



THE MISSOURI SHERIFF



Men of Conviction

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serve different communities but share the same commitment

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Sheriff John Wheeler
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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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Don't Tell Me — Show Me



**Words alone
mean nothing.**

In December 2019, Missouri sheriffs, at the invitation of Governor Michael Parson, went to the capitol to discuss public safety throughout Missouri. As a former sheriff, Governor Parson understood the critical role the office of sheriff plays in the everyday safety of Missouri citizens. He also had great praise for every locally elected official in large part because of the close contact they have with the people they serve. He was committed to reducing violent crime in Missouri and asked for Missouri sheriffs to assist his administration.

In January 2020, Governor Parson backed his words with action. He formally announced that \$22 million dollars should be allocated to pay down the enormous debt the state owes local law abiding taxpayers for the care and protection of Missouri inmates housed in county jails. This clearly demonstrates he understands public safety in Missouri must continue to be a local and state partnership.

Sheriffs across the state have been in contact with their local representatives and senators who are also committed to protecting the interests of the law abiding taxpayer. They recognize that this arrearage is an embarrassment to our state and are committed to insuring the safety of their constituents. We appreciate their strong support and commend them for their efforts.

However, words alone mean nothing. As a “Show Me” Missourian, I recognize that we will not know how committed these individuals are until the legislative session ends in May 2020. We must continue to forcefully make our case.

Unfortunately, we live in a state that continues to see a rise in violent crime and have two cities that are listed as two of the

most dangerous cities in the nation. It is unfathomable to me that these jurisdictions are owed millions of dollars that could be used to enhance the safety of their citizens. To further complicate matters, the extreme measures taken by the Supreme Court and the Missouri Department of Corrections have led to the premature release of criminals — and that led to numerous citizens and frontline law enforcement officers being placed in harm's way.

It is my strong belief that law abiding taxpayers continue to believe in the rule of law and support firm and fair law enforcement. Citizens want to feel safe and have said this to their local law enforcement over and over again. They have not only “talked the talk” but they have “walked the walk” by overwhelmingly supporting tax increases to enhance their own safety and to hold criminals accountable.

Franklin County Sheriff Steve Pelton, Callaway County Sheriff Clay Chism, and Johnson County Sheriff Scott Munsterman led initiatives in their counties that passed with close to 70 percent of the vote. These are astonishing numbers that demonstrate to our state leaders that Missourians trust their local sheriffs and their local leaders. They also expect state leaders and bureaucrats to support and trust their sheriffs as well.

Missourians should rest assured that every sheriff, as well as their deputies, will continue to fight for their safety in their neighborhoods, on their streets and in the halls of the capitol.

David Parrish

**President
Missouri Sheriffs' Association**

Around the State

Former Sheriff Passes

A man who served Platte County citizens for nearly three decades has died. The Platte County Sheriff's Office announced the recent death of former Sheriff Tom Thomas in late December.

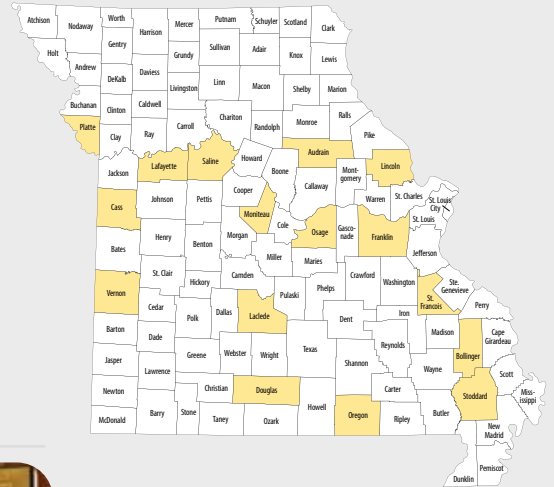
Thomas was the county's sheriff from 1969 until he retired in 1996. He also served as a Kansas City, Missouri, police officer before becoming sheriff. The sheriff's office's law enforcement center is named in Thomas' honor.

