As part of our continued focus on enhancing our Employee Health Services & Wellness Programs, we are happy to introduce our new United Healthcare Nurse Liaison, Kaila COHEN.

Kaila is a Registered Nurse with UHC, and has practiced nursing for over 25 years. Her experience includes clinical roles in orthopedics, general medicine, and chronic disease management and education.

Kaila is also a Certified Diabetes Educator and has a special interest in providing the tools and support people need to live healthy lives. She enjoys hiking and swimming and is excited to try out the nature trails in Collin County.

Kaila will assist Collin County employees and their covered family members with the following:

- Help you to save money by choosing a lower cost place to get care
- Help you to manage your specific health needs
- Help you to understand treatment options
- Help you to use your United Healthcare plan more effectively

Kaila will be reaching out to employees individually throughout the year to offer information to help you manage and improve your health.

She is also available to help you review the results of your Rally Health Assessment and work toward your wellness goals.

Kaila can be reached at 469-818-0333

(Continued on page 2)
Adolescent marijuana use is epidemic

Approximately 95 percent of adolescents referred to the Collin County Substance Abuse Program (CCSAP) for substance abuse evaluations report marijuana use. One-hundred percent of these adolescents reported having friends who have used or are actively using marijuana. With such high percentages of reported marijuana use, it is safe to call this an epidemic.

One could speculate the rampant use of marijuana among adolescents is possibly attributed to a more positive public mind-set due to the decriminalization of marijuana use in several of the United States. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), as of March 2014 the number of states that have legalized marijuana for medicinal use was 20. Another article found on the site governing.com reports, as of February 2015, there are now 23 states and the District of Columbia that have legalized marijuana use in some form.

I cannot count how many times an adolescent has presented a favorable argument for marijuana use: “It is a natural herb…” “It’s used to treat medical conditions…” “It helps me to relax and focus…” “Colorado legalized it and it is a matter of time before Texas allows marijuana use…” My all-time favorite comment by adolescents between the ages of 15 and 17, “I plan to move to Colorado as soon as I can.”

Several CCSAP clients reported they have used marijuana in other ways than smoking, such as the use of Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) infused pastries, baked goods and candies. One client who violated terms of probation by submitting a positive urine specimen reported accidental ingestion of THC infused candy. This client stated the packaging of this candy was similar to the regular candy. Researching this claim there are no similarities in packaging at all. Every THC infused candy has either a big pot leaf on the front or THC printed on the front of the packaging.

Other forms of THC use are concentrated THC oil that can be placed in an electronic cigarette cartridge or Dabs. Dabs or Wax is a THC concentrate that is created with butane. Its appearance is glassy yellowish looking a bit like ear wax, thus the name Wax.

What I try and impress upon these adolescents is marijuana use is illegal in Texas. What I try to impress upon the parents of these adolescents is substance use of any kind with adolescents is problematic. Drug and alcohol use with anyone is a serious health hazard and must be addressed immediately and aggressively.

One cannot take a passive approach to drug and alcohol use especially among adolescents. The earlier adolescent substance use is identified and addressed the higher the probability of deterring this adolescent in continuing use into adulthood.

The aggressive and immediate approach to adolescent substance use includes taking the adolescent to a licensed professional for a substance abuse evaluation. With a substance abuse evaluation the counselor can determine what substances have been used and the extent and frequency of substance use. Referrals to appropriate treatment services are always provided to the family.

Along with referrals to treatment services I recommend the parents drug test their teen regularly, search their rooms, personal belongings, social media and phones. These adolescents are engaging in dangerous behaviors by using intoxicating, illicit, and illegal substances, and marijuana fits all three.

The unfortunate truth is marijuana use has become more widely accepted in the United States. The absolute truth is marijuana use will interfere with adolescent neurological development, contains 400 more carcinogens than a filtered cigarette, and is illegal for anyone at any age in the State of Texas.

