



District Attorney **Greg WILLIS** (front row, center) and his staff pose for a group photo on the courthouse steps just moments before 16 other county elected officials took their oaths of office in the Central Jury Room on Jan. 3, 2011.

New elected officials bring wealth of experience to posts

Of the 17 elected officials in Collin County who took the oath of office in January, five are serving their first terms here, so we thought it only fitting to welcome them to the Collin County government family.

Greg WILLIS takes office as the new District Attorney for Collin County, but he's no stranger to the courthouse. Willis presided over County Court at Law No. 6 from 2005 to Octo-

ber 2009, when he resigned to run for District Attorney. He also served four years as a Collin County prosecutor, beginning in 1995, before opening his own law firm in Plano. Before that, Willis worked in area



law firms Haynes & Boone, and Jones Day. He is a 5th-generation Texan, born in Dallas, who earned his Bachelor's from Baylor University, and his law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law.

Patricia CRIGGER worked in the District Clerk's office for 23 years before being elected to fill the shoes of **Hannah KUNKLE** upon her retirement. Patricia has

been Chief Deputy for the last 15 years, and has overseen the implementation of a number of modernization projects in the office: a new jury management system, scanning and digitizing thousands of courts



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5th term begins for JP

Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3-2 **John PAYTON** poses with state District Judge **Cyndi WHELESS** moments after they were sworn into office during ceremonies on Jan 3, 2011. Judge Payton, who won his first term of office when he was 18, began his fifth consecutive term in January.



Elected officials take office in January 2011

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records dating back to 1848, and the newly installed Odyssey court management system. She's also served as a probation officer and court bailiff before joining the District Clerk's staff. Crigger is a McKinney native, and got her bachelor's from the University of North Texas.

Cheryl WILLIAMS

is the new County Commissioner, Pct. 2. She served three terms on Plano's City Council as the first district representative to east

Plano, during some of the city's heaviest growth years, 1995-1999. Before that, she was the City Council's representative to the Plano Economic Development Board and the



East Plano Development Task Force. Williams also was appointed by the Plano Mayor as liaison to the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Heritage Commission. She is a 4th-generation Texan, and earned her Bachelor's in Finance/Economics from SMU.

Duncan WEBB

is the new County Commissioner for Pct. 4. He's been a practicing attorney in Dallas and Plano since 1980, who has extensive public service from serving four, three-year terms as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Plano Independent School District, beginning in 1998. Webb has served as the school board's vice president and president in recent years. His legal background includes business law, tax and estate plan-



ning, real estate transactions, oil & gas law, and construction law. A Dallas native who has lived in Plano since 1983, he earned both his Bachelor's and Law Degree from SMU.

Lance BAXTER

took the bench of County Court at Law No. 3. He has practiced law in Collin County for 23 years, including banking, bankruptcy and criminal law, plus time spent as a hearing master for the Collin County Mental Health Court. In 1999, he formed a partnership that became Baxter Gibbs Robinson & Henderson in McKinney before he was elected to the bench. Baxter is a 1986 graduate of the South Texas College of Law in Houston, and was named Pro Bono Attorney of the Year for the Legal Services of North Texas in 1998.



Volunteers help bring some order to this court

By Yolanda SAUCEDA

The Great Gavel Award is a new volunteer service award that goes to an active member of Collin County Teen Court, and in January we recognized the first two recipients for their tremendous effort in being involved in county government and in making a strong impact with their peers and the community.

Blake OWENS is a junior at *Legacy Christian Academy* in Frisco, and has volun-

teered with Teen Court for more than two years. His high school counselor told him about Teen Court and

he became a volunteer teen attorney, and also served as an intern in Pre-



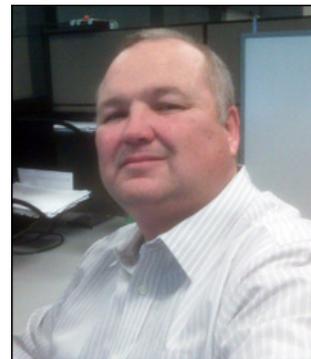
cinct 3-2 for Judge John PAYTON. Blake's future goals involve attending the U.S. Army Military Academy at West Point.

Blake is a very dedicated and responsible teen volunteer, and one of our Senior attorneys who does an excellent job of representing the defense or leading the prosecution. He is a mentor to many other volunteers. We know Blake has a promising future and we look forward to having him continue working with Teen Court.

During the day, **Bryan McNARY** works for AT&T, but he's also been a key adult volunteer for Teen Court almost three years. Married with two children, Bryan likes volunteering for Teen Court because it gives him a break from his regular routine, and allows him to help the community at the same time.

Bryan became involved with Teen Court when he made a deal with his daughter that, for every two hours of community service she completed, he'd throw in an hour of his own

time. Bryan found Teen Court online and liked the premise and attended a session. He says the teenaged volunteers in the court are smart, driven, and get a great chance to learn and participate in a key component of our society.



