

# MISSOURI JAILS

MISSOURI SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

VOL. 05, NO. 02



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# MISSOURI CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM (MO CIT) COUNCIL

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](http://missouricit.org).



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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>.



# CONTENTS

## MISSOURI JAILS

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### INSIDE



- 6 **Jail News: Beyond the Badge**
- 12 **Sheriff Partners with Community, Commission to Meet and Overcome Challenges**
- 14 **Serving as Jail Administrator is a Tough Job, But She Does it With Grace**
- 16 **Workshops Boost Safety, Cut Liability and Improve Efficiency**
- 18 **Leveraging Jail Resources for a Successful Reentry Program**
- 20 **Crime and Punishment are Part of Carroll County's Past**



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# Jail News

Noteworthy happenings from across Missouri's correctional facilities, highlighting the efforts of correctional staff, innovative programs, and the stories of individuals navigating life within Missouri jails.



## NEWTON COUNTY

Corporal Hope Birkinsha was presented with a lifesaving award to recognize her response to a medical emergency in the jail. After an inmate lost consciousness and was not breathing, Cpl. Birkinsha administered Narcan. The inmate regained consciousness and began breathing and communicating with corrections officers, but soon after lost consciousness and stopped breathing again. Corporal Birkinsha administered Narcan a second time, which forced the

inmate to regain consciousness and begin breathing. Several other corrections officers also continued medical assistance to keep the inmate conscious until EMS arrived and transported the inmate to the hospital, where the inmate was revived with overdose medication.

Sheriff Matt Stewart said it was evident that "the inmate would have suffered a fatal overdose incident had it not been for the actions of the correction officers

involved, particularly Corporal Birkinsha's direct contribution."

Pictured are Lieutenant Mike Hayes, Captain Jerry Hornback, Corrections Officer Jennifer Myers, Chief Deputy Joe Moore, Sergeant Danielle Norman, Corrections Officer Hope Birkinsha, Sheriff Matt Stewart, Corrections Officer Doug Henry, and Sergeant Brandon Barnes.



## JOHNSON COUNTY

Jason Shackles has been promoted to captain over the Jail Division/Court Security Division. Sheriff Scott Munsterman said he recognized his exceptional skills and leadership, adding, "Since joining us in July 2022, Jason has displayed remarkable dedication. In addition to overseeing the jail division/court security division, Jason will manage outside contracts, bringing valuable experience and leadership to these responsibilities. Congratulations, Capt. Shackles, on your new role."

**Share your news.**

Email Nancy Zoellner at [nancy@msheriffs.com](mailto:nancy@msheriffs.com).

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## AUDRAIN COUNTY

Each year, members of Sheriff Matt Oller's command staff and peers review staff performance and select a deputy sheriff and jailer of the year. Master Sergeant Kim Brink was selected as the jail staff member of the year. Sgt. Brink is responsible for supervising day-to-day operations in the jail as well as coordinating with the Court Services Division to schedule inmate movements, video court appearances, and tracking board bills. Sheriff Oller presented her with an award letter. Missouri law forbids public entities from giving gifts or bonuses to employees, so their awards, Glock 43X pistols, were donated by Graf and Sons of Mexico. "We want to thank them for their support of our Sheriff's Office over the years," Sheriff Oller said.



"We'd also like to thank Ryan Robnett of Robnett Automotive for their donation, which paid for the meat for our meal, and VFW Post 3772 for allowing us to use their hall."



## JACKSON COUNTY

In November, JCDC celebrated the graduation of the 2024 Corrections Emergency Response Team (CERT) academy. Members of CERT are trained in tactical resources to respond to and resolve disturbances and emergency situations within departmental facilities. Standing left to right are CO Cargo, CO Tomuloh, CO Inegbedion, CO Akanuligo, CO Falealii, and CO Bumah. Kneeling left to right are CO Miller, CO Nguyen, CO Ford, CO Leofili, CO Khalid, CO Obasi, and Sgt. Onoshirre.



