Bush, U.S. Sen. John McCain, Ross Perot

Jr. and even Tom Landry. They're all pictured on his new World Wide Web political campaign pages, implying that they support the Watauga incumbent in the Republican primary election March 14.

The front-page photo shows a smiling Williams and a bewildered-looking Bush.

The headline beneath says: "Sher-

iff's Photo Gallery. You Will Be Amazed Who You See Here."

Not only will you be amazed.

*They'll be amazed.*

Roger Williams was amazed. He's a Weatherford car dealer and a Texas fund-raiser for Bush.

He is shown prominently with the sheriff in two 1996 snapshots — taken when the two were simply standing side by side at a Texas Christian University football game.

"David has not asked me for permission to use any pictures," Roger Williams said yesterday. "I don't want anyone to perceive any of those pictures as an endorsement.

"Furthermore, I think you should ask people before you use their pictures."

Bush has not endorsed Williams and did not authorize using any pictures, Bush spokesman Scott McClellan said yesterday.

Paula Day, a county co-chairwoman of Bush's presidential campaign, said the governor has posed for publicity photos in only one Tarrant County race, supporting newly appointed 2nd Court of Appeals Judge Anne Gardner.

The "gallery" of 34 photos also includes U.S. Sens. Phil Gramm and Kay Bailey Hutchison, Dallas County Sheriff Jim Bowles and even the Rev. Jerry Falwell, as well as local TV preacher Kenneth Copeland.

Two high-ranking officers in the sheriff's department declined comment and said they did not know who publishes the campaign Web page. David Williams did not return calls.

Auto parts executive Philip Byrd of Fort Worth, listed on

the page as Williams' campaign treasurer, said he is not actively supporting Williams and only agreed to leave his name on campaign paperwork.

Although Williams did not return calls, some of his six challengers did.

"I've had people warn me about that, how some candidates will take your picture and then use it politically," said Dave Dunaway of Arlington, a former Texas Ranger who finished second to Williams in a party insiders' straw poll. "I know what that implies. I wouldn't do it."

Williams' best-known challenger is Arlington officer Dee B. Anderson, a 14-year department spokesman and long-ago

newspaper sports editor, the son of longtime Fort Worth and Dallas sportswriter Andy Anderson.

"Heck, I've got pictures with Roger Staubach, Don Meredith, everybody — there's a great one of my dad with coach Landry," Anderson said. "If he's trying to imply that all those people support him — that should be set straight."

The photos are not the only surprise on the Web site, [www.sheriffwilliams.org](http://www.sheriffwilliams.org). A headline claims: "Sheriff Captures 100,000 Fugitives."

Only in his own mind.

Bud Kennedy's column appears Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.  
(817) 390-7538



[budk@star-telegram.com](mailto:budk@star-telegram.com)



**BUD  
KENNEDY**

■  
COMMENTARY





**Re-Elect SHERIFF WILLIAMS**




**Proven Performance - Superior Management**

**Click Here For Sher  
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Who You See Here**

**Proactive Law Enforcement - Innovative Leadership**

	Superior Jail Management	Sheriff Captures 100,000 Fugitives	Missing & Exploited Childrens Unit	Chapla Comp Lea
	Volunteer	Contribute	Sheriff's Posse	Sherif Stra
	Endorsements	Give Us Your Feedback	E-mail Us Here	News Re

Click Here To See The Real Republican In The Sheriff's Race

**Your comments, tips and suggestions regarding our Internet site are welcome. Click the e-mail address below. [webmaster@sheriffwilliams.org](mailto:webmaster@sheriffwilliams.org)**

This web page was last updated 19 January 2000



Political Advertisement paid for by Sheriff David Williams campaign, Phillip Byrd Treasurer, P. O. Box 48206, Fort Worth, Texas 76148



Endorsed By Conservative Republican Leaders

**Sheriff David Williams**

## 2000 Republican Primary

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We believe Sheriff David Williams to be a man of integrity that has faithfully performed the duties of his office and kept his promises with the voters. Please join us in supporting Sheriff David Williams for Re-election in the March 14, 2000 Republican Primary and the November 2000 General Election.

- From the Sheriff:

For the last seven years I have worked diligently to fulfill my campaign promises to the voters. The facts show that we have achieved this ambitious goal. My record of *proven performance* and *innovative leadership* will continue well into the new millennium, should you the voter decide to grant me that privilege. As your sheriff, I have been willing to stand up for what is right. I ask now that you stand with me as I continue to do what is best for Tarrant County. I need your support and ask for your vote. **Sincerely, David Williams**

### "THE SHERIFF WILLIAMS ENDORSEMENT LIST GROWS"

We would like to invite you to join the growing numbers of Conservative Tarrant County Republican Leaders endorsing Sheriff David Williams for re-election in the March 14, 2000 Republican Primary.

For more information about signing up to endorse our Sheriff please follow the prompts contained on this web-site.



Scott Fisher	Norma Labrosse	Mildred Russey
Linda Ford	Charlotte Landon	Ed Schneider
William Ford	Otis Lemley	J. Shelby Shape
Lupe Gamez	Geraldine Lewis	Jim Sutton
Irma Gamez	Jack Lewis	Tommy Thompson
Dr. B.W. Garrison	Brent Lyons	Claudia M. Thompson
William C. Gooch	Phil Mabry	Stan Tillman
Cheryl Graham	Paul MacLemore	H. C. Underwood
Randy Graham	Lonnie Mcarthur	Bill Vaden
Kathrine Hagood	Donna Mcarthur	Melaine Vaden
Kent Hagood	Jack McFarland	Dr. Robert Vaughn
David Hall	Marry McFarland	D. R. West
David Halvorson	Billie Ruth McGehee	J. D. Williams
Janet Halvorson	Marissa McGehee	M. R. Williams
Eleanor Hanshaw	Stan McGehee, Jr.	
William Hanshaw	Stan McGehee, Sr.	
Virginia Harper	Norma Means	

Partial listing at time of update.

If you have already endorsed Sheriff Williams and your name is not listed above, please be patient with us. We are in the process of converting our file system. This is a grassroots campaign and your support is vital. In order to help us quickly add your name to the Sheriff's endorsement list above and electronically update your information in our files, please click on either the e-mail link or the volunteer button below. If you find any errors on how we've listed your name on this, or any other lists that are published on our web-site or in print medium please contact us via e-mail. E-mail us at: [Sheriff@SheriffWilliams.org](mailto:Sheriff@SheriffWilliams.org)

Thanks, from the Members of the Sheriff's Campaign Posse. If you would like to join



Lt. Col. Wayne Anderson (USAF Ret.)	W. C. Harper, Jr.	Dr. Marlene Mitchell
Chaplain Hugh Atwell	Buck Harris	Tim Mitchell
David Barrington	Carolyn Harris	Caryn Moore
Jamie Biedenham	Carol Hensley	Raymond Moore
David Borchert	Larry Hester	Cinda Nichols
Margaret Borchert	Susan Hester	John Nichols
Mary Borchert	Marcus Hill	Lisa Parks
Peggy Borchert	Robert Hill	Victoria Pate
Dr. James Borchert, SREC	LaVonne Hilton	Alan Pattee
Charles Burdan	Randy Hilton	Ginger Pattee
Mary Carr	Karen Holmgren	Bob Peck
Richard Carr, III	David Hunt	Hank Pope
Don Chamberlain	Teresa Hunt	Karen Pope
Herb Chambers, III	Ellie Hutchison	Carlos Puente
John Dalton	Robert Isinghood	Maria Puente
Richard Deotte	Stella Isinghood	Tom Quinones
Bill Eddins	Doyle Jones	Michele Quinones, SRE
Bobbie Eddins	Dr. Kevin Kallal	Robert Rangel
Dick Eudaly	Jana Kallal	Kathy Ratliff
Olivia Eudaly	Don Klick	Diana Richards
Cheryl Fiegel	Stephine Klick	Joseph Richards
	Lori Labrosse	Ricky Roberts



Tarrant County Sheriff's Office, est. 1850

**Sheriff David Williams**

And the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office Performance Review

1993-2000

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• *September 15, 1999 Superior Management*

The Texas Commission on Jail Standards rated the *MANAGEMENT* of the Tarrant County Jail by Sheriff David Williams as *SUPERIOR* for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. Jack Crump, Executive Director of the Commission on Jail Standards praises the **PROVEN LEADERSHIP** of Sheriff David Williams in a recent letter by stating:

*"This accomplishment demonstrates superior day to day management and interest on your part. The citizens of Tarrant County should be as proud of you as is the Jail Commission."* Jack Crump, Executive Director of the State Jail Commission. (See Jail Commission Letter from Jack Crump).

**Fact:** Over 300,000 prisoners have been booked into the Tarrant County Jail since Sheriff Williams first took office. **Sheriff Williams** issued the orders **abolishing good time** for prisoners in the Tarrant County Jail.

• *1993 - 2000 Fiscal Responsibility / Stewardship*

For seven years, under the **INNOVATIVE LEADERSHIP** of Sheriff David Williams, the Tarrant Sheriff's Office has consistently met the criminal justice service demands of the 1.3 million citizens of Tarrant County on a **budget**, that is consistently **less than half** of the **national average** for sheriff's departments serving a population of more than one million citizens.



**Fact:** The U.S. Department of Justice Statistics for 1993 reports that the average budget for sheriff's departments serving more than one million citizens is \$132 million per year. Sheriff David Williams' FY-2000 budget request was less than \$66 million.

### ***. 1995 - 2000 Innovative Leadership***

Sheriff Williams and his staff totally **re-engineered** the Sheriff's Criminal Warrant Division. He realigned the Warrant Division and created new Sheriff's Fugitive Squads. The **Results are a staggering 400% yearly increase in the number of Fugitives Tracked, Captured and Jailed** by Sheriff Williams Deputies. After creating the Criminal Fugitive Warrant Profile Program and utilizing Curbside Booking, a high ranking Texas DPS commander remarked that the *Tarrant County Sheriff has the BEST FUGITIVE UNIT IN THE STATE!*

**Fact:** Over 100,000 Fugitives have been tracked, captured and arrested by Sheriff David Williams' Deputies since he took office.

### ***. 1993 - 2000 Record Revenues***

Sheriff David Williams' **aggressive management** policies **generated** a record **\$65 MILLION** in additional revenues for Tarrant County Taxpayers by holding Texas State prison inmates during the state's prison overcrowding emergency.

**Fact:** Sheriff Williams expanded inmate labor details and jail industry. The inmate operated jail laundry plant, that Sheriff Williams opened in 1995, has saved the taxpayers over \$1 million.

### ***. 1994 - 2000 Law Enforcement Leadership - Part 1***

Sheriff David Williams created the state's FIRST Violent Repeat Offender Project Enforcement (VROPE) squad. The **VROPE squad hunts the predator class of violent career criminals** who are wanted for capital murder, serial crimes, rape, child molesters, armed robbery and other violent criminal acts.

Sheriff David Williams was also the FIRST to bring Victim Information Notification Everyday



(VINES) to Texas. VINES automatically forewarns registered victims of domestic violence and stalking of the release of their attackers, as well as providing the victim with 24 hour access of the attacker's status while in custody. This victim-oriented service is provided at no cost to the victim.

**Fact:** Sheriff Williams VROPE squad has arrested over 700 of Tarrant County and Texas most dangerous and elusive predator criminals, including some featured on TV's, "AMERICAS MOST WANTED !"

## *• October 1999 Law Enforcement Leadership - Part 2*

Newly created **SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT** for **MISSING** and **EXPLOITED CHILDREN** created by Sheriff Williams. Within the last three years, the citizens of this county have experienced the violent kidnappings of 3 young children. The mission of the Sheriff's new unit is to:

1. Identify and target child molesters and sexual predators;
2. Pro-actively prevent crimes against children before they occur;
3. Investigate allegations involving exploited, abused and missing children;
4. **Random surveillance**, unannounced spot checks of **registered sex offenders**;

**Fact:** As of September 15th, 1999 there were 1472 registered sex offenders living in Tarrant County. According to FBI experts, these offenders are likely to be repeat offenders.

## *• 1993 - 2000 Compassionate Leadership... FAITH IN ACTION*



Sheriff David Williams believes in offering Restorative Justice for criminal offenders. In July 1999 Sheriff Williams approved the management of county jail chaplain services by a professional non-profit organization. This policy is authorized by the Texas Government Code and is no cost to the taxpayers.

The evidence is clear:

**"Religious practice helps curb crime and recidivism!"** - reference Governor **George W. Bush's**; Executive Order GWB96-5 and the Governor's Advisory Task Force on Faith Based Community Service Groups - Executive Summary, **"Faith in Action... A New Vision For Church-State Cooperation In Texas"**; December 1996.

**FAITH IN ACTION** ... in the Tarrant County Jail System.

### **GOD POD**

Sheriff David Williams authorized and has consistently defended the Chaplains Education Program, **"GOD POD"** in the county jail system, which has become a **MODEL PROGRAM**, now implemented in the **Texas Prison System** and other jails around the nation.

The **GOD POD** is now in its seventh year of operation at the Tarrant County Jail and has expanded, offering a **GOD POD** for the **women's jail** facility.

### **TITUS 2**

A surprising number of the **prisoners** we are required to book-in to the **jail** are at various **stages** of **pregnancy**. In May 1998, Sheriff David Williams authorized a new and unique program that provides **childbirth education** and **labor support** to **pregnant inmates** at no cost to the taxpayer. Some of these women will go in to labor while housed in our jail. Today this highly successful, compassionate program is starting to be replicated at other detention facilities in Texas. **This Faith Based Community Service Program** is called **Titus 2**.

All of the information contained in this performance report is part of official government record. I ask that you carefully review what we have presented in this report and remember that I have fulfilled my campaign promises to the voters. **My record of proven performance and innovative leadership** will continue well into the new millennium,



should you the voter decide to grant me that privilege. In the seven years as your sheriff, I have been willing to stand up for what is right. I ask that you stand with me, as I continue to serve you the voter and do what is best for Tarrant County. I need your support and ask for your vote in the March 14, Republican Primary Election.

Thank you for your continued support,

Sheriff David Williams



# Anderson outpaces sheriff in campaign fund raising

BY JACK DOUGLAS JR.

Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**FORT WORTH** — Money has continued to roll in for sheriff's candidate Dee Anderson's campaign war chest, but the cash flow for incumbent Sheriff David Williams has been little more than a trickle since the first of the year, new reports show.

Finance disclosure reports due yesterday showed that Anderson, a Republican, had raised \$10,560 in just over a month, more than seven times the \$1,420 collected by Williams.

Williams, a Republican seeking his third term, spent \$1,184 on his campaign during that time, and Anderson, a police spokesman in Arlington, spent \$3,269, according to the reports filed with the Tarrant County elections administration office. The reporting period covers Jan. 1 through yesterday.

Haltom City police Detective Shane Harrison reported no contributions since the beginning of the year, and he has spent only \$5 in his quest to become the next Tarrant County sheriff.

Harrison is running against

Fort Worth policeman Luther Perry Jr. in the Democratic Party's March 14 primary. Perry reported collecting \$4,200 and spending \$402 since the first of the year.

Williams and Anderson are among seven candidates running in the GOP primary, also March 14.

David Dunaway, a former Texas Ranger who also worked as a commander at the Sheriff's Department, reported raising \$5,540 and spending \$10,575 since the first of the year.

Jim Hunter, a private investiga-

tor and former federal police agent, raised \$7,550 and spent \$7,718 during the reporting period, according to the reports.

Brad Patterson, a Fort Worth policeman and past president of the Fort Worth Police Officers Association, reported raising \$2,275 and spending \$10,485 between Jan. 15 and Feb. 14.

Jerry McGlasson, former police chief of North Richland Hills, raised \$175 and spent \$584 between Jan. 18 and Feb. 3, the reports showed.

A campaign finance report was

not immediately available for Republican candidate John Lewis, a self-employed window washer and former clerk at the Tarrant County Jail.

In the race for county tax assessor-collector, Republican candidate Betsy Price, a local businesswoman, reported raising \$17,730 and spending \$10,351 since Jan. 1.

Tom Davis, a former chairman of the Tarrant County Republican Party, trailed Price in fund raising. He reported collecting \$7,910 and spending \$2,272.

Davis has also received a \$10,000 pledge from a local GOP heavy-hitter, U.S. Rep. Joe Barton of Ennis, the reports show.

Republican candidate Ernest Richardson, who has been endorsed by outgoing tax assessor-collector June Garrison, reported collecting \$2,825 and spending \$776.

A campaign finance report was not immediately available for Jeff Hodges, another GOP candidate for tax collector.

Jack Douglas Jr. (817) 390-7700

jld]Nstar-telegram.com



# OPINIONS

Star-Telegram

## ■ LETTERS, FAXES AND E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2000

### Good work

Kudos to Tarrant County Sheriff David Williams, Chief Hank Pope, Capt. Ray Bell and Deputies Michael Guthrie, Rick Frazier and Clifton Shelton for their outstanding service to the community of Lake Country.

We enjoyed:

- The storefront at the Lake Country Property Owners Association (LCPOA) and Eagle Mountain Voluntary Fire Department (EMVFD) offices.

- A community crime prevention program.

- A contract sheriff's officer and car. (This involves a contract between the LCPOA and the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department; we pay extra for the deputy and auto.)

- Rapid response to emergencies. (We personally had a minor burglary 911 response of approximately 4 minutes.)

- Low crime statistics.

It is sad that ego politics and a lack of common sense has affected the improvements needed for Tarrant County; results, ethics and integrity are what count! The county is growing very fast; new taxes are being generated from the new construction and should lead to more deputies and vehicles patrolling the outreach areas.

We thank you and look forward to continued involvement with the sheriff and Fort Worth police and other departments.

**Norma and Dorsey Talley**  
*Lake Country, Fort Worth*



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2000

### **Officials to apologize for woman's suicide in jail**

**FORT WORTH** — The family of a 36-year-old woman who hanged herself with a telephone cord in the Tarrant County Jail will get an apology as well as money, county commissioners agreed yesterday.

Commissioners voted last month to pay \$50,000 to settle a lawsuit filed by the family of Jennifer Merriman. Yesterday, commissioners agreed that as part of the settlement, the Sheriff's Department also will meet the family, formally apologize and give them a jail tour.

Merriman was arrested after a fight with her boyfriend and was left unsupervised in a jail holding cell for about an hour, said family attorney Michael Ware. The family sued, saying that "the county consciously disregarded the fact that she was a suicide risk."

Commissioner J.D. Johnson voted against the settlement, as he did last month, saying later that he doesn't feel the county was responsible or that taxpayers should have to pay.



## LAST TRIP FROM FORT WORTH



Star-Telegram/JEFFERY WASHINGTON

**Michael Hardaway of Arlington helps prepare a helicopter yesterday for shipment by truck from the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department to the city of El Paso. The county eventually sold its last two copters to the El Paso Police Department after an accident involving a third helicopter killed two deputies in 1997.**

**► STORY, METRO, 1B**



# Tarrant choppers bound for El Paso

**Sheriff David Williams couldn't persuade the county to let his department keep them.**

**By CHRIS VAUGHN**  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**FORT WORTH** — The Tarrant County Sheriff's Department's controversial helicopters took off yesterday, bound for duty in the skies over El Paso.

But the Vietnam-era military helicopters' last ride in Tarrant County was on trailers headed

down Interstate 20.

Two officers from the El Paso Police Department took possession of the OH-58 and smaller OH-6, concluding Tarrant County Sheriff David Williams' attempt to persuade county leaders to let his department keep them because they were necessary crime-fighting tools.

"We're glad they're going to stay in the law enforcement community," said Herb Chambers, a Sheriff's Department spokesman. "They'll be of benefit to El Paso."

The helicopter program lost support. (More on CHOPPERS on Page 5B)

## CHOPPERS

From Page 1B

port in Commissioners Court after a September 1997 crash that killed Lt. George Maurice Hendrix and Deputy Thomas Jay Smith. The commissioners grounded the aircraft in 1998, citing safety concerns.

This month, El Paso received clearance to add the helicopters to its fleet of three that patrol the city. The OH-58 will be flown as soon as the decals are changed and the OH-6 will be used for parts.

"The 58 is a bigger, more powerful helicopter than we have now," said Sgt. Al Velarde, a spokesman for El Paso police. "It can stay up in the air significantly longer."

Like Tarrant County, El Paso County is largely urban, with about 600,000 people in the city of El Paso.

El Paso did not purchase the helicopters because federal regulations prohibit it. But it paid Tarrant County \$45,000 as reimbursement for improvements made to the OH-58.

"No money was made by either agency since they're government property," Chambers said.

The Sheriff's Department is vacating its hangar at Meacham Airport and has transferred employees in the program to other jobs in the department, Chambers said.

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# Tarrant sheriff bows out of candidate forum

Thursday, February 17, 2000

## His challengers meet for the Arlington cable TV taping.

By JACK DOUGLAS JR.  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

ARLINGTON — Saying he was sick and had a previous commitment, Tarrant County Sheriff David Williams declined to participate yesterday in a political forum that will be repeatedly aired next week on cable television.

Several Republican Party leaders said they were surprised and disappointed that Williams missed the taping, especially at a time when candidates are scrambling for any TV air time they can get leading up to the March 14 primary.



Williams

Williams is locked in a tight race with six fellow Republican candidates in his bid for a

third term in office.

Three of those opponents, Dave Dunaway, Dee Anderson and John Lewis, answered questions during the 30-minute taping in an AT&T Cable studio in Arlington.

The forum is scheduled to air four times Wednesday and once next Thursday on Arlington 13, a community affairs cable channel.

