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Sheriff John Wheeler
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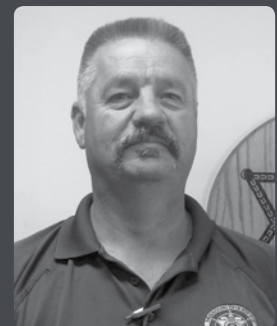
Contributors



Nancy Zoellner-Hogland
Editor



Michael Feedback



Victor Pitman



Bill Sullivan
Law Enforcement Liaison for the
National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration (NHTSA) Region 7

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Missouri Sheriffs' Association

6605 Business 50 West
Jefferson City, MO 65109
www.mosheriffs.com

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MARKETING DIRECTOR

Jeanne Merritt
573.529.6900
Fax 573.635.2128
jeanne@mosheriffs.com

EDITOR

Nancy Zoellner-Hogland
nancyhogland@gmail.com

CONTRIBUTORS

Michael Feedback
Victor Pitman
Bill Sullivan

PHOTOGRAPHY

Stacie Marshall
Kevin Merritt

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Stacie L. Marshall
Hill Design Co.

BECOME A MEMBER

573.635.5925 ext. 105
www.mosheriffs.com

GENERAL INQUIRIES, COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

Jeanne Merritt
573.529.6900
jeanne@mosheriffs.com

Visit us online at www.mosheriffs.com.

The Missouri Sheriff magazine is the official publication for the Missouri Sheriffs' Association.

The Missouri Sheriff magazine is dedicated to providing informative and timely information to enrich the lives of the dedicated men and women providing county law enforcement, jail, court security and judicial services throughout the state of Missouri, and the public they serve.

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Help Bring Our Officers Home Safe



We want to keep the
communities we
serve safe.

With 2018 behind us, the members of the Missouri Sheriffs' Association are looking forward to accomplishing many things in 2019.

As I said in the fall issue, MSA's big focus this year is to bring more training and resources to the sheriffs in Missouri. In the wake of an unprecedented number of shootings and violence towards law enforcement officers, law enforcement training could not be more important.

Law enforcement officers are sworn to protect and serve against those things that threaten the livelihood, property and peace of citizens. Law enforcement officers must also protect themselves against these threats.

Like many industries, law enforcement constantly evolves. New technologies emerge and laws change, therefore law enforcement must constantly evaluate and adapt with sound policy and training techniques. One of the core tenets in a law enforcement course titled "Below 100" is "Complacency Kills." That is a very powerful training statement, because what you know today may not work tomorrow.

The association is committed to bringing relevant training not only to the recruits in the academies, but to the leadership in the 114 counties across the state. We want to keep the communities we serve safe, while also ensuring that, at the end of their shifts, we send all our law enforcement officers home safe.

The support provided by memberships makes it possible for the Missouri Sheriffs' Association to offer this important training. Therefore, as a law enforcement officer, as a sheriff and as the president of the Missouri Sheriffs' Association, I sincerely thank you for your membership.

Be safe and may God bless you.

Jim C. Arnott

Jim C. Arnott, Greene County Sheriff
MSA President



Donna Arney
donna@mosheriffs.com
573-635-9644 ext. 106

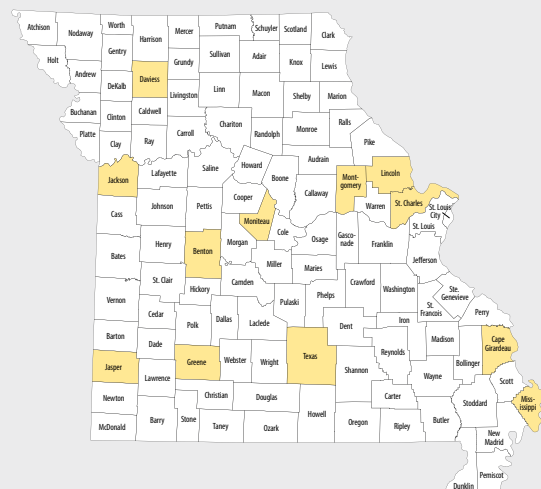


Contact **Donna Arney** for your continuing
education needs and **Gina Kauffman**
if you are interested in becoming a

LICENSED PEACE OFFICER



Gina Kauffman
gina@mosheriffs.com
573-635-9644 ext. 105



Around the State

COMMENDATIONS GIVEN

Montgomery County Sheriff Matthew Schoo recently awarded commendations to Corporal Thomas Mayes and Deputy Nathan Watts for their lifesaving efforts during a water rescue in November.

When the two responded to a report of a vehicle mostly submerged in rushing waters brought by recent rains, they found two adults and three children on the roof of the vehicle. The deputies deployed a rescue rope and provided life vests to those trapped. Soon after, the Bellflower Fire Protection District and Montgomery County EMS arrived, and together rescue efforts began.

During those efforts, an adult carrying a small child on his shoulders began to struggle and was in danger of being swept away by the current. Mayes ran into the rushing waters, grabbed them and assisted them to shore, then ran back into the water to successfully retrieve an infant. At the same time, Watts saw that the fire chief had lost his footing and, although he was able to grab the rescue cable, he was still completely submerged. Putting aside his own safety, Watts ran into the water, grabbed the rescue cable and lifted it high enough so the chief's head was above water. He continued to hold the cable high until Mayes was able to grasp the chief's bunker coat and pull him to safety.

Sheriff Schoo said although Mayes and Watts were not the only ones who assisted in the rescue, he felt it was important to recognize them "for their prompt actions and their determination to save the lives of this family and the fire chief. If the deputies had not acted promptly, setting their own safety aside, it is my opinion the outcome of this incident may have been the loss of one or more lives."



Darryl Forte Sworn In

On Dec. 28, Darryl Forte was sworn in as the 43rd sheriff of Jackson County — the first African American to hold this position in the history of the county.

Sheriff Forte came to the county after serving 31 years with the Kansas City Police Department. He had retired in 2017 but found himself back in uniform a year later when he was appointed as interim sheriff. He was later chosen as the Democratic Party candidate, going on to win the General Election in November. Sheriff Forte will complete the final two years of former Jackson County Sheriff Mike Sharp's term.

On his Facebook page, Sheriff Forte thanked God, his family, friends and supporters who he said provided direction and support, not only during the election process, but throughout his entire law enforcement career.

"God placed the right people in my life at critical points. I've been blessed to have been surrounded by such a caring and loving community. I want you all to know that you're appreciated," he wrote.



MAKING HISTORY

It's official. Ruth Ann Dickerson is the sheriff of Cape Girardeau — the first woman to hold this position in the history of the county. She was sworn in on Monday, December 31. She had served as interim sheriff since August of 2018 when Sheriff John Jordan resigned to take a job with the U.S. Marshals Service. Her term will run through December 2020.



Work of the Heart

Ladies from the Cedar Grove Baptist Church who call themselves "Quilts for Christ" recently honored the Benton County Sheriff's Office by creating wall hanging quilts with the deputies' and sheriff's specific identifiers, patches and a prayer sewn into the back.

Sheriff Eric Knox said he is humbled by the passion and the ways in which his community shows its support not only for his office, but also for all of its first responders.

"Thank you very much for your well wishes and prayers," he said.



Let It Snow!

During a few minutes of down time during one of the largest winter storms this area has ever seen, Lincoln County Deputies (left to right) Ryan Parker, Nicholas Steinhauer and Justin Stewart constructed a 6-foot-tall snowman. Also pictured is canine Nitro, who works with his handler Deputy Parker.



NEW SHERIFFS AT THE HELM

Two additional sheriffs also recently took office in Missouri. Scott Lindsey (left), who won a special election held November 6, was sworn in as Texas County sheriff on November 16. Britton H. Ferrell (right), who was elected sheriff of Mississippi County in a special election held on January 29, was sworn into office on February 1. Both will fulfill the remainder of terms that end in December 2020.

St. Charles County Deputy Recognized

On January 11, winter storm “Gia” dumped almost 12 inches of snow on St. Louis area roadways. The storm struck in late afternoon and continued through the evening causing massive delays to the evening rush hour. A Cape Girardeau County Sheriff’s Office transport van was returning to Jackson from a trip to the prisons in Vandalia and Chillicothe when the storm hit earlier than predicted. MoDOT’s efforts to clear the highway of the rapidly falling snow were hampered by the rush hour traffic. The prisoner transport van could not maneuver in the snow storm and had gotten stuck several times on Highway 64 in Weldon Spring.

CGSO Transport Supervisor Deputy Ryan Ruesler was notified of the situation and he was able to reach St. Charles County Sheriff’s Deputy Keith Nelson, who was on duty. Ruesler informed Nelson that his transport team needed immediate help. Nelson responded and contacted Deputy Phillip Colyer and Dispatcher Laura Stotler. Both were

exhausted from attempting to remove the vehicle from being stuck in the snow. Deputy Nelson took custody of the two prisoners and secured them in his vehicle. Next, Nelson made contact with an unknown civilian with tow straps to remove the transport van from the roadway and pull it to a nearby hotel. Nelson then transported the two female inmates to the St. Charles County Jail on a courtesy hold for Cape Girardeau County.

Nelson later contacted the officers and found that they were able to get two rooms at the hotel, but were unable to get any food. The hotel doesn’t have a restaurant and is located in a business park with no food within walking distance. Nelson found a Domino’s Pizza that was open, however they were not delivering due to the weather conditions. Nelson ordered and paid for two large pizzas of their liking and transported them to the hotel.

Ruesler responded the next morning to pick up Colyer and Stotler and returned

Monday January 14 to retrieve the two prisoners and the stranded transport van.

Cape Girardeau County Sheriff Ruth Ann Dickerson said, “The assistance received from Sheriff Scott Lewis and Deputy Nelson is an outstanding example of what we all should do to help our fellow officers.”

Sheriff Lewis recognized Nelson at roll call with a Letter of Appreciation.

“I was on-duty that evening and Keith was keeping me updated on what was happening. I wasn’t surprised when I heard the next week that he had bought and delivered a pizza to the stranded deputies. That’s the type of guy he is” Sheriff Lewis said.



Lifesaver Award Given

In late December, the Moniteau County Sheriff’s Office got a call that a semi-truck had overturned on the side of the highway and was on fire. Deputies were dispatched and when they arrived Lt. Wayne Cleveland saw the driver of the semi was bleeding profusely from an injury to his arm. He applied a tourniquet, effectively stopping the arterial bleeding and saving the man from further injury or even death.

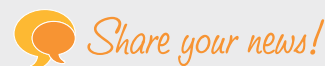
To recognize his efforts, Cleveland was presented with the Moniteau County Sheriff’s Office Lifesaver Award which reads “Lt. Cleveland’s dedication to duty and commitment to excellence that day reflects great credit upon himself and the Moniteau County Sheriff’s Office.”



K9 Job Safety

The Spa Gallery in Springfield, with help from the community, recently collected \$1,200 in donations to purchase bulletproof vests for the Greene County Sheriff’s Office K9s. Kelly Thomas, sales manager at the Spa Gallery, said they held the fundraiser because they wanted to do something to support their community. “We always back the blue,” Thomas said.

The Greene County Sheriff’s Office K9 division was established in 2009 by donations from private organizations and continues to operate entirely on donations, which pay for everything from the purchase of the K9 to training, food, vet bills and daily maintenance.