## FRANKLIN COUNTY

Last year, the Union Ambulance District had a total of six "clinical saves." A clinical save is when an individual goes into full cardiac arrest, but through a tremendous team effort, the individual is able to be brought back, and eventually, they can resume regular functioning. In January, Union Ambulance District members recognized sheriff's office employees for being integral parts of these clinical saves. Jail Administrator Captain Scott Duck said one of those "saves" took place in March when an inmate experienced a sudden cardiac arrest. "Thanks to the quick thinking and decisive actions of the deputies on duty, immediate CPR was initiated, significantly increasing the chances of survival for the individual involved. Following the initial re-

sponse by our team, the Union Ambulance District arrived promptly and continued the necessary medical interventions. The collaborative efforts of the facility staff and the paramedics played a crucial role in the eventual recovery of the inmate, which is a testament to the professionalism and dedication of everyone involved."

Capt. Duck said not only did his staff demonstrate "exceptional training and readiness under pressure, but they also exemplified the commitment to the safety and well-being of all individuals in our care. With this letter, I wish to commend the deputies, support staff and members of the Union Ambulance District for their actions that undoubtedly contributed to

the positive outcome of this incident. It is important to celebrate instances like these acts of heroism and to ensure our team members and our local ambulance personnel receive the recognition they deserve for their prompt actions. Great work by all and thank you all for what you do!"

Those recognized included Deputy Ryan Whitney and Sgt. Jerry Carty, Deputy Kevin Lawrence, Wanda Summers, and Deputy Cpl. Alan Vance. Those who were also recognized from the office but were unable to be present for the picture included Captain Scott Duck, Cpl. Andy Rosenkoetter, Deputy Michael Bunton, and Deputy Blayten Nolie.



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## GREENE COUNTY

Detention Officer Wisner worked hard the last couple of months balancing studies and field training, and his hard work paid off. He recently completed the HiSET program, earning his HiSET certificate which is equal to a high school diploma. The next step was to finish field training. Completing the program makes him eligible for a career with the sheriff's office. Those whose "life got in the way" and who are interested in the program can apply at [greencountymo.gov](http://greencountymo.gov).

## ST. CHARLES COUNTY

**1** CPO Bradley Gallagher was named December's Employee of the Month. Director Daniel Keen said Gallagher is dedicated to his job duties and never hesitates to help other officers. "He is a hard worker and has a positive attitude. CPO Gallagher accepts whatever challenges he may face, consistently performs well under pressure, and is a great example for his co-workers. Thank you for your dedication, service, and a job well done. We appreciate you!"

**2** Congratulations to IA Manager Ken Seghers for hitting the 30-year milestone with St. Charles County. Seghers started his career at the jail in 1994 as a corrections officer. During his time there, he completed training in hostage negotiation, provided instruction on hostage survival, and was promoted to corporal to oversee the jail operations. He then transitioned to the booking supervisor and assisted in developing the county's booking department.

"Ken later pursued an opportunity as one of the inaugural park rangers in St. Charles County, where he quickly advanced to Interim Chief of Park Rangers. After this stint, he returned to SCCDOC as a program analyst, primarily focusing on enhancing cost recovery mechanisms for the jail, including contracts and grants," Director Keen said, adding that Seghers also effectively facilitated a contract with the U.S. Marshals and served as the liaison between the county and U.S Marshals for housing and investigative matters. "In 2019, Ken was promoted to the position of Intelligence and Investigations manager for SCCDOC, where he oversees the sharing of criminal intelligence gathering from inmates with law enforcement agencies nationwide while also ensuring the maintenance of professional standards within our department. I congratulate Ken for this great achievement, and I'm grateful for his expertise, dedication, and all he has done for SCCDOC."



## MARION COUNTY



Detention Officer Greg Smith was recently recognized for his 20 years of dedicated service to the sheriff's office, jail, community, and those who are confined. Sheriff Jimmy Shinn said Officer Smith is a great asset to the office, adding, "We hope you continue with this career that you have mastered."