Williams left word early yesterday that he would not attend the forum because he had laryngitis and also planned to participate in a training session in which a child abduction case would be staged in Burleson, said Judy Van Hoof, producer of the forum.

"He felt both [the forum and the training session] would be too much of a strain ... time-wise, and on his voice," Van Hoof said.

Wayne Anderson, a Williams supporter and

a GOP precinct chairman, said the sheriff believed he needed to attend the staged abduction, even if it meant losing a chance at getting free TV air time for his re-election campaign.

"I think Sheriff Williams decided he had priorities," and thought that staging a kidnapping could help train smaller police departments in the county on how to deal with such an emergency, Anderson said.

But Steve Weinberg, acting chairman of the Tarrant County Republican Party, which sponsored the taped forum, said he was "sorry" Williams did not participate.

Three other sheriff's candidates, Jerry McGlasson, Jim Hunter and Brad Patterson, attended a separate, 30-minute forum taping yesterday, which is scheduled to run on the Arlington 13 channel on March 1.

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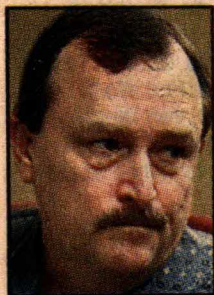


# Jail fund pays for office for chaplain

**Commissary receipts are used to rent a \$770-a-month downtown apartment.**

**BY JACK DOUGLAS JR.**  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**FORT WORTH** — The Sheriff's Department is providing money from the Tarrant County Jail's \$358,000 commissary fund to rent an apartment for jail Chaplain Hugh Atwell to use as an office, officials acknowledged yesterday.



**Atwell**

Under state law, jail commissary funds must pay for certain needs of county prisoners, including such things as Bibles and toothpaste. Atwell, executive director of the non-profit Faith Restorative Justice Chaplaincy, said he uses the one-bedroom unit at Firestone Upper West Side, a sprawling apartment complex on the southwest edge of downtown Fort Worth, strictly as an office.

"This is not a luxury thing," he said as he sat at his desk in the apartment, which rents for \$770 a month and is several blocks from the jail.

County officials evicted Atwell last year from county space he used for an office. Yesterday, they questioned whether

the commissary funds should be used to rent an apartment.

"The money from the commissary fund is supposed to be for the direct benefit of the prisoners," Commissioner Marti VanRavenswaay said. "I would question the benefit coming from the apartment, and how that is a direct benefit for the prisoners."

Sheriff David Williams, who by law has "exclusive control" of the commissary fund, decided in March to use the fund — which totaled \$358,250 then — to pay for a contract with Atwell's Faith Restorative operation.

The contract requires the Sheriff's Department to pay Faith

Restorative \$82,000 in quarterly installments to provide spiritual guidance and counseling to the county jail's inmates.

Before that agreement, the commissary fund, which is derived from prisoners' purchases in the jail, was managed by county government officials, said Debbie Schneider, the county budget director. The money was used to pay for such items as recreational equipment, Bibles and other religious materials for prisoners, she said.

Williams did not respond to telephone calls to his office, to his house or to his spokesman, Capt. Herb Chambers.

Chambers said early yesterday that he would ask for the records showing how the commissary money has been used by the Sheriff's Department. But he did not call back and did not respond to a telephone call made to his office later in the day.

Atwell said he rented the apartment in his name in October, using money that primarily comes from the commissary fund, after county commissioners ordered him to remove his office from the jail.

"It really is an unnecessary expense," Atwell said of the rent, "but I'm trying to comply with what the county commissioners want me to do." He said there was "adequate space" for him to return his office to the sheriff's headquarters, if local officials would allow him to do so.



# CHAPLAIN

From Page 1A

But County Judge Tom Vandergriff and VanRavenswaay said they could no longer allow Atwell to keep an office in the jail, which is a government facility. Though Faith Restorative is licensed as a nonprofit organization, VanRavenswaay called it a "private-sector business."

Both she and Vandergriff said the Commissioners Court did away

with Atwell's county-paid position as jail chaplain and removed his office from the jail to expand volunteer ministry services within the county lockup.

"Before Sheriff Williams and Mr. Atwell came along, we had volunteers galore providing services for the inmates," Vandergriff said.

He said he "deeply regrets" that Williams is using commissary money to pay Atwell's organization.

Atwell said that he uses the apartment exclusively and that it is needed for him to conduct business and coordinate the approximately 300 volunteer jail chaplains. He said it is the best place he could find to use the phone and to keep his records.

Vandergriff said, "I'm not sure I fully understand what records need to be kept that require as much space as an apartment."

The Local Government Code

says the sheriff has "exclusive control of the commissary funds ... [and] shall maintain commissary accounts showing the amount of proceeds ... and the amount and purpose of disbursements."

The code also says the commissary money must "fund, staff and equip a program addressing the social needs of the county prisoners."

Atwell said he rented the apartment at Firestone because it is close to the jail and the cheapest place he could find.

However, George Roddy, owner of Roddy Information Services, a Metroplex commercial real estate research company, said that a "pretty plush" apartment can be had for the rent Atwell is paying and that the price is considerably cheaper in warehouse-style facilities.

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# Democrats vying for sheriff's post have a friendly debate

By CRYSTAL YEDNAK  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**FORT WORTH** — They joked, they agreed, they even complimented each other.

The two Democrats who want to become Tarrant County's sheriff used an upbeat county party forum last night to set themselves apart from their Republican counterparts.

"We're going to let the Republicans do a fantastic job of beating each other up," candidate Luther Perry Jr. told the group of 50 at a Texas Christian University hall.

Perry will face Shane Harrison in the March 14 primary. One of them will be on the Nov. 7 ballot against one of seven Republican candidates also vying for the sheriff's office.

Despite jovial exchanges, the candidates highlighted the differences between them.

Perry pointed to his endorsements from many city leaders, including Police Chief Thomas Windham, who died in January. Windham, who was a Republican, crossed party lines to support Perry, his longtime assistant.

Harrison said he is a "blue-collar guy," willing to go down to the jail as sheriff and help with prisoner intake to cut down on any backup.

Both Democrats have experience in law enforcement — Harrison with eight years at the Haltom City Police Department and Perry with 25 at the Fort Worth Police Department.

They said the Sheriff's Department needs leadership, someone to boost morale, increase productivity and repair relations with the county commissioners.

After Harrison described what he sees as the problems of Sheriff David Williams, Perry complimented his opponent's descrip-



Perry



Harrison

tion, adding, "We have all the talent and the skills to restore that office."

Harrison also had kind words for Perry. "This race is about who can you trust, and I think Luther and I can be trusted," Harrison said.

Also in the debate were two candidates who hope to wrestle a seat away from Republican Rep. Kay Granger of Fort Worth.

Mark Greene and Prentiss Bryant Davis said they will depend on grassroots-style campaigning to compete against the high-dollar campaign they expect Granger to wage. They agreed that Social Security should be protected, opposed school vouchers and differed on ways to reduce teen violence.

The debate between candidates for Pct. 5 constable — Jim Palmer and Sergio DeLeon — was not as friendly.

DeLeon, who has been endorsed by the Tarrant County Central Labor Council, is challenging Palmer, a 20-year-incumbent. DeLeon said he is a progressive with new ideas about fighting school truancy. Palmer said DeLeon's ideas will not realistically fit into a constable's budget.

A third candidate, Chris Lucio, did not attend.



# OPINIONS

Star-Telegram

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2000

EARNING THE PEOPLE'S TRUST DAILY

## ■ EDITORIALS

# Sheriff's Election

**A high voter turnout is mandatory in the Tarrant County race.**

The Faith Restorative Chaplaincy Program, funded mostly by money under the sole control of Tarrant County Sheriff David Williams, is renting a \$770-a-month apartment as office space.

Williams, in a seven-man race to be the Republican Party's candidate for sheriff in the November election, was unavailable to answer questions this week as to how this qualifies as a direct benefit to jail inmates, which is what commissary money is supposed to do.

Williams has been scarce on the campaign trail. He declined to participate in a taped forum this week for local cable TV, citing laryngitis and an appointment in Burleson to assist in a child abduction training exercise.

Let's pretend for a minute that Williams actually has some expertise to share with other law enforcement officials on child abduction cases. It's interesting that an elected official in Tarrant County will respond to requests from Johnson County but can't find the time to be accountable to the people who pay

his salary — the taxpayers of Tarrant County.

Yet it would be a dangerous miscalculation for voters who want a change in the Sheriff's Department to think that Williams isn't serious about wanting to be re-elected. If people think he's not active because he's not visible, they need to think again.

Williams may avoid public forums and taped debates, but he is hitting his core constituency of some area churches hard with mailings and using pictures on his Web site to make voters believe he's got the support of high-profile Texas officials.

Only one thing will guarantee that Williams is ousted from the office that he has turned into the laughingstock of the law enforcement community. Voters who are tired of reading and hearing about poor judgment and dismal responsiveness must go to the polls in record numbers for the March 14 primary.

Honor, respect and accountability can be restored to the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department. There are qualified, capable lawmen running in this race. David Williams isn't one of them.



# Sheriff's performance measured by many would-be successors

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2000

It was a solution born of politics and mathematics.

In the Matlock Road cable TV studios in Arlington on Wednesday, the idea was to accommodate all seven candidates running for the Republican nomination for Tarrant County sheriff.



**MARK DAVIS**

I sat in the moderator's chair. But we could only hook up four candidates at a time.

So we did two half-hour debates, the first with four candidate chairs and

the second with three.

Those four candidate chairs for the first debate (which can be seen on cable Channel 13 in Arlington at various times this coming Wednesday) did not mean that there were four candidates. Incumbent Sheriff David Williams did not attend.

Debate organizers were told that the sheriff was involved in a mock child abduction exercise in Burleson and that he was also battling laryngitis.

Had he shown up, he might have faced a far tougher battle from a pack of candidates who all have their own ideas,

but one main explanation for why they're running: They say that Williams must go.

The first shift of candidates included longtime Arlington police spokesman Dee Anderson, former Texas Ranger Dave Dunaway and John Lewis.

Anderson wasted no time going for Williams' political jugular, asserting that the jail is horrifically mismanaged, rank-and-file morale is abysmal and the once-proud department is saddled with image problems.

He also said before and during the debate that he and the other candidates have grown used to empty chairs in Williams' place at various events. He said that the sheriff is equally invisible to employees, whom he said have little if any chance to bring up grievances.

No mention was made of Williams' 1970s AWOL status from the military, but virtually every candidate labeled him as AWOL at the jail, which they described as crying out for competent management.

Dunaway, however, spent more time talking about his positives than anyone else's negatives.

In the second shift of candidates (who can be seen multiple times on the same channel on March 1), three competent aspirants politely offered strategies for improving morale, beefing up jail operations and ushering in a new era of noncontroversial peace for the Tarrant

County Sheriff's Department.

Jim Hunter said he would see to it that a professional jail manager would have the job of making sure that inmates are processed in and bonded out efficiently.

Jerry McGlasson said he would oversee the budget with skills that he learned through the years as North Richland Hills police chief.

And when I asked Brad Patterson what his policy would be for dealing with the county Commissioners Court, he began his reply: "Well, to start with, I wouldn't sue them ...."

For a room that never contained him, Williams was everywhere. The air was thick with direct and oblique references to the battles he's waged over money, authority, vehicles and the jail.

Not one of these battles has served the sheriff well. If he were perceived to be on the winning side, or even the defensible side of many of those squabbles, we probably could have shot the debate in one session with maybe two or three opponents.

As it is, campaign events are crowded with all of these guys seeking to be Williams' successor.

Early voting begins a week from tomorrow. With the presidential sweepstakes likely to be settled by Texas primary day March 14, this may be the most suspenseful race of the day.

Will Williams be able to harness some vestige of the powers of incumbency that have rescued officials in worse straits than his? Or is he just flat-out sunk, surrounded by hopefuls who could probably win instant favor with the public, the department and the editorial writers?

We'll know soon.

Meanwhile, the sheriff needs to come out of the clamshell and define himself. He needs to show up for debates and stand up to the criticism. Otherwise, he's history.

As for the other candidates, they seem to be a worthy group who deserve your consideration if you are looking for a new sheriff. There will be some opportunities to see them in person before you vote, and you should take advantage.

If you don't get to do a lot of homework on this race between now and March 14, the story will not end there. The Democrats would remind you of their candidates, Luther Perry Jr. and Shane Harrison. And on the Republican side, a runoff seems a sure bet.

The big question is: Will the incumbent be one of those to take part?

MARK DAVIS is a radio talk-show host on WBAP News/Talk 820 AM. His e-mail address is [mdavis@wbap.com](mailto:mdavis@wbap.com). Write him at 3201 Airport Freeway, Suite 108, Bedford, TX 76021.



The Fort Worth Star-Telegram  
Sunday, February 20, 2000

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ANDERSON ACROSTIC

Who is Dee Anderson?

Devoted father and husband who happens to be  
an excellent communicator and  
Easy-going kind of man!

An Arlington spokesperson with a  
No-Nonsense attitude who is  
Dedicated to the community and  
Everyone's goal and dreams!  
Respected candidate with terrific  
Sheriff qualities!  
One of the finest men we know! So vote for the  
Next Sheriff of Tarrant County!

Dee Anderson, Republican candidate for sheriff.

Joseph and Micki Red Eagle  
Mansfield



# There's the personal and the professional

Dallas County Sheriff **Jim Bowles** thinks Tarrant County Sheriff **David Williams** is a great guy.

"I believe Mr. Williams is a fine man; I like him," Bowles said.

But ask the veteran Republican sheriff to the east whether he believes

the  
**INSIDER**  
report

that Williams, also a Republican, is a good cop, and he responds: "I'm not going to get into

those things."

Bowles took the unusual step of inserting his views into the race for Tarrant County sheriff, endorsing Arlington police spokesman **Dee Anderson**, one of Williams' opponents in the March 14 GOP primary.

"I just believe Mr. Anderson would make a better sheriff. Period," Bowles said.

Two sheriff's helicopters were driven off to El Paso on trucks last week after being sold. The choppers, once the pride of Sheriff David Williams, were grounded after a fatal crash. The sheriff couldn't be found for hours after that crash, and he also was missing when the paperwork was signed to sell the choppers. In a spot marked for Williams' signature is a rubber stamp of his name, signed underneath "By: Deputy Chief of Staff **Larry D. Hester**."

Assistant District Attorney **Marvin Collins** said the rubber stamp signature is valid.

"I've got a rubber stamp, too, but I don't use it on anything binding," said Collins. However, under Texas law, even when rubber stamps are used, the official is supposed to be there, Collins said. "It has to be used in their presence — under their direction and control," he said.

Several GOP insiders said they got telephone calls from someone "giving a Christian-slanted message from a professional phone bank" soliciting money for Sheriff David Williams' re-election campaign.

Some who got the calls wondered where Williams was getting the money for a phone bank since his campaign fund is so small.

This week's contributors: **BOB MAHLBURG, JACK DOUGLAS JR.**  
and **MAX B. EAKER.**



# Options in car dispute with sheriff weighed

## County may confiscate take-home vehicles

BY KAREN ROUSE  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

FORT WORTH — Tarrant County commissioners have several options — from confiscating cars to suing Sheriff David Williams — for stopping violations of a take-home-car policy they set last year, the district attorney's office said yesterday.

► Commissioners vote to settle lawsuit over death of man in custody. 10B

Marvin Collins, chief of the district attorney's civil division, reviewed the legal alternatives yesterday at the urging of Commissioner J.D. Johnson, who said he is embarrassed that the Commissioners Court has been unable to enforce its policies.

A county auditor's report shows that seven sheriff's employees are still being charged \$29 per paycheck for the personal use of a county vehicle, although they have not been authorized to use one since the 2000 fiscal year began Oct. 1.

The seven employees, including sheriff's spokesman Herb Chambers, had been issued take-home cars, but the commission-

(More on COUNTY on Page 10B)

ers, during budget talks, directed them to use pool cars that are supposed to remain on county premises, county Budget Director Debbie Schneider said.

Williams did not return a call seeking comment.

The commissioners can seize the vehicles when officers bring them in for gas at county pumps or remove vehicles from the sheriff's fleet during budget talks, Collins said.

Collins also noted that in November the county submitted questions to the Texas attorney general's office related to sheriff's vehicles. Williams sought an attorney general's opinion after the county commissioners cut 15 cars from his fleet and transferred several take-home cars to a general-use pool.

Williams had questioned whether the commissioners were authorized to classify cars and whether the sheriff is required to

comply. Collins said an answer from the state is pending.

The commissioners took no action yesterday and appeared reluctant to sue.

"I'm not going to file suit and spend taxpayer dollars to sue a sheriff that won't follow the law," Commissioner Glen Whitley said.

Chambers, whose unauthorized county vehicle was destroyed last year in a wreck while he was driving a home, said that as the public information officer, he needs a car.

"I'm on call 24-7," he said. "I get calls all hours of the day and night to go to murders ... officers using firearms ... accident scenes, usually the traumatic incidents."

He said that he alternates between his personal vehicle and a county car and that it is "more appropriate that I respond in a vehicle that has a radio and flares."

He said he does not know what other sheriff's employees may be taking home cars.

Johnson said he would like to identify those who are in viola-

tion, and "I would like to go pick the vehicles up."

"We actually realize through payroll deductions that these people are paying for take-home cars ... \$58 a month, to drive

their cars back and forth to work, and we're sitting here with a policy that says you cannot do that."

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# Commissioners vote to settle suit over man's death

By **KAREN ROUSE**  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**FORT WORTH** — Tarrant County commissioners voted yesterday to settle a lawsuit filed by the mother of a man who died last year while in the Tarrant County Sheriff Department's custody.

Maxine Jackson would receive \$100,000 under the settlement, with Tarrant County and the Tarrant County Hospital District each paying her \$50,000.

The settlement is pending approval tomorrow from the board of the hospital district, which runs John Peter Smith Hospital.

Jackson couldn't be reached to comment, but her attorney said the settlement was a compromise.

"You settle these cases based on the risk involved," attorney Richard Haskell said. "You don't know what they'll do with the

facts in the case. This brings about a compromise."

Jackson's son, James Arthur Livingston, died July 7 at John Peter Smith Hospital. A day earlier, he had been arrested on an Arlington warrant alleging criminal trespassing and was booked into the Tarrant County Jail.

Sheriff's deputies said that Livingston, who was schizophrenic, became combative and was strapped into a chair that limited his arm and leg movement. Early the next morning, he was found slumped in the chair and taken to JPS, where he was pronounced dead.

Livingston had been strapped to the restraint chair for more than four hours and was sprayed with pepper spray before his death, according to department records.

Jackson sued the county in November, saying jailers violated her son's civil rights by using excessive force and imposing cruel and

unusual punishment. The suit also says the county has a duty to implement procedures that prevent excessive force and to supervise employees so that they do not exceed the limits of their authority.

Haskell had said sheriff's employees erred by not decontaminating Livingston after spraying him with pepper spray, keeping him in the chair after spraying him, not notifying the night watch commander of the situation and not videotaping the incident as required.

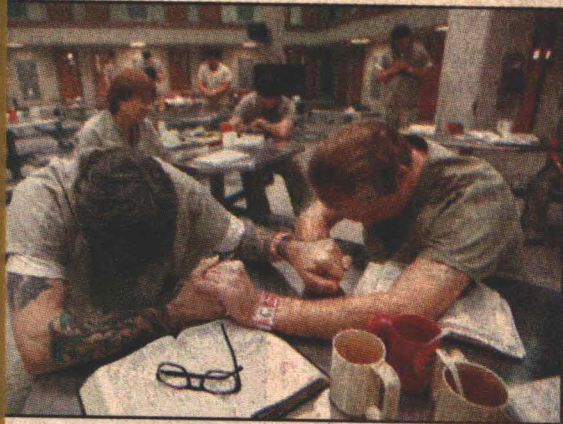
The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office ruled in August that Livingston's was a natural death caused by bronchopneumonia.

County commissioners voted last month to settle a lawsuit filed by the family of a woman who killed herself in the jail. The family of Jennifer Merriman received \$50,000.

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# Texas Supreme Court hears 'God Pod' case



Star-Telegram Archives/Ron T. Ennis

Inmates pray in 1998 in the Tarrant County Jail's Christian Education Unit, also known as the "God Pod."

Hankinson then asked if such actions amount to government officials establishing religion for some citizens.

LaRoe said it does not, because the program is voluntary.

The justices are not expected to issue a decision for several weeks.

Attorney Richard Rojan, who represented the former inmates, said the lawsuit does not contend that a county jail is forbidden to offer so-called faith-based services to its inmates, as long as such programs welcome all points of view.

"This one does not pass muster," Rojan said, because participants must accept Christian tenets.

After the hearing, Williams said the jail offers religious programs to accommodate non-Christian faiths, though nothing as formal as the Christian Education Unit. He also defended his role in overseeing the unit's curriculum, although he said it takes only a fraction of his time.

"Our position is to make every reasonable attempt to make sure that the materials brought in are not anti-authority or anti-Semitic, or anything that would promote violence or disorder in a jail environment," Williams said.

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## Former Tarrant jail inmates call Christian program illegal

BY JOHN MORITZ  
Star-Telegram Austin Bureau

AUSTIN — Lawyers representing two former Tarrant County Jail inmates argued before the Texas Supreme Court yesterday with the district attorney's office over whether a Christian studies program at the lockup undermines the separation of church and state.

The case before the state's highest civil court was filed after the

inmates asserted that their rights were violated by the Christian Education Unit established by Sheriff David Williams in 1992.

The county's lawyers reiterated their argument yesterday that the program is voluntary for inmates and does not cost taxpayers any money more than operating an ordinary jail wing. They also said there is evidence to suggest that those inmates who participate in

the program emerge from jail as "better citizens."

