

MISSOURI JAILS

MISSOURI SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

VOL. 04, NO. 02

PLATTE COUNTY JAIL

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MO CIT Council is a network of representatives from each established local CIT council across the state, Community Behavioral Health Liaisons (CBHLs), state agencies and associations, and those with lived experience. The business of the Council is informed by the needs identified by the local CIT Councils. The Council works to address any structural barriers at the state level and advocates for policy and legislative changes that may be necessary to support health and wellness. The Council also provides direction and support on the CIT curriculum, training, expansion, and implementation of the program. The Council hosts an annual CIT Conference. The Missouri Department of Mental Health, in partnership with the Missouri Behavioral Health Council, provides administrative and financial support for the Coordinator and the Council. For more information, visit missouricit.org.



CBHL

Community Behavioral Health Liaisons

The CBHL program is part of the Strengthening Behavioral Health Initiative. CBHLs are distributed among community behavioral health organizations across Missouri to form better community partnerships between behavioral health services, law enforcement, jails, and courts.

These linkages save valuable resources (which might otherwise be expended on unnecessary jail and hospital stays) and improve outcomes for individuals with behavioral health needs. Missouri has full statewide coverage of CBHLs available to assist.

To learn more about the CBHL program, review the Liason Directory or the CBHL map by county, visit <https://www.mobhc.org/community-behavioral-health-liasons>.

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Exploring Jails: Overcoming Challenges Then and Now

Readers are in for another great read!

History buff or not, everyone should enjoy the piece on the Workhouse Castle in Kansas City. I'm always impressed that Michael Feeback, who writes many of the stories for Missouri Jails, is able to dig up these great ideas. I found it amazing that a jail was built in the late 1800s in the style of a castle and even more amazing that it's still standing.

We thought our readers would enjoy knowing about the people who make the magazines happen. Michael's name came up in the rotation and he wrote his own story for this issue. After reading it, I'm sure you'll agree that it's no wonder he's so good at his job.

*With all these great stories,
I believe this is our best issue yet!*

Our cover story is about Platte County, which, like many other counties across the state, is suffering from growing pains, and how Sheriff Mark Owen is working to come up with a cost-effective solution. In the meantime, he has a jail administrator who does a great job of keeping things in check.

Because most personal battles are won — or lost — in the mind, Dr. Sean Siebert wrote "Fighting the Good Fight: Finding hope where hope has been lost." He's since made it his life goal to get that book into every county jail and prison in Missouri to make a difference in detainees' and



inmates' lives. Our readers should agree, he is well on his way to achieving his goal.

Montgomery County Sheriff Craig Allison is also committed to lowering the recidivism rate by bringing Celebrate Recovery Inside to his jail. He wrote an article about the program in the hope of helping other sheriffs do the same.

The story from Advanced Correctional addresses the importance of bringing only qualified mental health professionals into the jail and Greene County's story about its jail K9 program shares how they are working to keep illegal drugs out of the jail.

I think I say this every time, but with all these great stories, I believe this is our best issue yet!

Jeanne Merritt

Marketing Director/Jail Training Coordinator
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Jail News

Noteworthy happenings from Missouri's jails.



Montgomery County

1 Ashton Dyke, a junior at Van-Far High School, is the first student to complete the Missouri Sheriffs' Association Jail Officer Academy offered through the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. He completed six days of intense training and earned a position with the Montgomery County Jail. MSA Instructor Sam Boyd presented Dyke with his certificate of completion.



2 Detention Officer Ben Rajchart was named Employee of the Year for the Jail Division. Sheriff Allison said with nearly 17 years of service under three different administrations, Officer Rajchart is one of their longest-serving detention officers.

"During Ben's years of service, he has been assigned every post within the Jail Division, serving without hesitation or complaint. Ben is not only an asset to his co-workers but to the sheriff's office and community as a whole."

Officer Rajchart was presented with a plaque and a Smith & Wesson M&P Shield 9mm pistol with the sheriff's office badge emblem and his DSN laser engraved on the pistol slide. Mark Brendel of Mark's Automotive donated the firearm.

Miller County

In December, the Miller County Sheriff's Office recognized several employees for their hard work and dedication to the sheriff's office and the citizens of Miller County. Sheriff Louis Gregoire named Nurse Shelba Rodden Civilian Employee of the Year for her dedication to providing professional medical care to offenders housed in the Detention Center.



Dear Kevin Merritt and Committee,
Thank you so much for choosing me as a recipient for the Missouri Sheriffs' Association scholarship! I am happy to say that I have been accepted into Mizzou, and I plan to become a Registered Dietician! I will be using this scholarship for tuition and books next fall!

Thank you for helping me pursue my dreams!

-Karti Smith

MSA Scholarship Fund

The Missouri Sheriffs' Association scholarship fund was established several years ago to assist the children of those who work in Missouri sheriffs' offices. For more information, visit mosheriffs.com.

Morgan County

Several awards were presented at the Morgan County Sheriff's Office Annual Awards Banquet 2023. Theo Stevenson was named Corrections Officer of the Year and was also presented with two Lifesaving Awards.



Dallas County



Taydriana Napier was selected as the Dallas County Sheriff's Office Detention Officer of the Year. During the awards

presentation, Sheriff Scott Rice thanked all his staff members, stating, "You are great people to work with and serve our community."



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Platte County

The Platte County Sheriff's Office recognized Civilian Detention Officer Brendan Ussery and Advance Correctional Healthcare (ACH) Nurse Robert King.

On August 17, 2023, Officer Ussery, along with Nurse King, responded to a medical emergency in the jail housing unit, where a detainee was found on the floor in respiratory/ cardiac distress and was turning blue. Officer Ussery and Nurse King attempted to use an AED while EMS was notified and en route. When the detainee continued to show signs of distress, Officer Ussery and Nurse King began to administer multiple rounds of CPR, reviving the detainee. When EMS arrived, the detainee was transported to an area hospital for further care. The detainee made a full recovery and later returned to the detention center in stable condition.

ACH awarded Nurse King the Golden Stethoscope Award, and Officer Ussery was presented ACH's Lifesaving Award. Pictured, from left to right, are Captain Micah Holan, Sheriff Mark Owen, Nurse Robert King, Detention Officer Brendan Ussery, and Major Erik Holland.