To learn more about the negative effects of marijuana use and potential health hazards log on to www.collincountytx.gov/substance_abuse/ and select the resources link. There are many credible and helpful sites that will provide more in-depth information about marijuana use and other substances of abuse.

-- Grace J. RAULSTON, LCDC
Substance Abuse Program Administrator
The number of our folks who’ve worked in all three courthouses over the last four decades is dwindling, but here are two women who witnessed the county’s growth firsthand; one is retiring and the other just keeps on going. We salute them both.

**Gloria BAILEY**

37 Years of public service

SCD’s Administrative Manager Gloria BAILEY retired last month, after a 37-year career of service to Collin County. Gloria started out as a clerk in adult probation at the downtown courthouse in McKinney in April 1978. Of the many changes that she has been a part of over the past 37 years, Gloria fondly recalls being the only person for quite some time in the department with a computer. It was one of those ‘state-of-the-art’ models that literally took up half her desk.

In the early 1980s, as her department went from all manual and case management records to a computerized system, Gloria would be responsible for data entry which entailed inputting each receipt, supervision level, officer change, and much more into the computer software. Since then, CSCD has come a long way, with four computer software changes with Gloria in the lead working with vendors on each project to successfully convert and confirm data, and ensuring that the department could continue to perform at the highest level of efficiency.

Gloria’s impact came from her passion for serving people whether they were CSCD employees, the clientele, or the general public. What matters most to ‘Glo’ is the opportunity to make someone else’s day a bit easier.

She worked alongside Director Bob HUGHES and Deputy Director Larry PINTAR as a member of the department’s senior staff whose different personalities and thought processes have made for a well-balanced team integral to our standing as one of the top Community Service and Corrections Departments in the state of Texas.

“I truly could not have asked for a better career,” Gloria said at her March farewell. “My time at CSCD was never just a job to me; I wanted to make a difference along the way. So off I go to the next chapter of my life taking with me many, many fond memories. I wish you all the best, personally and professionally, and hope our paths cross again.”

As for the future, Gloria is looking forward to having more time focused on repurposing items, so there will be many adventurous antiquing/junking road trips with her husband, Brian.

We congratulate our dear friend on this tremendous milestone and wish her all the best. Lastly, we would like to recognize and thank her family, Brian and daughter Brooke, for sharing her with us. Much joy and happiness to you all.

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**A number of ‘firsts’ for Marge MACK**

Marge MACK started with Collin County in 1978, first working for the Veteran’s Administration at an office in the old courthouse on the square.

Space was limited and she had no desk but worked on a folding card table. When the offices moved into the courthouse on McDonald Street a year later, she and the co-workers got their desk and office space.

Marge left the Veteran’s Administration office and took time off with her young family for a couple of years before returning to work for Helen STARNES, County Clerk. She worked as a clerk for County Court at Law judges until the Law Library was created, and she became the county’s first Law Librarian.

That was not a full time position so, when the county decided it needed to update the jury selection system, she was chosen to be the first Jury Clerk. She was a “hybrid” because the Law Library was under the County Clerk, but the Jury Clerk was under District Clerk Jean YOUNG.

As jury clerks opened each of the envelopes that contained the jury questionnaires they laid them on the copy machine to manually duplicate them for the courts. Marge remembers when the jury material was being created, it was decided that a map of the location of the courthouse was needed.

Her husband, Cary, drew a map and sent it to work with Marge. That was the map that was selected to be printed on the jury materials.

Eventually Marge transitioned fully to the District Clerk’s office and became a Minutes Clerk, recording the final orders in all cases for permanent preservation and retention. After all pleadings began to be kept electronically, she further expanded her skills by moving to the Criminal Front Counter.

Marge loves history and especially genealogy. After discovering the name “W.R.H. Mack,”

(Continued on page 4)
J.P. Pct. #1 in 1874” on the cornerstone of the original courthouse, she began asking questions about her husband’s family and learned that William Robert Harvey MACK was her husband’s great-great-grandfather.