Announce your special event or award recognition with MSA. Send information to Nancy at nancyhogland@gmail.com.



LUNCH ON THE RANGE

The Jasper County Sheriff's Office recently hosted a Luncheon at the Range event. Area state representatives and community leaders attended for an opportunity to shoot some unique old military weapons as well as some of the law enforcement weapons currently used. From left are Jasper County Sheriff Randee Kaiser; 127th District Rep. Ann Kelley; 163rd District Rep. Cody Smith; President of Economic Development Mark Elliff; JCSO Chaplain Jude Champagne; and Mike Kelley, chief of staff to Sen. Bill White.

Daviess County Recognitions



Daviess County Sheriff Ben Becerra was pleased to present Deputy Caleb Ireland (*left*) with the Life Saving Award for saving the life of a suicidal woman. Deputy Ireland got her out of the frigid waters at Lake Viking in November 2018.



Sheriff Becerra also presented Deputy Jared Hogan (*right*) with a Letter of Commendation Award for outstanding service and his professionalism in a high profile case.

SAVE THE DATE

This June the Branson/Lakes Area will host its 6th annual salute to America's Hometown Heroes. All active and retired law enforcement personnel and their families are invited to Branson for a week-long series of events designed to pay tribute and honor those that serve

and protect. This year's festivities, which will include competitions, discounted entertainment, family fun and dining, are scheduled for June 8 through 15. Visit www.bransonsalutes.com for more information. Those who sign up early get a gift bag.



COLE COUNTY SHERIFF JOHN WHEELER

SHERIFF FOLLOWS FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

Cole County Sheriff John Wheeler only has to think back on the photo that hung on the wall outside his bedroom door while growing up to remember why he joined the military and then moved into law enforcement.

That picture was of his dad, who served in the United States Air Force Air Police, which was tasked with providing protection and enforcing laws on Air Force-controlled property.

"I tried to join the military right out of high school but I was 17 and my mom refused to sign the papers, so I went to college for one semester and as soon as I turned 18, I joined the Air Force. I was on active duty for about seven years. I served as a tactical aircraft maintenance specialist (crew chief) on A-10s and then cross-trained into Avionics Guidance & Control on C-141s. I got out in 1993, joined the Army National Guard and went to work at the Sikeston Department of Public Safety, which provided both fire and police protection," he said.

In 1997, he took a patrol position with

the Jefferson City Police Department. During that time, he was deployed to Iraq, working as a flying crew chief and door gunner on the Blackhawk helicopter. He returned stateside in 2004, and soon after was hired by former Cole County Sheriff Greg White to serve as his chief deputy.

Twelve years and a few months later, he was sworn in as sheriff.

"I'll be totally honest — being the sheriff of a county was the last thing on my mind when I became a cop, but not long after I became chief deputy I knew that was what I was supposed to do. I just felt like it was a calling," Sheriff Wheeler said, adding that he was fortunate to learn the job under White, who was and still is a mentor.

"When I came here as chief deputy it was tough because I didn't know any other chief deputies and wasn't really sure what my responsibilities were, but that wasn't the case with taking over as sheriff. Greg didn't just teach me the job, he provided a great example of how to lead the county's law enforcement."

His favorite parts of the job are talking to people in his community and having the opportunity to get to know and work with other sheriffs. He said the camaraderie and willingness to help each other succeed is something he could never have imagined.

"When you work as a deputy, you're devoted to your job, of course, but when you become sheriff, there's this heart shift. You become devoted to the people of your county and to each other. I saw some of it as chief deputy but didn't see the depth until I was in this chair," he said. "At conferences we'll be sitting around talking and a sheriff will say, 'I'm having

this issue,' and immediately, everyone else will respond, offering assistance, offering equipment, offering whatever is needed. And believe me, that's big — especially when you're new at the job."

He struggles most with the realities of the budget — trying to do more with less, since many grants have been cut — but knows every other sheriff in the state is facing the same problem.

Because he was a part of the decision-making process at the sheriff's office for many years, the only change he made after taking office was to put more emphasis on the continuity of training and the consistency of their equipment.

"I want everyone using the same equipment and training the same way so we can better react with each other. If you're the second person in on an alarm call you know what the first person is doing and if you're the third person in for an active shooter, you know the first two deputies are making entry because that's how you've trained — and trained," Sheriff Wheeler said, adding that he's hoping to do more with the JCPD and sheriffs' offices in surrounding counties in the future. "This is a team sport. We have to be prepared to work together instead of against each other."

He's also hoping to add on to the jail in the next few years and feels he'll have the support of the community to accomplish that.

Sheriff Wheeler is widowed so it's just him and his three grown daughters, only one of which still lives at home. "And she's special needs so she'll probably live with me the rest of my life. She's why I'm so involved in Special Olympics. We take part in their games every year and I'm getting ready to climb on top of a building for 30 hours with Cops on Top. We don't have a body of water in Jeff City that's good for a polar plunge so instead, we hold a Power Hour to raise money. The hazmat team sets up decontamination showers outside and we walk through them — and freeze. The things you do for your kids and your community!"

■ By Nancy Zoellner-Hogland



FROM CRIME REPORTER TO CRIME SOLVER

Jasper County Sheriff Randee Kaiser's story starts out much differently than that of other sheriffs.

After graduating in 1991 from the Missouri School of Journalism at the University of Missouri - Columbia, he took a job with the Carthage Press, spending much of his time covering "cops and courts."

"With that duty, I visited the Carthage Police Department daily to get information off the blotter. While I was down there one day, the police chief, Ed Ellefsen, came in and said 'Hey — we're testing for a police officer position in a month or so. Why don't you apply?' I remember telling him that I didn't know the first thing about being a cop but he said he could teach me that," Sheriff Kaiser said. "Then I told him I had just gotten my degree in journalism not too long ago and liked what I was doing — but he answered, 'Just think about it.' When I saw him the next day, the first thing he said was, 'Well, did you think about it?'"

Sheriff Kaiser said he told him that he had, but again said he didn't think that was something he wanted to try. However, the chief didn't give up. Day after day, he would come out of his office to ask the same question — and each day, the young reporter had the same answer.

"But he finally wore me down and I said I'd apply," he laughed. "I remember when the day came. I was standing in the lobby of the police department with 15 or 20 other guys, all testing for that one position. Many had been through the academy — the guy next to me was already working in law enforcement - so I was thinking, 'There's no way I'm going to get this job.' But as it turns out, I was selected and started in August 1995."

Over the next 17 years, in addition to obtaining a master's degree in Criminal

Justice Administration, he rose through the ranks starting as night shift patrol officer, then getting promoted to drug task force officer, sergeant over his shift, supervisor over detectives, and finally to assistant chief in April 2008. He held that spot until he won the election and resigned to take office as sheriff of Jasper County on Jan. 1, 2013.

After being sworn in, Sheriff Kaiser said he made few changes. He updated some of the technology; moved the sheriff's office from a rural area to Carthage (the county seat) and dispatch from the sheriff's office to the 911 center; and, in the wake of the catastrophic EF5 tornado that struck Joplin the previous year, made a few adjustments to the disaster management plan.

"Since taking office, I've faced the same challenges of every sheriff in Missouri and law enforcement in general — overcrowding in the jail and trying to do a lot on a little budget. Coming from a municipal department, I tried to prepare for some of the challenges, but until you've actually experienced the full effect of everything that goes on in a sheriff's office, you just don't realize what the job entails," he said. "We have around 150 employees in 13 different divisions. When you start looking at the number of transportation miles driven,

civil process papers served, CCW permits issued, arrests made, cases worked, inmates housed, the sheer volume of work that goes on every year is very surprising. I don't think the public realizes just how busy their sheriffs are. But I'm blessed to have a great group of committed and dedicated people working here and that has made all the difference."

They've recently added the Stepping Up Initiative, designed to divert people with mental illness from jails into treatment, and implemented a pre-trial



release program that allows low-offense inmates to be released and monitored as they move through the legal system. Future plans include the possibility of expanding the jail, which was built to house 183 inmates but averages 233.

Although the job keeps him busy, Sheriff Kaiser enjoys competitive shooting, fishing and hanging out with his three children and six grandsons, ages 2 to 6, and wife Brenda when he's not working.

"They're all very supportive," he said. "The grandkids are young but on Letter S day in the oldest grandson's kindergarten class, the sheriff showed up and when the teacher introduced me as Truman's grandpa, his chest puffed up and he was grinning from ear-to-ear! And although I wasn't married to my wife when I made the decision to move from reporting to policing, she would have supported me fully because she's supported me every step of the way. I give credit for a lot of my success to her."

■ By Nancy Zoellner-Hogland

I'm blessed to have a great group of committed and dedicated people working here and that has made all the difference.

OZARK COUNTY SHERIFF DARRIN REED

A BAD BEGINNING BROUGHT ABOUT GOOD

In 1977, after his 18-year-old brother Scott was killed by a drunk driver, Darrin Reed knew the path his life would follow. He made up his mind that, as soon as he was old enough he would get a job in law enforcement and do everything in his power to get drunk drivers off the road.

And that's exactly what he did and continued to do throughout his career.

In 1984, he went to work as a dispatcher and jailer for the Howell County Sheriff's Office. When he turned 21, he started handling civil process and worked his way up to road deputy while also attending the law enforcement academy in Springfield. He stayed with the sheriff's office until 1988 when he took a job as patrol officer with the West Plains Police Department.

"That was a very rewarding job. I worked my way up from graveyard shift patrolman to chief of detectives. I enjoyed it, but my partner and I were working 80 hours a week — pretty much around the clock some days — just to keep up with the drug cases and to try to stay on top of everything else. It was rough," Sheriff Reed said.



Then in 1995, he returned to Howell County as chief deputy under Sheriff Bill Shepherd. He said he was hoping that, although the job came with a little more responsibility, it wouldn't require as many hours — but that wasn't exactly the case.

So when Raymond Pace, the sheriff of Ozark County, called and asked him to be his chief deputy, he said "Yes." He was there only two years when Sheriff Pace told him he was retiring and wanted him to run for sheriff.

"My initial response was 'Oh no!' But I decided to give it a try. I didn't think I had a chance because nobody knew me, but with a lot of prayers and God's help, I was elected in 2012 and took office Jan. 1, 2013," he said.

Sheriff Reed said because he had been involved in the management side of the office, things quickly fell into place and he soon found that, as a working sheriff with seven employees providing law enforcement services for a county of more than 700 square miles, his biggest difficulties would come from the outside — not the inside.

In separate incidents, he had his neck broken in four places, his lower back broken and his deltoid muscle torn by people unwilling to go to jail.

"This job has definitely taken a toll on my body," he laughed, "Thankfully, I recover quickly. After my neck surgery, I was supposed to be off 10 weeks and I was off a week and a half. With my back surgery, I was to be off a month and I was

off three or four days. After my shoulder surgery, I was supposed to stay home 10 weeks but after about a week and a half I put my sling on and went to work. Each time, my mindset was 'I can't take sick time. We're too far behind!'"

He hasn't taken much vacation time either. Since being elected, he's taken off just three days and that was to go fishing. That's why he's retiring at the end of this term.