Jackson County

Jackson County Sheriff's Office staff members assigned to the Operations and Judicial Services Bureaus, including the Jackson County Detention Center (JCDC), were invited to participate in the Sheriff's Gift Train for the Unhoused project, headed up by Sgt. Danny Barnes, by making donations or volunteering their time.

Using items donated by members of the sheriff's office and detention center, their families, the Greater Kansas City Public Safety Credit Union, and the Jackson County Deputy Sheriffs Association, 19 sheriff's office volunteers and their family members assembled 130 gift bags containing food, clothing, personal hygiene and first aid items, hand and feet warmers, and emergency blankets. The JCDC also provided 72 NARCAN kits in reusable bags that held two doses of NARCAN, a CPR micro-shield, instructions for use, and support information.

Over the course of three evenings, 10 uniformed law enforcement and detention facility volunteers delivered the bags to 130 unhoused people where they camped or gathered in Grandview, Independence, and Kansas City. The NARCAN kits that weren't handed out were returned to the Detention Center; the personal hygiene items left over were donated to the Uplift organization for distribution in the KC metro area. Sgt. Barnes said all contacts were positive, everyone contacted freely and gladly engaged with deputies and corrections officers, and no circumstances or instances arose requiring law enforcement action.

2 Diana Knapp, director of the JCDC, recently recognized several employees at a special Celebrated Service Awards Ceremony. At that ceremony, the following staff members were recognized for their years of service:

- Marvin Kelley — 35 Years
- Okwuchukwu Odinigwe — 25 years
- Karen Crockett — 15 Years
- Povi Adote — 15 years
- Tony Bowers — 10 Years
- Charise Hill — 10 Years
- John Hickman — 5 Years
- Usmanu Nuhu — 5 Years
- Chrysantus Nsembui — 5 Years

Caldwell County

Sheriff Mitch Allen announced that Officer Dylan Crum was named the Caldwell County Detention Center December Employee of the Month, congratulating him on a well-deserved recognition.



Greene County

The Greene County Sheriff's Office recently announced that Officer Jeremiah Addler was named Jail Employee of the Year. Sheriff Jim Arnott said Officer Addler's dedication, hard work, and positive impact have set an outstanding example for the entire team.



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St. Charles County

1 Daniel Keen, director of the St. Charles County Department of Corrections (SCCDOC), named Corrections Officer Albert Thomas as Employee of the Month for November. He said Thomas is a great team player and is always willing to help his co-workers, adding, "He assists anywhere he is needed, and he goes above and beyond to complete his tasks. We appreciate you!"

County government and the time they have provided to our department," Director Keen said.



2 Matthew Clendenin, who has several years of experience in Arizona as a Peer Recovery Specialist, recently joined the SCCDOC team. Director Keen said he was happy to announce the addition.

4 Corrections Emergency Response Team Officer Joseph Smith was chosen as the St. Charles County Department of Corrections December Employee of the Month. Director Daniel Keen said the choice was an easy one. "Officer Smith is professional, calm, and focused. He follows policy and procedures but also takes initiative without being asked and treats everyone with respect. Officer Smith is a team player and exemplifies the core values of our department. Thank you for your dedication, Officer Smith!"



3 Director Keen recognized two of his long-tenured staff members by presenting each of them with a Certificate of Merit. Officer Travis Ball (left) was acknowledged for 25 years of service with St. Charles County, and Lieutenant Jason Pearia was acknowledged for 30 years of service. "I wanted them to know I appreciate their personal dedication to St. Charles

5 Jamie Blakely was named January Employee of the Month by Director Keen for his "tremendous amount of teamwork and his overwhelming willingness to assist and support our department. We appreciate you."



Clay County

To be better prepared for any crisis, the Clay County Detention Emergency Response Team (DERT) participated in specialized detention tactical operations training. The weeklong course covered topics in the classroom, physical fitness, and hands-on instruction. The DERT is used to break up large-scale fights, for cell extractions of violent inmates, and more. All weapons used are nonlethal.



Franklin County

In December, several Franklin County Sheriff's Office members were recognized for life-saving actions during an incident on October 10, 2023. On that day, an inmate in the Franklin County Detention Center was in distress. Staff connected the individual to an AED (automated external defibrillator), which read that the inmate did not have a pulse. However, deputies continued life-saving techniques and were ultimately able to save the person's life.

Pictured from left to right are Major Trevor Wild, Captain Scott Duck, Lt. Stacey Carty, Cpl. Dara Bowles, C.O. Shane Revelle-McDowell, Sgt. Jerry Carty, Deputy James Guenzler, and Sheriff Steve Pelton, who thanked the group for their outstanding work and dedication.

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PLATTE COUNTY JAIL

Exploring the Least Expensive, Most Effective Way to Maintain Safety and Security



Over the last half century officials and voters in Platte County have twice supported new jail facilities. Now taxpayers will be asked to meet the challenge again by approving a tax levy to expand the existing jail.

Intended to house 154, the 20-year-old detention center is faced with an average daily population hovering around 200 and for a brief time, rising as high as 243. The proposed addition would bring capacity to 472 at an estimated cost of \$80 million.

Sheriff Mark Owen has seen a lot of change over the last 45 years. He has seen the Platte County Detention Center go from a repurposed white frame house where a dozen detainees were served TV dinners three times a day, to an actual 42-bunk jail

attached to the courthouse, to the current facility. He has seen explosive population growth, the impact of an international airport and busy freeways running where cows once grazed. He has seen Platte County become the fastest growing and most affluent county in Missouri. And he has seen crime change from petty to deadly.

Through it all, Sheriff Owen has stuck with the job he dreamed of and committed to, after time in the Marine Corps. In 2012 he was elected sheriff. Now he has announced he will put his badge in a drawer when the election cycle brings a new sheriff in 2025. In the meantime, he is going to do his part in one last campaign — to see the expansion project completed.

It is a need that needs to be met.

Despite having done some double bunking and other remodels, the Platte County Detention Center will simply not hold enough detainees. The jammed-tight conditions are making it more difficult to maintain the security and safety of staff and detainees, impeding what Sheriff Owen sees as “Job One.”

It was, like a lot of problems, a slow-rolling storm.

