



Honor & Duty

Marine Lance Corporal **Danny RANSPO**T, the son of Deputy Constable **Rick and Debbie RANSPO**T, presented the Precinct 3 Collin County Constable's Office an American flag that was flown over one of his duty stations in Afghanistan, plus a photo of the Marines who served in his unit. Danny had just returned from combat duty in Afghanistan. Pictured above: (front row, l-r) **Debbie RANSPO**T, Constable **Chuck PRESLEY**, **Danny RANSPO**T, **Kay YODER**, **Jeannie GREENWAY**; (back row, l-r) **Rick RANSPO**T, **Darla BARTLETT**, Chief **Lonnie SIMMONS**, **Richard HARRIS**, **Sammy KNAPP**, and **Mark SHOOK**.

"YOUR SOURCE FOR EMPLOYEE INFORMATION"

Collin County Connection

TCDA Award

DA's Scribner named Investigator of Year

There are many qualities that a good investigator must possess. Good investigators need to be hard working, reliable and diligent in their efforts. But this year's winner of the Texas County & District Attorneys Association's *Chuck Dennis Investigator of the Year Award* is not a good investigator. She is a great investigator. She is known for being tough but compassionate. Her ethics are uncompromising and her commitment is unwavering.

Marletta SCRIBNER started her law enforcement career at the Fannin County Sheriff's Office in 1977. She graduated as salutatorian of her class at the Texoma Regional Police Academy and then moved to the Warrants Division of the Collin County Sheriff's Office.

Marletta began her employment with the District Attorney's Office as a legal secretary, but was soon selected by Judge **Curt HENDERSON** to serve as his bailiff in County Court at Law and later the 219th Judicial District Court.



In 1998, she returned to the DA's Office as a criminal investigator and was named deputy chief in January 2003. As a criminal investigator, Marletta has been assigned to the Family Justice Division and

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Winning Team

Members of Collin County's Teen Court pose for a picture after taking 2nd place in a regional Teen Court competition at Texas Wesleyan School of Law in Fort Worth.

Teen Court

County's youth program places 2nd in competition

Collin County's Teen Court volunteers placed second overall at the North Texas Teen Court Competition in Fort Worth earlier this month at the Texas Wesleyan School of Law.

The competition is an annual event where Teen Court teens from this region compete against each other in a courtroom setting, trying and defending cases as they do on a weekly basis in county and municipal courtrooms.

Twelve local teens were hand-selected to represent Collin County: **Gaurav BHASKAR, Katie BLODGETT, Matthew FEY, Maya FLIPPEN, Cathy HU, Lauren MICHLITSCH, Hope OSBORN, Blake OWENS, Bahar SAHAMI, Marcus STROUD, Felix WANGMAN** and **Lindsey ZARA** (daughter of **Rhonda ZARA** in the DA's office).

The competition took several weeks of preparation and involved training

sessions that included techniques and strategies to be successful in the courtroom.

Legal professionals pitched in to help get these bright young prosecutors and defense "attorneys" ready to compete, including Justice of the Peace **John E. PAYTON**, and local attorneys **Bob DAVIS** and **Hannah STROUD**.

Wesleyan Law School also assigned law students to help coach the teens.

The county's teen court program taps more than 100 teens and adults who volunteer their evenings in Frisco, Plano and McKinney to serve as prosecutors, defenders, judges and jurors in a legal setting.

The teens participate in deciding the punishment of youth offenders referred to the court by municipal and county judges.

Teen Court helps dispose of about hundreds of cases a year involving

cases from speeding tickets to alcohol possession to shoplifting by minors.

— Yolanda SAUCEDA

Great Gavel Award

Olivia KAMRA received the Great Gavel Award for Collin County Teen Court. Olivia, a lawyer who moved to McKinney from Peru a few years ago, has volunteered as a Teen Court Judge for two years. She is married and has two beautiful toddlers. Olivia believes Teen Court is an excellent representation of true justice, and she writes, "It's so heartening to see youngsters aspire to take responsibility and make their own destinies." The award is for volunteer service by an active member of Collin County Teen Court who has shown tremendous effort in being involved in county government and in making a strong impact on the community.

Immunization Clinic

A bumpy but rewarding ‘ride’ for this nurse

Collin County’s Immunization Clinic doles out about 25,000 vaccines a year for area kids and adults at their McDonald Street offices in southwest McKinney. That doesn’t include shots for about 5,000 children from low-income families across the county.