"I'll have been doing this 38 years and that's long enough. I want to go fishing! I also have two grown children who have

stood beside me, but who will be happy to see me step down. However, I've been training Winston Collins, my chief deputy, to take over and I'm going to support him in the election because he'll do a wonderful job and keep the same principles and values — to make Ozark County a safe place to raise your children and grandchildren," Sheriff Reed said. "God has gifted

God has gifted me with the best staff a sheriff could have. The deputies, the dispatchers, the jailers and the reserves — we're all like one big family, we're all in this together as a team.

me with the best staff a sheriff could have. The deputies, the dispatchers, the jailers and the reserves — we're all like one big family, we're all in this together as a team. When we had the big flood in 2017, my deputies, my dispatchers, my jailers worked around the clock to help their community. I sometimes wonder what I did to deserve the staff I have because they're not in it for the money. They're in it for the passion of the job. And the community is just as passionate and supportive of law enforcement. This is an amazing place to live and work and I thank God every day for letting me be a part of it."

By Nancy Zoellner-Hogland

ST. CHARLES COUNTY SHERIFF SCOTT LEWIS

FROM EXPLORER SCOUT TO SHERIFF

If the editors of the Miriam Webster Dictionary ever need an example of the word “Change,” they should look no farther than Scott Lewis’ first term as sheriff of St. Charles County.

The day he was sworn into office — Jan. 1, 2015 — was also the day that the law enforcement side of the sheriff’s office split off to become the St. Charles County Police Department. That meant the sheriff’s office would no longer handle patrol, calls for service, investigations and support services. Instead, they would be responsible for civil process, the courts and prisoner transport — only.

The change was the result of an amendment to the county charter approved by voters in 2012.

“When you couple that with the fact that I’m the only sheriff elected at the mid-term cycle so no new-sheriff training was available, you’ll understand why those first couple years I was just feeling my way around, trying to figure things out,” he said. “Although issues still arise occasionally, I think we’re moving in the right direction.”

Sheriff Lewis, who just started his second term, said responsibility for the courts requires his office to provide deputies to patrol the St. Charles County Court, the Juvenile Justice Center and the St. Charles County Municipal Court; marshals for court security checkpoints; clerks to work with the juries; and bailiffs for all the courtrooms.

Because he has just 13 bailiffs to cover the 13 courtrooms, that can be challenging.

“In the ‘old days,’ patrol deputies would supplement staffing but we no longer have that back-up. I don’t have a lot of resources so when I have big cases, I have to pull bailiffs out of other courts, leaving them uncovered. That isn’t ideal, so I’m looking at solutions,” the sheriff said.

On the civil process side, deputies serve papers, enforce court orders and handle everything related to the trans-

portation of prisoners. Civil process and prisoner transport had been split into two different divisions but Sheriff Lewis combined them, offering better scheduling options and more flexibility. He said he’s also replaced outdated methods of figuring best transport routes and fees.

“Our clerks were spending hours trying to figure out what to charge to serve papers, especially for some of the bulk filers, so we went to a flat fee, which has made things much easier,” he said, adding that although the job “has its days,” he’s taken it all in stride because working in law enforcement had been his life’s ambition since turning 14 and joining the Police Explorer Program at the St. Peters Police Department.

After high school, he attended the University of Central Missouri on a football scholarship, majoring in political science. After graduating, he took a job in security at Northwest Plaza Shopping Center in St. Ann. It was there that he met the man who helped set his course for the future.

“The director of security, Evan Thebeau, was a former sheriff of St. Charles County and he influenced my decision to go into law enforcement. He introduced me to the police chief of Wentzville who hired me as a reserve officer and sponsored me through the academy. It’s funny — when I attended the academy, I felt like I was way ahead of everyone else because of my experience as an Explorer Scout. The officers had taken me under their wing so we weren’t just riding around in the car — they were teaching me,” he said. After graduating from the academy in 1990 he immediately went to work as a fulltime patrol officer for Wentzville.

He left in 1997 to take a job as chief of the Cottleville Police Department and held that spot for the next 18 years, du-



ally serving 15 of the 18 as Cottleville’s city administrator.

In 2014, he decided it was time for a change and filed to run for sheriff.

“Tom Neer, the sheriff at the time, was retiring. I had served as campaign treasurer in his last run for office, and since I had gotten interested in politics in college, I decided it was time to combine my two interests,” he said, giving his wife, Amy, much credit for his win. “She campaigned, she organized float decorating committees for all the parades and she and I ate lots of fried chicken that summer attending numerous parish picnics. She was my biggest supporter and a huge help!”

Now that campaigning is behind him for another four years, Sheriff Lewis said they plan to spend lots of time this summer on the Mississippi River, boating and camping with their three sons. “Other than my job, there’s nothing I like better.”

■ By Nancy Zoellner-Hogland

Learning, Teaching and Leading with Integrity

Motivational speaker John C. Maxwell defines a good leader as one who “knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.”

Many would agree that those are the exact qualities of Kevin Merritt, the new executive director of the Missouri Sheriffs’ Association. MSA Administrative Assistant Donna Arney, who has worked with Merritt for more than 13 years, is one.

“He’s very conscientious and has shown throughout the years that he truly wants to do the right thing to support the sheriffs of the state of Missouri through the MSA,” she said.

A quick glance at his resume shows it would be difficult to find anyone who “knows the way” better than he.

Merritt began his law enforcement career in 1986 as a corrections officer with the Boone County Sheriff’s Office. Over the next 18 years, as he moved up the ranks from corporal to sergeant to lieutenant and then captain, he assisted in the court and trained and supervised detention officers and deputies working on numerous teams. He also developed policies, wrote manuals and managed a multitude of projects, even serving as a member of the Anti-Terrorism Task Force and later the Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council out of the U.S. Attorney’s office in Kansas City.

He’s highly trained in active shooter response, incident management, emergency preparedness and threat and risk assessment, and has experience and is trained in Emergency Operations Center Management and Operations through the State of Missouri Emergency Management Agency. He’s also well-versed in human resource management, employment law, policy and procedure development and implementation, budgeting, staffing, labor law, and risk manage-

ment/reduction issues.

And he’s highly qualified to “show the way.”

He is licensed to instruct everything from basic law enforcement to internal affairs; he’s both an AR-15/M16 and Glock pistol armorer, a Missouri Emergency Response Information System master trainer and a certified instructor-trainer in School Safety and Healthy Children with the Human Factor Research Group.

After coming to the MSA in 2005 as program coordinator, he put that training and experience to use, developing and teaching several courses at the Missouri Sheriffs’ Association Training Academy (MSATA). He successfully wrote several grant applications and also worked closely with legislators to bring about the statewide concealed carry permit system that allows sheriffs to issue and manage permits. In addition to directing the MSA, he remains the Concealed Carry Permit point of contact.

Since taking over, first as interim director and then as director, Merritt has been “going the way,” proving that he doesn’t excel only in law enforcement. He’s also shown he’s an excellent business manager by preparing and successfully administering an annual budget of more than \$1.5 million; efficiently managing the MSA’s personnel by establishing and implementing human resources policies, procedures and practices; and overseeing and maintaining the MSA’s 15-vehicle fleet and facilities — down to making sure the parking area is cleared of snow.

He’s also effectively facilitated communication between 115 sheriffs and the board of directors by regularly scheduling meetings — both in-person and through webinar — and he oversees



the MSATA. Those responsibilities include supervising and scheduling 12 regional training managers and more than 250 instructors, providing oversight of its 12 training facilities around the state, keeping track of records required by the State of Missouri for auditing purposes, making sure the MSATA performs in accordance with all state requirements for state licensing — and in his “spare” time, he attends the majority of kick-offs and graduations of classes.

“If it sounds like I stay busy, I do,” Merritt laughed. “The MSA may be a fairly small organization but we have a huge responsibility to provide top-quality training for our law enforcement so they can serve their communities as safely and effectively as possible. To accomplish that, we will continue to keep abreast of changing technologies and trends in order to develop relevant training.”

His wife, Jeanne, who came to work to handle marketing for the MSA 11 years ago, said her husband’s enthusiasm about the organization set the course for her future. Today, they are more passionate than ever about the MSA and what it accomplishes.

“We spend a lot of time at training, at the office or working on MSA stuff at home — and when we’re not, we’re talking or thinking about it,” she laughed. “I guess that’s just who we are!”

■ By Nancy Zoellner-Hogland



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Keeping Things Running Smooth

It may appear that all the action — all the crime fighting — takes place out on the street, but many times it's the actions of the administrators and clerks that are responsible for keeping sheriffs' offices across the state running like lean, mean, peace-keeping machines.



DANIELLE SCROGIN AND LINDA WOLF

Audrain County Sheriff Matt Oller said that, as sheriff, there are all sorts of things to keep him awake at night. “Our profession is filled with worrisome and stressful possibilities. But there’s one aspect of my office that I never worry about, and that’s administration. My administrative assistants are **unfailing** and **dedicated**, and strive every day to ensure the books are kept properly, that every penny is accounted for, that every CCW permit holder receives the service they need in a timely manner, that every sex offender registration is accurate, that every civil and criminal paper is sent to the proper place for service and returned correctly. They ensure the Missouri State Auditor’s Office has the information they need to complete the audits of my office as prescribed by law and we are compliant with our bookkeeping procedures and much more. Sergeant Danielle Scrogin and Administrative Assistant Linda Wolf are invaluable to me and they are truly appreciated.”

Scrogin said that although sometimes challenging, taking care of all those details is what makes her job so interesting.

“And my sheriff is pretty fabulous! I really enjoy my job — I’m a detail person so I enjoy the reports and paperwork, and I really couldn’t have a better boss or a better assistant. Linda is wonderful and I appreciate her so much,” she said.

Scrogin started working at Audrain County in 2008 as a correctional officer in the jail. Stuart Miller was sheriff at the time.

“I had previously worked as the assistant manager of a sports store but wanted a change and thought a job in the jail sounded interesting — and it was,” she said, adding that she felt her attitude towards the inmates helped her avoid problems. “I’ve always felt you have to give respect to get respect and don’t believe you ever get anywhere treating people badly. So I was respectful to the inmates, I talked to them like they were human beings and never had a single issue.”

In 2010, when Sheriff Miller’s administrative assistant announced she was retiring, Scrogin knew it was an opportunity for advancement. She applied, was hired, and has worked in that position ever since.

Helping members of the community is her favorite part of the job. Doing it in the daylight is making it even more enjoyable.

“We recently remodeled and our office got moved. We were in a concrete room with no windows but now we’re in the front of the building so people walk in through the lobby to see us — and I love it! I so appreciate being able to see outside,” she said.

Registering sex offenders, who can be less than cooperative, is the most difficult.

“But no matter what they’re charged with, I practice the same ‘Show-respect-to-get-respect’ attitude so it all works out,” she said, adding that because her husband, Jeff, is employed by Audrain County as a school resource officer, she feels they’re there for the long haul. ***“I love the people I work with, who are actually more like family. I love the work, and our children, especially the 10-year-old, thinks it’s great that we work in this profession. How could it be any better?”***





MINDY NATION

Howard County Sheriff Mike Neal said hiring Mindy Nation as office deputy was the **best decision he's ever made**.