When Kansas City International Airport opened in 1972 the world literally and figuratively came to Platte County. What had been a quiet rural county, viewed by those in metro Kansas City as “over the hill and far away,” became the doorway to the world. When the first plane landed, 34,000 people called Platte County home. By 1985 the population had grown to 50,000, a decade later, 66,000. Today 110,000 people live in the county and more are coming every day. Sheriff Owen says people from both coasts drawn by the lower cost of living, and people from everywhere, drawn by jobs, are coming to stay.

Also being drawn to the county are those with ill intent. They come from all around, Sheriff Owen



Deputy Paul Jaeger, Lieutenant Ian Johns, Deputy Richard Scott, and Officer Sabina Roberson — all members of the Platte County Detention Center staff.

says, crossing the river from Kansas to the west and the metro to the south. Asked why he had come north from the metro to commit a burglary in Platte County, one malefactor replied, “because you have better stuff up here.” It adds up to a lot of law enforcement incidents, packed courtrooms and a jail that has become increasingly full of serious and often dangerous criminals.

Sheriff Owen oversees a staff of 153 to keep order in the county. Thirty-eight detention officers — a mix of certified and civilian — staff the facility. During the height of the Covid mess, the jail population was intentionally reduced, leaving those who posed little threat outside. Now, as the world — and crime — have ramped back up, only those who are real threats to people or property are being detained. That changes the detention center dynamic, and added to a packed house, increases problems.

Those problems were seen when a riot broke out in one of the jail’s seven pods over the distribution of E-cigarettes. On Monday, December 20, 2021, detainees were grumbling that the smokes were not available. The normal drill is daily availability Monday through Friday but on this Monday the officer in charge of overseeing the program was away on training. Grumbling turned to anger in the day room of G Pod, home of the second-highest level of risk detainees. They began obscuring observation windows and cameras with thrown wet toilet paper, and barricading the sliding doors that give access to the area. Anything that could be torn up was and the fire suppression sprinkler in the shower room was broken, starting a flood.

Sheriff Owen credits his command staff for making the crowded jail work day to day. They also made it work in a crisis. “I have an excellent core of professionals,” he says, pointing out that his commanders include a lawyer and others with advanced degrees and law enforcement education and training. “We think things through.”

That was evident on the day of the riot.

Sheriff Owen says medical records were checked to know who they were dealing with in G and he communicated to the rioters that going back to the cells would bring a peaceful end to the matter. “I’m known as a man of my word,” he said. “I told them what would happen next.”

Detainees were given the opportunity to stand down. When they did not, pepper balls were fired into the day room and Platte and Clay county SWAT officers restored order. Five hours of mayhem has some detainees staying detained longer on new charges. The riot demonstrated what an even approach, a good plan, solid training and four decades of experience can bring to a potentially deadly situation.

Now, the county commission is on board for a jail expansion and things are on the move. Sheriff Owen said an architect is working on a proposal and he is working on a plan for presenting the case to the



voters, showing them exactly what will be done and what it will cost. Although voters rejected a new-jail tax in 2018, they overwhelmingly approved a law enforcement tax so there is cause for optimism.

The current detention center has infrastructure that will help in the expansion. The plan is to keep the walkway access to the courthouse and the existing kitchen, which will be adequate for the expansion. They will also stay with the current pod model, allowing for indirect supervision. The sheriff hopes to double the current four holding cells, noting that there are times when detainees on suicide watch fill them.

There will also be space to expand programs, something Sheriff Owen believes is important. A long-standing GED program has seen more than 30 graduate. He takes the view that such programs reduce recidivism, especially among those who have just made a misstep. Even though some detainees become prison inmates before they complete the program, “my point is to get them started, then maybe they can finish at DOC,” Sheriff Owen says, adding that he’d also like to get an online vocational-technical program going. Having seen generational incarceration and the long lines of new offenders coming through, he understands that anything that will break the pattern of even a few is good for the community.

As plans for the new detention center move forward, there is other progress. A 38,000 square-foot facility near the airport is the new sheriff’s office with everything but communications to be housed in that new home. The prosecutor’s office will move into the former sheriff’s office, providing better space than the courthouse for an active and tough prosecutor. The county was able to afford the move through use of American Rescue Plan Act funding.

Even as Sheriff Owen heads toward retirement, his plans are uncertain. He’s had job offers, he could assist his wife with a successful embroidery business and the grandkids are nearby. It seems certain that a man with a half-century of service will find something to do that will benefit society.

BY MICHAEL FEEBACK



Administrator Meets Challenges Head-On



Platte County Jail Administrator Captain Micah Holan

For Platte County Jail Administrator Captain Micah Holan, a confluence of life goals, experience, preparation, and events has put him in the right place at the right time.

Holan, an Iowa native, graduated college, got married and went home to help run the family construction business for more than a decade. Then one day he set off on the path that brought him to Platte County. He enrolled in the University of Missouri Law Enforcement Training Institute in Columbia, graduated, and was hired by Platte County almost a decade ago as a deputy detention officer.

The first rung on the ladder was a brief stop for Holan. After a year he was promoted to “temporary” sergeant, five years later to lieutenant. After a year as assistant administrator he was promoted to captain, and administrator two years ago. Along the way he undertook coursework that led to his earning a master’s degree in sociology and criminology. Holan is obviously a guy who likes to stay focused and busy.

He took over his new responsibilities in October of 2021. In December of that year, G Block broke into a riot, giving him his first high-drama challenge. The rapid and bloodless suppression of the riot exhibited the kind of department training, plan-

ning, expertise, and steady command that it takes to keep order in a jail jam-packed with serious offenders.

Holan oversees a unique county jail. Built for 154, the average daily population hovers around 200. On a recent winter day, his count was 202, with eight women detainees farmed out to Buchanan County to relieve the pressure a little. An additional 14 detainees are in treatment centers and other off-site facilities but will at some point return.

To keep it all running, Holan has a staff of 44 including himself, officers, and clerks. Thirty-three detention officers and eight bailiffs are tasked with containing detainees and moving them back and forth to court. A corridor leading to an elevator that connects directly to courtrooms is both efficient and historically reminiscent of being “brought up” from the cells in London’s Old Bailey.