"The thoughts and prayers of the men and women of the Platte County Sheriff's Office are with the Thomas family," according to a statement from the sheriff's office.



Sharing the Community's Love

Sheriff Carl Hefner participated in The 2019 Subaru Share the Love Event with Meals on Wheels in Dexter. Sheriff Hefner helped distribute meals to various residents in the Bloomfield area. Meals on Wheels America is one of four national Share the Love charitable partners supported through the campaign, which ran from November 14, 2019 through January 2, 2020. Subaru of America donated \$250 for every new Subaru vehicle purchased or leased to the customer's choice of participating charities.



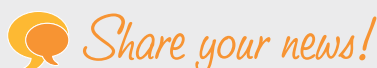
HARD WORK PAYS OFF

"Do you realize that your last drink could be someone else's last breath? It's time to Change the Numbers. If you're planning a special celebration for the holidays, think first about a safe and sober ride home."

That's the message shared with motorists during the 2019 Holiday DWI Campaign — and it worked. According to Art Amato, Missouri Eastern Region Law Enforcement Liaison, the state experienced an overall decrease of 53 total fatalities as of December 22 and not one fatality occurred during the official 30-hour reporting period over the New Year's holiday.

"That is some amazing news and I believe a direct result of all the hard work many sheriffs' offices are doing in the area of high-visibility sustained enforcement. We can only hope the trend continues throughout the rest of 2020," Amato said.

There were no boating fatalities or drownings during that time period as well.



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

PROTECTING COUNTY K9S

The Humane Society of the United States recently donated ballistic vests to 10 sheriffs' offices across the state. Amanda Good, Missouri state director for the Humane Society, said they donate the vests because they know many agencies don't have a budget for K9 officers and handlers must raise money through grants and donations to cover expenses, including the vests, which are expensive.

"We are thrilled to be able to provide these lifesaving vests for local law enforcement agencies and their K9 officers. We appreciate what these officers do to protect us, and now their jobs are a little safer," Good said. HSUS also provides a free training program for law enforcement agencies and prosecutors on how to deal with animal cruelty cases and techniques for officers to use while dealing with domestic pets when responding to emergency calls.

Receiving the vests were Audrain County; Bollinger County; Douglas County; Laclede County; Lafayette County; Lincoln County — K9 Rigley pictured; Moniteau County; Osage County; and St. Francois County.



Keeping Students Safe

The Saline County Sheriff's Office has partnered with the five rural schools in their county to have access to live video feeds of their security systems. According to Sheriff Cindi Mullins, through the program, dispatch has monitors that allow them to watch the schools in real time.

"In addition, we have the feeds available at several other computers. In the event of an intruder or active shooter, we would have real time information that can be dispatched while the school officials take care of the children without having to remain on a phone to give information," Sheriff Mullins said.

Staff Acknowledged



Six people were recognized during the Vernon County Sheriff's Office seventh annual awards banquet. Sheriff Jason Mosher started holding the event after taking office in 2013 as a way to recognize his staff and the hard work they do. This year's awards went to Deputy Ryan Wood and Suzanne Reese, who received commendations for perfect attendance and their record of helping with public service events. Sgt. Dan Miller, Lt. Eric Terry and Gary Bloom received the Lifetime Service Award, and this year's Employee of the Year award went to Deputy Zesar Huerta (pictured), who became the rural county DARE Officer in 2018 and serves the county schools along with handling his patrol duties. Deputy Huerta received numerous compliments from the public during 2019 along with several letters commending his willingness to help others.

"This is our way of saying 'thank you' for what they do throughout the year, seven days a week, 24 hours a day," the sheriff said. "I'm extremely proud of the VCSO staff and the job they are doing for the citizens of our county."