But lawyers for former inmates Ruth Maree Lara, who is Jewish, and Michael Huff, a member of Jehovah's Witnesses, said a jail-run program that emphasizes a particular religious doctrine is offensive and illegal.

Justice Deborah Hankinson noted that court documents show that

Williams and at least one sheriff's employee were involved in planning the curriculum at the unit, which has been nicknamed "the God Pod."

Lawyer Kristi LaRoe of the Tarrant County district attorney's office said Williams was acting within his rights because he was making sure the curriculum did not compromise security or jail operations.

"Any religious philosophy that is an anathema to correctional facilities operations would not be allowed," LaRoe said.



# More likely stories found on sheriff's Web page



**BUD  
KENNEDY**

COMMENTARY



**Sheriff David Williams** appeared this week on a TV preacher's show.

Tarrant County's secretive sheriff finally emerged from hiding this week.

Not at the courthouse, or at a public forum, or anyplace where he could explain why seven employees are still commuting from home on our dime in county cars.

No, he showed up on a Colleyville preacher's national TV network. Williams, once a security guard for Fort Worth TV preacher Kenneth Copeland, campaigned Monday as Marcus Lamb's guest on the daily show *Celebration!* on his Daystar Television Network, seen here as KMPX/Channel 29.

Between pledges and calls to the "prayer line," Williams spoke about 20 minutes, a Daystar employ-

(More on KENNEDY on Page 4B)

ee said Tuesday. I don't think Lamb needs anyone's money: He and his wife, Joni, already own a \$400,000 home in Colleyville.

I didn't see the show, but the employee said I could buy a videotape in about six weeks.

Six weeks is about all Williams has left to abuse our trust as sheriff. In the latest weekly outrage from the county jail, high-priced chaplain Hugh Atwell has set up shop in a \$770-a-month apartment paid for by prisoners' money meant to buy necessities for the jail.

Also, Williams' World Wide Web campaign page, which was already misusing a photo of Gov. George W. Bush, is now violating federal copyright law.

Under "News and Press Releases," the campaign page — [www.sheriffwilliams.org](http://www.sheriffwilliams.org) — has lifted two complete news stories from a suburban newspaper, the *Burleson Star*, and republished them as if they were a Williams campaign ad.

The Jan. 26 and Feb. 9 *Star* reports profiled the sheriff's so-called Missing and Exploited Children's Unit, created early in Williams' re-election campaign. Instead of speaking at a public forum earlier this month, Williams said he needed to attend a "mock abduction" exercise in Burleson.

It's legal to direct or "link" Web readers to a published news

page. It's never legal to copy the entire page without permission.

It's definitely against federal law to copy the entire page — newspaper logo and all — and then add your campaign emblem at the top to make it look like a newspaper endorsement.

Here we go again:

Bush is not endorsing Williams.

Neither is the *Burleson Star*.

James Moody is the publisher of The Star Group, which owns newspapers in Burleson, Crowley, Benbrook, Keene, Alvarado and Joshua. Like this newspaper, the *Star* usually allows charities to reprint an article, Moody said in a written response. But not a political campaign.

He said Williams' Web page is "like our lifting *Star-Telegram* stories from your Web site and publishing them. ... We're particularly cautious about authorizing the use of any of our logos and again, no permission has been given to Sheriff Williams."

The *Star* newspapers do not intend to endorse Williams or anyone else in the primary, and may not endorse anyone in the general election, he said. The *Star* will ask Williams to take down the *Star* pages and request permission for copying any news reports, he said.

He didn't say how they plan to reach Williams.

Maybe on the prayer line.



## ■ LETTERS, FAXES AND E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

### Exercise merited coverage

On Feb. 16-17, the Tarrant County sheriff's office conducted a child abduction training exercise in partnership with the Burleson Police Department. Fifty-five officers from 20 Tarrant and Johnson county police agencies participated in the training.

The event was heavily covered by the *Burleson Star* and by television and radio news, but it was completely ignored by the *Star-Telegram*.

One would think that in a county where three young children have been violently abducted in the past four years, a child abduction training exercise would be news. It seems obvious to me, however, that the *Star-Telegram* is biased toward the sheriff's office and is not interested in printing anything positive about our department. Apparently only stories that ridicule the sheriff are news in Tarrant County.

Despite the constant attacks that people read in the *Star-Telegram*, Sheriff David Williams is a good man and a good sheriff. He has implemented many innovative programs in this department, such as the Missing & Exploited Children's Unit.

What you choose to print is your affair, but the people of Tarrant County deserve to read balanced and unbiased news. I doubt that they will ever have that opportunity with the *Star-Telegram*.

**Lt. Dave Barrington**  
*Missing & Exploited Children Unit*  
*Fort Worth*

### Sheriff's qualifications

I, like most concerned citizens, am grateful to see so many outstanding candidates running for sheriff of Tarrant County. In my opinion, we haven't had a qualified sheriff since Lon Evans.

I wish that the *Star-Telegram* or the League of Women Voters would put out a fact sheet on each candidate.

I think a qualified candidate should:

- Be a sworn peace officer
- Be able to manage a \$60 million budget.
- Work amicably with the Commissioners Court.
- Defend the departmental budget to the Commissioners Court.
- Meet with commissioners on a regular basis.
- Meet with the press as required, personally.
- Meet with county police chiefs on a regular basis.

I don't need the above information from the present high sheriff. We all know his capabilities or the lack thereof.

I'm looking forward to the best candidate for sheriff.

**Eugene M. Wooten**  
*Benbrook*

### Pro tem position

Every time we pick up the paper, the Tarrant County commissioners are on the sheriff about something else. He cannot go to the bathroom without their instructions.

I have a plan that will solve the sheriff problem. City council members sometimes serve as mayor pro tem. My idea is to do away with the sheriff and let each commissioner serve as sheriff pro tem.

They all think they know more about running the department than the sheriff does, so let them run it. If it works, they can get the credit. If it doesn't work, we can elect a sheriff and they can stay out of it!

I think that Sheriff David Williams has done an excellent job -- and would have done even better if he didn't have the commissioners constantly

interfering! I will be voting for the sheriff again, but not for my commissioner.

*C.E. Harris*

*Fort Worth*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2000

Star-Telegram

# OPINIONS



# OPINIONS

Star-Telegram

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2000

## ■ LETTERS, FAXES AND E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

### The best contender

When I wrote the *Star-Telegram* early in November lamenting the dismal performance of our current sheriff, I had not decided which of the several challengers to support. Now I have.

Former North Richland Hills Police Chief Jerry McGlasson is far and away the best-qualified candidate. Of the several contenders in both parties, he is the *only* one who has ever actually headed a police department or managed a big budget.

In my 32 years of teaching government at Tarrant County College Northeast Campus, I have never seen a candidate better qualified to become sheriff of a metropolitan county.

McGlasson was chief of police as North Richland Hills grew from a very small town to become the third-largest city in Tarrant County. He built that department from a small and somewhat amateurish group into a large and very professional law enforcement organization.

Jerry McGlasson has the demonstrated competence, good character, communications ability and cooperative spirit that will make him an excellent sheriff of Tarrant County.

Lawrence Bell  
*Hurst*



# Endorsements

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2000

## C A M P A I G N 2000

March 14 Primary

focused forward, on the vision for and the future of the United States — not backward, on the multiple controversies that have tainted the Clinton-Gore administration.

Bush and Bradley can so focus their campaigns.

The *Star-Telegram* endorses **George W. Bush** and **Bill Bradley**.

### Sheriff

#### Republican and Democrat

The primary job responsibility of a sheriff in a predominantly urban area like Tarrant County is to run the jail and serve warrants. Toward that end, the Commissioners Court allocates almost \$60 million annually, with more than half dedicated to the confinement operations.

Tarrant County residents deserve a sheriff who understands this dynamic — working *with* the commissioners as part of the team responsible for running an efficient and cost-effective jail. It is a disservice to the entire county if the sheriff goes about his job viewing the commissioners as adversaries. No one wins.

In the Republican primary, the six men who have stepped forward to replace Sheriff David Williams are all to be commended for recognizing that Tarrant County needs and deserves a change. The majority of these candidates are experienced lawmen with the credentials needed to regain the respect of Sheriff's Department employees and to rebuild the external reputation of the department.

Under normal circumstances, it would be difficult to choose from among Dee Anderson, Dave Dunaway, Jerry McGlasson and Brad Patterson — but these are not normal circumstances. The goal is to unseat Williams, and to do it in the primary without a runoff election. Anderson is best poised to achieve that.

The Arlington police spokesman is a trusted, familiar face to Tarrant County residents who, for the past 14 years, have watched him calmly and

competently deliver both good news and bad. His description of the sheriff's primary goal — "keep prisoners alive and in jail" — demonstrates that he has no illusions about being the county's "top cop."

Anderson already possesses an attribute sorely lacking in the department today. Being accessible to the Commissioners Court and the media is a crucial component of accountability. If he does nothing more than run the jail, attend weekly court sessions and hold monthly news conferences, he'll be heads above the office's current occupant.

In the Democratic primary, voters have a choice between two law enforcement officers. Haltom City officer Shane Harrison deserves kudos for entering the race, but the 28-year-old would benefit from more life experience before taking on a job of this magnitude.

With 25 years under his belt with the Fort Worth Police Department, officer Luther Perry is very much a known figure around Fort Worth, visible through his work in the department and his vast community involvement outside of it.

In addition to focusing on the jail and ending the rift with the Commissioners Court, Perry said, it is imperative that the new sheriff develop better working relationships with the municipal police departments in the county. He cites his skills as a collaborator and coalition builder as

being qualities that residents should demand in their next sheriff.

The *Star-Telegram* endorses Republican **Dee Anderson** and Democrat **Luther Perry**.



the  
**INSIDER**  
report

## *Departmental form-ula for success*

Tarrant County Sheriff **David Williams** has new instructions that must be followed before anyone from the media can interview the sheriff.

The sheriff has formulated a list of questions, compiled in an "Interview Preparation Form," that must be completed by himself and others in the department before a reporter is granted an interview.

Under the heading of "Be In Control," Williams asks himself: "Am I in control of this interview or is the reporter?"

Reporters and their supervisors must be identified on the form, along with the agency they work for, their e-mail address, and the numbers for their pagers, fax machine, office phones, cell phones and the "other phone," wherever that might be.

On the form, Williams or his subordinates must also answer the following:

"Do I have my headlines? What is my headline?"

"What do I want to accomplish with this interview — what is my/our message?"

"What's the reporter's attitude?"

"How well informed is this reporter?"

"What's the spin on the story?"

Finally, under the heading, "Be Comfortable," the question is asked: "Do I appear (or) sound harried, worried or hostile?"



## TARRANT COUNTY SHERIFF

### The questions:

1. Describe your qualifications for this position. (50 word limit)
2. What do you see as the role of this office? (75 word limit)
3. How would you improve communications between the Sheriff's Department and the Commissioners Court? (75 word limit)

### Republican

#### Dee Anderson

106 Creekside Ct.  
Kennedale, 76060

Age: 43

Occupation: police officer

1. I am a 20-year peace officer with Arlington and hold an advanced Peace Officer certification. I co-founded the Amber Plan for abducted children. I am a graduate of the APD Tactical School and have served on the command staff as spokesman for the last 13 years.



2. The sheriff must be an administrator, communicator and leader. We must not duplicate, but should support efforts of area police agencies. The management of the jail must be a top priority. Prisoners must not escape, nor should they be mistreated or die while in custody. Citizens, employees and the media must have open access to the Sheriff. The doors of the office must be opened to all. My history is one of open communication.

3. I have already begun communication, and have pledged to each commissioner to be part of the team to restore order back to the office of Sheriff. I will work with, not against, all elected and appointed officials in the county to unify the efforts of law enforcement. I will run the best jail in Texas and be accountable to taxpayers for every dollar spent. Communication will be the rule, not the exception.

#### David (Dave) Lee Dunaway

6600 Glen Dale  
Arlington, Texas 76017

Age: 54

Occupation: Texas ranger, retired

1. Following 24 years with the Texas DPS as a State Trooper, Criminal Intelligence Agent, and Texas Ranger, I served 3 years with the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department as Captain of Criminal Investigations, Assistant Chief Deputy, and Captain of Administration. I am currently commissioned as a Special Texas Ranger.



2. Provide leadership with integrity for 1300+ employees of Sheriff's Department by communicating openly & often with employees, citizens, Commissioners, public administrators, other elected officials, and especially other law enforcement-criminal justice agencies to best serve our public with a minimum of duplication of effort. Provide consistency in the work environment by establishing and adhering to a fair & equitable promotional policy for all employees & a career ladder in lieu of pay-for-performance.

3. Demonstrate, as I already have, my desire to work with the Commissioners Court in the best interest of the Sheriff's Department and the public we serve. Budgets will be prepared based upon needs rather than wants. Approved budgets will be adhered to without complaint. The Sheriff's Department will welcome oversight and advice from the Court. I have publicly pledged to resign if the Commissioners Court & District Attorney unanimously express their dissatisfaction with my performance.

#### Jim Hunter

4521 Donnelly Avenue  
Fort Worth,  
Texas 76107

Age: 56

Occupation: president - J. Hunter, Inc.

1. Graduate, Texas Tech University; BBA Finance, Minor Economics;



Drug Enforcement Administration School; U.S. Civil Service Manage-

ment School & Numerous Federal Law Enforcement Schools. Proven Law Enforcement & Administrative Background on the Federal Level. Private Enterprise & Public Sector Experience. Served as Bank Director with First State Bank of Texas, Watauga.

2. The role of an urban county sheriff involves being a competent & knowledgeable administrator who is innovative with dollar stretching, with better stewardship of what already is being received through the budgetary process. As the administrator of the departmental budget, the sheriff must examine and justify operating costs involving every expenditure, every program, and every operation before submitting any budgetary request to the commissioners court. Sheriff must work collectively with commissioners in finalizing annual budget.

3. Regularly attend the Tarrant County Commissioners Court weekly meetings as all elected officials & departmental head should do. The sheriff's visibility would assure the court that the sheriff is accessible and accountable to them and the public. Review the weekly court agenda in order to be properly prepared to answer any sheriff department related questions pertaining to the overall operations of the department. Maintain a friendly, professional, businesslike approach when communicating with the court.

#### John Charles Lewis

No reply

#### Jerry McGlasson

7916 Londonderry Drive  
North Richland Hills, Texas 76180

Age: 58

Occupation: police chief (retired)

1. Bachelors in Criminal Justice; Masters and Doctorate in Public Administration; Officer, Detective, Sergeant, Lieutenant Fort Worth (17 years) Police Chief, North Richland Hills (16 years); Master Peace Officers License; Past President Texas Police Chiefs Association; Prepared and executed 17 budgets in cooperation with elected officials; Worked closely with community leaders.



2. The efficient, cost effective operation of the County Jail is the primary function of an urban Sheriff. Seventy Four percent of the Tarrant County Sheriff's budget is directly spent in the jail. This, therefore, must be the prime function of this office. The sheriff is likewise responsible for patrolling the unincorporated portions of the county; serving criminal warrants, and providing court security. Intervention in municipal police affairs should be limited to requests from that jurisdiction.



3. Open Dialogue on matters of public interest will be had with the Commissioners both individually and collectively. As Sheriff I will personally present the annual budget to the Commissioners Court. Organizational charts will accurately reflect both authorized and actual staffing. The approved budget will be executed as intended by the Commissioners. Competitive promotional exams will immediately replace the current good old boy system. Equipment purchased by the County will be used only for authorized purposes.

### Brad Patterson

1515 Brentwood Trail  
Keller, Texas 76248

Age: 48

Occupation: police officer

1. Over 23 years Fort Worth Police. Officer of the year twice. Past President FWPOA, Tarrant County 2000, UTA with Masters Degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice Administration. Worked Subcommittee Chairman, Graduated Richland High School, TCJC with AS Degree, TCU with a BS Degree with charitable organizations. Eagle Scout in 1966.



2. The taxpayers of Tarrant County need a sheriff who is committed to running a cost effective operation. We need law enforcement technology to complement existing police department operations throughout the County. We

need county wide crime analysis and integrated computer systems to exchange law enforcement information between the county's police

departments. In a mobile society, criminals cross jurisdictional lines. Urban county needs are different that rural counties. We do not need duplications of police services.

3. The Sheriff must communicate directly and regularly with the County Commissioners. I believe the commissioners are very pro law enforcement, and they want do what is right. The Sheriff has a responsibility to explain and educated the commissioners and the public on programs, cost involved, and effectiveness. The public and the commissioners have the right to know. I will have an open door policy. I will meet with police departments, community groups, and concerned individuals.

### David E. Williams

P.O. Box 42806  
Ft. Worth, 76148

Age: 45

Occupation: sheriff

1. I consistently meet criminal justice demands for Tarrant County on a budget less than half the national average. Under my leadership, this department has tracked and jailed over 100,000 fugitives. The executive director of State Jail Commission recently rated my management of the massive county jail system as "superior."

2. In Texas, the sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer of the county, exercising a portion of the sovereign power of the state in three major areas of criminal justice: the courts, jail administration and law enforcement. The sheriff serves within the judicial branch of government as executive officer serving warrants, executing judgements and providing courthouse security. He also serves as county jail administrator and chief law enforcement officer of the county.



3. I will explore innovative ways to educate members of Commissioners Court and the public regarding the importance of the Constitutionally and statutorily imposed duties of the Sheriff's Office. While continuing to operate one of the most cost efficient Sheriff's Offices in the nation, I will endeavor to convince Commissioners to meet the budgetary requirements of this office. As always, I will consider any constructive input they may offer.

### Democrat

#### Shane Harrison

7321 Buttonwood  
Fort Worth, Tx 76137

Age: 27

Occupation: police detective

1. There are (3) ingredients, which I have been abundantly blessed with, that make me qualified for this position

and they are: good common sense, integrity, and hard work ethic. I don't believe this county needs another administrator but rather a hard working blue collar Sheriff.



2. The first thing which must be understood is the Office of Sheriff does not belong to one particular individual but rather it belongs to the people of Tarrant County. The people need a Sheriff who is not afraid of a hard day's work and who will lead by example. Finally, the people need a Sheriff who will be a positive role model in the community and someone who our children can look up to.

3. Like running a business there are compromises that will have to be made by both sides. The Sheriff must not take things personal but concern himself with providing the people with the best law enforcement possible and providing his employees with the necessary tools to get the job done. Finally, the influence the church has over the Sheriff's Department must go. Let the church worry about the church, and law enforcement worry about law enforcement.



**Luther Perry**

P.O. Box 19090  
Fort Worth, TX 76119

**Age:** 45

**Occupation:** police officer

1. I have 25 years of experience in law enforcement and community service. As a Fort Worth Police officer, I have served as a patrolman,

recruiter, and for the last 14 years as special assistant to the Chief. I am comprehensively trained and experienced in law enforcement, from the front lines\*

2. Efficient management of county jail facilities, coordination of effective law enforcement activities across the county, and administration of courtroom security are the primary responsibilities of the sheriff's department. I will work with our municipal law enforcement partners to streamline the booking process, thereby ensuring that officers can more quickly return to patrolling our streets. I will also advocate successful "community policing" policies to enhance communication among all law enforcement agencies in the county.

3. I will maintain an open and honest dialogue with the Commissioners at all times. While administration of the department's budget and law enforcement operations will rest on me, ultimate fiduciary and policy responsibilities of county government are clearly vested in our Commissioner's Court. Rather than trying to compete with them for attention, I will build trust with them as partners, submit timely and justifiable budgets, keep them informed of department activities, and maintain my focus\*



■ LETTERS, FAXES AND E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2000

**Embarrassing reminder**

I recently became embarrassingly reminded of the extremely negative and biased reporting of the *Star-Telegram*.

I was very disappointed that it didn't find the mock child abduction training exercise in Burleson newsworthy, possibly because reporting it would have shed a positive light on the proactive law enforcement of the Tarrant County sheriff's office. Thank God that five TV and radio stations and one newspaper did.

Maybe Sheriff David Williams was present at the training exercise rather than at the debate because he knows that protecting children is more important than being a politician. (I feel like anyone would agree if offered a choice.)

It seems that without competition, the *Star-Telegram* can print whatever it wants without investigation. That is the exact type of monopoly situation I have seen criticized in the paper. I recently spoke with a retired *Star-Telegram* employee, and he told me: "Amon Carter would roll over in his grave if he knew how the newspaper was run now."

The training in Burleson was excellent and allowed the citizens to be involved. I hope that this type of departmental cooperation continues; the exercise allowed everyone to work together for the sake of children.

Darran Gabbert  
*Burleson*





# CHEERS & JEERS



SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2000

**Cheers:** To the deputy sheriff who stopped on a recent Friday morning when my car broke down near Hicks Field. I was stopped less than five minutes before he arrived and had his dispatcher call my husband. Thanks for being there when I needed you.

LOLA L. GREEN, FORT WORTH

## ■ LETTERS, FAXES AND E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

Sunday, March 5, 2000

### A great lawman

As a state trooper stationed in Tarrant County, I worked out of the same Department of Public Safety office as Texas Ranger Dave Dunaway. I had many in-depth conversations with Dave over many topics during the years. I even worked with him once on a stakeout involving a string of bank robberies in Tarrant County.

In my opinion, Dave is one of the most humble, straightforward, intelligent and honest lawmen I've ever met. But I believe that his strongest trait is his rock-like common sense.

Dunaway worked well with local law enforcement officials on major investigations. He had to establish a good rapport with them; otherwise, the case might have gone unsolved.

Dunaway is not a politician, though. He is not a big talker, nor does he have to brag about himself or his accomplishments.