So with that many injections, there are bound to be good days and bad when it comes to cooperative patients. Immunizing children is not always an easy or pleasant task, and it takes someone special to keep up with the pace – and the challenges -- every day.

“Imagine yourself with a 6-year-old who looks like the sweetest child in the world until you lay them down on the exam table,” says Nurse **Christie HIX**, the clinic’s manager.

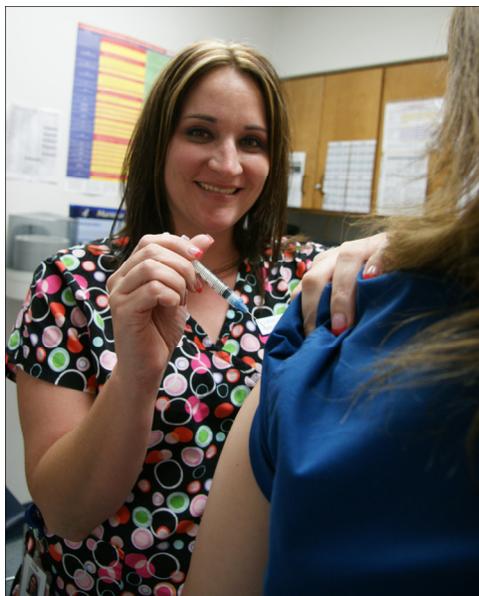
“The parents are helping by holding their hands while you have their legs secured between your legs, the next thing you know it’s like you are competing in a national bronco riding event and your trying to hold on for 8 seconds – or long enough to administer seven vaccinations because their parents haven’t kept up with the child’s immunization schedule,”

Beyond giving shots to bucking kiddos, Christie says another challenging task of her job is educating parents on the importance of staying on schedule for their children’s vaccinations.

“A child’s immunization schedule at first glance looks like a road map to disaster but it takes someone with knowledge and a passion for immunizations to put this road map into action,” Christie says.

Christie thinks back on her first days as an immunization nurse thinking, *I am never going to memorize this schedule. How can I possibly expect a parent to understand this schedule?*

After a little brainstorming, she created Collin County’s “Immunize Your



Little Texan” program, which focused heavily on a schedule that outlined which vaccines a child needs up to 18 months of age, when vaccines are the most crucial. The program zeroed in on protecting children against vaccine-preventable diseases such as influenza, Hepatitis B, Rotavirus, and Pertussis, for starters.

The clinic’s back- to-school sessions bring the heaviest traffic into the small lobby, some days reminding Hix of waiting in line for a popular rollercoaster ride at a theme park.

But she and the other three staff members, backed by four clerks, make sure everyone gets their “ride.”

The workaday world of a public health nurse is definitely challenging and rewarding, Hix says, “especially when you can hold a smiling infant and know you just gave them a chance at life because you were able to give them protection against life-altering diseases.

“Being an immunization nurse gives me a chance to make a difference in our county and that is the biggest reward of all,” Hix says.

Scribner cont’d.

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as a felony investigator in each of the district courts in Collin County. She is also actively involved in her community, an annual volunteer at National Adoption Day and Kids in Court -- and has even started a coat drive for the needy children in this area.

Marletta’s current assignment is as an investigator for the Crimes Against Children Unit. In the last three years alone, the sex offenders in Marletta’s caseload have received over 2,500 years in prison. Marletta shares her strength with children who are afraid.

She provides safety for them when they must face their worst fears. She dries their tears when it seems that their pain will never end, and she puts smiles back on their anxious faces when it seems like they will never be able to smile again.

Marletta also ensures that, when each child leaves our courthouse, their hearts remain open even after they have already been broken.

The *Chuck Dennis Award* is given annually to the investigator who exemplifies commitment to the law enforcement community, serving others, and serving his or her office.

Marletta received this prestigious award at the Texas District and County Attorneys Association Annual Investigator School held in San Antonio in February.

-- Crystal LEVONIUS

Recognition

30 years service

District Attorney **Greg WILLIS** presented senior legal secretary **Rae Ann THORNHILL** with her 30-years service pin during a March Commissioners Court meeting, crediting her for having a vast knowledge of the workings of the DA's office.



