



# JPs & Constables Legislative Update

December 6, 2011

## Various news items of note (some negative!)

We're sending some news clippings to you, our members, this month to highlight the good, the bad, and—in a few cases—the ugly, garnering attention recently.

### Trinity County constable's office breaks up burglary ring

TRINITY COUNTY, KLTV | Nov 14, 2011

[www.kltv.com/story/16037274/trinity-co-constables-office-breaks-up-burglary-ring](http://www.kltv.com/story/16037274/trinity-co-constables-office-breaks-up-burglary-ring)

The Trinity County Pct. 1 Constable's Office arrested five Trinity residents Saturday in connection to the same residence being burglarized twice. According to Constable Woody Wallace, the burglaries occurred in August and October at a residence in the Hawg Heaven Subdivision. Deputy constables began patrolling the area in October.

### Constable's car photographed in handicap parking

Oh Snap! Constable parks in handicapped space during lunch time

By Tammy Mutasa | NBC-DFW | Nov 8, 2011

[www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/Constable-Car-Photographed-In-Handicap-Parking-133495933.html](http://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/Constable-Car-Photographed-In-Handicap-Parking-133495933.html)



A Dallas County Constable's car was photographed parked in a handicapped parking space in front of Panera Bread in Mesquite.... After a bit of tracking, we learned that the constable car in the photograph belonged to the Precinct One office in Dallas (CN Derrick Evans).

### Lubbock County constable charged with threatening assault

By Irie Price | Lubbock Avalanche-Journal | Nov 11, 2011 | [www.lubbockonline.com/crime-and-courts/2011-11-11/lubbock-county-constable-charged-threatening-assault#.Tt56o2Oqgr4](http://www.lubbockonline.com/crime-and-courts/2011-11-11/lubbock-county-constable-charged-threatening-assault#.Tt56o2Oqgr4)

Ronnie Vasquez, a Precinct 3 constable in Lubbock County, was arrested Thursday in connection with threatening to assault Neryan Thomas, 19, and Lanika Hudson, 20, with a metal baseball bat. ...The Lubbock County criminal district attorney issued a warrant for Vasquez ...Vasquez is an elected official representing Precinct 3 in northeastern Lubbock County.

### Upcoming meetings:

January 8-11, 2012

Omni Austin Hotel

700 San Jacinto

New JPs School,

Budget & Oversight



June 24-28, 2012

JPCA ANNUAL MEETING

Isla Grand

Beach Resort

500 Padre Blvd

South Padre

Reservations

call 1-800-292-7704

[reservations@islagrand.com](mailto:reservations@islagrand.com)



### Montgomery County combats truancy

By David Solano | KIAH Houston | Aug 5, 2011  
[www.39online.com/news/local/kiah-warrant-roundup-story,0,7232344.story](http://www.39online.com/news/local/kiah-warrant-roundup-story,0,7232344.story)

New Caney—Back in January, 39 News took you inside the courtroom of a Montgomery County Judge who makes it his mission to keep kids in school. Justice of the Peace James Metts has sentenced students, and even their parents for habitual truancy. Judge Metts dispatched an army of deputy constables to round up more drop outs and their parents, who have warrants for skipping out on truancy hearings.

Judge Metts hopes this will be a lesson on what happens when kids do not stay in school. A huge warrant round up took place at the Montgomery County Pct. 4 Constables office. The purpose - to clear up warrants dating back three years ago.

### Constable escorts scrutinized

By Emma Perez-Trevino | The Brownsville Herald | Nov 13, 2011  
[brownsvilleherald.com/articles/cameron-133634-providing-escorts.html](http://brownsvilleherald.com/articles/cameron-133634-providing-escorts.html)

Providing escort service to school buses carrying athletes to out-of-town games and for funeral processions are activities that could come back to haunt Cameron County constables. The situation could get further complicated if the constables are getting paid for providing these services.

Cameron County Commissioners Court is reviewing the activities of constables — and this is in the wake of already cutting the number of constables from seven to five.

### Former deputy constable enters guilty plea

Associated Press | Sep 23, 2011  
[www.wfaa.com/news/local/Former-deputy-constable-enters-plea--130480593.html](http://www.wfaa.com/news/local/Former-deputy-constable-enters-plea--130480593.html)

DALLAS (AP) — A former Dallas County deputy constable has pleaded guilty to four felonies and two misdemeanors, including sexual assault, bribery and official oppression. State District Judge Don Adams sentenced 68-year-old Howard Watson to a year in a state jail for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle; 10 years of deferred adjudication probation for two sexual assault charges and two bribery charges; and two years of deferred adjudication probation on two misdemeanor charges of official oppression. ...He must register as a sex offender and cannot be a peace officer again.

**These articles are reminders of that old nostrum:  
“Think before you act — it could be tomorrow’s headline!”**

NORTH TEXAS JPCA Constable Wayne Pierce [wpierce@huntcounty.net](mailto:wpierce@huntcounty.net)

EAST TEXAS JPCA Judge James Meredith [jmeredith@smith-county.com](mailto:jmeredith@smith-county.com)

SOUTH TEXAS JPCA Judge George Soliz [uncarnal@aol.com](mailto:uncarnal@aol.com)

WEST TEXAS JPCA Constable Rick Gammon [rgammon@epcounty.com](mailto:rgammon@epcounty.com) [www.wtjpc.org](http://www.wtjpc.org)

CENTRAL TEXAS JPCA Judge Glenn Bass [glenn.bass@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:glenn.bass@co.travis.tx.us) [www.ctjpc.org](http://www.ctjpc.org)

### Upcoming JPCA training

Juvenile Case Manager Summit  
Midland, December 8 & 9  
Hilton Midland Plaza  
Juvenile Case Manager  
Office of Judge David Cobos  
Justice of the Peace, Pct 2  
432.688.4737 / 432.967.0805  
[david\\_cobos@co.midland.tx.us](mailto:david_cobos@co.midland.tx.us)

### Upcoming TJCTC seminars

#### Justices of the Peace

Austin Jan 8-11  
Galveston March 25-28  
San Antonio April 15-18  
Lubbock May 22-25

#### Civil Process seminars

San Antonio Feb 7-10  
Austin Mar 18-21  
Galveston April 29-May 2  
Rockwall July 15-18

#### Court Personnel seminars

Austin Dec 14-16  
San Antonio Feb 1-3  
San Marcos Feb 27-29  
Galveston May 7-9  
Rockwall July 18-20

### TJCTC 10-hour workshops

San Antonio Feb 23-24  
Lake Sam Rayburn Mar 8-9  
San Angelo Apr 26-27  
Tyler Jun 4-5  
League City July 26-27  
San Marcos Aug 9-10

Info: [www.tjctc.org](http://www.tjctc.org)