You probably won't see a lot of him on TV or hear him on the radio much. You won't have to — he will be taking care of our business as the sheriff of Tarrant County if we elect him.

**Rick Starnes**  
*Retired state trooper*  
*River Oaks*



SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2000

## POLITICS

### Serving us well

In reading the *Star-Telegram* editorial page, it appears that Tarrant County Sheriff Williams' seven years of service are all in vain, and even that Williams' removal is its goal. But as so many people know, if you get past the opinion writers, the real-life facts tell a different story.

Williams' least appreciated and publicized achievement may be in the operation of the county jail. Under Williams, the jail just received its fourth straight year of certified approval from the state jail standards commission in all areas of jail operations.

That accomplishment puts the lie to the campaign rhetoric that the jail is being poorly run. An objective board, without a hidden political agenda, has commended Williams for his superior day-to-day management of the jail.

Williams shares the respect and support of his peers in the Tarrant County law enforcement community. He is serving in his second three-year term as the head of the county law enforcement executive officers association. This group is composed of the county's top law enforcement officers.

I will be voting for Sheriff David Williams as the Republican nominee. He has never been a publicity hound, but he has quietly and competently served our county well.

**Betty T. Gibson**  
Fort Worth

### Proven ability

The *Star-Telegram*'s recent endorsement of Dee Anderson in the Tarrant County sheriff's race seems to be based on his being electable, rather than qualified.

While Dee Anderson has been a credit to the law enforcement profession, the same could have been said of David Williams before he was elected. Has Anderson ever directed a staff, prepared and managed a budget, run a department, graduated from college, or even been promoted beyond the rank of patrolman?

One candidate in the race has proven ability at all levels of law enforcement, including chief of police. He has prepared multimillion-dollar budgets, worked with elected officials, commanded a large staff and possesses the highest advanced college degrees available. That candidate is former Police Chief Jerry McGlasson.

The challengers for the office of sheriff are all good men with sound law enforcement experience, but they all lack McGlasson's experience in leading a large police agency. We should endorse and vote for the best candidate, not just the most electable. We should endorse and vote for Jerry McGlasson.

**Jim Green**  
Hurst

### Re-elect Williams

Tarrant County Sheriff David Williams has a good record when you look at the facts. With a minimum of effort, I found information well worth knowing and favorable to his re-election.

In 1995, he reorganized the Criminal

Warrant Division in the Sheriff's Department. Before that change, the division had a backlog of some 30,000 warrants. Today about 17,000 are outstanding. Since 1995, more than 100,000 warrants have been served and more than 70,000 fugitives have been arrested.

Since that 1995 reorganization, four times as many warrants are issued in a given period of time. Terrific!

Think of the impact of arresting 70,000 fugitives in Tarrant County! It just has to take a big bite out of crime.

I met and briefly talked with Williams about one year ago. I found him easy to talk with, reasonable and responsive to my questions. He has earned my confidence and my vote.

**Basil G. Garrett**  
Roanoke



CAMPAIGN 2000

# Sheriff contest may see runoff

## Anderson leads GOP pack in poll, with Williams 2nd

BY JACK DOUGLAS JR.  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

FORT WORTH — Arlington police spokesman Dee Anderson leads the field of seven Republicans running for Tarrant County sheriff, with incumbent David Williams a distant second but still far ahead of the remaining candidates, according to a *Star-Telegram* poll.

Of the respondents saying they are likely to vote in the March 14 Republican primary, 22.5 percent said they plan to vote for Anderson, and 11.9 percent said they intend to vote for Williams, suggesting that the two men may square off in an April 11 runoff.

The majority of likely Republican voters, 53.2 percent, said they were undecided or had no opinion on the race.

"It's a wide-open game" between the two-term sheriff and Anderson, a novice politician, said Jim Riddlesperger, a political science professor at Texas Christian University. Meanwhile, heavy turnout last week when early voting opened points to high voter

(More on POLL on Page 16A)



Anderson



Williams

turnout in the Nov. 7 general election, county and party officials said.

Though trailing Anderson in the poll, conducted Feb. 15-29, Williams said in a prepared statement that he was encouraged by the findings that indicate he may get into a runoff.

"I like it. I thank God for this report," Williams said in the statement, read by his executive secretary, Sandra Peel.

"This is an indication that the citizens in Tarrant County don't believe everything they read in the newspaper," Williams wrote, apparently referring to news reports about various controversies involving the sheriff and his administration. Peel said the sheriff would not elaborate.

The other five candidates in the Republican Primary — including a former police chief, an ex-Texas Ranger, a private investigator and a Fort Worth policeman — each received single-digit scores in the poll.

Riddlesperger said: "If you're not up to at least 10 percent by now, your odds are pretty long" of winning.

In the Democratic contest for sheriff, 24.6 percent of the people polled said they plan to vote for Fort Worth policeman Luther Perry, 8 percent said they favor Haltom City police Detective Shane Harrison and 67.5 percent said they had not decided or had no opinion.

With only two Democratic candidates, that party's primary will decide who the nominee will be for the Nov. 7 general election.

The *Star-Telegram* poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percentage points for the Republican race, and 6.5 percentage points for Democrats. Telephone interviews were split evenly between residents in Fort Worth, Arlington and the northeast portion of Tarrant County.

The survey also found that 4.2 percent of the participants believe that Williams' performance has been "excellent"; 28.9 percent consider his performance "good" during the past seven years despite controversies that have plagued him and his office.



Williams has done a "fair" job, according to 21.9 percent of the people surveyed, and 17.2 percent rated him as a "poor" sheriff. Those who said they did not have an opinion made up 27.9 percent of those polled.

As a group, the five members of the Tarrant County Commissioners Court, who have repeatedly skirmished with Williams over budgetary matters and take-home cars, scored better in the poll — but not by much.

Of those questioned, 3.6 percent graded the Court as excellent, 32.2 percent graded it as good, 24.8 percent said fair, 4.3 percent said poor, and 35 percent said they did not have an opinion.

Williams and Anderson are leading the hunt for the Republican nomination because their names are the most easily recognized among the GOP candidates, Riddlesperger said.

Anderson's 14-year career as spokesman for the Arlington Police Department has built his name identification.

During Williams' seven years as sheriff, he has repeatedly been in the news. Although some of those news reports may not have been flattering for Williams, "many voters won't remember whether they heard [his] name in a positive or negative light" when they cast their vote, Riddlesperger said.

Name recognition, even before qualifications, is a

***"This is an indication that the citizens in Tarrant County don't believe everything they read in the newspaper."***

— David Williams  
in a statement

"huge" factor in getting elected, the professor said.

After Anderson and Williams, the poll numbers drop significantly for the other Republican candidates.

Fort Worth police officer Brad Patterson was the first choice for 4.1 percent of the survey's participants, and another 4.1 percent said they would choose private investigator Jim Hunter.

Dave Dunaway, a former Texas Ranger who worked briefly as a commander in the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department, was the top choice for 2.4 percent of the people questioned, while Jerry McGlasson, former police chief of North Richland Hills, was picked by 1 percent of the participants.

John Lewis, a window washer and former jail clerk, was favored by 0.7 percent of those surveyed.

Anderson said he was pleased by the poll results and is holding out hope that he will win the primary outright. He said he expects to attract many of the supporters of the losing candidates if he is in a runoff with Williams.

"You'll see a cohesiveness from the mainstream party people who will unite behind me."

Other than the short statement read by his secretary, the reclusive sheriff did not respond to repeated requests for an interview, despite telephone calls made to his home, to his department spokesman, Capt. Herb Chambers, and to his personal staff at the Green Bay substation in northeast Tarrant County.

After a political debate Monday, Williams told a reporter he would not answer questions about his political future without

them first going through Chambers, a full-time county employee who is not a member of the sheriff's campaign staff.

In the Democratic contest, Perry said he expects to win and looks forward to facing whoever survives the crowded Republican race. His preference, he said, "would be ... David Williams."

The Republican crossover vote will push him past Williams, Perry said.

Harrison, the Haltom City detective, said late last week that he is optimistic that he can overcome Perry's lead of more than 16 percentage points. "I don't really see it as a gap right now. We're getting our signs out today.

"To be honest with you, I'm trying to make Luther's life miserable. I think I'm going to give him a run," he said.

Dunaway, the former Texas Ranger who is in the Republican race, questions the accuracy of political pollsters. "I don't trust them," he said, adding: "I have not, and will not, let a poll drive our campaign, because the only true poll will occur March 14."

Other candidates in the GOP contest say they plan to throw their campaigns into high gear and target the more than 50 percent of the local electorate who say they have not made up their minds.

"I'm making my move," Hunter, the private investigator and a former federal agent, said, explaining that he will begin airing a TV commercial.

McGlasson, the former police chief of North Richland Hills, said he is mailing out 23,000 campaign newsletters touting his qualifications. Patterson, the Fort Worth officer, said he is also distributing more mailers. Asked how many, he said, "As many as I can afford."

Jack Douglas Jr., (817) 390-7700  
jld@star-telegram.com



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# CAMPAIGN 2000

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2000

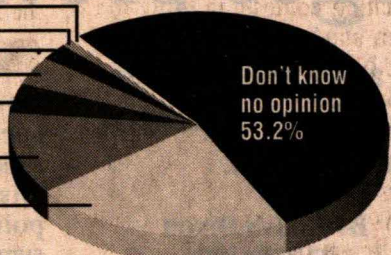
## POLL

### Tarrant Poll for sheriff

If the election were held today, whom would you vote for?

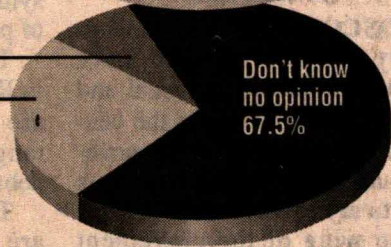
#### Republican primary

John Charles Lewis... 0.7%  
 Jerry McGlasson... 1%  
 Dave Dunaway... 2.4%  
 Jim Hunter... 4.1%  
 Brad Patterson... 4.1%  
 David Williams... 11.9%  
 Dee Anderson... 22.5%



#### Democratic primary

Shane Harrison... 8%  
 Luther Perry... 24.6%



- Numbers do not add up to 100 percent due to rounding
- Republican poll margin of error plus or minus 5 percentage points
- Democratic poll margin of error plus or minus 6.5 percentage points

#### Breakdown among GOP leaders:

AREA	Greater Fort Worth		
	Arlington	Northeast Tarrant	Greater Fort Worth
<b>Dee Anderson</b>	26.1%	18.0%	24.5%
<b>David Williams</b>	6.4%	8.7%	18.9%

GENDER	Greater Fort Worth	
	Male	Female
<b>Anderson</b>	23.0%	21.9%
<b>Williams</b>	16.7%	6.3%

AGE	Greater Fort Worth		50-64	65 and over
	Under 35	35-49		
<b>Anderson</b>	13.5%	28.7%	27.3%	22.6%
<b>Williams</b>	18.2%	8.2%	7.3%	14.0%

EDUCATION	Greater Fort Worth		
	High school or less	Some college	College graduate
<b>Anderson</b>	15.2%	32.6%	21.2%
<b>Williams</b>	16.5%	14.7%	8.1%

HOUSEHOLD INCOME	Greater Fort Worth		
	Under \$40,000	\$40,000-75,000	Over \$75,000
<b>Anderson</b>	16.9%	21.9%	25.5%
<b>Williams</b>	21.9%	8.0%	9.4%

## COMMENTARY

Republican sheriff candidate **Dee Anderson** has heard lots of questions about his voting record. Not how he voted, but if.

Anderson says one opponent is trying to make hay out of public records suggesting that Anderson, 43, has only voted once in his life. But county election chief **Robert Parten** confirms that the records are wrong — a glitch that happened when Anderson moved from Mansfield to Kennedale in 1992.

Parten said other records are spotty but show that Anderson at least voted in “every Republican primary and general election” in 1988-92, which suggests he has been a consistent voter all along.

“I voted the first year I was eligible to vote,” says Anderson. “My record is solid, and I’m not the least bit concerned.”

This week's contributors: **JAY ROOT**, **BOB MAHLBURG** and **LINDA P. CAMPBELL**.



# 3 lawmen challenge Tarrant constable

**Two deputy sheriffs, a deputy constable and the incumbent square off in the race to represent Pct. 7.**

BY ROBERT CADWALLADER  
Special to the Star-Telegram

Three veteran lawmen are making bids to unseat three-term Tarrant County Constable Mike Honeycutt in the Pct. 7 Republican primary March 14.

Two Tarrant County deputy sheriffs — Steven R. Henry and James Studdard — and Deputy Constable James Hurley Sr. of Pct. 4 are seeking to represent Pct. 7, which includes south Arlington, Mansfield, Kennedale and several rural communities in southwest Tarrant County.

For the most part, the candidates have avoided personal attacks, but the challengers say it's time for a change in the office of constable, a job that carries full police powers but was established mainly to serve court orders and other civil papers.

Hurley was the most outspoken in recent interviews, saying Honeycutt needs to do more to thwart truancy and illegal dumping. He also disagrees with Honeycutt's use of plainclothes deputies and unmarked cars to serve papers, insisting that more time be made for routine police work.

"My officers will be in full uniforms and marked vehicles for both identification and crime prevention," Hurley said. "If you were a crook and you saw a marked constable's vehicle driving up and down that street several times a day, would you burglarize a home on that street?"

Honeycutt says it's not that simple. The Pct. 7 office consistently ranks in the top three precincts in the amount of paperwork it handles. It's handling more eviction cases than any other precinct, Honeycutt said.

"Our guys are serving 40 to 50 papers a day," which leaves little time for patrols, he said. "If we saw a DWI or something like that ... we would take some action. But right now, with our civil load, we just don't have time for that."

Honeycutt said he leaves it up to his deputies to decide when to wear uniforms and drive marked cars, because sometimes the

identification can encourage cooperation from the defendant. More often, defendants try to evade the deputies, he said.

Henry agreed.

"Sometimes people won't come to the door, stuff like that, when you're in uniform," he said.

Henry said he also believes that serving papers has to take priority over patrols and crime prevention.

"They have city police and sheriff's officers and the DPS to do that," he said.

Studdard said he wants to

study the issue of uniforms before making it part of his platform.

"It's got its drawbacks," he said. "I like wearing uniforms, personally, but I don't know if it's the best thing for serving civil papers or not."

Hurley emphasizes truancy control, touting a program he works with in five school districts in Pct. 4. The Absent Students Assistance Program, or ASAP, is designed to get parents involved quickly when a student is skipping school.

"We get the child before it becomes a problem," he said.

Honeycutt agrees truancy is a problem, but he said he and his staff are keeping up with the cases in Pct. 7. He also credited schools with being more proactive in initiating truancy actions and said he would be willing to look at ASAP or other projects.

On illegal dumping, Hurley said he would assign a grant-funded deputy to the Pct. 7 office strictly for investigating complaints. He said Honeycutt isn't addressing the problem, but Honeycutt said he is doing what the grant program requests: forwarding all dumping complaints to the Pct. 4 constable's office, which administers the funding.

Honeycutt, who has a staff of five deputies and a secretary, said it is not likely that another deputy would be moved to his offices, which are in Mansfield.

"We're in a rented warehouse building," he said. "Personnel-wise, we're overflowing. We don't have room to move around."

Studdard said he would rather focus his campaign on his ability to deal well with people.

"I'm the kind of person who can talk to people," he said. "I'm just a good ol' country boy. I always wear a cowboy hat, and I always treat people right."

**CAMPAIGN  
2000**

Pct. 7  
Constable Race

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2000



For more news, go to  
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[www.dfw.com](http://www.dfw.com)



## PCT. 7 CONSTABLE HOPEFULS

- **Candidate:** Mike Honeycutt
- **Age:** 51
- **Party:** Republican
- **Term:** Four years
- **Salary:** \$53,000
- **Incumbent:** Yes
- **Occupation:** Constable



**Honeycutt**

- **Experience:** Served as constable since January 1989; served 13 years at Fort Worth Police Department, five years at the Mansfield Police Department and four years as Pct. 3 deputy constable; earned master peace officer and instructor certification.
- **Platform:** Continue to try to run the office in as professional and cost-efficient a manner as possible.

- **Candidate:** Steven R. Henry
- **Age:** 47
- **Party:** Republican
- **Term:** Four years
- **Salary:** \$53,000
- **Incumbent:** No
- **Occupation:** Tarrant County deputy sheriff



**Henry**

- **Experience:** Has worked the past three years as family court security officer; worked eight years in the county jail and 12 years serving criminal warrants; earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Texas Christian University.
- **Platform:** Wants to be a servant of the people, with an emphasis on courtesy and professionalism and a good working relationship with the Commissioners Court.

- **Candidate:** James Hurley Sr.
- **Age:** 61
- **Party:** Republican
- **Term:** Four years
- **Salary:** \$53,000
- **Incumbent:** No
- **Occupation:** Pct. 4 deputy constable



**Hurley**

- **Experience:** Has served six years as deputy in Pct. 4 after two years in Pct. 2; retired from the Los Angeles Police Department in 1981 after 20 years; worked from 1981 to 1992 as a fraud investigator for American Express.
- **Platform:** Wants a more visible, conscientious constable's office, focusing on truancy prevention, civil process and illegal trash dumping.

- **Candidate:** James Studdard
- **Age:** 60
- **Party:** Republican
- **Term:** Four years
- **Salary:** \$53,000
- **Incumbent:** No
- **Occupation:** Tarrant County deputy sheriff



**Studdard**

- **Experience:** Has served 10 years with the Sheriff's Department, currently as a probate court bailiff; operates a roofing business; earned a bachelor's of business administration from the University of Arkansas and taught public school for six years before moving to Texas.
- **Platform:** Wants to provide professional law enforcement leadership, professional awareness of crime prevention and court security; will adhere to ethical and moral standards and emphasize family values and community service.



## CAMPAIGN 2000

# Williams' ex-backer gives to Anderson

**An auto parts dealer who donated \$42,000 to the sheriff's campaign in 1992 switches allegiance.**

By **MAX B. BAKER**  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**FORT WORTH** — Auto parts dealer Ed Max, who bankrolled Tarrant County Sheriff David Williams' first campaign, contributed \$5,000 to Dee Anderson, the incumbent's major challenger in the March 14 GOP primary.

Once a Williams confidante who contributed \$42,000 to the sheriff's first race in 1992, Max recently distanced himself from Williams. Giving to Anderson's campaign is the first overt sign that he no longer supports Williams.

"We are going to have to have a new sheriff," Max said. "It's the best job he's had in his life, and I can't understand what happened. We worked with him for three or

four years trying to get him on track."

Williams faces five other opponents in next week's Republican primary. In campaign contribution reports filed yesterday, Anderson leads the pack with \$22,690. Williams reported only \$4,865 in contributions for this period.

The financial reports due yesterday covered Feb. 14 to March 6.

Williams could not be reached to comment. The sheriff and the auto parts millionaire used to go on patrol together. Williams gave Max, nicknamed the "shadow sheriff," a badge, gun and radio.

Anderson, the Arlington Police Department spokesman, also received \$2,500 from the billionaire Bass family's political action committee and \$900 from Tarrant County Commissioner J.D. Johnson and his precinct administrator. Anderson could not be reached to comment.

One of Williams' biggest recent contributions was \$1,000 from his attorney Jana Kallal and her husband.

During this reporting period, Anderson also spent more than his foes. Anderson spent about \$36,000, all of it going to Fort



**Auto parts dealer Ed Max**, right, who financed the 1992 campaign of Sheriff David Williams, above left, has given \$5,000 to the campaign of Dee Anderson, above right, Williams' major challenger.

Worth political consultant Bryan Eppstein's firm, the report shows. Williams spent \$1,800.

The other Republican candidates also raised and spent less than Anderson.

David Dunaway, a former Texas Ranger who also worked as a commander at the Sheriff's Department, reported raising \$6,660 and spending \$9,908. The Bass family PAC also contributed \$2,500 to Dunaway's campaign.

Jim Hunter, a private investigator and former federal police agent, didn't report any recent contributions but reported spending about \$8,000 since the last financial report.

Brad Patterson, a Fort Worth policeman and past president of the Fort Worth Police Officers Association, reported raising about \$3,600 during the past few weeks. He spent about \$5,500, reports show.

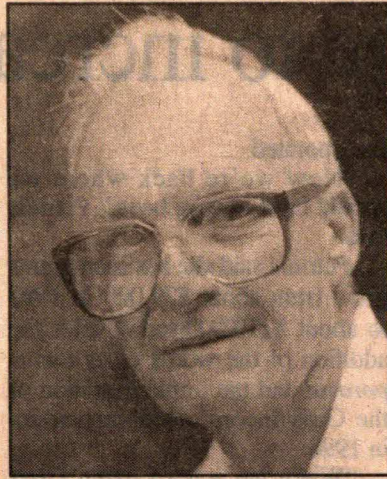
TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2000



## "We are going to have a new sheriff."

- Ed Max

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2000



Star-Telegram Archives

A financial disclosure report for Jerry McGlasson, former police chief of North Richland Hills, was not available late yesterday.

A campaign finance report was also not immediately available for Republican candidate John Lewis, a self-employed window washer and former clerk at the Tarrant County Jail.

In the race for the Democratic Party nomination, Fort Worth police officer Luther Perry Jr. was

far ahead of Haltom City police Detective Shane Harrison in contributions and expenditures.

Perry reportedly took in about \$900 and spent about \$1,500 since his last report. Harrison reported about \$100 in contributions and \$827 in expenses.

Max was once Williams' biggest financial backer. He recruited Williams, then a DARE officer in Haltom City, to run in 1992. Max and his family provided about 45 percent of his campaign funds in the 1992 race.