A dozen trustees who have been carefully vetted work the laundry and assist the food contractors in meal prep and kitchen duty. “Careful” is a watchword in Platte County as detainees are overwhelmingly facing serious felonies. The system is sealed with all clothing issued and no mail allowed in, except postcards and legal mail, unless specifically requested. This follows an incident where a phony stack of legal documents made its way inside. Blank sheets

soaked in dope were stuck in the pile. While Narcan is at hand, Holan says there have been few incidents.

Staff, security, operations, a population of serious offenders and the constant overcrowding make the Platte County Detention Center environment dynamic and challenging. Running any jail is a complex and relentless responsibility. Yet Holan, whose resume defines him as a goal-oriented guy unafraid of hard work, has taken on another leadership challenge — he and his wife have helped start a school.

Holan’s wife taught at, and their three children attended, a private Christian school. The couple became dissatisfied with the circumstances and looked for an answer. The solution has been for them to establish, with others, a new school based at a church in Smithville. With 60 students currently enrolled in grades 1-11, things have taken off quickly. Holan says he is looking forward to sufficient enrollment

so that he can hand over sports coaching and that they can establish a kindergarten program as well.

Meanwhile, with the jail expansion project ramping up, Holan’s combination of penal and construction experience promises to bring him close to the center of planning and design. Beyond the obvious need to build more cells and the problems associated with reshaping the current building, he has hopes of space for programs, a focus he shares with Sheriff Mark Owen. Both

say that beyond incarceration there needs to be an answer to getting people back into society. With an active high school instructional program already in place and vocational technical opportunities of some kind on the sheriff’s and administrator’s minds, the additional space would appear to provide a strong element of looking beyond the walls to life outside for at least some detainees.

Holan says he gauges everything in his life by the credo of “is it legal, ethical and moral.” Seems he might want to add “will it fit into a 24-hour day.”

Holan gauges everything in his life by the credo of “is it legal, ethical and moral.”

BY MICHAEL FEEBACK

The castle in April 2020, with abandoned city offices across Vine St, overlooks downtown.

Workhouse Castle

A 'Historic Model of Humanitarian Housing and Rehabilitation'

In 2023, as Kansas City moves toward a new 1,000 bunk jail, it is worth remembering that the need for more cells is, sadly, not a new problem.

In the 1890s, Kansas City was a boom town. Centered at the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri rivers, the town was enjoying the economic fruits of the post-war period with beef, grain, and commerce of all kinds rolling through town by river and rail.

By 1890, the population had topped 132,000. Wandering among the populous were those cast adrift and making their way by petty crime and involved in various forms of dissipated behavior from drinking to prostitution. The “old” workhouse, a frame structure with boards nailed to the outside to keep the inmates from kicking through the walls, had become an intolerable, bug-ridden, odiferous disgrace. By 1896, there were 200 inmates, some of whom had been there a decade.

The Kansas City Star raged against the abomination, equating the humanitarian need for a new facility to the need for expanding the city hospital. Municipal officials came up with the solution: a new, arguably palatial, workhouse.

A site was chosen on Vine Street in what is now the historic Jazz District. Inmates were put to work quarrying limestone from the area, and craftsmen constructed a towered, crenelated monument to the architectural style of the city’s upper class at a cost of \$900,000 modern dollars.

Inspired by 16th century Romanesque Revival style, it gives the impression of a baronial castle. The limestone walls are two feet thick, and towers extend 20 feet above the two-story walls. The windows are narrow and barred. The first floor housed offices, a guard room, a large dining hall for inmates, and a kitchen. The second floor was cells for women and a bathroom with a porcelain tub. There were cells in the rear of the building for 120 prisoners and a dorm for younger offenders to keep them apart from those hardened in crime. There was a dungeon for punishment as befitted the style of jail and workhouse.

When the workhouse opened in December of 1897, The Star declared the castle “ready for hobo guests.”

In April of 1901, temperance crusader Carrie Nation took her hatchet to bottles at M.A. Flynn’s saloon on East 12th Street. She was arrested and ordered out of town on threat of being confined in the workhouse castle. She skedaddled.

In 1906, the north side along the river, including what is known now as the River Market, was bustling. Along with the growth came an explosion of vagrancy and homelessness in the Market area. There, saloons flourished despite the municipal prohibition against alcohol enacted in 1881, well ahead of

national Prohibition in 1919.

In both cases, prohibition was ignored. Saloons extended awnings from the front of their buildings, encouraging the homeless, listless, and drunken to camp there. Saloon keepers knew whatever money the encamped came up with, by whatever means, would be spent on booze inside. Again, the problem was addressed by pointing the way to the city limits or, alternatively, the workhouse.

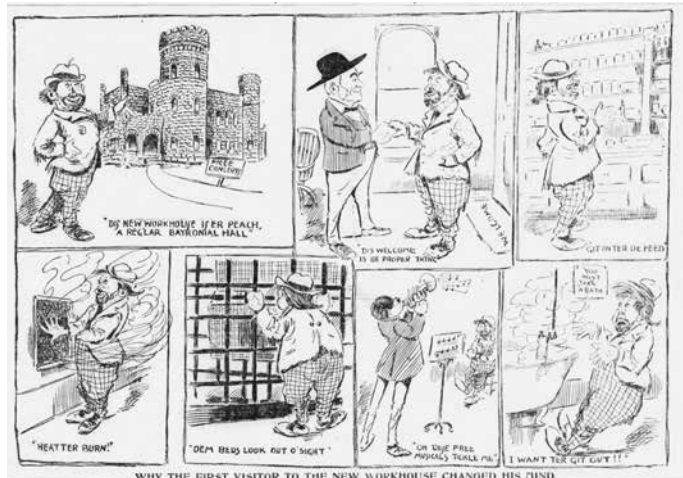
In 1911, all male workhouse inmates were moved to the new work farm farther east of town in what is now the Leeds industrial district, leaving only women at the castle.

In 1924, penal operations at the castle were ended entirely, and for the next five decades, the building and grounds served as a Marine training camp, a storage facility, city offices, and a dog pound. It was abandoned by the city altogether in 1972 and fell into ruin.

In the meantime, the 18th and Vine Jazz District, the historic home of Kansas City jazz, grew up around the old castle and now includes the Negro Baseball Hall of Fame and other attractions. In fact, the former city jail and offices across the street have this year become the home of the first black-owned brewery in Missouri — and it is doing a land-office business.