Corrections Officer Erica Williams, who joined the team just over a year ago, was chosen for the November Employee Spotlight recognition. Sheriff Shinn said she has consistently demonstrated an exceptional work ethic, and her "dedication to her daily responsibilities within the jail is crucial for maintaining order and safety."



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# Sheriff Partners with Community, Commission to Meet and Overcome Challenges

**The sheriff counts himself fortunate to have community partners in his struggle to meet the mental health challenges. Two community-based organizations — Preferred Family Health Care and Comprehensive Health Care — send people in as often as two days a week to help stabilize those who are struggling, smoothing the time they are incarcerated.**

**M**arion County Sheriff Jimmy Shinn is responsible for northeast Missouri's biggest jail. Though there are matters of scale, his biggest challenges reflect those of sheriffs across the state with jails large and small: building maintenance, funding, detainees with mental health issues, and, of course, staffing.

After more than a decade and a half as Marion County's top lawman, he seems to take it all in stride as he confronts each of those challenges and finds solutions.

After college, Sheriff Shinn, a Marion County native, started his career on the beat with the Hannibal Police Department in 1989. That was about the time Marion County officials began discussing the need for a new, bigger jail. In 1992, the county built the current 104-bed facility and immediately found itself financially overwhelmed. In 1993, Shinn joined the area drug task force about the time the Mississippi River left its banks in an historic flood.

That flood saved Marion County, Sheriff Shinn says. When river water closed a state women's prison near St Louis, the Marion County Jail got 40 new paying detainees, resolving the jail-funding issue.

Unfortunately, that wasn't the end of the jail's troubles. The boilers failed, the roof leaked, and, like all jails, time marched on, and the necessary technology to keep things safe changed. By the time he joined the Marion County Sheriff's Office as chief deputy in 2001, there were more issues. In 2008, when he was first elected sheriff, the jail problems became his problems.

Facility-wise, the jail is back on track with new boilers, a new roof, and updated technology. The

bones of the facility are good, with sally port, kitchen and laundry facilities, and department offices.

On a recent day, the hammers were swinging at the jail as workers converted a former visitation room to accommodate four new holding cells. "Since Covid," a phrase that has become part of the American lexicon, visitation has been handled via video — a good thing, Sheriff Shinn says, since his biggest current challenge has made his current six holding cells inadequate.

That challenge is holding detainees with mental health issues, or more specifically, the increasingly common "dual diagnosis" of drug addiction and mental health issues. As a result, the sheriff says, his six holding cells are typically 95 percent full of detainees who must be isolated from the general population. With the certainty that this problem will get worse before it gets better, Sheriff Shinn is using the unused visitation space to expand capacity.

The sheriff counts himself fortunate to have community partners in his struggle to meet the mental health challenges. Two community-based organizations — Preferred Family Health Care and Comprehensive Health Care — send people in as often as two days a week to help stabilize those who are struggling, smoothing the time they are incarcerated. "We can get (those with mental health and or drug issues) cleaned up and get them a hot meal, but we need help dealing with their underlying problems," Sheriff Shinn says. An added benefit is that their services come at no cost to the sheriff or the county.

Day to day, the Marion County Jail is full but not brimming over. With a total of 108 beds once

the new isolation cells are complete, the average daily population runs in the 90s. Of those, 15 to 25 are held for the U.S. Marshals, which pays a per diem rate of \$55 and reimburses transport costs. Surrounding counties pay a per diem of \$52. Sheriff Shin said the number of detainees housed for other counties varies, but he fills empty bunks when he can to help with budgeting.

The sheriff's office is a force of 45, with 17 of those slots held by non-commissioned corrections officers. Sheriff Shinn says the county commission has been a help at budget time, and there is a designated law enforcement tax in the county. Because of that, he's able to pay starting detention officers \$21.95 an hour, a reasonable wage in an essentially rural county. Still, he points to staffing as one of his biggest challenges and consistently runs below full crew. He points out that detention work is "not for everyone," and turnover is constant.