"When she started, we were still using pen and paper for everything we did in the office — from bookkeeping to court documents to jail records to deputies' reports — everything. Mindy took it upon herself to change how things were done, making it much easier to keep track of records. In fact, right out of the gate we went through a state audit and because of the changes she made, we did very well. With her help and persistence, in 2016 we were able to get a records management and jail management system up and running. In my opinion, she's the kind of person every sheriff would be blessed to have working for

them," he said, adding that in addition to keeping the office running smoothly, she does whatever is needed for the jail. "Some sheriffs have to have two or three people to do what she does every day. I have told her more than once that if she was to ever leave, I'm not sure if I would stay. And I mean that! Mindy is the backbone of this office."

Nation said her sheriff doesn't have to start packing up his desk because she has no plans to leave — not now, not ever.

"I love this job and I wake up each day excited to come to work," she said, adding that her title doesn't exactly reflect her duties, which include handling all civil process, processing all CCW applications, arranging transports for inmates, answering the phones, handling some of the sheriff's paperwork and overseeing and sometimes working shifts in the jail. "I keep super busy but I enjoy that. I'm not sure how to explain it except to say that I kind-of surprised myself because I didn't dream I would ever enjoy a job so much."

It's quite a change from her previous line of work — finishing drywall for a construction company. She started while still in high school, working there for five years before deciding the aches and

pains and sore muscles that came with the job weren't for her. She said she scanned the "Help Wanted" ads in her local newspaper, saw that the Howard County Sheriff's Office was looking for someone and decided to apply.

"At the time, I had no idea what I'd be getting myself into," she laughed. "But here I am — and here I plan to stay!"

Her favorite part of working at the sheriff's office, especially since she's the first face they see after walking through the front door, is knowing she's helping her community. The thing that surprised her most about the job is learning just how much goes on in a small county and in a small office. "It never gets boring here — that's for sure," she said, adding that life at home never gets boring either.

She and her husband, Michael, have three children — ages 10, 8 and 5 - and a small farm, so her off-duty life is full.

"My kids think it's so cool that I work at the sheriff's office! They love coming by to visit and they're always full of questions about my day. The only thing they're upset about is that I don't drive a vehicle with lights and sirens," she laughed. "They really think the sheriff should provide one of those for me!"



LISA DORITY

A few years ago, Lisa Dority retired from her job with the Law Enforcement Training Institute in Columbia. But it wasn't long before she realized that retirement wasn't for her and that she

needed something to do with her time. She contacted long-time friend Cooper County Sheriff Jerry Wolfe who needed someone to run the clerical side of his office. She applied for the job and was hired as office manager.

"I had worked at LETI for 27 years, first as office assistant and then as office manager, and had served as the program coordinator for the National Animal Cruelty Investigations School, so I knew the sheriff in the 'old days' when he came through the academy. I was also friends with his wife, who babysat my daughter, and I knew a considerable number of the deputies that had graduated from the academy so coming to work here was kind-of like 'old home

week," she laughed. "It was a good, easy transition for me."

Sheriff Wolfe said the timing was perfect.

"Lisa came to us in April of 2016 and hit the ground running. I've known her for a long time and knew she was a quality person. While not a commissioned officer, she has been in the law enforcement field for many years and brings a **wealth of knowledge and experience**. She excels at organization and people skills, is well liked by our team and can handle any task asked of her. She's a valuable asset and has become an integral part of our agency," he said.

As office manager for the Cooper County Sheriff's Office, Dority answers

LISA DORITY

the business phone, assists walk-ins, processes all of the civil paperwork, enters warrants into the sheriff's office data base, processes bonds, and she keeps a spreadsheet of the office budget — for starters. She also handles CCW permits and sex offender registrations — and anything else that needs to be done.

"And I'm perfectly happy with a full workload because I enjoy being busy," she said.

A lifelong resident of Cooper County, Dority said her favorite part of the job is the interaction with the people — whether it's the deputies or the public. Her second most favorite, after working on the training side of law enforcement for so many years, is seeing the deputies applying what they learned in the academy.

She said she has no "least favorite."

"I love my job, I love the people I work with and I love knowing that I'm helping people from my community. Occasionally, a cranky person will call or come in, but for the most part every day is a pretty good day. I plan to stay here until I really retire," she said.

Sheriff Wolfe said he's extremely thankful for that.

"If you've had any conversations with managers, business owners, etc., I'm sure you've heard them say, 'It is so hard to find good help.' They are right, but here at our administrative office we have a different response. We say we'd be hard pressed to find someone that is better equipped to handle the front office in our agency than Lisa," he said.



MARLA FINNEY

Marla Finney has worked at the Nodaway County Sheriff's Office for almost 35 years serving five different sheriffs. Although the job has come with many challenges, the most difficult has been election time.

"When you work so closely with each other you become like family, and that makes change very difficult for everyone. That being said, I've always done my best to support the sheriff I worked for, but I also did my best to help any new sheriff who came into office because that's all part of the job," she said.

When Finney started, she and a female deputy worked the office together by answering and dispatching calls, preparing inmate meals and performing a wide variety of other clerical duties. Finney was also responsible for UCR reporting — something she's continued to handle throughout her career.

After the next election, she ran the office alone. When a new jail was built, it was staffed 24-7 with dispatcher/jailors, relieving some of her duties. However, after a few years her job was expanded to office and jail administrator so she also supervised dispatch and jail staff, assisted with female prisoner transports/pickups and did everything else needed to keep things running smoothly.

"I kept pretty busy! After the new jail was built, we started charging inmates for their stays, and those records became my responsibility too. And when the CCW law came into effect, I was responsible for that paperwork as well as paperwork for inmates being transported to the Department of Corrections," she said.

After the sheriff's office moved to

a newly completed administration building 10 years ago, her job changed to office administrator, and her duties became more focused.

Finney said she's seen many other changes over the years.

"When I started, there were no cell phones, 911, computers or jail video cameras. Reports were hand written by deputies until I started typing them on a typewriter," she said, adding that technology has made her job much easier.

In addition to her work duties, Finney has been involved with the DARE program since it was introduced in Nodaway County. She's volunteered with school and church events and has helped with the Maryville National Guard Unit Family Readiness Group for more than 20 years. Her son is currently serving in the National Guard.

Life at home has been just as busy. She got married shortly after starting at the sheriff's office and through it all raised four children, one of whom worked in the sheriff's office for nearly eight years. She also gained two grandsons, but unfortunately lost her husband unexpectedly four years ago.

Sheriff Randy Strong has nothing but praise for Finney.

"Marla is the backbone of our sheriff's office. Through the years she's worked with several different administrations and has adapted to each of her superior's different wants and needs effortlessly," the sheriff said. "Although quiet, she's earned the respect from everyone in the office and if you have a question about the jail, reports, paychecks, court, or civil process she is the go-to person. She's always willing to stop what she's doing to help a fellow employee, whether with work or a listening ear, and never seeks recognition for the hard work she does. Marla is proud of working with law enforcement and it shows in the exemplary work that she does. ***She's a great asset and we are grateful for all the hard work and knowledge she brings to our office.***"

■ By Nancy Zoellner-Hogland

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Studies have shown that inmates who get visits are more likely to behave while incarcerated and less likely to return to a life of crime after being released. However, distance, time and finances can make visits difficult, if not impossible, for many.

In addition, in-person visits cost jails time and money because inmates have to be transported between visitation and housing areas. While many county jails include a non-contact area where inmates are separated from visitors by a glass partition and communicate via telephone, some smaller agencies don't. In those cases, face-to-face visitation is the only option. Even though the visits are monitored, they provide opportunities for contraband — things like phones, money, and drugs — to be smuggled in.

HomeWAV's one-of-a-kind video visitation can solve all those problems.

In jails that contract with the company, wall-mounted kiosks that resemble computer monitors are installed in pods or dayrooms. Inmates can use the kiosks to call loved ones, who need only to install a free iPhone or Android app on their smartphones or tablets to receive the calls. For those without that technology, old-fashioned phone calls can be made.

"We have a patent on a process for inmate-initiated video calling. Every

other system out there is either visitor-initiated, where the family member makes a call into the jail, which is not ideal, or everything has to be scheduled in advance. Because of our patent, ours is the only system that allows inmates to make calls out, just like a traditional phone call," explained HomeWAV President John Best. "It's the most secure, user-friendly way for inmates to see their family."

In addition, everything is billed in one-minute increments at 25 cents per minute. If a loved one puts \$20 on the inmate's account, the inmate can call home each evening, spend two minutes saying goodnight to his or her kids, blow them kisses and get billed 50 cents. Visitors also have the option of going into the jail and using the video visitation system installed in the lobby at no cost.

HomeWAV also provides several free, value-added services to its partners.

"Inmate forms — medical, grievance, PREA requests, any read-only documents — can be accessed through the kiosks," Best said. "It's a computer, so the jail can add whatever apps they want. If you're a facility that's still doing paper requests, we have the ability to help the facility go completely paperless — but not just with inmate request forms. We've integrated with every major commissary provider to put their ordering applications on our kiosks. As long as inmates have money in their accounts, they can go on the kiosks and order directly, paying only for the product because no fees are charged."

In addition, when counties contract with HomeWAV, inmates are allowed free remote visits with public defenders and contracted nurses and the court has free access to video arraignment and video court, so the inmate never has to be transported out of the jail.

"For instance, typically the public de-



fender would come down to the jail and meet with the inmate in person but we can give them the ability to stay in their office and talk to the inmate on a secure, non-recorded, non-monitored line," Best explained. "With video arraignment and court, the kiosks can be connected to a laptop or computer at the judge's stand. The court would have its own unique user name and password so when they're ready for court, they would just log on, the two stations would be connected and it would just run continuously for as long as it takes to get through the docket. And it's all recorded for review later."

Captain Barry W. Morgan with the Mississippi County Sheriff's Office highly recommended the provider.

"HomeWAV has been one of the best companies I have ever worked with! They have delivered on every promise and more. They have built a very user-friendly program that anyone can use. The video and voice they have provided has brought my incidents down with the inmates. The service has saved me money on visitation days because it is self-scheduling, so no more walking inmates out of their housing units," he said.

For more information, contact contact Jim DiCenso via email at j.dicenso@homewav.com or call him at 217-899-1984.

■ By Nancy Zoellner-Hogland

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Following the Plan, Reaping the Rewards

Six years ago, human trafficking was not on Emily Russell's radar. In fact, she didn't even know it existed. She was a stay-at-home mom of two little boys and an aspiring musician who had just completed recording in Nashville. She just knew that was the path God had for her.

Then in June 2013, everything changed.

"Suddenly, everywhere I turned, there were stories of human trafficking — on the news, on the radio, at a playdate, when I got my hair done! I honestly felt like God just laid it on my

heart to find out if this was happening here in Missouri and to learn everything I could about this subject," she said, adding that she started contacting organizations and talking to survivors and advocates to gain more understanding of the problem. She said she would stay up late at night researching, then grab a few hours' sleep before starting up again at 4 or 5 the next morning. "It was definitely a 'God thing' because this was not the direction I was planning to take with my life!"

During that time of searching, she read "Cry Purple: One Woman's Journey Through Homelessness, Crack Addiction and Prison to Blindness, Mother-

hood and Happiness," a book that shaped her perception of how people with vulnerabilities

could become trafficked — a book written by Christine McDonald, a real-life survivor of human trafficking who lived in Missouri. Russell got to meet McDonald when she worked in collaboration with the Central Missouri Stop Human Trafficking Coalition to host an awareness event at her own church.