While the interior of the deteriorated workhouse was cleaned out, the walls stand as they did in the days of the hobo castle. Efforts continue to bring the building back to its former glory. Meanwhile, it is still worth viewing from the brewery windows.

BY MICHAEL FEEBACK



My Story

A personal account written by Missouri Jails contributor Michael Feedback



For a few months in 1864 a Feedback was the sheriff of Cass County, the place where my ancestors have been buried since before statehood. Why that sheriff's tenure was so brief is lost to history but it's an easy guess that law enforcement in the Burnt District following the clearing out of seditionists by Order Number 11 could not have been a task destined to end well. My family, like most Missouri Germans, were Unionist and had helped in the clearing out.

I graduated from William Jewell College in Clay County, another place of disorder in the years before, of and after the Civil War. Jesse and Frank James' father was one of the founders of the school. The building where I studied history had been used as a hospital during a brief but bitter skirmish in Liberty. In 1866 Frank James and others pulled the first daylight bank robbery, killing a William Jewell student as they fled. It was a fine place to study American History.

I picked up a masters' degree in the same field and then stepped on to the bottom rung of the journalism ladder, a reporter on a weekly newspaper in St. Clair County on Truman Lake. I began what would be a career-long habit of hanging out at Sheriff Fred Hayworth's office waiting for something print-worthy to occur. Not much happens in a Missouri county that doesn't get discussed around the sheriff's desk.

After a few months I was made editor of a paper in Eldorado Springs and moved from Pomme de Terre Lake and started fishing in Stockton Lake. On the second floor of the courthouse in Stockton, I grabbed a chair in the office of Cedar County Sheriff C.A. LaRew. He would be killed by a shotgun attached to a door by a lowlife. The danger of county law enforcement was made very real for me.

My next stop was a start-up newspaper on Truman Lake where I spent a lot of days in the old Benton County Jail and Sheriff's Office, a wonderful historic structure built in the 19th century as a bank and used as a jail until well into the 21st. A few years ago Sheriff Rick Fajen reached out to his voters, showed them his plan, kept his promise to spend carefully, and built a new jail. Better for the times, but I have fond memories of sitting around in the old brick building drinking coffee and getting the news from Sheriff Bob Crenshaw. You could almost see the river boats

coming up the Osage River before the dams came.

One fine spring day I took the editor's chair at the Boonville Daily News on the banks of the Missouri River — a river I have now floated in a canoe from Yankton to the Arch. Another historic location, another dedicated sheriff who had survived the jungles and come home to enforce the law. Cooper County Sheriff Charlie Smith became my friend, his courthouse office became the place to find the news. In the 19th century an editor was shot on the street in Boonville by a disgruntled reader. Charlie stopped that from happening to me in the 20th.

I was sent to Lake of the Ozarks next with a mandate to resurrect a failing daily. I did so, helping former sheriff, then state representative and later Water Patrol chief Larry Whitten make the lake's voice heard in Jefferson City. With the full support of my editorial page, Sheriff John Page was early to recognize the growing threat of methamphetamine and make doing such business in Camden County not worth the risk.

One day at the Lake Sun I got a call from my reporter who had gotten into California ahead of the cordon set up to trap a shooter who had killed the Moniteau County sheriff's wife while she was at bible study. Charlie Smith and a Miller County deputy had been killed by the sniper. Charlie died doing his duty.

I loved newspapering, the opportunity to record and, sometimes, make my community better. But, as the bard said, the times they were a Changin' and the time had come. I became a consultant and, eventually, a political consultant. I could not be more proud to have worked with Camden County Sheriff Tony Helms to see him elected and re-elected. He does the job well.

These days I go fishing, floating, deer hunting, bicycling. Most importantly, to me, I also have the privilege to write for this magazine. I newspapered through the "Great Jail Building Era" that swept Missouri in the 1990s. I know how hard that all was. Today, sheriffs tell me all the time that it would be a great job "except for the jail." I hope that in some small way by looking at jail issues around Missouri, sheriffs facing the daily problems of county incarceration see that there are solutions.

Author Takes Hope to the H O P E L E S S

“Bad days are going to happen. Our goal is to not have two bad days in a row. Accept the bad day, forgive yourself for it, and get right back to fighting the good fight.”

That’s just one of the messages shared in Dr. Sean Siebert’s book “Fighting the Good Fight: finding hope where hope has been lost.”

The book is a journal of sorts, summarizing several “Weekly Wins” experienced by Dr. Siebert. He’s made it his life goal to get his book into every county jail and prison in Missouri and make a difference in people’s lives in all of Missouri’s 114 counties.

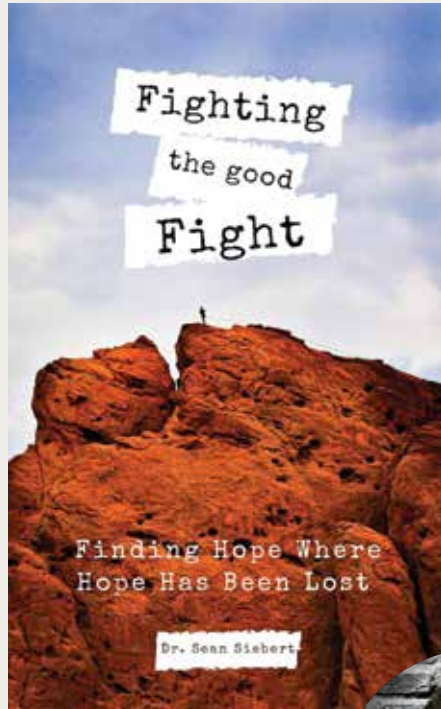
What makes Dr. Siebert’s book especially pertinent to sheriffs and jail administrators — actually anyone in law enforcement or corrections — is the work he’s doing to combat the opioid epidemic.

In 2017, Dr. Siebert created the Rehabilitation Through Innovation program that he continues to take into county jails to help those who “are at the lowest and darkest point in their lives.” Through the program, Dr. Siebert attempts to change the mindset of people with a substance use disorder who don’t see a way out of the life they’re living.