In the last decades of the 19th century, a debate broke out in Marion County that for years impacted Marion County's transport officers. Palmyra had been designated the county seat, but Hannibal had a far bigger population. There was a faction who believed it made more sense for the county courthouse to be in the larger town. Others wanted county government to stay put. By 1900, a compromise was reached. At the princely sum of \$50,000 each, a grey brick, three-story Victorian Romanesque courthouse was built in Palmyra, and an imposing Neoclassical Revival courthouse with pillars, a two-story portico, and dome was built in Hannibal. Today, county government operates in both.

The arrangement puts 12 miles between the county jail and the Hannibal courthouse. Before COVID, deputies in two vans and patrol cars were constantly running up and down the road between the two. Even the sheriff took turns at the transport wheel. Then came COVID and video court, which continues to this day and lets two officers with one van move detainees to and from court.

Reimbursement from the state for holding detainees charged with state crimes, a funding



challenge faced by Missouri sheriffs, has, for the moment, been resolved in Marion County.

News accounts have detailed the ongoing deficit in Marion County's coffers, caused by delayed state reimbursement. A year ago, the unpaid bills were hovering around \$200,000. In the end, past payments were caught up, but because the reimbursement program depends on legislative action every year, there is no banking on future payments.

It's not just Marion County, and it's not just keeping up with the payments. The state per diem for those awaiting adjudication was \$22.58, significantly under the \$45 or \$50 a day it costs a sheriff to house a detainee.

During the last legislative session, Representative Donnie Brown of New Madrid introduced a bill to up the ante to \$40 a day. Despite support from the Missouri Sheriffs' Association and county governments, the bill did not pass. It did, however, prompt the House and Senate budget committees to up the per diem to \$24.96 at a total cost of \$5 million.

It's too little too late. Rep. Brown has reintroduced his bill for the 2025 session. HB170 is another opportunity for sheriffs to make the point in Jefferson City that state reimbursement needs to be increased and the payments need to be made on time.

BY MICHAEL FEEBACK

**Marion County government operates out of two courthouses — one in Palmyra and one in Hannibal. The Hannibal courthouse was added to the National Register of Historical Places in 2002.**







# SERVING AS JAIL ADMINISTRATOR IS A **TOUGH JOB**, BUT SHE DOES IT WITH **GRACE**



**Sheriff Jimmy Shin stands at the entrance to the men's jail cells in the old jail.**

**B**arb Powell found her calling decades ago when she put on the uniform of a state corrections officer. From that day to this, it's been a profession that fits. Now, weeks into her new position as Marion County jail administrator, she is comfortable in a world she knows well.

Powell is a native of West Quincy in Marion County. She moved to Palmyra with her family as a kid when they were driven out by the Flood of 1973, a watermark in the lives of most people along the Mississippi River. She worked for seven years in a local factory making parts for Fords before a friend's suggestion changed her life. The friend worked at the Northeast Correctional Center south of Hannibal and urged Powell to apply for a job there.

In 2000, she was hired as a corrections officer and found her true calling. "I like to work with people," Powell says, and that, of course, is the foundation of success in corrections. From the beginning, she looked to make some connection, to "work with them," as she puts it, to show respect for those who behave and spot those who don't. Powell continues to have an empathetic philosophy toward detainees, and a quarter century in, it's obvious that her philosophy and job skills are working.

Her NECC experience was a training ground for the difficult security aspects of corrections. With 2,000 male convicts, NECC was no walk in the park.

There were incidents, including a CO stabbing in 2017. "When I started, it was maximum security — full of very dangerous men — murderers. There were lots of security checks," Powell said. And lots of learning to read inmates and deal with situations safely.