Max supported the sheriff's controversial helicopter program and purchased drug-sniffing dogs for the department. But as Williams' troubles with commissioners grew, his relationship with Max became strained.

"I'm very upset over the sheriff. I have no animosity at all with David Williams," Max said.

Williams and Anderson are expected to square off in an April 11 runoff.

In a recent *Star-Telegram* poll, Anderson was supported by 22.5 percent of respondents. Williams received 11.9 percent. The poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percentage points.

Patterson and Hunter received 4.1 percent in the survey, with Dunaway receiving 2.4 percent and McGlasson 1 percent. Lewis was favored by 0.7 percent.

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## A Texas tradition

Newcomers to Texas may not be aware of it, but for decades, Republicans made a practice of voting in the Democratic primary in this state.

That was because Republicans were so scarce that a couple of phone booths could have held them all. So if they were to have any meaningful voice in who represented them in elected offices, it was necessary to vote in the Democratic primary.

There obviously has been a turn-around. These

d a y s ,

Democrats are voting (or at least are threatening to vote) in the Republican primary, and the Republicans are bleating about it as if some vicious scofflaws (fealthy "liberals," no doubt)

had just slashed the tires on their BMWs.

The current problem for people such as myself (Democrats without apology or the need to offer one) is that because the Democratic Party is too gutless to field a full slate of candidates, we have been effectively shut out of the electoral process.

Therefore, I am thinking seriously about voting in the Republican primary, which is the only way I can have any voice in the selection of, for instance, judicial candidates (since all the Democratic judges in Tarrant County woke up one morning and suddenly realized to their amazement that they had actually been Republicans all along — or maybe they just wanted to get elected).

By doing this, I also will be granted an early opportunity to vote against Sheriff Barney Fife and George Dubya Bush, the poster boy for Empty Suit Disease.

Of course, the Republicans will bleat plaintively about how unfair this is. I certainly hope so.

To paraphrase a great line from the movie *Apocalypse Now*, I love the sound of Republicans whining in the morning.



Bill Youngblood  
North Richland Hills



■ **LETTERS, FAXES AND E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR**

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2000

**Integrity and character**

I have been acquainted with Dee Anderson for about 15 years and know him to be an honest and trustworthy individual who always strives to do the right thing.

I have worked with Dee in business and have been impressed with his attention to detail and his unflappable nature. His integrity and character also carry over into his hobby and passion of officiating high school football games. Fairness and impartiality are his strong suits.

The people of Tarrant County and all employees of the Sheriff's Department will be proud to have Dee Anderson as their new sheriff.

**Ben Johnson**  
*Fort Worth*



FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2000

# Man found fatally shot in running car

BY DEANNA BOYD  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**EDGECLIFF VILLAGE** — Sheriff's deputies responding to a report of a car accident last night found a dead man strapped into the driver's seat of a running car with a bullet wound in his chest.

The man carried a chauffeur's license identifying him as a 48-year-old Mexican citizen from Acapulco, said Capt. Herb Chambers, a spokesman for the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department.

Investigators do not believe robbery was the motive, Chambers said.

"He had quite a bit of money on him," Chambers said. "It could be a drive-by. It could be road rage or it could be more. It's very unknown right now."

About 8 p.m., a woman alerted a sheriff's deputy at a nearby business about a possible accident on Hemphill Street just north of Altamesa Boulevard in Edgcliff Village.

The deputy found a locked green Ford Thunderbird, its motor still running, in the grass west of Hemphill and near a barbed wire fence. The car's rear window and a rear right panel window appeared to be shattered by bullets, Chambers said.

"The bullet holes are from the outside going in," Chambers said.

Officers pried the car's front door open, he said.

Chambers said investigators believe that the car was southbound on Hemphill when the shooting occurred. The car appears to have jumped the curb and rolled to a stop, he said.

A possible witness later called the Sheriff's Department and investigators were trying to make contact with that person last night. Investigators were also trying to contact the registered owner of the Thunderbird, which not been reported stolen, Chambers said.

Deanna Boyd, (817) 390-7655  
dboyd@star-telegram.com



# Democrats tout choice

## in sheriff's race

**BY BOB MAHLBURG**  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**FORT WORTH** — The two candidates in the Democratic primary for Tarrant County sheriff feel that they've almost been lost alongside a crowded field of seven GOP candidates.

But they say the winner in Tuesday's primary will give voters an important choice in November —

### 2 hopefuls call Williams 'an embarrassment'

especially if the GOP candidate is Sheriff David Williams.

Democrats Shane Harrison and Luther Perry call Williams "an embarrassment" to the county.

Despite a trend of Republican voting in Tarrant County, Perry expects

many voters in November to take a hard look at the Democratic candidate, even if Williams is not the GOP candidate.

"I think people are going to go down the ballot and say this is one office where I need to vote for the candidate rather than the party," Perry said. "I know they don't want to send David Williams back to that office."

A 24-year veteran of the Fort Worth Police Department, Perry emphasizes his long experience in law enforcement and administration. He touts endorsements from the Fort Worth Police Officers Association and the late Fort Worth Police Chief Thomas Windham, for whom he was an assistant chief.

Harrison, a former undercover drug officer with eight years in the Haltom City Police Department, said he offers common sense, middle-class values, hard work and integrity.

Both men say the sheriff's job is mostly to run the jail, and their differences are more in style than philosophy.

Perry says he is more "diplo-



**Shane Harrison** was undercover drug officer in Haltom City.



**Luther Perry** is a 24-year veteran of Fort Worth Police Department.

matic" than Harrison; Harrison said he is "more straightforward."

Harrison said his "No. 1 issue" is to "get the church involvement out of the Sheriff's Department," including Williams' reliance on a paid chaplain.

Each candidate pledges to endorse his Democratic rival if he loses.

"Whether it's Luther or I, we will have the best candidate,"

Harrison said. He said he thinks voters will carefully weigh their choices for sheriff and want "more than a spokesman on TV" — a reference to GOP candidate Dee Anderson, an Arlington police spokesman.

"I think you've got to have a little more than that," said Harrison, adding that his comment was "not a bash on Dee."

The Democratic race has been a friendly, low-key campaign with yard signs and speeches at political forums.

Harrison, who often sports a white cowboy hat and silver belt buckle, uses yard signs and business cards saying, "Shane for Sheriff," referring to a fictional cowboy and gunfighter who rides in to save the day.

Perry's business cards proclaim, "There's Going To Be A New Sheriff In Town."

**Bob Mahlburg, (817) 390-7675**  
[burg1@star-telegram.com](mailto:burg1@star-telegram.com)



# Sheriff fan mail shouts with feeling

**A**lways glad to hear from Sheriff David Williams' pals.

In fact, I heard from the Watauga lawman himself yesterday — in a recorded campaign phone message saying his deputies have arrested



**BUD  
KENNEDY**

■  
COMMENTARY

“100,000 fugitives” (mathematically impossible) while operating with a budget “half the national average” (analytically dishonest).

Mostly, though, I hear from his friends. Maybe you remember the opinion-page rant of the Rev. James Borchert, who said that Williams must obey only “God’s law” and that Williams has “supreme power” — under English common law.

The most fervent correspondent must be car dealer Doyle Jones, 48, of Arlington, a prominent elected Republican precinct chairman. When a sheriff’s helicopter crashed, killing two deputies in an unnecessary tragedy, Jones told me it was “struck down by the hand of Satan.”

Turns out Jones has written more letters.

Many of Williams’ supporters do not seem to be aligned with the Pat Robertson camp of Christian Americans, who believe that church members should vote and take a strong say-so in government. (Sounds like democracy to me.) Some of Williams’ loudest

fans are followers of money-hungry TV preachers, or from a dangerous camp that believes that Christians should overthrow the government and rule under “God’s law.”

To help understand what planet Williams’ friends are coming from, I requested a copy of one of

Jones’ letters to Tarrant County commissioners, the elected managers who constantly battle Williams over his use of public money, salaries and equipment.

A bit of background: In 1998, commissioners tried to eliminate Williams’ \$60,000-a-year jail chaplain and replace him with a more accountable county chaplain. Williams retaliated by handing over more than \$300,000 to operate a private chaplain’s office nearby in a luxury apartment.

The chaplain change didn’t make Jones happy. He wrote to the commissioners:

“ ‘We the people’ of Tarrant County, Texas will not accept this sleazy, demonic TRAVESTY. ...

“ ‘We the people’ ... will not allow you to abuse your power by persecuting the church.

“ ‘We the people’ will begin today to BLOW THE TRUMPET IN ZION and to SOUND THE ALARM ... like Paul Revere’s midnight ride as we go door to door and church to church exposing your demonic behavior.

“ ‘We the people’ will put on our best suits, call your secretaries

for appointments with you one on one, and demand your individual explanations ... on this issue of attempting to remove God’s representative and God’s influence on the Tarrant County Sheriff’s Department.

“ ‘We the people’ have no fear of [whom] you seek to please ... and that is Satan.”

That’s what he wrote to four Republican elected officials.

No letters from Jones lately. He may be busy trying to rescue Williams, who trails far behind Arlington police officer Dee Anderson in early polls for the Republican Party primary election next Tuesday.

Anderson’s campaign treasurer is an Arlington police chaplain. Anderson has said he will restore an accountable office, not a \$300,000 private ministry.

The decision is between a public servant and a pious tyrant. No comment from Satan.

Bud Kennedy’s column appears  
Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.  
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# Jail ministry spending unexplained

**Its leader says he doesn't have to divulge where the money, earmarked for prisoners, goes.**

By JACK DOUGLAS JR.  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**FORT WORTH** — Tarrant County sheriff's officials say they don't know how a jail ministry group has spent more than \$327,000 that state law requires be used for prisoners' needs.

Local government leaders said they are concerned over what they called the "very secretive way" the money, which comes from inmates' purchases at the Tarrant County Jail's commissary, is being handled.

"It really borders on outrage," County Judge Tom Vandergriff said.

Sheriff David Williams, who has exclusive control over the commissary fund, could not be reached this week to comment. Calls were made to his home and office, and to Capt. Herb Chambers, the spokesman for the Sheriff's Department.

The funds have been given to Faith Restorative Justice Chaplaincy to provide "social needs," including educational programs, for county prisoners, according to a contract that ministry leader Hugh Atwell and Williams entered into June 1.

Since then, Faith Restorative has received \$327,872 in four equal installments, marked for professional service, according to bank transaction records obtained under the Texas Public Information Act.

Assistant Chief Deputy Larry Hester said Williams was wise to choose Atwell and Faith Restorative to help coordinate the approximately 300 volunteer chaplains who work in the jail. The work they do, Hester said, prevents prisoners from filing "religious lawsuits," alleging that they cannot practice their faith while behind bars.

Hester also said of Faith Restorative, "We've been satisfied with their contractual commitment to us."

The contract states that Faith Restorative, a nonprofit agency, should provide educational services for inmates. But none of the money was used for prisoners seeking a high school equivalency certificate (total cost, \$3,846) or to pay for more than \$15,000 in maintenance updates for the jail's law library, the records show.

Those bills were paid directly from the commissary account, which is maintained by the Sheriff's Department. The balance in that account has dropped more than \$200,000 since the contract with Atwell took effect, the records show.

The agreement between Atwell and Williams has caused a "legitimate concern" over who is paying for what with money generated by the commissary, said Marvin Collins, head of the civil division of the Tarrant County district attorney's office. But those questions deal more with fiscal responsibility and public accountability and are not legal issues that should be decided by the DA's office, Collins said.

Pct. 2 County Commissioner Marti VanRavenswaay questioned why additional money is being spent for the law library and for General Educational Development high school equivalency tests when the contract calls for Atwell to pay for educational programs.

"I would certainly like to ask Mr. Atwell for an accounting on how those monies [from the contract] have been spent for educational purposes," she said.

Atwell said he is abiding by the contract but declined to say what his ministry is doing with the money, including how it is being used to provide essential needs of prisoners.

"This is a private, nonprofit religious organization," he said. "We're not turning over anything to the news media. We're not obligated to do that."



**Ministry leader Hugh Atwell** says he's abiding by a contract signed June 1.

Last month, Atwell acknowledged that part of the commissary money is being used to pay for a one-bedroom apartment at Firestone Upper West Side, on the southwest edge of downtown Fort Worth. He said the apartment, which costs \$770 a month, is used exclusively by him for an office.

The commissary account had a balance of \$364,355 last summer, days before the contract with Atwell took effect, the records show. By the end of January, eight months later, the balance had dropped to \$162,843, according to the records.

The drop came despite deposits that totaled more than \$68,000 from earned interest and from revenue generated by the commissary's vendor, the records show. Aside from the payments to Faith Restorative, nearly \$24,000 in other payments were made, including the cost of the GED tests and the law library.

The bank records obtained by the *Star-Telegram* do not include the fourth installment on the Faith Restorative contract, \$81,968, that was paid March 1.

State law requires Williams to maintain records "showing the amount of proceeds from the commissary operation and the amount and purpose of disbursements made from the proceeds."

The Sheriff's Department's internal affairs division, in response to the *Star-Telegram's* open records request, wrote this week, "The Department does not have records showing how commissary fund money has been spent by Faith Restorative Justice Chaplaincy."

The Sheriff's Department has maintained that it is following the law by recording only the bulk payments made to Faith Restorative. It is seeking an opinion from the state attorney general's office as to whether the Faith Restorative



accounting documents are public record.

Faith Restorative says it is not a government body subject to the Texas Public Information Act.

Chief Deputy Savala Swanson, the jail commander, said he is not told what Faith Restorative does with the money it receives from the contract.

"I don't know anything about that commissary [fund]," Swanson said. "When it was taken off my plate, I left it."

Asked how the contract is providing for prisoners' needs, the Sheriff's Department spokesman, Chambers, said, "You'd have to ask the chaplain [Atwell] those questions."

Atwell said he is not required to make public how his group is spending the funds because "this money is no longer considered commissary money once it comes to us."

State law, like the contract, says

jail commissary money can be used to "fund, staff and equip a program addressing the social needs of the county prisoners, including an educational or recreational program and religious or rehabilitative counseling."

The law says the use of commissary money is also limited to:

- Paying for clothing, writing materials and hygiene supplies for prisoners.

- Establishing, staffing and equipping the commissary.

- Funding, staffing and equipping a library for inmates.

Along with payments for GED tests and the jail's law library, money was taken directly from the commissary fund, rather than from a Faith Restorative account, to pay \$3,700 for televisions for inmates, \$450 for "toner cartridges" and \$77.75 to rent a pager, the records show.

Vandergriff said he will ask the Tarrant County district attorney's

office to push for new state laws that would tighten accountability for the hundreds of thousands of dollars generated by the jail's commissary.

"It's such a sad commentary," he said. "The sheriff may not owe us [the Commissioners Court] an explanation, but it sure seems to me he owes the public an explanation on how that money is being spent."

Pct. 3 Commissioner Glen Whitley agreed.

"The commissary funds should not be left to one individual, outside the public's purview," he said. "It allows one individual to deal with it in a very secretive way."

Pct. 4 Commissioner J.D. Johnson said he does not understand why Atwell and Williams are not saying how the money is being handled.

"I feel most uncomfortable with it," said Johnson, once a strong supporter of the sheriff.

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## ■ ELECTION LETTERS, FAXES AND E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2000

### Spinning

A letter writer recently criticized the *Star-Telegram* for its extreme negativity and biased reporting because it did not detail the Tarrant County sheriff's recent training exercise in Burleson. It was reported that someone commented that "Amon Carter would turn over in his grave if he knew how the newspaper was run now."

If that be the case, Lon Evans must surely be spinning in his grave because of the tarnish that the incumbent has brought to the Sheriff's Department.

From each candidate's response to questions posed by the League of Women Voters, I had little difficulty in pledging my vote for Luther Perry. He seems to me to be the most qualified. Further, he has the endorsement of the late Police Chief Thomas Windham.

Floyd F. Clark  
Fort Worth



## Dunaway for sheriff

I was impressed with Basil G. Garrett's recent letter

supporting Sheriff David Williams, which pointed out how since 1995, under Williams, the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department has issued more than 100,000 warrants and arrested more than 70,000 fugitives. This record demonstrates how efficient the department has become under Williams and how he has reduced the crime rate in Tarrant County.

Wait a minute — can this be true? Did the crime rate really go down if we process four times as many warrants as we used to?

What we really need is a good, no-nonsense sheriff — a former Texas Ranger like Dave Dunaway. I'm going to vote for Dunaway, a man who can do the things that Williams pretends he did.

**Richard A. Pell**  
*Arlington*

## Anderson shines

"Restoring Law and Order" is an OK slogan for a candidate for sheriff. But if I could pick one for Dee Anderson, it would be "Restoring the Shine to the Sheriff's Badge."

Dee knows law enforcement inside and out, he is sensitive to crime victims, he loves his family and his church — and I'll vote for him!

**Janice Harris Lord**  
*Arlington*

## Dunaway's the man

Retired Texas Ranger Dave Dunaway is my choice for sheriff because the people of Tarrant County need the leadership that Dunaway's experience can provide. Several Texas counties already have former Texas Rangers for sheriffs, and they are doing an excellent job.

I have reviewed the qualifications of the candidates and have no doubt that Dunaway is the man for the job. I encourage every voter to become informed. Your vote in the primary is crucial in deciding who will represent your party in the general election.

Review qualifications, ask questions, become informed, make up your own mind, and join me in voting for Dave Dunaway on Tuesday.

**Dorothy Aderholt**  
*Arlington*



## ■ LETTERS, FAXES AND E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

### Anderson a servant

I was honored and privileged to be the first full-time public information officer for the Arlington Police Department. In 1987, when I chose to enter the private sector, I was asked to recommend my replacement. I had no hesitation in naming Dee Anderson.

I know Dee to be honest, ethical and dedicated. Dee has a deep appreciation and understanding of a public servant's obligation to be open and candid in his dealings. You will always be able to find Dee, and he will always be available to answer your inquiries.

The Sheriff's Department is similar to a major corporation, responsible to the public and stockholders, with many millions of dollars at stake. At the helm must be a person who has the talent and abilities of a CEO. Dee Anderson is qualified and deserves to be the CEO of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department.

**Jim Willett**  
*Rice*

### Reforming the office

Ladies and gentleman, meet your new Tarrant County sheriff: James "Jim" Stokes. He is running on the Reform Party ticket.

Jim has worked for the Sheriff's Department for 14 years. All of that time has been spent in jail operations. He has worked as a confinement officer, in the intake and booking operations, as a release officer and an identification officer, and presently in the classification operation.

The jail operation is the most important part of the job of sheriff, and Jim is the only one who has such thorough knowledge of it. He also received in-depth training in management during the 20 years he spent in the Air Force.

Don't be afraid to be different when you step into the voting booth. Vote for James "Jim" Stokes for sheriff of Tarrant County.

**Norman P. Callan**  
*Fort Worth*

### A few opinions

In a Feb. 28 article in a regional newspaper, Tarrant County sheriff candidate Dee Anderson was quoted as saying: "You have to look at the needs of modern law enforcement. You shouldn't have to go back to the Texas Constitution."

Opinions handed down by the Texas attorney general ([www.oag.state.texas.us](http://www.oag.state.texas.us)) include:

On operation of the county jail: "This language is clear that the sheriff 'shall

exercise a supervision and control' and the nature of this authority is such that it precludes the commissioners court from [such] authority over the jail."

Another: "This provision authorizes the sheriff to perform law enforcement duties throughout the county, including those areas of the county that lie within the boundaries of incorporated cities."

Use of commissary funds: "The sheriff may use commissary proceeds only to fund, staff and equip a program addressing the social needs of the county prisoners, including an education or recreational program and religious or rehabilitative counseling."

If Anderson feels that the Texas Constitution is no longer relevant, what is his opinion of the U.S. Constitution? The Bill of Rights? The First and Second Amendments? Re-elect Sheriff David Williams — his foundation is based on law and order.

**Wayne E. Anderson**  
*Fort Worth*



# Sheriff candidates draw on experience

By JACK DOUGLAS JR.  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**FORT WORTH** — One man remembers fighting the Mafia. Another remembers the woman he helped send to prison for murder. Two other men remember the faces of little girls, victims of horrendous crimes who could not be saved.

They are the thoughts of seasoned lawmen who have

stepped into a political fracas as sheriff candidates, hoping to capture their parties' nominations in Tuesday's primaries.

Eight candidates — six Republicans and two Democrats — are attempting to unseat Sheriff David Williams, who is seeking his third four-year term.

The primary will be the

toughest political test for Williams, a Republican. He has repeatedly been at the center of controversy, often blending the gospel of Christianity with the tough talk of criminal justice.

The 46-year-old sheriff declined to be interviewed by the *Star-Telegram* for this article.

Instead, he issued a written statement touting, among other things, his "superior, day-to-day management of the massive Tarrant County Jail system" and his work as "executive officer" of the courts.

"Since taking office, Sheriff Williams' innovative management tactics have generated a record \$70 million in additional revenues for Tarrant County," the statement said, without elaboration.

Assistant Chief Deputy Larry Hester said Williams was unavailable to be interviewed because "he's busy and doesn't want to do it."

The other candidates, in telephone interviews, talked of their adventures in policing, including periods of heartache, frustrations and pride.

Jerry McGlasson, 58, a Republican, once aspired to be a Texas game warden but joined the Fort Worth Police Department after an honorable discharge from the Army in 1964. He stayed with the department for 22 years, as a patrolman, detective, sergeant and, finally, a lieutenant in the training academy.