This January, Russell, who last year was chosen by the Missouri Attorney General's Office to coordinate the efforts of the state's first permanent Human Trafficking Task Force, came full circle when she was presented with the Cry Purple Award.

The award was given by the Restoration House of Greater Kansas City, a faith-based, long-term, residential program for survivors of human trafficking. Every year they hold a gala to celebrate their work and highlight someone who they feel has been influential in anti-trafficking efforts.

McDonald provided a little history.

"The Cry Purple Award was first given out in 2014 at the Restoration House Second Annual Gala to honor a U.S. Attorney who had prosecuted numerous sex trafficking cases. The president of the board of Restoration House came up to the podium and said the award had been created in honor of someone who was fighting against oppression in the community and as he talked, I was thinking 'This all sounds familiar.' Then he said that it was created to honor me and I was flabbergasted," she laughed, adding that in following years it has been presented to Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler and Russ Tuttle with the Stop Trafficking Project, who has presented anti-trafficking information to huge numbers of youth. "Then this year we honored Emily, who is involved in making real change.



Emily Russell

I can't think of a more amazing person and a more deserving person. She's passionate, she's intelligent, she's brilliant but she also walks with integrity and discipline. And she understands not only the law enforcement side but also the victim's side. She has a unique combination of knowledge and experience."

Steven Robinson, the executive vice president of Development for Restoration House of Greater Kansas City, shared several reasons why they chose Russell, clicking off a long list of professional accomplishments.

"Emily was selected based on her current role as executive director of the Missouri Attorney's General's Human Trafficking Task Force and her personal story. She assists in imposing regulations that go after financial and business practices commonly used by traffickers, creating a Human Trafficking Enforcement team and Task Force department. She has provided training to law enforcement, first responders, and community members who may encounter victims and she has served on several task force teams with Russ Tuttle, 2018 honoree for the Restoration House Hope Now Freedom Gala, and Christine McDonald, advocate and survivor of sex trafficking."

Robinson praised Russell for dedicating her life to exposing the myths of human trafficking in order to help people from all walks of life understand how this crime is relevant to them and their profession.

"She served in the field as a crime victim advocate for the Missouri Sheriffs Association from 2014 to 2016, assisting victims of all crimes through the challenges of the justice system and using her platform to train hundreds of law enforcement professionals about human trafficking. From 2015 to 2017, she sat on the legislated Human Trafficking Task Force, where she heard testimony from dozens of Missouri anti-trafficking organizations, law enforcement and other intersecting professionals about the needs and challenges of combating human trafficking and caring for victims. In her current role as director of the Human Trafficking Task Force, she is committed to building a state-wide foundation for human trafficking response by collaborating with multiple disciplines to close existing gaps, make education and direct service resources more accessible and unite ongoing anti-trafficking efforts.

"For these reasons, Emily was selected as the 2019 Honoree for the Restoration House Hope Now Freedom Gala and was awarded the Cry Purple Award," Robinson said.

Russell said it took a few years and tears and a lot of determination to get to that point, but added that she knew long ago that she needed to accomplish the mission that God had placed before her — wherever it led.

"The more I learned, the more I just couldn't believe that we, as a society, had no clue that this crime was occurring all around us in this day and age — but I knew I had to change that," she said.

"It still blows my mind that I was asked to head up this agency. And I was so honored to receive the Cry Purple Award," she said. "When I think back and know that it would have been so much easier to close my eyes, plug my ears and pretend that this stuff doesn't happen, I'm thankful that I didn't. Human trafficking is taking place all over Missouri in big cities and rural communities alike. We need to come together, roll up our sleeves and get to work. There's a lot to do."

■ By Nancy Zoellner-Hogland

For information on Missouri's anti-trafficking efforts and resources, visit www.MakeMoFree.com.

For more on Christine McDonald's mission, visit <http://www.christinesvision.org/>.

For more information on Restoration House, which has provided services for referral to more than 300 women since opening in 2015, visit <http://restorationhousekc.com>.

An early training video featuring Russell and McDonald, a victim of human trafficking, can be viewed by visiting <https://youtu.be/UxBXPdmclmA>

Christine McDonald,
Russ Tuttle and
Emily Russell





K9s

Law Enforcement's Best Friend Law Breakers' Worst Enemy

There is no question about it — K9s can be a valuable tool in fighting crime. Their superior sense of smell makes them invaluable in locating narcotics, explosives and people. Just ask Kenny Buck, a deputy with the Platte County Sheriff's Office who, with help from K9 Diago and his handler Deputy Ian Johns, seized more than 200 pounds of marijuana from a van after a vehicle pursuit. They estimated the street value at more than \$900,000.

Some sheriffs believe their presence alone sends a strong signal that drugs will not be tolerated in their counties.

Audrain County Sheriff Matt Oller is one. After a nearly 15-year sabbatical, Corporal Derek Chism expressed his interest in reviving the K9 program. The sheriff agreed and in December 2017, K9 Chal was selected from Shallow Creek Kennels in Pennsylvania. A German shepherd born in the Czech Republic, the dog was named in honor of Audrain County Sheriff Chalmus Blum who was shot and killed in the line of duty in February 1924.

By the following March, the duo had already racked up numerous drug arrests, successful tracks and the apprehension of wanted persons.

"I've made it no secret that the sheriff's office is serious about narcotic enforcement. Narcotics can be tied to a huge majority of other crimes such as burglary and stealing. Pro-active enforcement of narcotic laws is about addressing the root issue of other crimes as well, and this will be an immeasurable asset to that area," Sheriff Oller said. "This is fair warning to drug dealers, drug users or anyone who makes it a habit to run from the police: Go somewhere else to commit your crimes."

K9s can also assist in apprehension of suspects, sometimes

convincing them to give up without a fight.

That's often the case with Lincoln County Deputy Sean Wingron and his K9 partner Jax, a Belgian Malinois, who are assigned to the U.S. Marshals Service Eastern District Fugitive Task Force Violent Offenders Squad — the only such team in the nation.

"Our work is basically adult hide-and-seek — they're hiding and we're seeking. It's a lot different than working at the sheriff's office because we're not going after 'normal' criminals," Wingron said. "We're going after people who have federal warrants for everything from trafficking drugs to murder. In my first year, I locked up more people wanted for murder than I have in my entire career."

Like his handler, Jax wears a bullet-proof vest that protects his vital organs and he seldom has to be commanded to bark.

"He knows why we're there and he's ready to go! After announcing who we are, I say 'We're going to release a dog if you don't make yourself known. He will bite you if he finds you.' They get three verbal announcements from me but most people come out on the second. They hear him," Wingron laughed.

Because the K9s, their training and equipment can be pricey — ranging anywhere from \$15,000 to \$45,000 — some sheriffs have turned to their communities for help. That's how Marion County Sheriff Jimmy Shinn got his K9.

"I have a deputy, Shane Kirtlink, that was doing interdiction work and making very good arrests and seizures and he approached me about getting a dog. At the time, we didn't have one anywhere in our county so I was all for it, but the costs scared me," he said, adding that he decided to write a letter to the members of the community who support law enforcement to ask

1 Dep. James (Donnie) Dunn and Dino, Major Trevor Wild, Captain Michael Lohden, Sheriff Steve Pelton, and Dep. Anthony Davis and Rollo
2 Bates County Sgt. Justin Shaffer and Max and Capt. Justin Corbin and Lector **3** Perry County CPL Ben Davis and K9 Argon **4** Johnson County Deputy Robert Watkins and Boss **5** Douglas County Deputy Jonathan Harley and Yadi **6** Callaway County Deputy Alan LeBel and Iro **7** Greene County Deputy Dustin Kendrick and Stark **8** Moniteau County Sheriff Tony Wheatley and Mizzou **9** St. Francois Nathan C. Glore and Teo



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for help. "I also plastered the letter all over our Facebook page! Soon after, the checks just started rolling in — some smaller checks from individuals and larger checks from businesses. The local Girl Scout troop even raffled off a giant candy bar to raise money for us. What surprised me the most was I didn't kick this off until October 2017 and we had the funds available by the end of December."

He said Striker and Kirtlink attended training at the Boone County Sheriff's Department K9 Training Center in early 2018 and went into service in April 2018. According to Sheriff Shinn, they're having great success. "Striker recently found a quarter pound of ice — methamphetamine — on a traffic stop. We're pleased."

The Douglas County Sheriff's Office is crediting its K9 teams with reducing crime overall in the county. Douglas County has two patrolling K9 teams: Corporal Taylor Wallace and Kain, described as a "high-energy Belgian Malinois with a huge work drive," and Deputy Jonathan Harley and Yadi, a large yellow lab who originally worked with another handler. During their certification process, the teams received specialized in-depth training on searching large loads — semis hauling narcotics on the highways. Huge amounts of methamphetamines, cocaine and black tar heroin were placed into semi-trucks and trailers for the teams to locate.

"Since the acquisition of our K9s and the aggressive approach taken by their handlers, we have seen a huge increase in drug related arrests which has resulted in a 71-percent reduction in burglaries, stealing and property related crimes," said Sheriff Chris Degase.

Callaway County is also seeing results. Deputy Alan LeBel and Iro, the K9 team at the Callaway County Sheriff's Office, began service in 2017. Sheriff Clay Chism said although he had high expectations, LaBel and Iro have far surpassed them, providing a valuable service not only to their county, but also to agencies across mid-Missouri with significant finds of cocaine, heroin, marijuana and methamphetamine. In fact, the sheriff said the K9 team has been so beneficial he plans to add a second this fall.

In 2014, the Bollinger County Sheriff's Office brought back a K9 program that had been inactive for several years. Unfortunately, in 2017 the dog was diagnosed with a very progressive degenerative spine disease and had to be put down in March 2018. Sheriff Darin Shell said because of the success of the program they felt that it was necessary to purchase another K9 and with the help of the community they were able to accomplish that. Last September, Corporal

10 Marion County Deputy Shane Kirtlink and Stryker
11 Wayne County Deputy Logan Allen and Paco **12** Greene County Cpl. Craig Craigmyle and Lor **13** Macon County Deputy Jeff Stacy and DJ **14** Davies County Deputy Jared Hogan and Alan **15** St. Clair County Detective Lee Hilty and Havik **16** Livingston County Deputy Nicholas Leadbetter and Zaki **17** Greene County Deputy Morgan Rudderham and Athos **18** Greene County Deputy Thomas Connell and Creed **19** Lincoln County Handler Deputy Joel Fann and Rigley **20** Vernon County Deputy Justin Ehrsam and Rika

Casey Graham and K9 Dax, a multi-purpose dog trained in narcotics detection, obedience, tracking and criminal apprehension began working as a team.

They've spent time trying to rid school campuses of drugs. According to Graham, one of his partner's jobs is to perform random 'sniffs' at all the schools in the county, checking lockers, book bags and vehicles each time they are there.

After their work on the TV show "Live PD," Cpl. James Craigmyle and Lor with the Greene County Sheriff's Office is probably the most well-known K-9 team in Missouri.

Craigmyle, who has worked as a handler since January 2011, said working in law enforcement was something he wanted to do ever since a DARE instructor visited his class. "When the opportunity to become a handler presented itself at the sheriff's office, I applied and was chosen."