"The first year, I didn't know if I would make it," Powell admits. It's an issue that's well-known in the jail-staffing world. Some people find out pretty quickly that it is not for them. It was also an eye-opener, she said, as she reflected on some of her youthful escapades. That kind of thinking often opens the door to a solid approach to corrections, recognizing "There but for the grace of God..." In Powell's case, that certainly seems true, and that understanding is apparent in the kind tone she uses when speaking of her detainees.

Over her 18 years with the Marion County Jail, she has developed a strong bond with her fellow officers and earned respect from detainees to the point where she is known as "Mama Barb" at the facility. After a decade on the job, she was promoted to assistant administrator, where she began to settle into the management end of corrections. Powell was named administrator and took over her new office on January 1.

"I was assistant so long that it doesn't feel that new," Powell says. "I do enjoy it."



Meanwhile, as it is in any county jail, officers know a lot of the detainees. Powell is no exception. "We have a big percent of locals. Some have been here four or five times. It's how they were brought up," she said with a note of sadness.

She says the federal detainees Marion County holds for the U.S. Marshals Service are less trouble than one might expect. They are kept in their own pods, and "we hardly hear anything out of them," she says, although there is the occasional problem.

The overall tenor of the jail is helped by a lack of overcrowding, with an average daily population of 90 in a 100-plus capacity facility. "We haven't had many incidents. We've been blessed," Powell says. She, like the sheriff, appreciates the outside help they get with those who have mental illness or drug-related issues.

Because there is "so much court" and the jail is in a unique county with two courthouses, Powell says moving detainees around is constant and adds a certain level of stress. COs are pretty much constantly interacting with the detainees as a result.

Staffing is an ongoing challenge, although on a recent day, Powell was happy to report that if a scheduled interview went well, she would have a full crew. Again, she points to corrections not being for everyone, adding, "It can be very stressful, and you've got to know how to deal with people and be ready in case there is an issue."

Powell stays close to home when not on the job.

She cares for her elderly mother, and a stepdaughter lives nearby, but her children live out of state. She says that's okay because "her family is right here," referring to her colleagues, whom she obviously cares about and carefully oversees.

Sheriff Jimmy Shinn has been on the job as long as Powell and is considering retirement at the end of this term. He jokes that she can't leave until he does, but Powell says that may not be the case. After 25 years of stress, responsibility, and daily variables, she is looking forward to retirement. "I'll be eligible in three years, and I want to travel some, visit my kids and see the country."

It will be a road trip well deserved.

BY MICHAEL FEEBACK



**Lisa Jones, who retired at the end of 2024, started working as a corrections officer when Marion County was still occupying the historic jail. Built in 1858, the Marion County Jail and Jailer's House was used as a federal prison during the Civil War and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The facility, which now serves as a museum, was used until 1992, when the current Marion County Correctional facility was completed.**

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# WORKSHOPS BOOST SAFETY, CUT LIABILITY & IMPROVE EFFICIENCY

**W**hen Missouri's 44 newly elected sheriffs took office in January, many brought in new jail administrators.

In Missouri, the majority of the men and women who are housed in county jails are not serving time. Instead, they've been charged with a crime and can't make bond. Further complicating the job, many of those being held have an active substance use disorder or they are dealing with mental illness, so it's important for jail administrators to know the laws that govern jail management and the protection of detainees' civil rights.

To help the new jail administrators meet the challenges they are facing — and succeed in their new role — the Missouri Sheriffs' Association hosted a two-day workshop in February at its training headquarters in Jefferson City.

Captain Jason Shackles, who oversees the Jail Division and Court Security Division of the Johnson County Sheriff's Office, worked with MSA Executive Director Kevin Merritt to develop the curriculum, but he said the workshop provided more than just training.

"Many sheriffs put their key stakeholders in division leader roles and sometimes those folks had never stepped foot in the building until January 1," Capt. Shackles said. "Then they got a bunch of stuff thrown at them in a very short amount of time so a couple things were very important to discuss with this group. This workshop let them know that they're not alone — that 90-plus other jail administrators are facing — or have faced — those exact same challenges every day. It also allowed them to get together during the first 60 days of taking the position and network. They met jail administrators who have been doing this a while and they met new jail administrators so they could feel more comfortable calling them and asking for advice or bouncing ideas off of each other."