In 1982, McGlasson was hired as police chief of North Richland Hills, a position he kept until December 1998, when he quit because his "management style" was different from the new city manager. He has said that if elected he will bring more professional management to the 1,300-person Sheriff's Department.

McGlasson was a Fort Worth officer in the early 1970s when he helped investigate the disappearance of a 7-year-old girl.

"She was literally snatched out of her front yard by a man who kept her alive for three days in the trunk of his car," he said. "Then he broke her neck and threw her out on the railroad tracks about three blocks from where he had kidnapped her."

McGlasson said he still shudders when he thinks about the girl. "She was the same age as my oldest daughter," he said. "They could have passed as twins."

Dee Anderson, 44, a Republican, also remembers a small child: Amber Hagerman, 9. It was Anderson, as spokesman for the Arlington Police Department, who went before the TV cameras for those four excruciating days as police searched for the kidnapped girl. And it was Anderson, the son of a newspaperman, who worked to keep his composure in front of the media after Amber's body was found in a rain-swollen creek bed in north Arlington.

"We'd all been working 24 hours a day, with little or no sleep," said Anderson, a 20-year veteran of the Arlington police force. "To have that kind of news crashing down. ... It was devastating to all of us, and to the entire community."

Anderson worked with the news media and law enforcement agencies to develop the "Amber Plan," an alert system that utilizes radio and television to quickly report the abduction of a child. If elected, Anderson has said, he will improve the lines of communication between the Sheriff's Department and other areas of local government.

Brad Patterson, 48, a Republican, first thought about becoming a police officer when, as a boy, he watched his grandfather, a West Virginia state police lieutenant. He joined the Fort Worth Police Department in 1976 as an undercover narcotics officer, but quickly transferred to patrol because "I just couldn't relate to those dopers."

Now he is with the Police Department's crime-scene investigations unit, seeking forensic evidence that can help make or break a case.

In 1979, while searching for burglars in a pharmacy on the city's north side, Patterson said, he got his first taste of just how dangerous an officer's work can be.

"I looked through the window to see if I could see anything, and suddenly bullets started coming through the window," he said.

Startled, but not hurt, Patterson glimpsed the intruders and returned fire. "The good thing is, I didn't hit anybody, and they didn't hit anybody," he said. "[But] they got away."

Patterson has said that, as sheriff,

he would sharpen policing skills at the department and "restore order" to the County Jail.

Luther Perry, 46, a Democrat, was one of five African-Americans who applied in 1975 to be a Fort Worth police officer. At the time, there were only 13 African-American officers on the force.

Perry said he was warmly received by fellow officers and residents when he began patrolling the city streets early the next year. He stayed in patrol for nearly a decade, then worked to recruit other officers. He is still with the department.

Perry met his mentor in December 1985 when Thomas Windham became chief. The next month, as Windham's special assistant, Perry started working to build a more trusting relationship between the police force and the minority communities.



Windham, who was a Republican, wrote a letter endorsing his Democratic friend, saying Perry is "most suited and qualified to lead the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office to the professional levels the residents of Tarrant County so richly deserve." The letter was made public in January after Windham died of cancer.

Perry has said that if he is elected sheriff, he will improve the image of the Sheriff's Department and win back the "vote of confidence" from the community.

Dave Dunaway, a Republican, was living in San Marcos with his wife and infant son when he became a Department of Public Safety trooper in 1972. Seven years later, Dunaway joined the DPS intelligence division and moved to Tarrant County, where he spearheaded a successful investigation into a string of bank robberies in North and North Central Texas.

He was named a Texas Ranger in 1986, and assigned to Matagorda County where he investigated the shooting death of a well-liked railroad engineer whose body was found behind a country school. Dunaway learned that the victim's wife, a part-time photographer, had been to the school several months earlier, taking pictures of children.

Further investigation showed that the woman had a boyfriend — and a hired hit man — and that she had lured her husband behind the school where, Dunaway said, "she chose murder over divorce."

Dunaway moved back to Tarrant County within a year, and retired from the Texas Rangers in 1996, just as his oldest son, Cole, was preparing to become a state trooper. Dunaway then worked as a commanding deputy at the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department, but resigned in May 1999 to run for sheriff.

Dunaway, 54, has said that, as sheriff, he will use his experience as a state trooper and Texas Ranger to pick a command staff with strong law enforcement credentials.

Jim Hunter, 56, a Republican, graduated from Texas Tech Univer-

sity in 1965 and became an agent with the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, a predecessor of the Drug Enforcement Administration. Three years later, he joined a federal task force assigned to battle heroin and cocaine traffickers in and around Washington, D.C. It ended with Hunter and his fellow agents arresting a corrupt cop and two "lieutenants" with the Genovese Mafia family, based in New York City, on drug charges.

Hunter continued his work as a supervisory agent in Dallas, Houston and San Antonio. But when he was told in 1972 that he was being transferred to New York City, he transferred to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and moved to Fort Worth. Hunter took early retirement in 1977, because of hypertension, and opened a private investigations firm, which he continues to operate. He said hypertension is no longer a problem.

Hunter said he will emphasize the need to screen prisoners for mental and physical problems before they are placed in the county jail.

Shane Harrison, 28, a Democrat, joined the Haltom City Police Department in 1992, going from jailer to patrol then to criminal investigations, where he is a detective. Harrison said he became a policeman to "catch bad guys and put them in jail. That just sounded appealing as a young man."

While campaigning and chasing crooks, Harrison said, his "big moment right now" is caring for his ailing mother. "I'm just happy I'm in a situation so that I can help her and give back some of what was given to me," he said.

Harrison said his father abandoned him and his mother before his first birthday. "I know who he is, but there's no communication," he said.

Harrison has vowed to rid the Sheriff's Department of a controversial contract with a jail ministry group, which has been paid more than \$300,000 to offer services to prisoners, and return to a volunteer chaplain's program in the jail.

John Lewis, 66, a Republican, is a former clerk at the Tarrant County Jail and a self-employed window washer. "Actually, I like to say that I'm a window cleaner, because there's a difference in just washing them and actually cleaning them," said Lewis, the most unconventional sheriff's candidate on the campaign stump.

He has said that, if elected, he will spend more time personally helping jail personnel do their jobs.

But in the waning days of the primary race, Lewis is still waiting for his first contribution.

"I've got one guy who says he's sending me \$25. I haven't got the check yet," he said.

Jack Douglas Jr., (817) 390-7700

[jld@star-telegram.com](mailto:jld@star-telegram.com)



# SHERIFF'S RACE

## PRIMARY

### Tarrant election ballots

Candidates in contested races on Tuesday's ballots in Tarrant County

#### DEMOCRATS

**President**

Bill Bradley  
Al Gore  
Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr.

**U.S. Senator**

Charles Gandy  
Gene Kelly

**Don Clark**

H. Gerald Bintliff  
Bobby Wightman

**U.S. Rep. Dist. 12**

Prentiss Davis  
Mark Greene

**Sheriff**

Shane Harrison  
Luther Perry

**Constable Pct. 5**

Chris Lucio Jr.  
Sergio DeLeon  
Jim Palmer

#### REPUBLICANS

**President**

George W. Bush  
Orrin G. Hatch  
Alan Keyes  
John McCain  
Charles Bass Urban  
Gary Bauer  
Steve Forbes

**U.S. Rep. Dist. 24**

Cynthia Newman  
Mac Warren  
Bill Payne  
James "Bryndan"  
Wright

**U.S. Rep. Dist. 26**

Dick Armev  
Larry Thompson

**Railroad Commissioner**

Michael Williams  
Andy Draughn

**Supreme Court, Place 1**

Valorie Davenport  
Nathan Hecht

**Supreme Court, Place 3**

Rod Gorman  
Al Gonzales

**Court of Criminal Appeals, Presiding Judge**

Tom Price  
J. Gary Trichter  
Sharon Keller  
Connie Kelley

**Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 1**

Charles Holcolmb  
Alan Curry  
Tom Greenwell  
Guy Williams  
John Boston

**Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 2**

Sally Ray  
Jim Wallace  
Pat Barber  
Barbara Parker Hervey  
W.B. "Bennie" House

**State Rep., Dist. 91**

Monte Mitchell  
Bill Carter

**State Rep., Dist. 96**

Kim Brimer  
Bill Zedler

**State Rep., Dist. 98**

Vicki Truitt  
Nancy Moffat

**2nd Court of Appeals Dist., Place 3**

David Evans  
Anne Gardner

**2nd Court of Appeals Dist., Place 5**

David Richards  
Sue Walker

**2nd Court of Appeals Dist., Place 6**

Jeff Kobs  
Lee Ann Dauphinot

**Family District Judge, 360th Judicial Dist. Court**

John White  
R. Harold English  
Don Cosby  
Debra Lehrmann

**Sheriff**

Dave Dunaway  
Dee Anderson  
David Williams  
John Charles Lewis  
Brad Patterson  
Jim Hunter

**Tax Assessor/Collector**

Jeff Hodges  
Tom Davis  
Ernie Richardson  
Betsy Price

**Constable, Pct. 6**

Joe Kubes  
Mary Jane Bull

**Constable, Pct. 7**

Mike Honeycutt  
James Studdard  
Steven Henry  
James "Jim" Hurley Sr.

**Republican County Chairman**

Steve Weinberg  
Patricia "Pat" Carlson



# DAVE DUNAWAY

## REPUBLICAN FOR

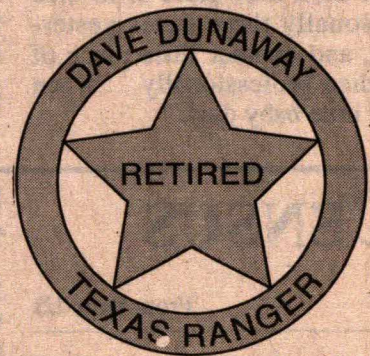
# SHERIFF

"COURAGE IS A MAN WHO KEEPS ON COMING ON" is an old Texas Ranger saying that some of Dave's friends had inscribed and presented to him as exemplifying his conduct as a Texas Ranger, family man, and friend. Of course, Dave generally gets his point across with a minimum of words, thus his own saying about this sheriff's campaign is, "If a man can talk uninterrupted about himself for 10 minutes or more, he probably shouldn't". Dave Dunaway really appreciates dialogue, not monologue. Just try him, he knows law enforcement well because he has worked with the best and captured the worst. He won't brag about any of it, but if you dare to ask, then be prepared for some interesting conversation. Throughout his career, Dave Dunaway has refused to compromise his integrity, honesty, and honor. This campaign has been no different. Dave Dunaway has consistently and diligently worked for you in a calm, quiet, proficient, and professional manner. IF YOU EVER HAVE THE NEED TO CALL ON THE TARRANT COUNTY SHERIFF, DUNAWAY IS THE MAN YOU WANT ON THE OTHER END OF THE LINE!



**"ONE RACE,  
ONE RANGER"**

**Vote for Integrity  
Vote for Experience  
Vote for Leadership  
Vote for Dave Dunaway!**



Paid political ad - Dunaway for Sheriff / Charles Kiser, Treasurer / POB 170753 - Arlington, TX 76003



TARRANT COUNTY SHERIFF'S RACE

# Anderson trounces Williams

## Luther Perry is nominated by Democrats

BY JACK DOUGLAS JR.  
AND GINGER D. RICHARDSON  
Star-Telegram Staff Writers

FORT WORTH — Arlington police spokesman Dee Anderson won the Republican nomination for Tarrant County sheriff last night, ousting Sheriff David Williams after two terms.

With 96.4 percent of the precincts counted, Anderson had 54.4 percent of the vote to 13.8 percent for Williams. In the Democratic primary for sheriff, Fort Worth police officer Luther Perry coasted to victory.

Speaking to cheering supporters, Anderson, 44, said: "Everyone on the [campaign] trail said it: The citizens were ready for a change. They were not going to support the current administration because of all the well-documented problems."

Late last night, Williams wished Anderson well.

"It's been a long, long day and I want to thank each of you for



**Democrat Luther Perry** says big battle is yet to come.



**David Williams** wished the Republican nominee well.

### RESULTS

**DEMOCRATS % OF VOTE**

Luther Perry	70.7%
Shane Harrison	29.3%

98.5% of precincts reporting

**REPUBLICANS % OF VOTE**

Dee Anderson	54.4%
David Williams	13.8%
Dave Dunaway	10.9%
Brad Patterson	10.1%
Jim Hunter	5.1%
Jerry McGlasson	4.5%
John Charles Lewis	1.1%

96.4% of precincts reporting

your support, determination and diligence and for hanging in there for the long haul," he told supporters at a Saginaw senior citizens center. "I have always been willing to stand up for what is right, and I will continue to do so. I look forward for what God has in store for my future."



Marisa McGehee, a supporter, said negative publicity hurt Williams. "We didn't elect him to be a media darling," she said.

"We elected him to do a job, and he's done it."

Former Texas Ranger Dave Dunaway was in third place, with 10.9 percent of the vote, followed by Fort Worth policeman Brad Patterson with 10.1 percent.

Private investigator Jim Hunter had 5.1 percent of the vote; Jerry McGlasson, the former police chief of North Richland Hills, had 4.5 percent; and John Lewis, a window washer and former jail clerk, had 1.1 percent.

In the Democratic race, with 97 percent of the votes counted, Perry had 70.7 percent of the vote and Shane Harrison, a detective with the Haltom City Police Department, had 29.3 percent.

"I feel pretty good," Perry said. "The big fight's coming, but we're going to enjoy tonight."

Perry, 46, was endorsed in a letter by Fort Worth Police Chief Thomas Windham, a Republican who died of cancer in January. Perry had said he expected Harrison to support him in the Nov. 7 general election if he won the primary.

Because of the number of sheriff's candidates in the GOP primary, observers had said the race would probably move into a runoff next month, with polls predicting officer Anderson and Williams on that ballot.

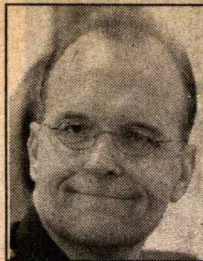
Just days before the primary, Williams seemed "very confident" of winning, a member of his staff said.

He coordinated much of his campaign from his Watauga home, the official said, adding, "He's probably been in [the office] no more than four or five times since Y2K."

Officials estimate that about 15 percent of Tarrant County's 801,260 registered voters made it to the polls yesterday, a bit higher than statewide predictions of 11.7 percent.

Since the campaign began months ago, Williams, 46, had been in the hot seat, drawing criticism from the other candidates, who repeatedly called him an "embarrassment" to the county.

"As long as you don't vote for the current sher-



Williams



Star-Telegram/ALISON WOODWORTH

**Hugging his 6-year-old son, Justin,** Luther Perry, the Democratic nominee for Tarrant County sheriff, waits for results with his wife, Anitra, last night.

iff, justice will be served," Harrison said, pointing to Williams at a debate two weeks ago at the Northeast Campus of Tarrant County College.

Williams, dressed in full uniform, managed an awkward smile, but he did not speak, as several students applauded Harrison's comments.

Despite criticism, Williams talked about accomplishments in office, saying his deputies had arrested scores of fugitives, his department had been well-managed and the jail meets state standards.

But the other Republicans in the race questioned Williams' assertion that his department had nabbed 100,000 fugitives during his tenure. They also pointed to what they called low morale within the department, and they said the jail operations were in disarray, causing long delays for police trying to book prisoners.

Williams' challengers vowed to get along with members of the Tarrant County Commissioners Court — something the sheriff has not done for several years — and work with them on budgets and personnel matters.

Unlike his last two campaigns, when he was largely embraced by the Republican mainstream, Williams did not raise as much money this time as others in the race.

Most notable was the departure of auto parts dealer Ed Max, who pumped \$42,000 into Williams' war chest in 1992. This year, Max contributed \$5,000 to Anderson and nothing to Williams, saying, "We are going to have to have a new sheriff."

Anderson led the field of GOP candidates in raising money, collecting \$22,690 during the last weeks of the primary season. During the same period, Williams reported getting \$4,865.

Staff writer Max B. Baker contributed to this report.



## WILLIAMS' STORMY TENURE

Here are some of the events that have marked David Williams' two terms as Tarrant County sheriff:

**Jan. 1, 1993** — Minutes after being sworn in as the new sheriff, Williams declines to re-deputize three top commanders. Threatened by a lawsuit, Williams rehires them, but at lower positions.

**March 1993** — Williams angers local civil rights leaders by dispatching police dogs to the Tarrant County Courthouse when blacks hold a peaceful protest march, provoked by a white man's probation in the racially motivated murder of a black man.

**Summer 1995** — Williams creates a victims' assistance program, assigning three deputies to work with the Texas attorney general's office.

**March 1996** — The sheriff creates Victim Information and Notification Everyday, or VINE, an automated program to alert victims of domestic crimes when their convicted attackers are released or escape from prison.

**Nov. 5, 1996** — Williams is re-elected.

**Sept. 17, 1997** — A Sheriff's

Department helicopter crashes on the grounds of Kenneth Copeland Ministries near Eagle Mountain Lake, killing two deputies and ending the chopper program for which Williams had fought hard. Questions arose as to why the helicopter was flying over the grounds.

**Sept. 27, 1997** — A 12-year-old girl dies at Copeland Ministries after she is hit by a motorcycle during a biker rally sponsored by Copeland and guarded by Sheriff's Department deputies. The girl's family files a lawsuit, alleging that deputies acted improperly at the rally.

**Aug. 20, 1998** — County commissioners vote unanimously to reorganize the Sheriff's Department. The decision comes after repeated arguments with Williams. Williams files a lawsuit against commissioners but drops it several months later.

**June 1, 1999** — Williams signs a contract that sends more than \$327,000 in jail commissary money to a private, nonprofit ministry headed by his friend and former jail chaplain, Hugh Atwell. Both

men say the contract is needed to pay for the educational and religious needs of inmates.

**July 7, 1999** — James Arthur Livingston, a 30-year-old jail inmate, dies after being squirted with pepper spray and held for more than four hours in a restraint chair.

**Oct. 2, 1999** — Williams kicks off his campaign for a third term by saying his department has locked up 290,491 prisoners since his election in 1992. He also says his re-engineered fugitive squad, which once arrested 4,000 people a year, now apprehends about 20,000.

**December 1999** — After his military record becomes public, Williams acknowledges that he was absent without leave as a military policeman in 1976. He calls the incident an "aberration" induced by the failure of his first marriage and by heavy drinking, a habit that he says he conquered years ago.

**February** — Atwell acknowledges that he is using jail commissary money to pay for a \$770-a-month apartment on the edge of downtown Fort Worth.



■ EDITORIALS

# Mandate

## Voters speak with decisive voice in the race for Tarrant County sheriff.

March 14, 2000: The day professional law enforcement began its long-awaited return to the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office.

Regardless of who wins on Nov. 7 — Republican Dee Anderson or Democrat Luther Perry — this county will be better served than it has been during the almost eight years of David Williams' administration.

All either man has to do is run the jail and communicate with the commissioners court to put him leagues ahead of Williams' performance.

Those are the qualities that voters should be looking for in their next sheriff — accountability, an understanding of the basic mission of the office and a willingness to cooperate for the greater good of the county. They'll find them in either Anderson or Perry.

If ever Tarrant County witnessed a mandate from voters, it came last night even as the ballots cast in early polling

were tallied. What had been predicted as the firewall for the incumbent went convincingly to Anderson. The Arlington police spokesman never trailed after that.

Equally surprising was that a Republican primary race with seven candidates did not require a run off. Voters — Republicans and the Democrats who chose to cross lines to vote in the GOP primary — weren't taking any chances that Williams might slide back into office by making it into the April 11 runoff.

The question now is what citizens can expect from Williams in the waning days of his tenure.

Williams has not proved to be the most stable of personalities in the best of times. No one has been able to get inside his operations to do audits, from staffing to equipment. No one has a clue as to how more than \$327,000 in commissary funds are being spent, other than that the money has gone to the Faith Restorative Chaplaincy Program.

It is to be hoped that Williams will behave with the integrity he claimed in his election material and leave his department in good order for his successor.



# Sheriff got meager GOP support across county

## An analysis shows that David Williams carried only 15 small Tarrant precincts.

BY JACK DOUGLAS JR.  
AND JEFF CLAASSEN  
Star-Telegram Staff Writers

**FORT WORTH** — After convincing wins in the two previous elections, Sheriff David Williams mustered little support from most of Tarrant County during Tuesday's Republican primary, accord-

ing to a *Star-Telegram* analysis of the GOP's primary results.

A young woman who answered the door at Williams' Watauga home yesterday said he would not discuss his defeat by political novice Dee Anderson.

On Tuesday night, with the primary votes counted, Williams said of Anderson, "I wish him the best of luck in his pursuit of the position of Tarrant County sheriff."

Williams, who was seeking a third four-year term, also said: "I

look forward [to] what God has in store for my future."

Anderson, 44, who is an Arlington police spokesman, won 80 percent of the county's 534 voting precincts, outpacing Williams in every part of the county except a few scattered areas, the *Star-Telegram* analysis showed.

Capt. Herb Chambers, spokesman for the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department and a friend of Williams', expressed frustration over the sheriff's crushing defeat. Asked yesterday if Williams would talk to a reporter, Chambers said, "He's not giving any interviews today. ... I think the guy's taking it easy. ...

"He just got beat after an election. Don't you think he needs to take a little time off, reflect, get some rest ... and, certainly, get his resume going?" Chambers said.

Williams won 15 small precincts, or 3 percent of the total, and each of the other five candidates won eight precincts or less.

The precincts the sheriff won include Haltom City, where he once worked as a police officer. Other precincts Williams won were in Lake Worth and north Fort Worth. He also won nine sparsely populated precincts where six voters or less cast ballots, the analysis shows.