"On the other side, kids who have made a mistake now have a second chance at a clean slate," Bryan says.

Bryan is very involved and dedicated, and the program relies heavily on his experience and patience. He does a great job at explaining program procedures to parents and kids participating in Teen Court.

Collin County Facilities Maintenance: HVAC Crew

Facilities Maintenance's Heating Venting Air Conditioning (HVAC) team consists of a Technical Coordinator, **Jimmy PIERCE**, and 7 team members.

The HVAC team is responsible for all heating and cooling issues that arise in county buildings, which include energy management systems that must meet state mandated energy conservation guidelines. They also have to keep up with new technology and equipment that require qualified licensed HVAC diagnostic technicians.

The team replaces and rebuilds air units, repairs heating boilers, and installs and repairs ventilation systems. Besides performing weekly and daily checks on HVAC equipment for preventive maintenance, they also maintain a 750,000-gallon Chill Water thermal storage tank for use during peak periods.

They are responsible for the operation of the chillers and pumps at Central Plant that cools county buildings.

In 2008, there were 425 fan-powered boxes. In 2010, that number had more than doubled. To keep employees and the public comfortable, this well-qualified and experienced group has to keep pace with constant changes and growth.

The crew is also on an On-Call rotation one week a month for after-hour calls and emergencies.

Not only does the HVAC team take care of the heating and cooling concerns but they also maintain and repair the refrigeration in the County buildings which includes keeping ice machines and refrigerators maintained throughout break rooms and departments across the county.

They are a great asset to the County for their prompt service. Thank you to the HVAC crew and all their hard work.

Walk Across Texas competition set to stroll into March

BY Carrie BRAZEAL

Ready for Walk Across Texas? In 2010, county employees and their friends and family as well as others walked, jogged, swam, and ran more than 118,179 miles in just eight weeks. Along the way, they lost a few pounds, lowered their blood pressure, reduced their stress level and managed their diabetes better.

The 2010 team that walked the most miles -- the Texas Trekkers -- are getting geared up for 2011.

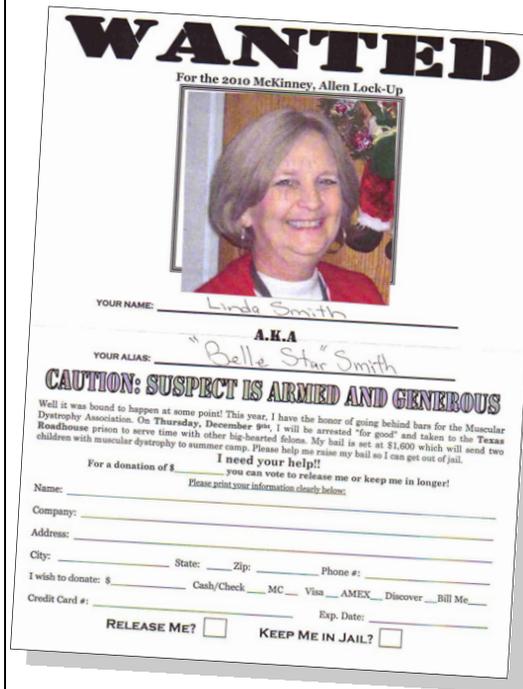
Walk Across Texas is sponsored by the Extension Service and the Health Department. The program works simply: teams of eight pool their miles to see if they can walk the 800 miles across Texas in eight weeks. Members may be recruited from friends, co-workers, neighbors or family.

Each team needs a captain and a name. Since teams from other companies may be participating in this event, all county teams should start with "CC" (Collin County). Example: CC Athletes Feat. All team members report their weekly miles to their team captain, who logs it in.

All kinds of activities can be converted to miles on the on-line equivalent chart.

Teams officially start on Sunday, March 6 and end on Saturday, April 30. All teams should be registered on-line by March 1.

Gather your team and email Carrie BRAZEAL — or call Ext. 4231 — the team name and team captain. Don't have a team or need one more for your team? Call us; we'll try to match you up with a team.



Arrested Development

Public Works' Linda SMITH (right) was "arrested" last month as part of a fundraiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Participants in this year's "Doing Time for MDA" were rounded up in December and taken to the Texas Roadhouse prison to serve time with others charged with having big hearts. The generous folks of Collin County donated money toward their "bail," and raised over \$33,000 to be used to send 41 kids to summer camp. Thanks to Linda and all who helped make this year's drive a huge success.



Courthouse addition construction update

We are six months into the 18-month, phase-one schedule to add 170,000 square feet of office space to the north of the Courthouse on Bloomdale Road. Turner Construction is putting in long hours to finish the phase ahead of schedule. The District Attorney and District Clerk offices, along with the Central Jury Room, will be moved into the new building. Those departments operating out of the University Drive Courts Facility will remain there until Phase Two is complete, sometime around July 2012.