He opens the book by sharing experiences that took place during a class he taught to detainees in the Crawford County, Missouri Jail. The first “win” he documents occurred when those detainees asked, “What happens if I bond out before the program is complete? Can I come back to the jail on the nights you do the program so that I can complete it?”

Dr. Siebert also chronicles the successes he’s seen due, in part, to the buy-in of the Missouri Division of Workforce Development. Detainees in Dr. Siebert’s program were invited to take the ACT WorkKeys assessments, which measure skills critical to on-the-job success. The assessment-based credential provides proof of the holder’s skills, ostensibly making it easier to find a job once released.

In Chapter 4, Dr. Siebert shares (anonymously) notes written by Crawford



County Jail detainees who had completed the program.

“It’s very eye-opening, it showed me that I can do anything I want to do. The only thing stopping me is me... It showed me my worth is more than I thought, it showed me that I’m actually something in this world. I realize I’m better than having drugs run my life. I can now run my life!”

Another detainee wrote, “I feel like this experience is what I needed in my life in order to move on to my next step. I felt that because of my actions in the past with drugs and my behaviors that nothing good will ever become of my life, so I felt stuck in my old ways. This class somehow changed that. I feel that I can find that light at the end of the tunnel and finally one day be at peace, even with myself. I can live a normal and happy life sober.”

Dr. Siebert said he wrote the book to help people, especially incarcerated people, see themselves differently.

“For those in recovery and those that

continue to battle the hardships, the world can be a very unforgiving place. I see it differently, and after reading this book I hope others will as well. As I see it, nobody’s path to success is perfectly linear, not one single person. We all have bad days,” he states in the back-cover summary. “When I do my program work, I let people know that it’s okay to have a bad day. They happen to all of us. So, let’s accept the bad days as part of the process.”

Dr. Siebert, a Cuba, Missouri resident, has certainly seen success. According to his online Amazon bio, his cross-collaborative work has been funded by numerous organizations, including the United

Author
Dr. Sean
Siebert

States Department of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the National Institutes for Health, the Kauffman Foundation, and the Georgia-Pacific Foundation.

Dr. Siebert serves as a contracted subject-matter-expert for the Institute for Intergovernmental Research, he serves on the Executive Board for Missouri Enterprise, he’s the vice-chairman for the Crawford County Enhanced Enterprise Zone, and he is a board member for the County Law Enforcement Restitution Fund Board, and the BJC — Missouri Baptist Hospital Patient Care Committee.

Earlier in his career, Dr. Siebert worked on the administrative side of higher education at Columbia College, William Woods University, and the University of Missouri. He holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Missouri, a master’s degree from William Woods University, and a doctorate from Webster University.

Dr. Siebert will have a table at the Missouri Sheriffs’ Association Spring Training Conference. His books can also be purchased on Amazon.

BY NANCY ZOELLNER



Helping Detainees *to Celebrate Recovery Inside*

My experience in law enforcement has shown that behavioral health and substance abuse go hand in hand. We see it time and time again. Someone gets arrested, and we discover they were self-medicating with illicit drugs as a substitution for caring for their mental well-being — or their mental health condition led them to substance abuse.

Behavioral health and substance abuse problems are issues nationwide, and Montgomery County is no exception. Our citizens are struggling with depression, anxiety, bipolar disorders, and addictions that ravage their lives, their families, and our communities. We must realize that if a person has unresolved behavioral health issues, we will likely see them over and over in our jails, resulting in an over-utilization of county resources that yield zero results.

As sheriff, I am committed to seeking out any and all resources to help citizens struggling with behavioral health issues so that they can recover and become thriving members of the community.

To achieve that goal, in June of 2023, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office partnered with Reach Church to bring Celebrate Recovery to the Montgomery County Jail. This new program officially started on July 4, 2023, and is titled "Celebrate Recovery Inside."

Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered program that gives people the resources and relationships to help them recover from life's hurts, habits, and hang-ups. This program is for anyone struggling with past or current dysfunctions or compulsions, whether they're affecting their own lives or the lives of those around them.

Johnny and Cristal Castillo put our program together, and we are very grateful.

The History

The Castillos are originally from Big Bear Lake, California, where they led a Celebrate Recovery Program like the one they lead here. Through this program, Johnny and Cristal themselves found victory over a life of drugs and alcohol. Their new desire is to spread the Gospel and see people set free from the bondage of life's hurts, habits, and hang-ups. When they moved to Montgomery County, they began attending Reach Church and looking for a local Celebrate Recovery program. Realizing there wasn't one nearby, they asked their pastor, Chis Meyer, if they could start one. With the pastor's blessing, Celebrate Recovery launched in 2019.

I met the Castillos during my campaign in 2020, and they invited me to the church to witness the transformations that were taking place through the program. Soon after, I received an invitation from Stephanie, a repeat drug offender who had been in and out of jail numerous times. She invited me to hear her testimony she would share at Reach Church.

I last encountered Stephanie in our jail approximately five years earlier. Her addiction was worse than ever, and her health was deteriorating. While in our jail, she tried to commit suicide by tying a sheet to the top railing of the second-floor mezzanine and launching herself over the railing. God was on her side that day as it didn't break her neck, and other detainees managed to support her feet until we arrived to cut her down.

I accepted Stephanie's invitation — but I didn't know what to expect. In fact, I didn't recognize her until she stood up and introduced herself. Wow — what a transformation she had made! Her testimony was powerful. She had been

through more than you could ever imagine, but she beat her addiction. Since then, she has shared her story at several CIT Trainings, and I have witnessed how her testimony has transformed the perspective of officers towards offenders. In Stephanie's own words, "I know it has to be discouraging seeing people in active addiction, coming in and out of jail like I was, but we CAN recover. There is ALWAYS hope." You'll find Stephanie's Testimony at <https://youtu.be/qULqAq5noDw>

"We can sit on our thumbs and complain about this broken world we live in, or we can brainstorm new ideas to bring about change, even if we're not here long enough to see the impact of those changes."

Toward the end of 2021, I was looking for ways to help the detainees in the Montgomery County Jail who were struggling with addictions. We had jail ministries, but I felt that it just wasn't enough. So in January of 2023, I reached out to Johnny and Cristal and asked if they would like to start up a program in the jail. Today, they, along with several volunteers, meet with participants each week in our jail facility. They teach Biblical-based lessons and share testimonies of how, through this program, God can transform their lives.