Through the next several years Marge traced the Mack family back to Scotland. Her love for history and preservation has always made her work here more than just a job. She understands the importance of retaining information for generations to come. During her travels to other counties and states to seek information for her genealogy projects, she has been able to compare the level of quality regarding preservation and organization, and Collin County is at the top.

Congratulations to Marge for 30 years with Collin County.

(Continued from page 3)

Pictured l-r with Marge MACK (holding flowers) are husband Cary, eldest daughter Laura, and District Clerk Andrea THOMPSON. Marge has had the distinct pleasure of working in all 3 Collin County Courthouses.

Dora Fajardo
Recognition for 25 Years of Service

Because it is not as common in today’s world, we have an even greater appreciation for employees who have served decades with the County. Twenty five years really goes by quickly and the changes in our community, culture, and department are really amazing.

Back in 1990 when Dora FAJARDO began her career in Healthcare, Collin County’s population was beginning its boom at 264,036 residents. On the radio, Vanilla Ice’s “Ice, Ice, Baby” was at the top of the charts, and the San Francisco 49er’s won the Super Bowl.

She was one of only four full-time nurses in the department and she has truly ‘done and seen it all’ during her tenure. Dora’s kindness, work ethic, and cheerfulness throughout all the many changes in staff and technology has endeared her to her coworkers and manager.

In recent years, Dora has seen the department survive a flood, move to electronic medical records, embrace electronic faxing, and now expand clinic space with a building remodel.

Year after year, Dora’s compassion and nursing skills has helped her gain the trust and respect of even the most wary of our patients.

So what do the next 25 years have in store for Dora? Without a doubt, she will continue to live life adventurously as she is affectionately known as “Dora the Explorer,” and we hope to be a part of her journey as long as we can.
A true GEM

Debbie BRANNON (above, center), an accounting technician in the County Clerk Treasury, receives the GEM award from County Clerk Stacey KEMP (right) and Treasury Administrator Pam DUGGER. Debbie has been with Collin County for 15 years.

Retirement

l-r: Shift Supervisor Steve JACK, Glenn STRAIN, Superintendent Jeff FELEFIA during Glenn’s retirement ceremony.

10 Years’ Service

Ashley GIDNEY (left) started her career with Collin County Justice Court Precinct 1 in February 2005, at the age of 19. Since working for Judge Paul RA-LEEH, she has been a Criminal and Civil Clerk. She currently is in the Civil Department. In July 2014, she completed testing and received her certificate as a Certified Level 1 Court Clerk. Ashley has been married to her husband Matt for 9 years and they have one daughter, Saydee.

20 Years’ Service

Sylvia GREER (right) celebrated 20 years of service for Collin County with District Clerk Andrea THOMPSON during Commissioners Court in March. She was described as a Jack-Of-All-Trades in the office because of her broad experience in computer systems over the years.

15 Years’ Service

David DOBECKA (right), Support Services mailroom supervisor, received his 15-year service pin from Budget Director Monika ARRIS in Mid-February. David is well known throughout the county for his department’s great customer service countywide.
Special Commendations
Deputy Keith GRIFFIN (above, with Sheriff Box) was recently presented a “Life Saving Award” from Sheriff Terry BOX. He performed CPR on an unconscious victim, which resulted in her surviving a medical emergency. In recognition of National Women’s History Month, Maj. Pam PALMISANO (above, right) was one of eight Collin County Women in Government Administration selected to receive the Spirit of Public Service Leadership Award from the League of Women Voters of Collin County. The award was presented to her during a luncheon where she was recognized for her 28 years of service with the Collin County Sheriff’s Office and being the first woman promoted to the rank of Captain and, later, Major.

Service Anniversary
Sgt. Daniel CATES (left) celebrated 20 years of dedicated and loyal service with the Collin County Sheriff’s Office.

Promotion
Chris HAVEY (left) was promoted from Sergeant to Professional Standards Lieutenant in a recent ceremony.