— Bill BURKE



County Clerk's Office Service Anniversaries

- ◆ **Jean McLendon** (left, center) is presented her 15-year service pin by **Kellie McClellan** (left) and **Sherry Willis** (right).
- ◆ **Amy Cundiff** (top left), criminal clerk, received her 20-year service pin.
- ◆ **Michelle Williams** (top center), criminal clerk, received her 5-year service pin.
- ◆ **Tracy Carr** (top right), criminal clerk, received her 5-year service pin.



Juvenile Probation Anniversaries

Vicky McCormack received her 15-year service pin from Juvenile Probation Director **Joe Scott**. Vicky is an administrative assistant assigned to the McKinney office of Juvenile Probation, where she acts as a caseworker coordinator and bookkeeper. **Bob Burford** (left) receives his 10-year service pin from supervisor **Monty Faison**. Bob serves as an Adolescent counselor in the Plano unit of Juvenile Probation.



2010 Employees of the Year

This marks the first year that the Collin County Sheriff's Office has honored two Collin County Sheriff's Office employees with the "2010 Employee of the Year" awards. Deputy **Jeff GRAHAM** (right) received the honor of Employee of the Year for the Sheriff's Office, and Detention Officer **Kenneth BURRS** (left) received the honor of Employee of the Year for the Detention Section of the Collin County Sheriff's Office from Sheriff **Terry BOX**. Congratulations to both recipients.



New deputies sworn in

Sheriff Terry **BOX** swore in Deputy **Scott STONE** (left) who was recently promoted from Detention Officer to Patrol Deputy, and **Kirk PRYOR** (right), the new Reserve Deputy for the Collin County Sheriff's Office. Congratulations to both Deputies.

Deputy Edwards Retires

Deputy **Fred EDWARDS** (above) recently retired with 23 years of service with the Collin County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Box presented him with a retirement plaque & a personalized retirement badge in appreciation for his dedicated service with the Collin County Sheriff's Office.



20-year anniversary recognition

Seven employees have recently celebrated 20 years of dedicated service with the Collin County Sheriff's Office, each of whom was presented a plaque commemorating their service. The employees honored were: (top row, l-r) Sgt. **Diane STUBBS**, Sgt. **Thomas BYERS**, Deputy **Shonda NORTON**; (2nd row, l-r) Administrative Secretary **Vicki WHEATLEY**, Lt. **Bryce THOMPSON**, and Detention Officer **Tim WORTHAM**; Deputy **Brian SEALS** (bottom left). Congratulations to all.

Lt. Cundiff graduates from leadership command college

Congratulations to Lt. **Parrish CUNDIFF** who recently graduated from the Bill Blackwood Leadership Command College at Sam Houston State University. Leadership Command College is a nine week executive level law enforcement course divided into three modules and is open to law enforcement managers from throughout the State of Texas. Other Collin County Sheriff's Office graduates include Major **Chuck RUCKEL**, Lt. **Mick FICHTL**, Lt. **Andrew HAWKES**, Lt. **Mark SANDERSON** & Lt. **Tony BRADLEY**.

Recognition



10 years with Collin County

Benito MUNIZ (left) and **Richard DOAN** were presented their 10-year Service pins in Commissioners Court in early February by Public works Director **Jon KLEINHEKSEL**.

IBM lauds county IT Department for Solutions award

The details are a bit technical, but IBM recently recognized Collin County's Information Technology department for finding a better way to store the massive amount of data we accrue from doing county business. Bottom line? The number of blade storage racks in our data center were cut in half, applications were consolidated, and the ability to install new servers in the future was cut dramatically — which resulted in lower costs to power, maintain and upgrade the data center.

Announcements/Classifieds

Elizabeth Rachel DOBECKA was born on Nov. 29, 2010, to parents **Rachel** (Detention Center) and **Matt** (Purchasing) -- and sister **Allyson** (age 2 ½). Proud uncle and aunt are **David** (Support Services) and **Regina** (CSCD) **DOBECKA**.



FOR SALE:

HOLSTER: Blackhawk Level-3 Holster for Sig Sauer P220R; \$90 O.B.O. Call 903-436-2928.

CANDLES: Scentsy Wickless Candles: Great gift ideas or start a new business. This great product is also good for your office since there are no open flames. Go to my website at www.scentsy.com/jenniferbrooks, order online or call it in: 469-323-4681.

FURNITURE: Rustic 6–8 foot expanding dinner table and formal hutch set for sale, \$1,400; Pearl River black up-right piano, 2 years old for sale, \$1,800. Call Ext. 4613.

FREE: Four used rechargeable ENEL1 batteries, battery charger, software, etc., for a Nikon Coolpix 885 camera (maybe others). Call Liz, Ext. 3734.

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



Brynli Tayah BURGESS, born Oct. 11, 2010, at 12:57 p.m., weighing 9.2 pounds and measuring 23.5 inches long. She is the granddaughter of **Monica LOVE**, Fire Marshal's Office, and the great granddaughter of **Laura HIGGINBOTHAM**, County Clerk's Office. Her proud parents are **Jaron BURGESS** and **Amber HIGGINBOTHAM**.