The training was presented by Capt. Shackles; Capt. Skyler Viebrock, who is the jail administrator for the Pettis County Jail; and Dan Keen, director of the St. Charles County Department of Corrections. All three have been certified as instructors by the Missouri Department of Public Safety.

Capt. Shackles, who has 25 years' experience in business administration and law enforcement, explained how to assess the current state of the facility, review and prioritize such forms as training records, and incident and use-of-force reports, and how to set short and long-term goals. He also talked about data and technology, and ethical and professional standards in personnel management.

Capt. Viebrock, who has 20-some years' experience in law enforcement and a degree in law enforcement administration, taught on communications and public relations, inmate management, and risk management.

Director Keen, who has more than 25 years' experience managing correctional facilities and a degree in criminal justice and corrections, presented training on use-of-force and safety con-

siderations, federal laws affecting jail operations — PREA, ADA, and the 8th and 14th Amendments, and reporting requirements for inmate deaths and use-of-force. He also reviewed the Missouri Jail Standards adopted by sheriffs in 2016 and discussed budgeting and financial management as well as operations and facility management.

"No one has any idea what goes on inside our county jails, which are a sheriff's biggest liability, so it's important that the sheriffs have knowledgeable employees that they can count on. That's why it's important for us to provide the best training we can," said Jeanne Merritt, MSA's marketing director and jail training coordinator.

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*"To help the new jail administrators meet the challenges they are facing — and succeed in their new role — the Missouri Sheriffs' Association hosted a two-day workshop in February at its training headquarters in Jefferson City."*

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Since 2011, the MSA has provided both support and recognition for Missouri's jail administrators and corrections staff. That's when Jeanne Merritt and Capt. Shackles, who was serving as the Henry County jail administrator at the time, put their heads together and established the Jail Standards Committee, now known as the Jail Administrator Committee.

Over the years, Merritt has also organized training opportunities for those who work in sheriffs' offices' administration.

In April, the MSA will be hosting a workshop for new administrative professionals, jail clerks, CCW/civil personnel and county clerks to help them do their jobs better and stay current with changes in the law. The workshop, which will also be held at the MSA training facility, will provide hands-on training in such topics as processing reimbursement paperwork, registering sex offenders — both procedures and require-


ments, legal updates and civil process procedures.

"The topics were chosen by the members of the Administrative Professionals Committee. Like the jail administrators, we have many who are new to the position," Merritt said. "When sheriffs are counting on them to properly handle paperwork and submit forms for reimbursement, it is very important that they know what they're doing. This training will provide that information and it will also allow them to network so they feel comfortable reaching out when they need help or advice."

For more information about the administrative professionals workshop or to register, visit [mosheriffs.com](http://mosheriffs.com) and click on Conferences.



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# LEVERAGING JAIL RESOURCES

## *for a Successful Reentry Program*

**M**any people enter a county jail because of a lack of basic needs—unstable or no housing, limited access to food, no means of transportation, or a lack of support system to assist them. These issues are often exasperated by the prevalence of substance use disorders and/or mental health disorders that are untreated. It's not uncommon to hear those in custody say they'd rather stay in jail, where they are guaranteed water, food, and a safe place to sleep at night.

This points to the purpose of the Perry County Jail Reentry Team, which is tasked with identifying the inmates' needs and connecting them to resources while they are still in custody. Their goal is to address their most prevalent issues, inform them of additional resources, and set them up with a better chance of success upon release from the facility.

The Reentry Team consists of Mickey Glaub, a certified peer specialist, and Meta Schlimpert, the Reentry coordina-

tor. Mickey Glaub came into the position with previous experience in the field of peer support work along with a vast knowledge of community resources. Glaub is well known in the area for his work with the "recovery community" and has established relationships with many of the area's stakeholders. This was helpful when identifying community organizations to partner with to address many of the inmates' needs.