Sworn in
(l-r) New Patrol Deputies Matthew POLK and Shane CARROLL, along with Detention Sgt. John BEEMAN, were sworn in by Sheriff Box at a ceremony in March. Congratulations to all.
Purchasing Month

Purchasing wants to thank everyone who came out to their Open House in March to help celebrate Purchasing Month. Three folks won prizes in the department’s quizzes about Purchasing, including Jessica SHAW (above, center) of Budget, with the closest guess for how many P-card transactions did Collin County make in FY2014? (Answer: 3,038) Jessica’s pictured with Sara HOGlund (left) and Courtney WILKERSOn. Other winners included Kristen JENKINS (upper right) of Human Resources for the closest estimate of how much Collin County spent utilizing the Office Depot website in FY2014 (Answer: $708,035); and, Eric NISHIMOTO of Administrative Services for his uncanny accuracy in guessing how many purchase orders did Collin County issue in FY2014 (Answer: 9,828).

Chili Cook-Off Winners

Sheriff Box presented awards to the winners of the 7th Annual Cindy Pressnell Chili Cook Off. Congratulations to the winners, I-r: Golden Spoon Award, Randie LINDSEy; Wimpiest Chili, Bonnie GUIMARIN; Hottest Chili, Renee WINKLER; Road Kill Chili, Oscar MARTINEZ.
New Procedure for FC Dallas soccer ticket drawings

FC Dallas has changed how we can share the tickets to winners of the soccer match drawings, offered from time-to-time with a digital ticketing process called Flash Seats. Please read this before you sign up for the drawing.

From now on, winners will be notified through their work email address with a link to “claim” their ticket electronically. Winners will need to register with “Flash Seats” in order to check in and get the ticket(s). You will most likely have to register with your Drivers License or credit card. The card will not be charged. The DL is for identity confirmation only.

For those uncomfortable with doing this, we have no other means to get you those tickets. There is no paper option. This isn’t a county policy; it’s a FC Dallas policy. Only parking passes are still printed out.

If you are okay with this procedure, please continue.

As in the past, to enter the drawing you need to send an email to publicrelations@collincountytx.gov with “Soccer Tickets” and the date of the match. For example, “Soccer Tickets March 28.” Match dates are below, and we’ll post notices on the MYCC Calendar to remind you of upcoming matches.

We’ll also conduct the drawings a full week before the match so you have time to register and claim the tickets.

If you WIN:

You’ll receive an email from Flash Seats, stating that we have set aside tickets for you. Follow the link to claim the tickets.

After you’ve added a valid ID, such as a credit/debit card or driver’s license, to your Flash Seats® account, you’re all set to use it to enter the next event for which you have tickets. Remember, you have to use THE SAME form of ID you registered with to gain entry at the match.

Here’s how it works:

- Look for the gates marked with Flash Seats signs at arena entrances.
- Hand your registered ID to the Guest Services Representative who will swipe it through a hand-held device.
- A Seat Locator, identifying the location of your seats, prints. Remember that the Seat Locator simply shows the location of your seats in the arena; it is not a ticket and cannot be used for entry into the arena. With Flash Seats, your ID is what gets you into the arena.
- Give your Seat Locator to an usher who will help you find your seats, and enjoy the event!

If you have any issues using your ID to get into the event or if you forget your ID, go to the Flash Seats Resolution Window at the Box Office where a customer service representative can help you.

You’ll be asked to verify your identity by answering a few security questions. But keep in mind, if you don’t register before then, there’s no way to confirm that we transferred them to you.

Remember to check the MYCC calendar for remaining match dates and deadlines.

Classified Ads


CUSTOM CRAFTWORK: Anderson Turning and Crafts makes Custom turned pens, pencils, bottle stoppers, pizza cutters, ice cream scoops, makeup brushes and bottle openers. We can turn wood, antler and other natural materials. We can also cast resins in custom colors. Turn wood from that tree from your childhood that died into an heirloom pen to be used for weddings or document signing. Please check our website, which is under construction, for additional pictures. The cost for items varies depending on the finish and material used. info@andersonturningandcrafts.com, or www.andersonturningandcrafts.com.