Williams did best in northeast Tarrant County, where Anderson received less than a majority of the vote. But the sheriff still did not come close to the front-runner.

Williams, 46, will remain in office until the end of the year, at which time the winner in the Nov. 7 general election will take over. In



Perry



Williams

that election, Anderson will face Democrat Luther Perry, an officer with the Fort Worth Police Department.

The base of Anderson's vote was Arlington, where he won 71 percent of the 18,000 votes cast. His best precincts were in central Arlington and in areas just south of Interstate 20.

Anderson also did well on Fort Worth's west side, a Republican stronghold. He won 59 percent or more of the vote in TCU-area precincts, 59 percent in Westover Hills and 58 percent in Ridglea.

Among the other candidates in the GOP primary, Dave Dunaway won precincts in downtown Fort Worth, the near east side of Fort Worth, Blue Mound and Forest Hill, while Brad Patterson won two large precincts in far north Fort Worth, near Alliance Airport.

Jerry McGlasson, Jim Hunter and John Lewis each won no more than two precincts.

Political observers said Williams' defeat was due partly to his well-publicized problems during his two terms in office. They include a helicopter crash that killed two of his deputies, his repeated fights with Tarrant County commissioners, his admission that he was absent without leave while serving as a military policeman in 1976 and a controversial contract that he signed last year giving more

than \$327,000 to a jail ministry group.

Jean Mayoral, a Williams' supporter during the 1996 elections, said she voted for Anderson in the primary this week because of the controversies that have plagued the Sheriff's Department.

"Some of the things I heard about I just didn't agree with," Mayoral said as she stood in the checkout line at Sutherlands hardware store, not far from Williams' home.

Referring to Anderson, Mayoral said, "I just think he's a good guy, a change of pace."

Williams' bad press also seemed to have alienated some of the Christian conservatives who had supported him so strongly in 1992 and 1996, said Jim Riddlesperger, a political science professor at Texas Christian University.

"There was a point when there was just too much baggage for his core supporters to stay on board," Riddlesperger said.

Williams also raised little campaign money and snubbed numerous invitations to political forums, making him look "nonchalant, or worse, arrogant," about his chances of winning the primary, the professor said.



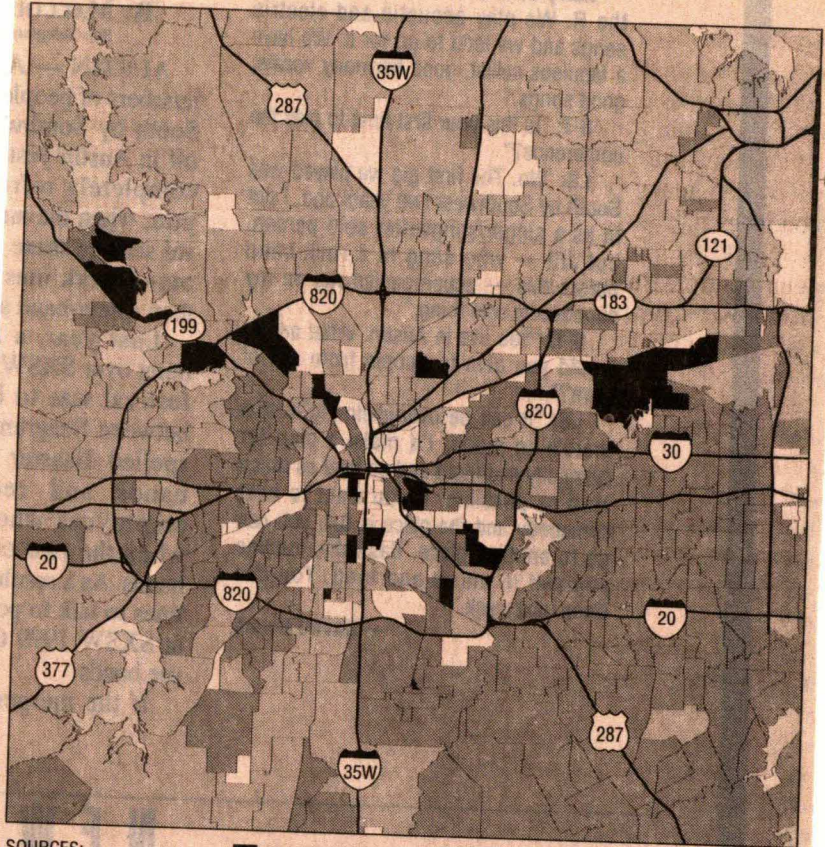
It also did not help for the sheriff to argue publicly with the five members of the Tarrant County Commissioners Court, especially County Judge Tom Vandergriff — considered a local political “icon,” Riddlesperger said.

Vandergriff said that when Williams first took office, he maintained “excellent communication” with the court. “I recall several one-on-one visits with Sheriff Williams, and I certainly enjoyed that relationship,” the judge said.

But as questions began to arise

## How Anderson won the GOP sheriff nomination

Arlington police spokesman Dee Anderson won a large share of the vote in Arlington and west Fort Worth voting precincts. Sheriff David Williams won precincts in Haltom City, where he was a police officer, Lake Worth, Fort Worth’s north side, and thinly populated areas in far east Fort Worth and near Eagle Mountain Lake. Candidates Dave Dunaway, Brad Patterson, Jim Hunter, Jerry McGlasson and John Charles Lewis won several precincts in different areas.



SOURCES:  
Star-Telegram analysis,  
Tarrant County Election  
Administrator

- David Williams won
- Dee Anderson won with 53% or more of the vote
- Won by other/no votes
- Dee Anderson won with 52.9% or less of the vote

Star-Telegram/ Research: JEFF CLAASSEN, Design: STEVE WILSON

about how the Sheriff’s Department was being managed, Williams became less accessible to commissioners, especially after a sheriff’s helicopter crashed Sept. 17, 1997, killing two deputies, Vandergriff said.

“I have never had an experience quite like it in terms of ... a total lack of communication between

arms of the same government entity,” Vandergriff said, adding:

“We will never be sure what prompted the change in his attitude for a proper relationship between his office and our court.”

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# Anderson surprised by his margin of victory

## The Arlington police veteran took 71 percent of the vote in his home city.

By ROBERT THARP  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

ARLINGTON — By Tuesday's primary, Dee Anderson's campaign for sheriff had become a machine of sorts, raising more than \$105,000 to conduct opinion polls, send out campaign mailers and operate phone banks.

But Anderson's race also had little things that money can't buy, such as his 78-year-old mother, Lillian Anderson, and his sister, Debbie Ptak, who stood outside a busy Hurst polling place on primary day drumming up support from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Meanwhile in Mansfield, his wife, Rebecca, was stationed outside the polls at Mansfield High School, not far from where she works as a second-grade teacher at Charlotte Anderson Elementary School.

Although acknowledging yesterday that he had been confident of victory in the days before the primary, Anderson, 44, could not hide his pleasure or surprise that he came away with 54.5 percent of the votes in the seven-man race. By receiving a clear majority of votes, he avoided a runoff election in his bid to unseat David Williams. He will face Democrat Luther Perry, a Fort Worth police officer, in the November general election.

"Even I didn't dream it would be the way it was," he said.

After public opinion polls last week indicated that 40 percent of Republican voters favored him in the election, Anderson said he pushed hard and spent more on promotional mailers. Despite the possibility of a runoff, he said the bulk of his campaign funds have been spent on the primary.

Anderson's victory stretched across Tarrant County. He dominated Arlington as well as the bulk of eastern Tarrant County. In Arlington, where he has been a police officer for more than 20 years, he received 71 percent of the votes. He won every precinct in southeast Tarrant County except for a small Grand Prairie precinct where a lone voter cast a ballot for candidate Brad Patterson. Anderson also had a strong turnout in western Fort Worth. He carried 428, or 80 percent, of the 534 voting precincts.

Anderson entered the race with a name-recognition advantage over the other five challengers vying to upset Williams. During the past 14 years, he has become known as the

face and primary spokesman of the Arlington Police Department.

As spokesman, he has been a regular fixture on TV news, providing information on crime and tragedy when it occurs in Arlington. Outings with his wife and children are often interrupted by people who recognize him from TV.

"Name recognition is crucial," he said. "Any amateur will tell you that. The other guys in the race are a good group, but the public just didn't know them from being on TV in their living rooms and bedrooms."

But he bristles a bit at the suggestion that his victory was all about name recognition. He stresses that although he holds the rank of officer, he has been a part of the Police Department's command staff since he became the department's spokesman. In that role, he said, he regularly takes part in high-level decisions and planning.

"People who know me know I'm not just a talking head on TV," he said.

Off the TV screen and outside Arlington, Anderson is known for his 17 years working as a high school football referee. He is the son of Darwin Bayne "Andy" Anderson, a well-known writer and sports editor for the now-defunct *Fort Worth Press* for 26 years and then outdoors editor for the *Dallas Morning News* for 10 years. His father died in 1996.

With the luxury of widespread name recognition, Anderson did not follow traditional campaign tactics of plastering the county with cam-

campaign signs. He said he is proud of his pledge to abide often-overlooked election laws that require candidates to post signs on private property only with the consent of the property owner.

Anderson used vacation time earned in his Police Department career to campaign for the primary, and he's planning to return to his job this month and work through the November election.

Timing for the election could not have been better for Anderson, who was approaching his 20-year anniversary as a police officer when he joined the race. That milestone is typically a time when many police officers start considering retirement and a second career. The Tarrant County sheriff receives an annual salary of \$101,400.

As Williams' relationship with area police and county commissioners' grew more and more antagonistic last year, a group of Tarrant County Republicans approached Anderson in the spring and asked him to oppose Williams in the Republican primaries.

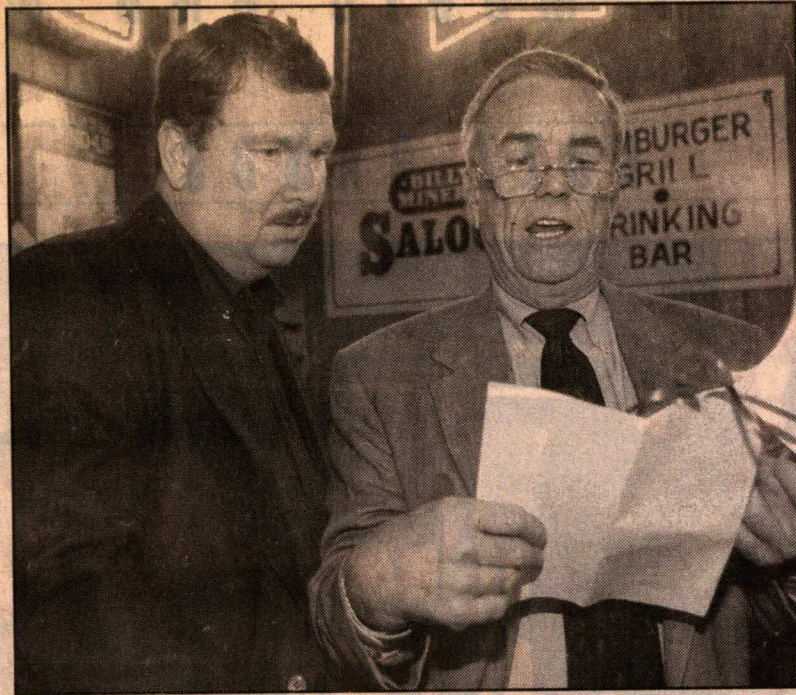
Although advisers remind him that because Republicans make up the majority of Tarrant County voters success in the November general election is likely, Anderson said he's planning to campaign just as hard in his race against Perry.

"People say it's a cakewalk, but I refuse to accept that," he said.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2000



Star-Telegram/ALLISON WOODWORTH

**Dee Anderson, left, checks** election returns with County Commissioner J.D. Johnson on Tuesday night.



# 3 deputies suing association

## Lawsuit alleges over \$60,000 in membership dues misspent

BY KAREN ROUSE  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**FORT WORTH** — Three deputies filed a lawsuit yesterday against the Tarrant County Deputy Sheriff's Association, alleging that its directors mismanaged the group and misspent over \$60,000 in membership dues on clothes, travel, food, alcohol, pagers and cellular telephones.

Ray Bell, Marion McElroy and Charles Eckert have also sought a restraining order against the association to prevent its leaders from destroying or concealing checks, receipts, bank statements and other records, according to documents filed yesterday in state district court.

The members are asking the court to appoint someone to take over the organization, conduct an audit and call a new election of officers, said David Sloane, attorney for the plaintiffs.

James "Mack" West, who is

referred to in the lawsuit as the association's agent, could not be reached to comment, and a call to the association's headquarters was not returned yesterday.

The deputies claim that, in 1993, then-president West and another officer, David Mann, severed the association's ties with the Combined Law Enforcement Association of Texas and replaced it with the Police Protective League of Texas.

Both men were officers of the league, the lawsuit claims. CLEAT provided legal services and benefits to members, the suit says.

Since then, the association has not held regular meetings or elections and has not been audited, the suit says.

"There have been no elections, no accounting, no audits. They haven't participated in any of the stated objectives in the bylaws," Sloan said. "The members don't

even know who the members of the corporation are."

In an affidavit, member Ron Blair said that, while going through documents in December, he discovered a \$400 check signed by West to Luskey's Western Wear, and a \$50 check for Chinese food.

He also said he found a letter from a collection agency demanding \$544 for cellular phone service that West purchased, and three letters from the Texas Ethics Commission that said the association was being fined a total of \$300 for not filing reports.

Sloane said the membership has dwindled from more than 800 to about 240.

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the  
**INSIDER**  
report

How many phone calls does it take to get an answer to a question?

If those calls are to Tarrant County Sheriff **David Williams**, the answer is: 17 and counting.

About a month ago, members of the Republican Women of Arlington asked Williams and his six GOP opponents to participate in a debate at Shady Valley Golf Club.

The opponents immediately accepted, but Williams didn't respond to the club's first call, said **Dolores Pell**, group president.

So the club called Williams' office again. And again. And again.

"We estimate we made 17 phone calls," Pell said.

Each time, said **Julie Hanley**, another member of the club, she was told that Williams was in a meeting, out of the office or unavailable.

Finally, Williams sent word back that he was "undecided," Hanley said.

It turns out that the debate was canceled because of bad weather. Hanley said the club didn't bother notifying Williams of the cancellation.



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2000

## OBITUARIES

### Dan Cooper Tahmahkera



**FORT WORTH** — Dan Cooper Tahmahkera, 28, passed away Friday, March 31, 2000.

**Funeral:** 2 p.m. Thursday at the Multipurpose Building-Cache. Videl Yackeschi and Reeves Nahwoosky will officiate. Burial: West Cache Intertribal Cemetery.

Dan Cooper Tahmahkera was born April 23, 1971, in Fort Worth to Deborah L. and Ben F. Tahmahkera. He was married to Laurie Lowe in Fort Worth on March 30, 1991. He was a self-employed woodworker. He was a lifelong resident of Fort Worth and graduated from Southwest High School. He was a member of Rolling Hills Evangelistic Center.

**Survivors:** His wife, Laurie Lowe Tahmahkera; daughters, Danielle, Clarissa and Ashley; parents, Ben F. and Deborah Tahmahkera of Fort Worth; brother, Michael Brandon Tahmahkera of Fort Worth; many friends; and numerous relatives.

Whinery-Huddleston Funeral Service  
Lawton, Okla., (580) 536-0211



# Auditor of deputy sheriffs group to call election

BY KAREN ROUSE  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**FORT WORTH** — An accountant has taken control of the Tarrant County Deputy Sheriffs' Association's finances and expects to call an election for new leadership within 60 days.

A state district judge appointed Arlington accountant Jack W. Griffith this week to audit the association almost three weeks after three deputies sued it.

Capt. Ray Bell, Lt. Marion McElroy and Charles Eckert alleged that the group's directors used more than \$60,000 of the membership's dues for travel, alcohol, meals, pagers, clothes and cellular phones.

Griffith said he doesn't expect to begin examining the books until after April 15, the federal tax filing deadline.

Bell, a founding member of the association, said that the group has no clear president and

that requirements to hold elections every two years and to have an annual audit have not been fulfilled since 1993. Members have contributed more than \$100,000 in dues since 1993, according to the county auditor's office.

David Sloane, the plaintiffs' attorney, said membership has dwindled from more than 800 in 1993 to less than 200 today. Group members will get letters from Griffith within 60 days notifying them of the upcoming election of new leaders, Sloane said.

Attorney Leonard Schilling said he has represented the association and members for free for nine years. Although it is the "most disorganized organization I have ever seen," he said, allegations of wrongdoing are "ridiculous."

Schilling said it's not unusual for board members to purchase cellphones or food for meetings. Payments made to Luskey's Western Wear in Fort Worth were made to renting space,

not to buy clothes, he said, adding that he doesn't know anything about alcohol purchases.

Schilling said he does not plan to represent the association in the future.

Bell said he and other deputies learned there were problems last year when he sought the support of the association's directors as the Tarrant County Sheriff's Civil Service Commission began discussing changes to the civil service rules. Another deputy later found checks and receipts for clothes and other items, according to court records. "We know a lot of money has been spent. But we don't know what for," Bell said. "It could very well be legitimate."

Former officers James West and David Mann, who were named as defendants in the lawsuit, could not be reached to comment.

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# Extra pay sought for deputies who worked after tornado

By KAREN ROUSE  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

FORT WORTH — Sheriff's deputies who were temporarily reassigned to work downtown the day after the March 28 tornado should get the same compensation being given to downtown employees, a county jail official said yesterday.

It is unfair that deputies who were told to leave their normal stations and report downtown March 29 will not get paid the double time — 16 hours in wages — being paid to downtown employees who reported to work, said Savala Swanson, chief deputy of confinement at the Tarrant County Jail.

The deputies were assigned to patrol downtown areas ravaged by the tornado and to work in the city's emergency man-

agement office, he said.

Savala is asking county commissioners to change guidelines to allow more than a dozen deputies to receive double-time pay.

The Commissioners Court meets at 10 a.m. today in the County Administration Building, 100 E. Weatherford Street.

The day after the tornado, county offices were closed to all employees except those considered "mission critical," said Marc Flake, county information officer. Those falling under that description included members of the executive staff, risk management department, jail employees and computer personnel.

Employees who are paid by the hour

and regularly assigned downtown who worked received double-time pay for eight hours, said Gerald Wright, county personnel director.

"We decided that since only the downtown area was affected, only those employees that worked in those areas would be eligible for the compensation," Wright said.

"Those employees that are temporarily reassigned to downtown, under the current guidelines, are not eligible to be paid [double-time]," he said.

Salaried employees did not get the same compensation, he said.

Deputies who assisted after the storm should not be excluded, Savala said.

"We had personnel to work in those conditions for eight hours that day," he

said.

County commissioners are also expected today to authorize the county administrator to begin seeking proposals from private companies interested in leasing and operating the 384-bed Cold Springs Confinement Unit, which has been idle for five years.

County officials last year began considering leasing the former jail, located northeast of downtown, to generate revenue.

Only nonviolent, minimum-security federal prisoners or federal agency prisoners may be housed at the facility, according to county guidelines for proposals.

The company leasing the jail will be responsible for locating inmates and pro-

viding all services, staff and materials needed to operate the jail.

The Sheriff's Department operates a work-release program at the site.

Residents of the Greenway Neighborhood Association, who live about a mile from the facility, have asked the county to house only minimum-risk inmates at Cold Springs and to consider residents for jobs.

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2000



# County grapples with disaster pay policy

**Commissioners reject extra pay for employees who worked the day after the tornado.**

**BY KAREN ROUSE**  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**FORT WORTH** — Nearly 720 downtown county employees who were expecting to find an extra eight hours wages in their paychecks for working the day after the March 28 tornado may be disappointed Friday.

Tarrant County commissioners voted yesterday to suspend the additional compensation for employees who worked March 29 after a jail official said the county's policy unfairly excluded his deputies from the pay.

About 32 deputies who normally work in the Cold Springs or Green Bay jails were called in

to work downtown, but they won't get the additional pay because the county's guidelines cover only those employees based downtown, Savala Swanson, chief deputy of confinement, told commissioners yesterday.

Yet, the deputies who were called in patrolled hazardous areas and worked in the emergency management office the day after the tornado, he said.

Commissioners said they wanted to evaluate the fairness of the policy and whether any employee should get double-time for working March 29. All employees who were scheduled to work will still be paid for eight hours, County Auditor Renee Tidwell said.

The county closed its downtown offices the day after the storm because flying debris and

falling glass created hazardous conditions, County Administrator G.K. Maenius said. However, employees who were considered "mission critical" did report to work.

As compensation, county officials decided that nonexempt employees who are regularly assigned to downtown, and did work on March 29, would receive double-pay, said Gerald Wright, county personnel director.

Salaried employees and employees who are not normally assigned to work downtown were not eligible, Wright said.

Commissioner Dionne Bagsby said it was "petty" for some employees to complain about others getting double-time.

"This demeans us in my mind that we are arguing over an act of nature," she said.

Commissioner Glen Whitley questioned why some employees were getting double-time for reporting to work. Commissioner Marti VanRavenswaay said that salaried employees also are not getting the additional compensation.

County Auditor Renee Tidwell said 718 downtown employees qualified for the double-time. About 500 were sheriff's deputies, but others were members of Tarrant County's executive staff, risk management department, jail employees and computer personnel.

Maenius said that the procedure had been devised shortly after the tornado because the county does not have a policy for such disasters.



# Tarrant can't pay double time for going to work after twister

**The county must devise a policy if it wants to pay workers extra, the DA's office says.**

**By KAREN ROUSE**  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**FORT WORTH** — The 750 county employees who reported to closed downtown offices the day after the March 28 tornado will get eight hours' pay for eight hours' work, Tarrant County officials said yesterday.