Meta Schlimpert brings expertise in the reentry field and data collection. Schlimpert established data collection processes for the Reentry Team, identified common barriers to successful reentry, and helped identify resources to address these barriers. She also has previous connections in the area and has been instrumental in creating new relationships with community partners. Their different areas of expertise work well together to contribute to the success of the team.

Along with their previous knowledge

**Meta Schlimpert (left), the Perry County Jail Reentry Team coordinator, and Mickey Glaub, a certified peer specialist, used the connections they had made to get a vision test and glasses for an inmate.**

of community resources, Schlimpert and Glaub began compiling additional resources to address common barriers for those incarcerated. There were already established relationships with local Community Behavioral Health Centers, which provide substance use and mental health treatment in the jail facility. They streamlined the means of communication with the Community Behavioral Health Liaisons (CBHLs) to improve information sharing and reduce wait times for treatment. By attending local meetings and training opportunities, new connections were made that resulted in additional resources and funding to assist with the reentry process.

For example, at a recent community

meeting, the team described the program goals and some typical needs of inmates, which sparked a connection between the reentry Team and a local church charity group. The church group provided vouchers to their thrift store for those being released, transportation (giving rides and bus tickets), and flex funding. Schlimpert and Glaub have found that most community partners are willing and able to assist this population.

There are several resources that can be used while a person is in custody. This is best described by one individual who has benefited while still residing in Perry County Jail. After multiple interactions with Glaub in the detention pod, the inmate trusted him enough to ask for help with his substance use issues. This resulted in the inmate enrolling in the on-site substance use treatment program.

After more conversations with Glaub, the inmate opened up about more of his needs and shared that his eyesight was poor, and he had never been able to afford an eye exam or glasses. The Reentry coordinator reached out to the local Lion's Club chapter since they are known for providing funding for eyeglasses to those with low incomes. They agreed to provide funding for inmates to obtain free exams and glasses. This individual is very grateful for his new glasses.

He also said that a lack of ID would be a major barrier to employment when he's released. He has no identification — no driver's license, birth certificate, or social security card. The coordinator researched how to obtain a form of ID while incarcerated with no additional documentation and discovered the resource Vital-Chek, which allows a person to order their birth certificate online. This document was paid for by flex funding provided by the church's charity and delivered to the jail for the inmate when he's released. This is just one example of discovering barriers, establishing trust, and then utilizing multiple community resources to meet an

individual's needs before reentering the community.

Finding resources is made easier by becoming connected to the community. By being present at local meetings and trainings, one can make successful partnerships to benefit those who are incarcerated. Many times, organizations acknowledge that individuals in jail need the resources they offer, but they don't have a way to

connect with these people and offer their services. Creating successful relationships with these organizations can assist inmates with receiving beneficial resources while incarcerated and during the reentry process.

BY META SCHLIMPERT

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# Crime and Punishment *are Part of Carroll County's Past*

**P**erry County Jail, much like all other pre-trial detention facilities throThrough one whole century and parts of two more on either side,

the Carroll County Jail and Sheriff's Residence has been a landmark in the county seat of Carrollton.

Built in 1878, the stately two-story T-shaped brick building has served the county in various capacities since its completion. It's a hallmark of farming communities where things get used, fixed, and reused, and was recognized as such in 1979 when it was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The building has a classic 19th-century layout with a central hallway and one room on each side on both the top and bottom floors, forming the head of the T. The front section was home to the sheriff and his offices, while an attached building in the rear served as the jail. The two were initially

connected through openings in the office and kitchen. The bedrooms were on the second floor — separated only by a door from the cells that housed those deemed "insane."

For some time, the jail held the Taylor brothers, a couple of the worst kind of criminals in Missouri. William and George Taylor were notorious in northern Missouri and were as infamous in their way as the James and the Daltons.