Deputy Constable **Richard HARRIS** (right), with Constable **Chuck PRESLEY**, has been a valued employee of Collin County for 25 years and has been with the Constable Pct. 3 Office for



more than 22 years. Richard is a very capable employee and has worked every aspect of the office. Richard was assigned to the Writ Division for over 10 years and has collected millions of dollars in court orders. Richard is a valuable asset to our office and to Collin County, always willing to assist in all areas of our operations.

20 years service

Laura HIGGINBOTHAM (below, left) and **Sherry WILLIS** (below, right) both celebrated 20 years of service with Collin County recently with County Clerk **Stacey KEMP**. Laura is a Clerk II Vital Statistics; Sherry is the Chief Deputy County Clerk.

25 years service

Constable **Paul ELKINS** of Precinct 1 presents **Jan TURLEY** with her 25-year service pin. Jan began her career at the Collin County District Clerk's office, and then 10 years with



Precinct 3 in Plano before coming to Precinct 1. We would like to thank Jan for her hard work and dedication.



15 years service

Kelly CRAWFORD (left) receives her 15-year service pin from Director **Joe SCOTT**. Kelly serves as coordinator for the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program, a division of the Collin County Juvenile Probation Department.



Kim QUILLEN (right) celebrated 15 yrs of service for the county. She works in the County Clerk's Office (County Court at Law), where she is a lead clerk -- and an asset to the office.



County Judge **Keith SELF** hands County Auditor **Jeff MAY** his award.

County Auditor receives 2nd Open Govt. award

The Comptroller of Public Accounts lauded Collin County for the second year in a row, based on the County Auditor's efforts in "setting the bar for financial transparency and opening up the books to the public."

In late March, County Judge **Keith SELF** passed on recognition to County Auditor **Jeff MAY** and his staff for their work to provide easy access to how and where the county spends public dollars.

In 2008, we were the first county in the nation to post our "checkbook" online for public viewing, and last year the Texas Comptroller's office recognized county efforts with a Gold Leadership Circle award in setting a high standard for financial transparency online.

For 2010, the Comptroller added some new criteria to offer more options and reward those local governments that go beyond the basics of posting three recommended documents — the Budget, the Annual Financial Report (or Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) and the Check Register — in a user-friendly manner.

Again, Collin County was ahead of the game.

Jeff thanked his first assistant **Randall RICE** for spearheading his office's efforts.

CSCD Anniversaries

- ◆ **Leigh RILEY**, Supervision Officer, BCH, 25 years
- ◆ **William PFEIFFER**, Supervision Officer, UDCF, 20 years
- ◆ **Jennifer BROOKS**, Supervision Officer, Plano, 10 years
- ◆ **Kimberly PALMER**, Supervisor, Community Correction Facility, 10 years
- ◆ **Johnniena MEANS**, Caseworker, UDCF, 10 years
- ◆ **Andrea GALLARDO**, Caseworker, UDCF, 5 years
- ◆ **Olevia SIMMS**, Clerk, UDCF, 5 years



20 years Of service



CCSO Honor Guard Presents Colors at NCAA Division I Football Championship

The Collin County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard presented colors at the NCAA Division I Football Championship in January at Pizza Hut Park in Frisco. Vice President **Joe BIDEN** was among those in attendance to cheer for his home team of Delaware who lost to Eastern Washington, 20 -19. (photo courtesy Lt. Amy RUSHING)

Congratulations to Deputy **Hugh McCARLEY** (above) who recently celebrated 20 years of dedicated service with the Collin County Sheriff's Office. Deputy McCarley is the Pre-Trial Release Officer in the Detention Facility.

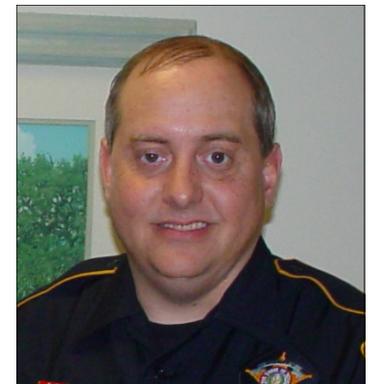
Recent Promotions ...



Sgt. **Melissa POLLARD** received her Sergeant's badge during a recent ceremony.



New Court Deputy **Roy CARTER**, sworn in recent promotion from Detention Officer.



Detention Officer **Brent SMITH** was honored with a reception in February, celebrating his 20 years of dedicated service with the Collin County Sheriff's Office.