The Logistics

Each volunteer goes through a state background check. We keep a copy of each volunteer's driver's license on file, and volunteers must complete a jail packet that outlines facility rules, PREA, etc., before beginning.

I knew we'd have to make some exceptions for certain individuals who struggled with addiction in the past and who were now clean. Although they had multiple contacts with law enforcement and had resided in our facility in the past, I knew these exceptions were necessary if we truly wanted to make a difference. The detainees have to be able to make a connection with those who actually transformed their lives through the program. They have to physically see that there is hope and be able to share with those who conquered their own addictions. Volunteers and materials are searched upon entering the facility, and each group is physically monitored by a minimum of one detention officer.

Detainees are separated into groups by their classification levels. Volunteer teams go in pairs (two women and two men). Men meet with the incarcerated men, and women meet with incarcerated women. This way, the volunteers can lead and share Biblical principles in a safe setting.

Attendance varies from week to week due to turnover in the jail, but on average, 10 to 15 participate each week, and they usually meet for an hour — sometimes a little longer. The time and location can vary somewhat, according to how many sign up, whether male or female, and their classification. Study groups may meet in the library, in the housing unit, or in administrative segregation.

The volunteers use step study books, resource guides, and DVDs to share video testimonies that are relevant to the program. They also play worship videos. Reach Church funds the ministry and its materials. The detainees are allowed to keep the study books and materials with them so they may study throughout their time in the facility and after their release. When a detainee in the program is released, volunteers help them locate a Celebrate Recovery in their area and arrange for someone to reach out to them to try and keep them in the program.

The Response

From the start, detainees were very receptive to the idea. Six months later, it remains popular, and we've seen positive changes in detainees' attitudes. Johnny and Cristal are also getting great feedback about how God is moving in the detainees' lives.

I'm also very happy with the program. It took some planning, and it requires a little extra work, but in my opinion, if we can make a difference in one person's life — if we can give one person hope through a glimpse of what it looks and feels like to be free of addiction — the program is a success.

At the end of the day, we're left with two options. We can sit on our thumbs and complain about this broken world we live in, or we can brainstorm new ideas to bring about change, even if we're not here long enough to see the impact of those changes. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to make an effort and build a better world, and it all begins with someone taking that first step.

Visit celebraterecovery.com for more information on the program.

BY MONTGOMERY COUNTY
SHERIFF CRAIG S. ALLISON

Teams Work Doggedly to Keep Drugs Out of Jail



Officer Ryan Cameron & K9 Apollo

Greene County recently added four new members to its corrections staff, but these officers — Batman, Apollo, Griz, and Luka — have four legs and a drug-sniffing ability that can't be beat.

Sheriff Jim Arnott said he got the idea after touring a jail in Ohio that used K9s to detect drugs. But instead of spending \$8,000 or more to purchase a K9 from a specialty breeder, he's using rescues, a couple of which came from Rescue One in Springfield.

Deputy Derek James, public information officer for the Greene County Sheriff's Office, said Greene County's K9 instructor, Deputy Phil Yarnell, selected the dogs. He started his search in 2022.

"Instructor Yarnell was looking for dogs with high confidence in strange places and with different people. The dogs also needed to have a high retrieve drive but also a hunt drive and persistence to keep hunting for the toy they train on until they found it," Deputy James explained. "Each dog went through a structured test, and they were all tested one at a time and not as a group. If the dog passed the initial test, they were taken into different environments where their mental stability and confidence were evaluated. It took more than just one visit to find the right dogs for this job."

Officer Ryan Cameron, one of the jail K9 handlers, said Deputy Yarnell looked at more than 150 dogs to find four that met the criteria. While they didn't have nearly that number of people vying for the jobs, the application process for the human half of the team was also stringent.

"I was already working as a corrections officer, but to apply for the position, I had to go through a hiring process that included several interviews as well as at-home visits because the dogs stay with us 24-7," Officer Cameron said. "While the dogs are a little more hyper than the normal family pet, they are all very much a part of our families."

The dogs moved to their new homes immediately after they were selected. K9 Batman, which was paired with Officer Brandon Dillard, and Apollo, who works side-by-side with Officer Cameron, joined forces in early 2023. K9 Luka, who works with Officer Mykah Charlton, and K9 Griz, partnered with Officer Breiana Wallis, teamed up soon after.

After the selection process was complete, the dogs and their handlers trained five days a week for the next eight weeks.

"They were rescue dogs, so they had to learn literally from the ground up — and they did great," Officer Cameron said. "We didn't know how they would react, but we were all very impressed with how quickly they all caught on. It just showed that the tests Instructor Yarnell used to select them really worked."



Officer Breiana Wallis & K9 Griz



Officer Brandon Dillard & K9 Batman



Officer Mykah Charlton & K9 Luka

Sgt. Janet Smith, who oversees the K9 Unit, said Deputy Yarnell, a Missouri POST generalist instructor who started working with dogs in the military, has more than 30 years of experience training K9s. Greene County also has six patrol dogs trained by Deputy Yarnell not only for drug detection but also for tracking, building searches, and aggression.

“I think it also helped that the dogs are all fairly young. The oldest was a year and a half, and the youngest was 10 months, so they were all at a really good age to learn quickly,” Sgt. Smith said. “The four in the jail only sniff for drugs, but just like the patrol K9s, they train regularly to keep up their skills. The handlers get together in different areas of the jail, and they work on detection. Their reward is their Kong — and they will do anything to get that toy!”

Officer Cameron said the jail has four shifts, with a K9 team assigned to each. While their primary function is to detect drugs, they also double as support dogs for the staff.

“However, we spend most of our time at intake, where detainees are brought in. We also regularly take the dogs to sniff the dorms and pods,” he said.

In May of 2022, Greene County moved into a new 1,250-bed jail with 325,000 square feet of jail space, so there’s no shortage of spaces to sniff.

Deputy James said they’ve been able to stop a lot of narcotics from coming into the facility by catching them at intake, and the little bit that’s made it through undetected has been found before detainees had a chance to distribute it, “so we’re very pleased.”

While the county will pick up a portion of the tab, the hope is that the Jail K9 program will also be supported by citizen donations. To donate to the program, visit greenecountymo.gov/sheriff, scroll to the bottom of the page, and click on the paw print.