At first glance, the Taylors' resumes looked good. William studied law at the University of Missouri, was elected to the state legislature, and married into a wealthy local family. He was a rancher and a farmer, as was his brother George, who had started out as a school teacher. They owned a bank in Linn County.

They were also criminals of the first order, having been implicated in embezzlement and murder — but as members of the area's prominent class, they had friends in high places. In fact, in 1894,



This Missouri Historical Society photo captures the moments after it was discovered that the Taylor brothers had escaped through the roof of the jail and made their way down the rope left for them by a fellow conspirator. The gallows below were used to hang William Taylor, who was captured soon after his escape.



the brothers were brought before the bar for arson and cattle theft in Carroll County, but the case was dismissed after they successfully bribed a juror.

Their downfall began when one of their henchmen, George Meeks, was tasked with stealing 31 cattle from a local farmer and selling them in Kansas City. Meeks was caught and sent to the penitentiary but was given the opportunity to go free if he would testify against the Taylors.

Meeks had been in on stealing horses, check forgery, and arson with the brothers and was ready to say so in court, but he never got the chance. The Taylors killed Meeks, his wife, and two of their three young daughters and buried the bodies in a shallow grave. They covered the grave with a haystack and set it on fire in hopes of concealing their crime, but it was wet and did not burn. Miraculously, a third child, Nellie, who was seven at the time, survived and

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*"For some time, the jail held the Taylor brothers, a couple of the worst kind of criminals in Missouri. William and George Taylor were notorious in northern Missouri and were as infamous in their way as the James and the Daltons."*

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pointed the finger at the Taylors. They fled to Arkansas, where they were captured and returned to Carroll County to stand trial.

Based on Nellie's testimony, the Taylor brothers were sentenced to be hanged on April 30, 1896. But on April 11, before the sentence could be carried out, the brothers escaped through the roof with the help of insiders who provided them with hacksaws and rope.

William was quickly recaptured and hung on schedule in front of a large crowd. It was the only execution carried out in Carroll County. George, however, was never heard from again. Rumors said he fought honorably in the Spanish-American War; others said he left the country. Some said he returned and visited his family, but he was never apprehended by the law.

In 1958, the original 19th-century jail building attached to the sheriff's residence



The bell that now sits in the front yard of what was once the sheriff's quarters originally sat atop the Carroll County Courthouse. It was removed in 1953 and placed at this location in 1970.

collapsed, and a new structure took its place. That building continues to serve the county as the sheriff's office. The county currently has no jail.

The 1878 building, which remains an imposing landmark in downtown Carrollton, has not been used for anything other than county storage. However, a move is afoot to stabilize and eventually restore the building, according to Carroll County Clerk Petal Stanley, who says work is underway to make the structure "weather-tight." Thus far, the roof has been

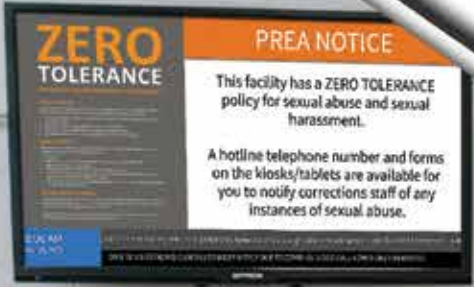
replaced using a hail-event insurance claim, county road and bridge workers have cleared the building of debris, and they are working on windows using American Recovery Plan Act funds.

As for the future, Stanley says there has been a lot of interest in using the building for office space. It appears the structure will continue to serve the people of Carroll County into its second century.

BY MICHAEL FEEBACK

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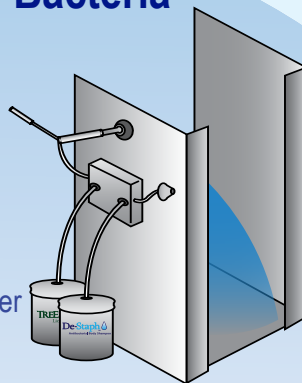


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