Lor, who exhibited all the qualities sought in dogs selected for law enforcement work, was actually chosen by the head K9 handler.

Craigmyle explained that when choosing a dog they look for one with a lot of drive, a dog "who has it in his heart to retrieve or fetch a toy and bring it back and have the persistence to stay with that toy and not give up until he finds it. We also look to see if he'll have the drive to bring it back and do it again and again and again. That's how we know if a dog will be worthy of narcotics detection. A dog who will also be used for apprehension has to exhibit confidence and not be afraid to go into buildings or certain scenarios to protect the handler."

Lor exhibited all those qualities and more.

"Our dogs at Greene County are dual purpose dogs, meaning they serve two functions — they do patrol work which is suspect apprehension/detention, tracking/trailing, finding missing persons — missing adults or suspects, building searches, article evidence searches — if someone robs a store, takes off running and tosses a gun. They also do narcotics detection of five different odors — meth, marijuana, heroin, cocaine and ecstasy. Because we wanted a K9 that was sociable, they picked Lor's legs up, they messed with his tail, tugged on his ears, covered his face with their hands. Lor checked out great in all areas," he said, adding that although he wasn't involved in choosing his partner, he couldn't have picked one better. "We hit it off right away. The only issue I had was he knew Dutch commands and I had to transition him over to German because I couldn't figure out the Dutch or Czech language."

■ By Nancy Zoellner-Hogland

21 Boone County Sheriff's Department Deputy Chris Smith and Ike **22** Boone County Sheriff's Department Deputy Nathan Wesley and Zeke **23** McDonald County Deputy Josh Phillips and Cresso **24** Moniteau Lt. Kevin Morse and Apollo **25** Audrain County Sheriff Matt Oller and Cpl Derek Chism and Chal **26** Newton County Sgt. Brendon Lammers and Charlie **27** Bollinger County Deputy Casey Graham and Dax **28** Nodaway County Sgt. Austin Hann and Bolt, the Sheriff's Triceratops Unit **29** Cedar County Deputy Ruth Belcher and Stoney **30** Platte County Deputy Kenny Buck, Deputy Handler Ian Johns and Diago



Staying One Sniff Ahead of the **BAD GUYS**



Luke, a German Shepherd-Lab mix rescue, and Brass, a German shepherd from Holland, are big and they're busy but they've got good noses and they know how to use them to sniff out explosives. They proved that during a recent morning training session at the Boone County Sheriff's Department K9 Training Center. They were there with their handlers, Martina Pounds, a commissioned fire marshal with the Boone County Fire Protection District (Luke) and Joan Haaf, an officer with the MU Police Department (Brass). In addition to their regular jobs, the women are part of a team that sweeps Faurot Field at Memorial Stadium before every sporting event.

The K9 teams train there regularly to keep their skills sharp, according to Boone County Deputy Chris Smith, who runs the academy.

The sessions are currently being held inside a 100,000 square-foot multipurpose arena that includes offices, classrooms, training rooms set up to simulate settings K9s would search on the job, and warehouse space that, this day was filled with an assortment of boxes, crates and office furniture.

While the dogs waited in their handlers' vehicles, Smith hid three small packages of black smokeless gunpowder in the warehouse. Then, one at a time, the K9s and their handlers made their way down the aisles to hunt.

"They have a one-track mind at this point," Smith said. "They actually think they're looking for their toy — a foot-and-a-half-long piece of firehose. When they find the scent, they'll sit down and stare at it and then magically, the toy will appear — when we throw it in! They get a little tug-of-war and then we take it away and they start working again."

In a matter of a minutes, that scene was played out. The handlers sometimes directed their K9's attention with their hands; other times the K9s, which were over-the-top excited, hunted on their own. More importantly — they each found all three packets and they found them quickly.

The dogs were treated to a big drink of water and then they jumped into their personalized vehicle compartment for a well-earned rest.

Smith said K9s that detect explosives are trained on 19 different odors ranging from gun powder to military explosives; from explosives used in the mining industry to dangerous homemade explosives, which are brought in on a quarterly basis by a FBI bomb tech.

Next, K9s and handlers from the Clinton County Sheriff's Office and the Sedalia and Columbia police departments each took part in a narcotics detection refresher course.

This time Smith tucked packets of illegal drugs inside cabinets or storage boxes in rooms that simulated settings where real searches would be conducted. Each dog, exhibiting the same exuberant drive, took turns sniffing out the faux kitchen, bedroom and living room — many times finding the hidden dope on the first pass.

Smith said he uses various amounts of heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and marijuana to train.

The final training of the day tested Clinton County Sergeant Jeff Parton's control over Joran, his 5-year-old Belgian Malinois. To aid in the process, Columbia PD Sergeant Jason Jones donned a bite suit to play the part of the "bad guy."

Top left: Deputy Chris Smith, who is an accredited trainer in both the Missouri Police Canine Association and the North American Police Canine Association, runs the Boone County Sheriff's Department K9 Training Center. **Bottom left:** Martina Pounds, a commissioned fire marshal with the Boone County Fire Protection District, and her K9 Luke, trained to find explosives, are two of Smith's students.

"Sheriff's office with a K9. Show me your hands or I'm gonna send in my dog and he's gonna bite you," Parton shouted. When Jones refused, Joran was ordered to move in, then stop, then move in again - and bite. Joran did exactly as instructed.

"Apprehension dogs are the only thing we can send that we can stop and that's what we test on. 'Go bite him. No — never mind. Don't bite him. Okay bite!'" The certification test is to show we have control over the dog because they have to listen," Smith explained, adding that all the training held that day was part of a maintenance plan.

The K9 Training Center, the only one in the state operated by a sheriff's office, also offers an eight-week Dual Purpose Handlers Course and a four-week Detection Handlers Course for teams new to the game.

The eight-week program, a strenuous hands-on course that trains the handler as he or she trains the K9, covers all aspects of the narcotic detection/patrol K9 unit. It incorporates classroom instruction that includes such topics as scent theory, K9 first aid, report writing, record keeping and officer safety, but is heavily weighted with hands-on dog training. Handlers receive 320 hours of POST continuing education credits. The four-week program covers obedience and drug detection or explosives detection.

Smith, who has been a K9 handler since 2002 and who has more than 3,000 hours in police K9 training, said the best thing about their program is that it is much less expensive than other schools.

"By training in Mid-Missouri, departments don't have to send their K9 teams to the far corners of Missouri or out of state. This eliminates thousands of dollars in travel expenses and keeps their teams local and available for call-outs," Smith said.

For more information, including a list of more than 20 agencies who have contracted with the center to train their dogs, call Smith at 573-228-4046 or 573-875-1111.

■ By Nancy Zoellner-Hogland



Top right: Clinton County Sergeant Jeff Parton and his K9 partner Joran took their initial training at the Boone County center and now return regularly for maintenance training to keep their skills sharp. **Far left:** Smith trains K9s to detect heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and marijuana, which are provided and regulated by the Drug Enforcement Administration. **Middle:** Columbia Police Department Sergeant Jason Jones helps with apprehension training by donning a bite suit, then playing the part of the bad guy. **Right:** Joan Haaf, an officer with the Missouri University Police Department, and her K9 partner Brass search a warehouse, looking for explosives as part of their maintenance training.

FORMER SHERIFF'S LEGACY LIVES ON

Before leaving office, Ted Boehm, who served as Boone County sheriff from 1984 to 2004, wanted to find a way to help his employees and to thank them for the help they had given him over the years. After mulling over a few ideas, he decided to establish a scholarship fund that would provide tuition assistance to those employees' children who were planning to continue their education after high school. Looking to the future, he also established guidelines that would provide scholarships to the children and grandchildren of retired employees who had served in the sheriff's office for a minimum of 20 years.

"The price of education, compared to the amount of money they were making at the sheriff's office, would have put a strain on many families' budgets so I talked to some friends of mine who were business owners in the community. They were very positive and supported what I was trying to do so we started holding some fund-raisers. In no time at all, we had raised more than \$25,000. I was overwhelmed at the support provided and I'm so pleased that it's continued," he said.

"Since the scholarship was established in 2001, more than \$100,000 in tuition assistance has been provided to dozens of students," said Detective Tom O'Sullivan, who has headed up the scholarship oversight committee since it was established.

The amount provided to the students is based strictly on the number of applicants. When the scholarship program began, only a handful of students applied so as a result a greater amount of money could be given. This school year, 13 new or returning students requested the funding so they each received a lesser amount.

"So the scholarship amount increases and decreases from year to year but it averages around \$500 and everyone gets

the same amount," O'Sullivan explained.

And the scholarship isn't competitive. Everyone who applies gets money as long as he or she meets the criteria — the parent or grandparent was a full-time employee and if a grandparent, he or she worked 20 years before retiring. The money can be used to attend any school — two-year community colleges, four-year public or private colleges or universities and trade schools.

What's great is that the kids have an excellent track record. Nearly everyone who applies ends up graduating. It's nice that the sheriff's office can help our kids and grandkids achieve their dreams.

Alex Shaw, the son of Lt. Britt Shaw, who is with the Investigative Unit, has received scholarship money for the past couple years and said it helped tremendously.

"I attended junior college my first two years because it was much less expensive and because I had a wrestling scholarship. Once I graduated and transferred to Mizzou, I got a loan to pay for classes, but the scholarship money from the sheriff's office helped cover the fees and other expenses. It helped me to

work a little less so I could study a little more and was very much appreciated," he said.

Alex graduated last spring with a bachelor's degree in Health Science and is now attending the University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Pharmacy.

"I would have gone to school anyway, but it made things easier because that much less had to come out-of-pocket," he said.

Shelbie Atwell is another recipient. Her mom, Jenny Atwell, who has been with the sheriff's office for 25 years, is a captain in the jail. She said her daughter used the scholarship money to attend the Missouri State Western University School of Nursing. The young woman graduated last May and now works on the internal medicine floor at University Hospital.

"She was actually a college athlete — she was recruited to play softball for them — so she had quite the full plate, but she graduated in four years and we're really proud of her. But even with her softball money she had to take out loans so every time that money from the sheriff's fund came in, it was really appreciated! My daughter still came out of college with significant debt, but the scholarship helped it from being worse," she said.

O'Sullivan said the same story could be repeated over and over again.

"What's great is that the kids have an excellent track record. Every once in a while someone will decide to quit before finishing, but that doesn't happen very often. Nearly everyone who applies ends up graduating. It's nice that the sheriff's office can help our kids and grandkids achieve their dreams," he said.

Anyone who would like to donate to the fund to be part of making more dreams come true can contact O'Sullivan at 573-875-1111.

■ By Nancy Zoellner-Hogland



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IMPROVING THE ODDS OF ACCIDENT SURVIVAL

Springtime is just around the corner. Like everyone else, when I think of spring, I think of Newton's First Law of Motion. ***"A body at rest, stays at rest; a body in motion stays in motion, in the same direction and at the same speed, unless acted upon by an outside force."***

This law of physics, which you probably learned in 7th grade, is why you need seat belts. The "motion" is the vehicle you are traveling in at 60 miles per hour, the "outside force" is the impaired driver that crosses the center line and hits your vehicle head on — or the tree you hit when you leave the roadway. Your vehicle stopping is the first impact. Your body hitting something at 60 miles per hour is the next impact. Your brain and internal organs hitting something at 60 miles per hour is the last impact. You want those last two impacts to be as gentle as possible! No wonder I hated physics class in 7th grade.