A plan to pay some employees double time — or 16 hours — for going to work to provide crucial services is unworkable because the county has no policy to cover tornado pay, County Administrator G.K. Maenius said.

If the county wants to pay extra, county commissioners must develop a policy to cover the specific emergency, the district attorney's office advised.

All employees who were scheduled to work March 29 will be paid for eight hours, even if they did not report to work, said Ray Rike, assistant chief in the civil division of the Tarrant County district attorney's office.

Commissioners began examining the double-time policy, which officials devised after a sheriff's deputy said it unfairly excluded 32 deputies.

Under the policy, only those employees whose regular work-station is downtown qualify for double-time pay. Although the 32 deputies patrolled downtown and

performed other emergency duties, they were exempt from additional pay because they are normally based at the Green Bay or Cold Springs jail facilities outside downtown.

Savala Swanson, chief deputy of confinement, asked commissioners last week to consider changing the policy so that it would be fair to all employees who worked after the tornado.

Swanson said it would be fair that all county workers be compensated the same.

"That's fair. That's all I ask for," Swanson said yesterday.

There were 718 downtown employees slated to get double-

time until commissioners decided to re-examine the policy.

About 500 are sheriff's deputies. Others are members of Tarrant County's executive staff, risk management department, jail employees and computer personnel.

Maenius said the policy had been devised shortly after the tornado because the county does not have a compensation policy for such disasters. The commissioners did not create a policy yesterday but are expected to develop one that covers weather disasters.

In other business, commissioners approved a plan to begin accepting proposals from companies to lease the Cold Springs jail unit and operate it as a minimum-security jail. The vote was 3-2; Commissioners Marti VanRavenswaay and Dionne Bagsby voted against the plan, saying they didn't think the county should be using jail facilities to

generate revenue.

"I just philosophically don't want to look at raising revenue by selling jail cells," Bagsby said.

VanRavenswaay said she doesn't "like the idea of making money off the jail facility. ... I've never liked the concept."

Last year, Maenius introduced the plan to lease the 384-bed jail, which has been idle since 1995, as a way to raise revenue. Under the proposal, only minimum-security federal prisoners would be accepted there.

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**Van-Ravenswaay**



**Bagsby**



# State agency leader resigns

## Chief leaves Bush-assigned post after racial remarks

The Associated Press

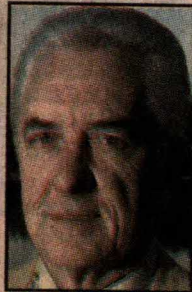
**MARSHALL** — Marshall Police Chief Charles Williams, who has drawn criticism for racial remarks he made, resigned yesterday from a top law enforcement post to which Gov. George W. Bush assigned him.

"After serious consideration, I have decided it is in the best interest of my personal health and the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education, to step down," Williams said in a prepared statement.

"As you know, I have been stricken with a serious illness and have undergone two major surgeries since the first of the year. My number one goal, at this time, is to get well."

Williams, whom Bush appointed last year as presiding officer of the agency, has been criticized for making racial slurs in a 1998 court deposition for a racial discrimination lawsuit.

Bush called on him to apologize.



**Marshall Police Chief Charles Williams** says his health was a factor in his exit.

The Texas Rainbow Coalition had asked Bush earlier yesterday to demand Williams' resignation for making the slurs.

"These recent statements by a man who Bush chose for a leadership position in Texas raise serious questions about the kinds of appointments he would make as president," said Hazel Faulke-Obey, chairwoman of the Texas Rainbow Coalition.

Bush, who named Williams to the commission in 1997, has said he was unaware of those comments when he made Williams the panel's chairman in 1999.

"We have accepted his resignation," Bush spokesman Mike Jones said. "We respect the work that he's done in law enforcement, and we agree with his decision."

Also this week, some members of the black community in Marshall said they plan to ask the Marshall City Commission to fire Williams as police chief.

Several hundred people met at a

church Monday night and said they would send petitions to the City Commission when it meets April 27.

Williams did not indicate in his statement whether he would resign as police chief. He did not return calls to The Associated Press yesterday. His staff said he is undergoing cancer treatment.

He did say in the release that he regrets the remarks.

"I apologize to those who were offended by my previous comments and deeply regret not making my points clearer to everyone concerned," he said.



## Fort Worth area

### Commissioners may fight jail chaplaincy proposal

**FORT WORTH** — Tarrant County Commissioners may discuss next week hiring an outside attorney to fight a proposal by Sheriff David Williams to combine the jail commissary with ministry services for jail inmates.

Williams, who lost his bid for reelection in the Republican primary last month, wants to sign a five-year contract that would include the jail chaplain service with the jail's commissary.

The commissary, which sells items such as toiletries and snacks to prisoners, generates about \$200,000 in sales each month, county auditor Rene Tidwell said. Williams wants to use the commissary money to help fund the jail chaplain service, according to Assistant Chief Deputy Larry Hester. Williams has not returned calls seeking comment.

A jail ministry has operated the commissary in the Bexar County Jail in San Antonio for years.

The agenda for Tuesday's Commissioner's Court meeting includes authorization for the county to hire outside counsel and to take necessary legal action concerning the jail and chaplaincy contracts.

County Judge Tom Vandergriff and Pct. 4 Commissioner J.D. Johnson both oppose the plan.

Vandergriff said recently that the substance and the timing of the proposal, as Williams' term is coming to an end, are "unthinkable."

"We will want to talk to the district attorney's office to see what avenues will be open to us," Vandergriff said. "This is certainly no time for such action. I, for one, will do all I can to prevent any such action on his part."



# OPINIONS

Star-Telegram

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2000

## Outstanding leadership

Being called to assist with the recent tornado situation, I had the opportunity to work with the Arlington and Fort Worth police departments as well as the Tarrant County sheriff's office. I was impressed with the professionalism, dedication and compassion that the officers displayed during the crisis.

I want to also commend Chief Deputy Hank Pope for his outstanding leadership during this crisis. Despite the recent criticism of the sheriff's office, I can say from personal experience that it is staffed with some excellent officers and leaders.

**Mike Honeycutt**

*Tarrant County constable, Pct. 7  
Mansfield*

## No Bush? That was OK

As a law enforcement officer who worked downtown in the aftermath of the March 28 tornado, I take issue with your recent editorial criticizing Gov. George W. Bush for not appearing at the scene. Most of the emergency personnel with whom I worked and talked were grateful that he decided against making an appearance.

Many of those were Fort Worth police doing a fine job of redirecting traffic — protecting businesses from looting and determining who had a reason to be downtown. Those duties would've been more difficult with the added concerns of having a presidential candidate in the area.

I don't know the reason for the governor's decision, but it was in the best interest of everyone's safety and getting things cleaned up without unnecessary confusion.

**Lance Rodman**

*Tarrant County Sheriff's Department*

+



MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2000

■ EDITORIALS

# Please Don't

## **Contract for the jail commissary and chaplain's program unnecessary.**

The Editorial Board toyed with the notion of supporting Sheriff David Williams' proposal to sign a five-year contract with an outside provider to run the Tarrant County Jail commissary and the chaplain's program for one reason only.

The lame-duck sheriff seems to do exactly the opposite of whatever common sense and this newspaper suggests. Supporting this ill-advised idea might prompt him to drop it.

Williams lost the Republican primary in March, and not just by a squeak — he was trounced. He isn't leaving office voluntarily or because of term limits; he's being removed by voters who are disillusioned and disgusted with his management and focus.

Whenever politicians leave office, there is talk of what their legacies will be. Williams has a chance, albeit a slim one, to salvage what little respect might be left for him in this county by causing

no more dissension.

For the next eight months, Williams should act as a caretaker of the jail and nothing more. No new initiatives, no signing five-year contracts involving hundreds of thousands of dollars that have the potential to bind his successor.

A spokesman for Williams (some things never change — the sheriff still isn't answering questions) pointed out that a jail ministry program for years has run the commissary in the Bexar County Jail in San Antonio, reportedly successfully. But Bexar County — or anywhere else in Texas, for that matter — hasn't been through the turbulent times that Tarrant County has experienced during the past three years because of the sheriff.

Common decency and respect for the man who will succeed him on Jan. 1 — be it Republican Dee Anderson or Democrat Luther Perry — should preclude Williams from doing anything that will have a long-term effect on how the Sheriff's Department operates.

Don't do it, David. It might be legal, but it certainly isn't ethical.



# Sheriff's bid tactic faces legal inquiry

Commissioners say the merger of two services binds his successor.

BY KAREN ROUSE  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**FORT WORTH** — Tarrant County commissioners have hired an attorney to challenge Sheriff David Williams' plan to merge the jail's religious and commissary services under one contract and award it to a single provider.

The court voted to hire attorney Khleber Miller of the Fort Worth firm Shannon, Gracey, Ratliff and Miller yesterday, the Sheriff's Department's deadline for taking bids.

Commissioners said they are challenging the merger because it unfairly binds his successor to a five-year contract, which is expected to be awarded Monday. Williams, who

unsuccessfully sought a third term, leaves office Dec. 31.

After Dec. 31, Williams "will have no further voice in matters pertaining to the department," County Judge Tom Vandergriff said. "It's premature and unwise on his part to think in terms of trying to dictate policy into the distant future."

Commissioner J. D. Johnson said: "We don't feel that it is proper for this sheriff to try to tie the hands of the newly elected sheriff for the next five years."

Commissioner Marti Van-Ravenswaay said the new sheriff

should be able to decide how the commissary and ministerial programs are operated.

Williams, who rarely speaks to reporters or appears publicly, did not attend the commissioners meeting and could not be reached to comment.

Assistant Chief Deputy Larry Hester said the five-year term for the contract was established by the Legislature. The Legislature "is aware the sheriff's term is only

four years, so they must have intended for it to surpass one term," Hester said.

A five-year contract will always overlap over a four-year term regardless of when it is awarded, Hester said.

Dee Anderson, the Republican candidate for sheriff, said during a

visit with commissioners yesterday that Williams' move appears to be an attempt to secure a position for his friend, former jail chaplain Hugh Atwell, after Williams leaves office.

Last year, Williams used the \$327,873 left in the commissary fund to contract Faith Restorative Justice Chaplaincy Inc., a non-profit created by Atwell, to provide religious services to the inmates and jail.

"The motivation is to tie the current ministry staff into the contract and to assure them income from the county for five years down the road," Anderson said. "I believe he is trying to firm up a situation that he has had in place."

Atwell could not be reached to comment, but his spokesman,

Rabbi Marc Ben-Meir, said "we are in the bidding process." He declined to discuss Atwell's proposal further.

Commissioners declined to comment on whether Atwell was a factor in their decision to hire an attorney.

Anderson said that the contract to provide commissary services had expired last year but that Williams had made no attempt to rebid it. "The time ran out last year and there wasn't any urgency then," he said. "To do it now, in my opinion is purely political."

Hester denied that the contract was being combined to "secure somebody's job.

"It may not be Atwell" who gets the contract, he said.

Hester said Williams delayed

action on the commissary contract, which is currently held by Mid-States Services of Dallas, "because he did not wish it to become a political topic during the primary."

He said combining chaplaincy and commissary programs benefits inmates and county employees with expanded services such as "chaplaincy services, character or ethics training for employees and hopefully for inmates."

The bids are expected to be opened by today, Hester said.

The commissary, which sells items such as toiletries and snacks to prisoners, generates about \$200,000 in sales each month, county officials said.

Karen Rouse, (817) 390-7620  
karenrouse@star-telegram.com



### **Inmate died of natural causes, initial report says**

**FORT WORTH** — An inmate of a privately operated state prison in north Fort Worth died at a local hospital of natural causes, according to a preliminary report by the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office.

David Morales, 43, died at Plaza Medical Center on Monday, hours after being brought from the Wackenhut Corrections facility at 4700 Blue Mound Road complaining of headaches, according to a police report.

The report says Morales asked for a doctor April 15 after complaining that he had hit his head on a locker four days earlier. On April 19, a doctor examined Morales, who was kept under medical observation, Wackenhut officials told police.

On Monday, prison officials took Morales to the hospital when he appeared unresponsive, police said. En route to the hospital, Morales fought with medical staff and tried to remove his IV and heart monitor, the report states. The ambulance crew gave him Valium to settle him down, but Morales did not respond to treatment, the report states.

The prison is an intermediate sanction facility that holds parole offenders for technical violations. The state is investigating the case.



# Sheriff would link ministry and commissary

**They would be included in a contract set to begin in June.**

**BY JACK DOUGLAS JR.**  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**FORT WORTH** — Tarrant County Sheriff David Williams is considering signing a lucrative five-year contract that includes jail minister Hugh Atwell, whose past business relationship with the sheriff has drawn criticism from county commissioners.

County officials said Atwell, the director and founder of Faith Restorative Justice Chaplaincy, has teamed up with Aramark Correctional Services to offer commissary and ministry services at the Tarrant County Jail. (6B)

Neither Williams nor Atwell could be reached for comment. Rabbi Marc Ben-Meir, a jail chaplain and spokesman for Faith Restorative, said the group, if awarded the contract, will offer "high-quality, responsible service."

Aramark's bid was opened this week, about a month before the end of a one-year contract between Williams and Atwell. That agreement gave Faith Restorative more than \$327,000 in commissary money to run a jail ministry program.

County Judge Tom Vandergriff has said the current arrangement has bordered on "outrage," because Sheriff's Department officials have said they do not know how the money has been spent.

Atwell has acknowledged that part of the money was used to rent a \$770-per-month apartment on the edge of downtown Fort Worth, but he has not elaborated what has been done with the rest of the funds, totaling \$327,872 in four equal installments.

Atwell has said he used the apartment exclusively as an office.

Vandergriff and other members of the Commissioners Court say they want the jail ministry to be returned to religious leaders willing to volunteer their time and services.

But Williams proposed a five-year agreement that would place the commissary and the jail ministry under one contract, set to

begin June 1.

Besides the Aramark-Faith Restorative proposal, Swanson Services Corp., with a regional office in Grand Prairie, has bid for the contract.

Ben-Meir said the contract calls for a "long-term project to develop a continuity of services."

However, county commissioners have hired a lawyer to fight Williams' plan, saying it is wrong for him to start a program that would continue for more than four years after he leaves office.

Williams, who is serving his second term, was defeated in the March 14 Republican primary election and must step down at the end of the year. The two leading candidates for the office — Luther Perry, a Democrat, and Dee Anderson, a Republican — have said they disagree with Williams' plans and do not want

the commissary and the chaplain program linked in any way.

Under Williams' proposal, profits generated from the commissary would fund the chaplain program, according to Larry Hester, assistant chief deputy of the Sheriff's Department.

The commissary, commonly called the "banana cart," sells snacks, toiletries and books to inmates. It is one of the most profitable ventures in the jail, with gross sales averaging \$200,000 a month, County Auditor Rene Tidwell said.

Debbie Albert, a spokeswoman for Aramark's headquarters in Philadelphia, said it is too early to talk about the bid. "We wouldn't comment on a business venture that hasn't been approved yet," Albert said.



# Illnesses that killed prisoner possibly undiagnosed for days

By KATHY SANDERS  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**FORT WORTH** — A prison inmate who died this week at a local hospital suffered from staph pneumonia and meningitis, ailments that police say may have gone undiagnosed for days.

David Morales, 43, of San Antonio was an inmate at Wackenhut Corrections' North Texas Intermediate Sanction Facility, 4700 Blue Mound Road. The privately run facility holds prisoners whose parole has been revoked on technicalities.

Morales was pronounced dead shortly before 4 p.m. Monday in

the emergency room of Plaza Medical Center. Police were called because medical staffers initially believed that Morales may have been assaulted. He arrived at the hospital with cuts, bruises and swelling on the left side of his head, a Fort Worth police report said.

An autopsy revealed an infection in Morales' brain and lung. Deputy Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Marc Kraus diagnosed the illness as staph pneumonia and bacterial meningitis. Morales was buried yesterday.

Officials are awaiting results of lab cultures to verify the cause of

On April 23, Morales shuffled when he walked and required help with tasks such as picking out a shirt and pants, the sources said, describing entries in the infirmary log.

The log says that Morales was taken to the doctor Monday, the sources said. He later arrived at the hospital complaining of a headache and was sedated when he became combative, the police report said.

Tovar, Morales' sister, said he was incoherent when he called her Sunday night.

"The guy next to him had to talk for him and he said, 'You've got to do something because no one's paying attention to him,'" she said yesterday.

"I have a lot of concerns," Tovar said. "But I'll have to talk to my lawyer first."

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death, but county health officials cautioned that the meningitis was secondary to an aggressive case of staph pneumonia, said Dr. Alecia Hathaway, medical director of the Tarrant County Public Health Department.

Meningitis is an inflammation of the membranes covering the brain, Hathaway said.

"This is not the highly contagious form," she said.

Police officers, investigators and medical personnel who had contact with Morales underwent physical examinations and took antibiotics at midweek, said Fort Worth police spokesman Lt. David Burgess.

Morales entered the 400-bed Wackenhut facility in north Fort Worth on March 31, according to Larry Todd, a state prison spokesman. Information on his initial offense was unavailable.

An investigator with the prison system's internal affairs division is checking into the death as a routine matter, Todd said.

Fort Worth police are concerned about documents that appear to catalog Morales' deteriorating medical condition daily from April 19 until he was taken to the hospital Monday, according to sources within the department.

Requests for information from Wackenhut were referred to Pat Cannan, the company's spokesman in Florida. Cannan declined to answer questions about any treatment Morales might have received.

In a statement released Thursday, the company said it is working closely with the health department and the medical examiner's office. It said that preliminary reports of Morales' death "do not indicate the need for special precautions."

The police report said Morales complained to prison officials and to his sister, Cecilia Tovar, that he had hit his head on a locker April 11. Morales asked to see a doctor April 15, the report said, and was seen four days later.

The Police Department sources said the infirmary log listed Morales as suffering from nausea and vomiting on April 19. The next day, it was noted that Morales was holding his head, complaining of headaches and stiffness, and was slow to react, the sources said. The log says that Morales denied having pain in his neck and that he was able to touch his chin to his chest, the sources said.



# COMMENTARY

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2000

## Sheriff and chief

If I am not mistaken, one of outgoing Sheriff David Williams' battle cries during the past two years has been that he is the chief law enforcement officer of Tarrant County and that he was responsible for the good times and safe streets that the residents are enjoying.

It seems to me that only one chief was constantly in the field meeting with officers and residents who were affected by the recent tornado. There were some sheriff's deputies providing traffic control in Arlington as well as in downtown Fort Worth. There were also officers from most Tarrant County municipalities doing the same thing, for which they deserve our thanks and gratitude.

Fort Worth Police Chief Ralph Mendoza is to be commended for his quick response to this disaster and for his straightforwardness with the media and the residents of Fort Worth. I have yet to see the sheriff act in such a manner, but why should I have expected it in the first place?

To all who were affected by this horrific storm, you have my prayers and best wishes.

**John P. Knight**

*Irving*

*Tarrant County*

*Sheriff's Department, 1996-98*

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# Ritual performed for Tarrant inmate

BY JACK DOUGLAS JR.  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**FORT WORTH** — A religious ritual was performed Sunday for a Tarrant County Jail inmate considered to be possessed by demons.

Several officials called the ceremony an "exorcism," while a jail spokesman described it as an "individual religious service" that became "loud and potentially disruptive."

An unnamed volunteer chaplain conducted the ritual, replete with chants, about 8:30 a.m., in an attempt to expel evil spirits from a 38-year-old man charged with sexually assaulting a child, Sheriff's Department officials said.

Authorities did not officially identify the inmate or disclose whether he asked for the service. They also did not say who deemed him to be demonized.

(More on INMATE on Page 11A)

"I can't tell you anything other than I'm investigating it at this time," said Capt. Dan West, head of the Green Bay jail unit.

The service was held in a private room at Green Bay, which is in the northeast part of the county, said Capt. Herb Chambers, Sheriff's Department spokesman.

After the ceremony, the volunteer chaplain was instructed to leave the jail and his security permit was taken from him, at least temporarily, Chambers said.

The volunteer chaplain performed the ceremony, with full-time jail chaplain Allen Faries present or nearby, officials said.

Faries, who is a paid staff member of Faith Restorative Justice Chaplaincy, the operator of the county jail's inmate ministry services, could not be reached to comment.

Chambers said early yesterday that "something like" an exorcism was begun inside the Green Bay jail, "and it was stopped."

Later in the day, he called the incident an "individual religious service."

"The service was conducted in a separate room away from other inmates. The service became more loud and potentially disruptive to the security of the facility," Chambers said.

"After the service," he said, "the paid chaplain became concerned about the possible disruption and contacted" other officials with Faith Restorative "to report the incident and seek direction."

Asked about jail policy concerning unusual religious rites, such as an exorcism, being performed behind bars, Chambers said: "Our department holds that ministry services cannot be disruptive to the safety and security of the confinement facility."

But, he added, "I don't know if anybody's in trouble for this."

Chambers said he does not know whether the inmate asked for the ceremony.

The prisoner remained in jail yesterday, but his attorney wouldn't allow him to talk to a reporter.

"I don't want him talking to anyone until I know what's going on," said attorney Ken Gordon.

Rabbi Marc Ben-Meir, a jail chaplain and spokesman for Faith Restorative, did not return repeated telephone calls. Hugh Atwell, director of Faith Restorative, was also unavailable.

Sheriff David Williams is expected to award a five-year, multimillion-dollar contract this week to operate both the jail's ministry and its commissary. Faith Restorative has joined with Aramark, a national company offering a variety of services to jails, in an effort to win the contract.

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