Reception honors Sheriff Box for 30 Years' service, retirements of Sergeant Yeager & Officer Mansell

A joint reception was held in February to honor Sheriff **Terry BOX**, Sgt. **Robert YEAGER** and Detention Officer **Mary MANSELL**. Sheriff Box was recognized for 30 years of service with the Collin County Sheriff's Office.

Chief Deputy **Rick ALLEN** reviewed the highlights of Sheriff Box's career, presented him with a plaque, and commended him for his dedication to law enforce-



Mary MANSELL

ment for the past three decades. Sheriff Box then congratulated Sgt. Yeager and Officer Mansell for their dedicated service and gave them retirement plaques.

Sgt. Yeager retired with 20 years of service.

Officer Mansell retired with over 18 years of service with the Collin County Sheriff's Office.

Congratulations to all three.



Robert YEAGER



A successful Odyssey

Sheriff Box hosted a reception honoring the employees responsible for the successful implementation of the new **Odyssey System** for the Collin County Sheriff's Office & Detention Facility. The employees honored spent several months of training in preparation for the "go-live" switchover in early December 2010. Sheriff Box thanked each employee individually for their dedication during the 18-month-long project and presented each one a certificate of appreciation. IT Director **Caren SKIPWORTH** was present during the ceremony and expressed her appreciation.

Sheila Nelson retires after 28 years service

After 28 years with the county, **Sheila NELSON** (right) retired on March 31. Sheila started in the Public Works Department in December 1982, and ended her county career with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

Sheila was the first administrative secretary for Public Works Road and Bridge, and helped establish the HTE system for that department.



Sheila found that working in the Extension Office is never dull. Her most unusual request was from an older man who came into the office with a five-gallon bucket – containing a live snake.

The man said that the snake had bitten him and he wanted to know if it was poisonous. His hand was swollen and was getting larger as he talked. Sheila went online, found out that it was poisonous and encouraged him to go to the Emergency Room immediately. She made sure that he took his bucket with the snake with him.

Sheila plans to travel, play plenty of golf, stay at her lake house and fish, and relax. The first priority on her agenda is to visit her son and granddaughters in North Carolina next month. Congratulations on your retirement, Sheila.

-- Carrie BRAZEAL

Jerry Bunch retires from Facilities' Control Room

Jerry BUNCH, Control Room Operator, retired from the county earlier this month.

Jerry worked for the County for 13 years in the control room, which is the central hub of the County and manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The control room is where we maintain the energy management of each building, monitor cameras, security and fire systems, the elevators and the UPS systems.

And Jerry has been an essential part of the Facilities team.

Jerry has three sons: Garry, Matthew, and Bobby, plus three grandchildren, two boys and one girl. They live in San Antonio. Jerry has two brothers that both work for the County as well. **Dennis** and **Billy BUNCH** work in Road Maintenance.

Jerry loves to travel, and makes frequent trips to San Antonio. He has traveled all over the world, through his service in the U.S. Air Force and personal traveling experiences. From all of us in Facilities Maintenance we would like to say "Thank you, Jerry," for your service at Collin County and for your service to our Country. God Bless and we wish you well.

— Patty HARRISON

FOR SALE/WANTED

2 "Duty Belts" with holsters for a 9MM Glock, clip holder, handcuff case and radio holder on each belt. The size on each is 34". One is leather "basketweave" and the other is nylon. See at Constable, Pct. 1 office or call me at 214-310-3333.

Scentsy Wickless Candles: Great gift ideas or start a new business. This great product is also good for your **office** since there are no open flames. Go to my website at www.scentsy.com/jenniferbrooks and check out the Latest/Greatest thing. Order online or call me with an order. I will be happy to help you out. 469-323-4681.

Need to rent a Margarita Machine or Tables/Chairs for a party? Call Lorrie, 903-267-2500.

We Buy Junk Cars, running or NOT. Call John, 214-585-3023.

Wanted: Running or non-running riding mowers. Call 214-726-5780.

Ultimate Sport Nutrition in McKinney is offering a 10% discount with your Collin County ID (not to be combined with discount card). Come here all month and get assistance and knowledge on the latest fat-burning and muscle-building supplements. Store is located at 3190 S Central Expressway by Café Brazil and is moving to new location at 2851 Craig Drive in McKinney in April (across the street). Any questions, call 214-544-3800 and ask for manager Jimmy Hatcher.