Spring is when the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) conducts the Click it or Ticket Enforcement Campaign. This year, the enforcement period is from May 20 to June 2. During this enforcement campaign there will be extensive media exposure, and we encourage all participating agencies to get the word out through your local media on the increased seat belt enforcement your agency will be doing. Let your community know that you are working to increase safety on their roadways.

A recent study found that just media alone will not increase seat belt usage without increased enforcement. In rural areas it was found that increased seat belt enforcement increased seat belt use significantly.

Nothing will save more lives on the roadways than using seatbelts.

Wearing a seat belt will increase your chances of surviving a serious traffic crash by 45 percent. Seat belt usage also lessens the severity of injuries. Crash victims who were wearing seat belts and admitted to the emergency room had significantly fewer days spent in the hospital.

As your NHTSA law enforcement liaison, I will be happy to provide you with tools to create your own local media messages or assist your agency with how to conduct effective seat belt enforcement (*and as a bonus, we might prevent other crimes at the same time*). Contact me at bsully@sbcglobal.net if I can be of assistance.

The laws of physics are pesky. Remember, people may violate the laws of the state, but they can't violate the laws of physics.

■ By Bill Sullivan, NHTSA Law Enforcement Liaison

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A Better Idea Forges the Way for Progress

Webster County has needed a new jail for a very long time.

The current jail was built in the 1930s when the county was a lightly populated farming community. After World War II when the American love affair with cars and highway travel blossomed, Interstate 44 and the proximity of the growing city of Springfield began to change the landscape. By the late 1950s there was an acknowledged need for a new jail. What there was not was public interest in the taxes that are needed to build one.

Fiscal conservatism runs deep in rural Missouri. If a tractor will run it will be used no matter its age or dents and bends. Jails tend to be thought of in the same way. Those who are not in them, or trying to keep some level of cleanliness, safety and order in them, don't give jails much thought. Make it work. Keep it running. Do with what you have.

Of course sheriffs, deputies and county leaders knew the truth. A deteriorating, overcrowded jail is a hazard and a legal liability. They saw the inside of the place and knew the need. Over the decades there were numerous moves to raise taxes to fund a new jail. All failed. By 2005 prudent county commissioners had seen the need and agreed to save each year to a fund for a new jail. But it was never going to be enough.

Then a new sheriff rode into town.

With a better idea.

Sheriff Royce Cole is a lifelong lawman at heart. At 16 he convinced then Rogersville police chief and Cole mentor Bob Paudert to let him join a police cadet program. At 20 he was working security at Drury College in Springfield, headed toward a degree in psychology and criminology. At 21 he was a volunteer reserve officer for the Greene County Sheriff's Office. After graduation he went home to Webster County as a juvenile officer. In third-

class counties like Webster the juvenile officer handles a lot of court cases directly, giving Cole insight into the court system.

In 2008 Cole was elected Webster County Sheriff and inherited the 1930s jail and all the problems that went with it. That included three failed attempts to pass a tax to fund a solution to those problems.

Cole says an incident while on a trip to China solidified his determination to get something done.

"I was working on my master's degree in business and went on a study tour to Beijing. While I was there a college kid got in some kind of trouble and ended up in jail. I was asked as a law enforcement guy to see if

HMN Architects Inc. of Overland Park, Kan., is the architect on the project, with Sedalia-based Septagon Construction serving as the construction manager. Sheriff Cole's family regularly visits the construction site. Sheriff Royce Cole stands in his office for the first time.



I could find out what was going on," Cole said. "In the course of that I went to the jail where he was being held. Everything I envisioned about a Chinese jail was wrong. It was nicer than mine. It was more humane

than mine. It was a modern jail. It hurt my pride as an American. I committed to doing something about my jail."

Back home he started rolling the rock up the hill. Along the way he developed a strategy that should become the model for sheriffs across Missouri. Instead of getting a drawing of a fancy new building and pointing to that as the goal, he started a campaign to show the community the horror of a 90-year old jail daily crammed with three times the inmates it was built to hold. He opened the jail for tours during the annual Fourth of July Parade, a huge event that draws big crowds. The condition of the jail got people's attention.

"I opened the jail to the public. I wanted them to see just how horrible it is. Nobody wants to baby prisoners but at the same time there is a point at which it just isn't right," Cole said. He never had a picture of a gleaming new building. He had a daily example of a jail so overcrowded, so antiquated that people came to see the problem and the need, not a building.

Cole and the county commission began hammering out the specifics of a new jail and a tax to support it. Cole pushed for a 150-bunk facility supported by a half-cent sales tax to sunset when the jail was paid off, with five-eighths cent tax continuing for operations. In the end, the commission agreed to put a quarter-cent law enforcement tax on the ballot. In an unusual move, the tax has no sunset — it is to be collected in perpetuity to fund law enforcement after the jail is paid off. The commission paired the law enforcement tax with a use tax on Internet sales that had failed once before.

When the votes were counted in 2014 the use tax was rejected but the jail and law enforcement tax passed. People had seen the need.

After more than 30 public meetings and a lot of citizen input, Cole eventually had a picture of the new Webster County Jail, long after the money to build it had been approved. By approaching the jail project in a new way, Cole had been able to convince conservative voters disinclined to approve taxes that there was a need. Then they helped figure out what the building would be.

"In the end no individual got everything; it was a great community project where all voices were considered," Cole says. "It is not what any one person wanted — it is what everybody wanted."

When the new jail goes online in late summer this year, the facility will fulfill Sheriff Cole's vision of a modern jail, one of which he and Webster County can be proud.

The 116 bunks in the new jail will reflect the current 70-90 average daily prisoner headcount. There will be cells for those who must be separated from the general population. There will be designated cells for female prisoners. In short it will be a modern penal facility.

A pod system around a central control unit will make the daily routine of moving, transferring and monitoring prisoners far less dangerous for detention officers. The sally port for moving

prisoners in and out of vehicles will reduce the possibility of escape and, again, improve safety for officers.

But perhaps the most forward-looking cellblock will be the one designated for work release.

Cole is serious about this program. "This will be for low-level offenders who can maintain a job," Cole said. "We think this is important." If a judge approves, those admitted to the program will spend their nights and weekends in jail; their days remain-

ing productive members of the community, going to work like everyone else. There will be space for 12 male and eight female prisoners.

Sheriff Royce Cole giving a community presentation and update to the Marshfield Rotary Club. It's one of dozens of updates presented along the way. Numerous officer holders and special guests were on hand for the official groundbreaking ceremony. Probation and Parole Officer Marty Revels is just one of many community leaders who has chosen to place bricks, with supervision, in the jail wall. The act provides a way to historically and symbolically link stakeholders to the new jail and to the cause. As part of the jail operation planning, Sheriff Royce Cole used game pieces to plan the manpower that would be needed throughout the day to handle the things like courts, medical, meals, emergencies, rounds and more.

The sheriff points to the disruption that jail time for minor crimes brings to the individual's life. Jobs, families and lives fall apart with even

short custodial sentences, putting inmates back into society with few options and a broken support system. His focus on this plan means that those deemed by a judge to be trustworthy enough to be placed in the program will leave at the end of their sentence with their lives far more intact. They will still have a job — the piece of the social pie that so often separates the career criminal from the one-mistake citizen. Cole's hope, based on facts and experience, is that the work-release inmates will be those he sees one time. Cole, as all county sheriffs, sees a constant parade of familiar faces and family names rotating through his jail. This is his way of breaking that pattern.

■ By Michael Feedback



Administrator Keeps Order Through Trying Times

Tina Davis has a tough job. As administrator of the Webster County Jail she oversees the daily cramming of a 90-year-old facility with nearly three times as many inmates as it can reasonably hold.

She meets the challenges of that job with a noticeable calm, good nature and professionalism.

The current Webster County Jail was built in the late 1930s, a time when the outlaw legacy of the late 19th century was still fresh and Bonnie and Clyde were racing down the roads of the Missouri Ozarks. The jail was meant to hold the outrageous few who so violated the norms of the sparsely populated county that they needed locking up. Today, the county population has increased exponentially, and continues to do so, and what will very soon be the 'old' Webster County Jail has long since become far too antiquated and small.

Seven years ago, the Webster County native became one of the dozen detention officers tasked with keeping order in a 32-bunk facility with an average daily population of 70. She rose through the ranks as night supervisor, then day supervisor and now the administrator, overseeing 10 detention officers, three part-time officers and three transport officers who handle all aspects of jail operations. That includes large numbers of court, medical and county-to-county prisoner moves. Any prisoner with a medical issue must be transported to the hospital emergency room, a complex and potentially dangerous venture.

Jailers must monitor prisoners who have been stuffed into four cells: one for women, one converted segregation area used for general population, and two general cells. The numbers tell the story. On a recent day a 12-bunk cell held 19 prisoners; a six-bunk cell held 10; three prisoners were in the three segregation bunks; and 14 female prisoners were being held in a nine-bunk cell — down from 20 on another day.

Davis said with inmates sleeping on the floor, confined to small spaces with too many others, a bad situation is made worse. Keeping inmates and staff safe is an ongoing challenge of scheduling, assessment and vigilance. Because the segregation cells have had to be used for general population, she has no way to separate violent prisoners from those just trying to get through their time.

To relieve some of the pressure, Davis tries to find jail space in

surrounding counties but those facilities face the same problems and often there is no room at the inn. However, unlike many jail administrators across the state, she can now see the light at the end of a very dark tunnel.

In August, the new Webster County Jail will open. While, as anyone in law enforcement knows, the new facility will fill fast, the prospect of a modern, well-designed jail means that rather than having to "make do," as Davis describes current operations, there will be a safer, cleaner, better-monitored environment for all involved.

With obvious excitement, she outlined the good things that await.

As is the standard with modern penal facilities there will be a central control tower from which cell doors, lighting, environment can be controlled in the surrounding cell pods. Davis said there will be a learning curve during the transition period for officers to come up to speed with what amounts to a great leap forward in technology and corrections control.

There will be a sally port, a key safety element for officers transporting prisoners into and out of the facility. This feature provides a secure area to get inmates in

and out of vehicles and a place where trouble, if it occurs, can be contained.

The 116-bunk jail will include segregation cells, allowing officers to isolate violent prisoners, those who are not yet adjusted to a non-drug environment and those with mental issues, an ongoing and escalating problem for law enforcement officers across the state.

A larger kitchen will simplify food service and laundry facilities will be available for the first time.

Davis is now in the process of hiring the additional staff that the new jail will require. As is the Webster County way, she cannot pin down specific staff increases because budget defines action.

Sheriff Royce Cole credits Davis with controlling the chaotic, spinning universe of Webster County corrections for the last seven years. "To me she is probably the most valuable resource the county has," Cole said. "Nobody has saved the county more money under incredibly difficult circumstances. She is the core of this place."

And soon, she will be the core of the new place.