BY NANCY ZOELLNER



Celebrating 25 years!

Specializing in providing medication and pharmaceutical services to city, county, and private correctional facilities across the United States since 1999.

WHAT IS A 'QUALIFIED MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL'?

Mary Jones, MSW has been employed as the jail mental health professional for over 10 years with 25 years' experience. She is well-respected. Colleagues will attest to her professionalism. Unfortunately, one of her patients was found hanging and did not survive. Attorneys have sent a notice to the jail and are requesting documentation regarding Ms. Jones' qualifications. Ms. Jones produces a diploma showing she earned a master's degree in social work. This is provided to the attorneys who then ask for proof of her license. Ms. Jones reports that she has a license in social work from Kansas but no license in Missouri. **Is she qualified to serve as a mental health professional in this Missouri jail?**

It is illegal for a person to practice medicine without an appropriate degree and license; however, it's not always understood what makes a mental health professional qualified. There are varied opinions as to who is qualified to evaluate a potentially suicidal person or to diagnose a mental health condition. This is a serious problem for jails where custody professionals, who generally do not have a healthcare background, are constitutionally obligated to provide mental health care by "qualified mental health professionals" (*Bowring v. Godwin* 551 F.2d 44, 1977, *Estelle v. Gamble* 429 U.S. 97, 1976).

"Whistleblower claims Westmoreland prison inmates lack sufficient mental health treatment" (August 28, 2023). The lawsuit alleges that the county facility "relied upon an unlicensed mental health professional to diagnose and prescribe treatments for inmates..."¹

In Missouri, the Missouri Department of Revenue regulates who can drive a motor vehicle. For public safety, a demonstration of competence and a driver's license is required. Similarly, the Missouri Division of Professional Registration regulates who can practice as a mental health professional and what services they are permitted to provide. Missouri statute 337.505. states that "No person shall use the title of "professional counselor", "counselor" ... or engage in the practice of professional counseling in this state unless the person is licensed as required by the provisions of sections 337.500 to 337.540". Similar statute provisions are in place for social work, psychology, and medicine.

If a person proclaims to be a mental health professional and does not possess the correct Missouri license, their

actions are illegal. If such an individual is employed to provide mental health services in the jail, the facility may be subject to lawsuit or other sanction. The ability to discern who is "qualified" can be a daunting task and demands that one vet a person's credentials and experience, rather than rely on what the individual says they can do.

"Lawsuit — Needing mental health help, he was left to die in jail" (February 5, 2018). The lawsuit alleges that the facility "failed to provide (the detainee) any mental health treatment other than medication and failed to protect him from the risk of serious harm."²

Suicide is one of the most severe manifestations of a mental health crisis and is the leading cause of death in jails. It's also the most common reason for jail litigation. Assessment of suicide risk requires a professional who is knowledgeable and experienced in this important area of care. Proper licensure validates the professional's expertise and can act as a shield for public safety. Licensure also allows the mental health professional to be eligible to carry malpractice and civil rights insurance. This is something of increasing importance in the volatile litigation climate of correctional healthcare, where multimillion-dollar judgments are becoming more common.

"\$12.75M settlement after painter's suicide in Northern California jail" (August 31, 2023).³

If a professional does not have the necessary insurance coverage — both malpractice and civil rights — the liability for poor patient outcomes may fall to the jail. Permitting an unqualified person to engage in mental health delivery can have tragic consequences and catastrophic financial effects on the county.

Although the jail in our illustration

values and respects Ms. Jones, she is not qualified to act as a mental health professional caring for incarcerated persons. Even if she did nothing wrong, she could be subject to negligence claims or federal lawsuit (\$1983 claims). Not possessing a clinical license in good standing in the state of Missouri makes her particularly vulnerable to lawsuits. She may also face criminal action for practicing without a license. Because jail administration is legally responsible for providing incarcerated persons with access to qualified care, the jail and the larger county will likely be held accountable.

If you need assistance in vetting and approving qualified mental health professionals, resources are available. Reach out to Dr. Melissa Caldwell, CCHP-MH/A at Melissa.Caldwell@freedom-bh.com.

About the Author

Dr. Melissa Caldwell, CCHP-MH/A is an award-winning clinical-forensic psychologist with thirty years of correctional mental health experience. She currently leads a team of qualified mental health professionals across 22 states as the President of Freedom Behavioral Health, Inc. In 2022, Dr. Caldwell was honored with the prestigious Edward A. Harrison Award of Excellence in Correctional Health Care Leadership from National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC).

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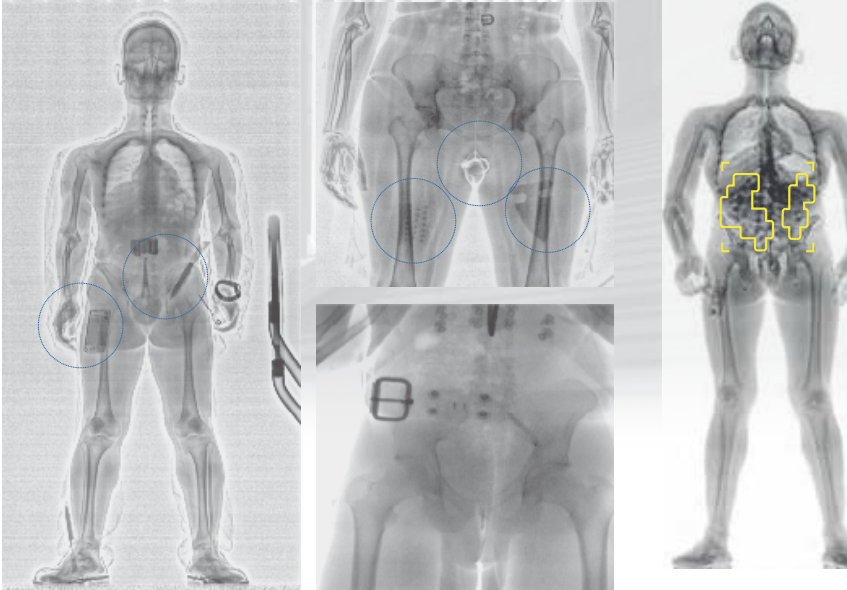
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