■ By Michael Feedback



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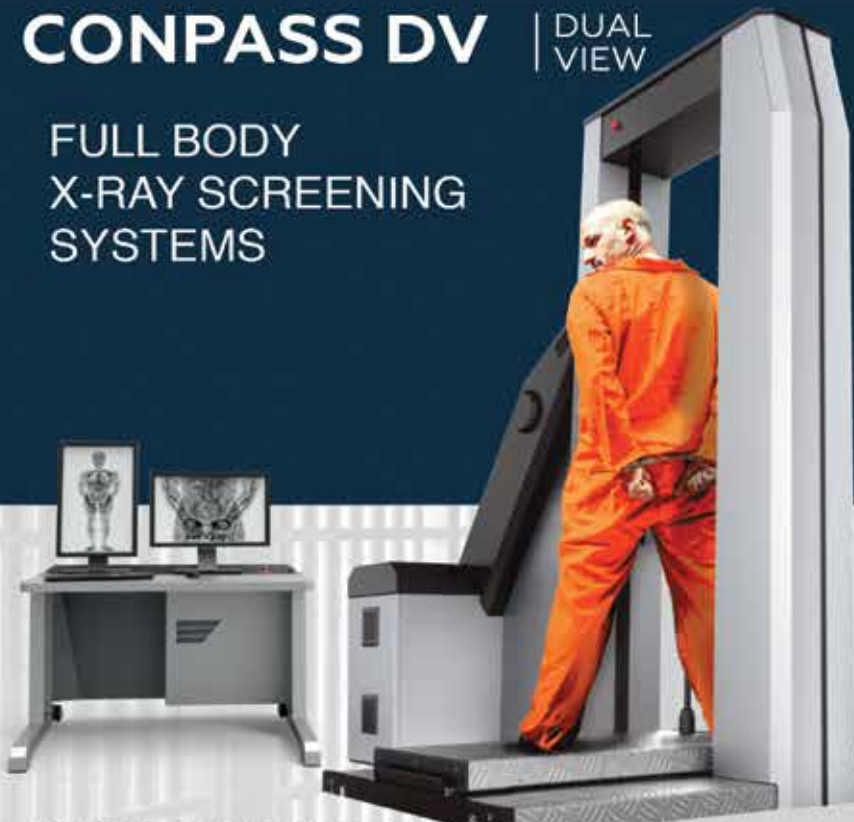


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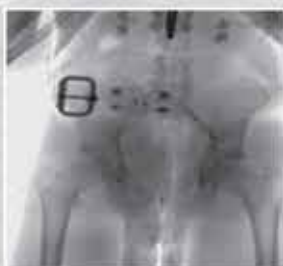


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PROGRAM BRINGS NEW LEVEL OF PROFESSIONALISM TO RURAL JAILS

When sheriffs overwhelmingly approved Missouri Core Jail Standards two years ago, a bright light was shined on the need for more comprehensive training of detention officers statewide.

In response to the recognition of that need, the Missouri Sheriffs' Association (MSA) partnered with a former jail administrator who has taken the lead in training Missouri officers for a decade.

Jason Shackles, owner of Missouri Jail Operations (MOJO), created a curriculum for detention-officer training that puts the focus on enhancing job confidence and performance. Shackles brings a wealth of real-world experience to his training program having moved from a successful career in the corporate management field into jail administration a decade ago.

It was a confluence of circumstances that facilitated that change. Henry County was in the process of opening a new jail and in need of someone with Shackles' skill set to take over management of the facility. In 2009 he accepted that challenge and moved into the complex world of rural corrections operation.

He began to develop his training regimen during his Henry County tenure and eventually transitioned into his own business — MOJO — while also taking over as a regional manager for TurnKey Corrections, a firm that provides commissary kiosk and technical services for jails nationwide.

The 40-hour Intro Corrections Course is taught by trained jail administrators who obviously have the practical experience of day-to-day jail operations. In addition to their POST certification, the instructors are all approved to direct continuing education for law enforcement. Because the program is focused on training rural jail staff, the courses are taught around the state so that



the maximum number of personnel are able to attend without travel and lodging expenses and without pulling officers off a shift, especially in third-class counties, which have smaller staffs.

The program focuses on new hires and those who have been on the job less than a year. Shackles' curriculum is designed to address the problems that press detention officers the hardest — inmate interaction and communication, safety and the legal implications of the job.

"We try to focus on communication rather than confrontation," Shackles said, explaining that communication skills can help jailers deal with manipulative inmates and defuse potentially violent situations. "A lot of information in the program has the goal of giving staff confidence so that they are not manipulated or intimidated by inmates. We also talk a lot about understanding personalities both of inmates and other jail personnel. Understanding the strengths of other members of the staff can help officers work more effectively together and create unit cohesion."

The program also gives jail staff practical instruction on the use of restraints.

To the casual observer, handcuffing seems like a straightforward proposition. Not so, said Lt. Skyler Viebrock, who handles the restraint and legal training segments of the course. It can actually be one of the most dangerous aspects of the job because of the variety of handcuffs used by different agencies and the protocols for the more complex restraints. The program introduces corrections officers to what they might see coming through the door with prisoners from federal and other agencies, ultimately keeping them safer as they do their jobs.

The course also teaches effective report writing, an important, if sometime tedious, aspect of corrections work. The legal course work focuses on why they do certain things to protect inmates' rights.

"We spend a lot of time talking about case law with a view to avoiding litigation," Shackles said, adding that when jail staff has a grasp of what constitutes a rights violation, they are more likely to avoid situations that lead to costly legal battles with inmates. And because the rules are a moving target, instructors also make sure that officers are aware of new issues regarding religion, inmate mail, cell searches and dozens of other matters that can lead to problems.

Viebrock said many are surprised to hear they could have personal legal liability for incidents in the jail.

Taking the show on the road, as Shackles puts it, works very well for rural departments.

In the Missouri Bootheel, far from the MSA Jefferson City campus, Pemiscott and Dunklin counties were able to send 13 officers — about half of their jail staff — to a recent 40-hour program because it was

held close to home.

Shackles said this kind of training is critical for such rural counties that struggle to get and retain jail employees, because trained officers are more informed and confident and thus, are more likely to stay on the job.

The training also helps with the stress of a very difficult job, Shackles said.

"There is a different level of stress in the jail environment than that experienced by road officers. They are constantly with people who don't want to be where they are. While jail life is notoriously hard for inmates it is also very hard on the staff. The training process can help with that," he said.

Reminding officers that most inmates are just people who have made mistakes and should be treated the way the officers would want to be treated, if they were behind bars, can also help with perspective, Viebrock said.

Before the 40-hour program there was very little training available in Missouri and particularly at a price small departments could afford. A year into the program, things are changing.

Viebrock, who started his career 12

years ago as a jailer in the 176-bunk Morgan County facility, said he saw that first-hand. "In the old days, they said, 'Here's the keys, get to work.'"

He subsequently attended the law enforcement academy, got his commission and was later promoted to sergeant, collecting training on his own as he continued his jail career. When Tony Wheatley was elected sheriff of Moniteau County, he brought Viebrock on as jail administrator.

Viebrock has since become a huge proponent of the 40-hour training program, believing it will lead to statewide uniformity of training and procedures and bring about a positive move forward in jail operations. He said he can see the value of the program in his own officers who have attended.

A recent graduate of the program is also an advocate.

Mindy Nations has been the sheriff's



administrative assistant in Howard County for five years. For the past three, she has also worked part-time in the jail, a 26-bunk facility, doing shifts in the pod control center. Only one officer is on duty at any given time.

"Finally being able to get training has made a big difference for me. I'm a lot more confident answering inmates, and it's good to know what I can and can't do legally. This is a big eye-opener for someone who has had no formal training. This program is very important," she said.

By Michael Feedback



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MSA Offers Classes to Fit Law Enforcement Lifestyle

One of the primary objectives of the Missouri Sheriffs' Association (MSA) is to support sheriffs and their deputies by providing the training necessary to perform their mission. Missouri state law requires all licensed peace officers (sheriffs, deputies, police officers) to complete 24 hours of annual Continuing Law Enforcement Education, commonly referred to as CLEE training. The training must be approved by the state or provided by a state-licensed CLEE training provider or basic academy provider. The MSA is licensed to provide both.

Although 24 hours of CLEE training may not appear to be unreasonable, the vast majority of sheriffs' offices in the state are understaffed and their employees are already working overtime to cover their patrol, investigative, and jail operations. In order for a deputy to attend traditional CLEE training in a classroom, someone has to replace that deputy on patrol, in the jail or answering the 911 call because the service to the citizens must be the highest priority.

To address that, the MSA has developed an On-Line Learning Management System (LMS). The LMS is designed to reduce the amount of time spent in a traditional classroom by allowing deputies to go online and participate in CLEE training anywhere or anytime they have access to the internet. Deputies can log in and work on their CLEE training from the laptop in their patrol cars between service calls. Deputies working in the jail can log in and work on their CLEE training during authorized periods. Deputies who are off-duty can log in and work on their CLEE training without leaving home.

And there are plenty of classes to choose from. In 2018 more than 86 were available on the LMS. Each year and prior year classes must be reviewed, updated, and reapproved. In the first month of 2019 we updated or added more than 43 classes. We are well on our way to providing even more hours of training in 2019 than in 2018.

There's no limit to the number of hours that can be completed online so deputies

can meet their license requirements for 22 of the 24 mandated hours through the LMS. The remaining two hours must be hands-on practical skill development in firearms, which, of course, cannot be completed on line.

The MSA training can be obtained one of three ways: Agencies can become contract training partners with the MSA and take advantage of all training offered - not



just training available through the online system; they can contract with the MSA for online training only; or agencies or individuals can simply pay for classes as they are taken.

Agencies get money to pay for the training from the state's Law Enforcement Training Fund, backed by a \$1 fee added to court costs. Each year those funds are divvied up between all law enforcement agencies based on a formula. Agencies can then choose how to spend that training money. Those agencies that choose to become contract training partners turn 100 percent of those funds over to the MSA and, in return, deputies and staff can take an unlimited number of LMS courses free-of-charge.

The MSA currently contracts with 119 law enforcement agencies throughout the state under that agreement. Approximately 50 percent of those agencies turn over less than \$1,000 per year.

Agencies that want to contract only for LMS training services pay \$30 per agency user, per year. Compare that to for-profit online law enforcement training companies, who charge from \$50 to more than

\$80 per year, per user for training that is often not specific to Missouri and you will see that by taking advantage of the LMS, even the smallest sheriff's office or police department can save money while ensuring deputies/officers receive the required training.

Those who choose to take only occasional training pay \$12.50 for a 30-minute class or \$25 for classes one hour or

longer. Anyone - college students majoring in criminal justice or even high school students who are interested in preparing for a future in law enforcement - can take advantage of this program.

Changes in the law make LMS more important than ever.

In 2009 the state training fund distributed \$1,383,599.29 to about 548 agencies. Since 2009, the annual fund collected decreased by 48 percent, distributing \$788,712.18 in 2018. At the same time, in 2017 the minimum training required to maintain a license increased from an average of 16 hours per year to 24 hours per year. As training demands increase and the dollars to pay for it decrease, the MSA relies more and more on membership fees to supplement the costs of developing and maintaining quality training. So on behalf of Missouri sheriffs, we thank you for your support and for partnering with us to make your communities safer.

■ By Victor Pitman,
MSA Program Coordinator

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