Taking the Lead

Vernon County Sheriff Jason Mosher presented Patrol Lt. Travis Cole with a TRILOGY certificate after Cole graduated from the 336th Executive Leadership Academy FBI-LEEDA. The week-long classes, which included Supervisor Leadership, Command Leadership and Executive Leadership training, were spread out over a six-month period to allow working members of law enforcement to attend without being gone for a long period of time. Lt. Cole said the training was "very valuable and a priceless tool that all law enforcement leaders should have."

Sheriff Jason Mosher said his goal is to send all upper-level management to the training.

"It not only teaches good leadership skills and values, but it takes a good look at the administrative side of law enforcement, the community relations aspect, and the policy and procedure process for agencies," Sheriff Mosher said, adding a large portion of Lt. Cole's class was paid for by a grant he submitted last summer.

"I will definitely be applying for grants again this year and sending more of our staff to this training," the sheriff said.



Punkin' Run Produces

About 65 bikes, trikes and automobiles gathered to feast, enjoy fellowship and ride in this year's Fifth Annual Punkin' Run, held to honor Eddie "Punkin'" Johnson, a former Alton Fire Chief, police officer and reserve deputy with the Oregon County Sheriff's Office. He was killed in a car wreck while responding to a call in October 2014.

Oregon County Sheriff Eric King said he, as well as sheriffs from Ripley and Shannon counties, have participated in the ride for at least the last two years. This year, approximately \$4,000 was raised for the Eddie "Punkin'" Johnson Scholarship Fund, set up by Eddie's co-workers to honor the memory of their fallen brother.



Sheriff's Office Holds Food Drive

Thanks to the generosity of the community, deputies were able to deliver food to 36 families throughout Vernon County that had been placed on their children's food box list. Vernon County Sheriff Jason Mosher said those 36 families consisted of 144 people, most of whom were children.

"We have a passion for helping the children in our community and we hope these boxes filled with kid-friendly food will make their Christmas a little bit brighter," he said, adding that they collected a record amount from Vernon County citizens this year. Sheriff Mosher started the food drive after he spoke to a small child during a search warrant. The child told him how much he liked school because "it was warm, and they had food at school." Mosher said he was very grateful for so many people donating their time to help and for the food they provided.



THE NOSE KNOWS

In late December the Franklin County Sheriff's Office welcomed its first bloodhound, Copper. The newest K9 to the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and his handler Detective Jeffrey Friedmann spent two weeks in Texas training and are now in service. The scent-specific tracking dog is able to follow one scent and not get confused, so in addition to locating missing children or missing elderly people, Copper will also be used to recover items like evidence thrown from a vehicle. Copper's abilities were put to good use soon after joining the department when he located a duffle bag belonging to a suspect in a field.



Staying Safe with Technology

As with most agencies, the Cass County Sheriff's Office has looked to new technologies to improve productivity, accountability and officer safety. These technologies include records management and computer-aided dispatch software, mobile vehicle recoding systems, body cameras and digital radio systems, just to name a few. But there's one technology that has permeated the everyday life of most of society and that is cellular.

With nearly everyone carrying a cell phone today, the Global Positioning System (GPS) has become more accessible than ever. That technology, paired with software, has allowed agencies to use an automatic vehicle locator (AVL), a system that uses GPS to remotely track the location of their vehicle fleet and officers in real time by using the Internet. The program makes them more productive and safer.

The Cass County Sheriff's Office deployed its first AVL in 2014 but that system was cumbersome, slow, problematic and costly. While the concept was good, it was clear that a different product was needed. Through time and research it was found — "Gps-Gate."

"It's ease of use, employing Google Maps, customization ability and relatively low cost made it the ideal solution for us," said Sheriff Jeff Weber. "I can say that this system has definitely made us safer."

In 2017, an agency from an adjoining county had an officer murdered on a vehicle stop and the suspect was at large after fleeing on foot. A mutual aid request brought many sheriffs' offices to assist. However, the ability to communicate and locate officers from so many agencies was problematic. That's when Cass County first shared its AVL system.

An IT specialist with Cass County was able to upload and deploy the system on the phones of deputies from other counties, giving them the ability to locate and coordinate at all times. That

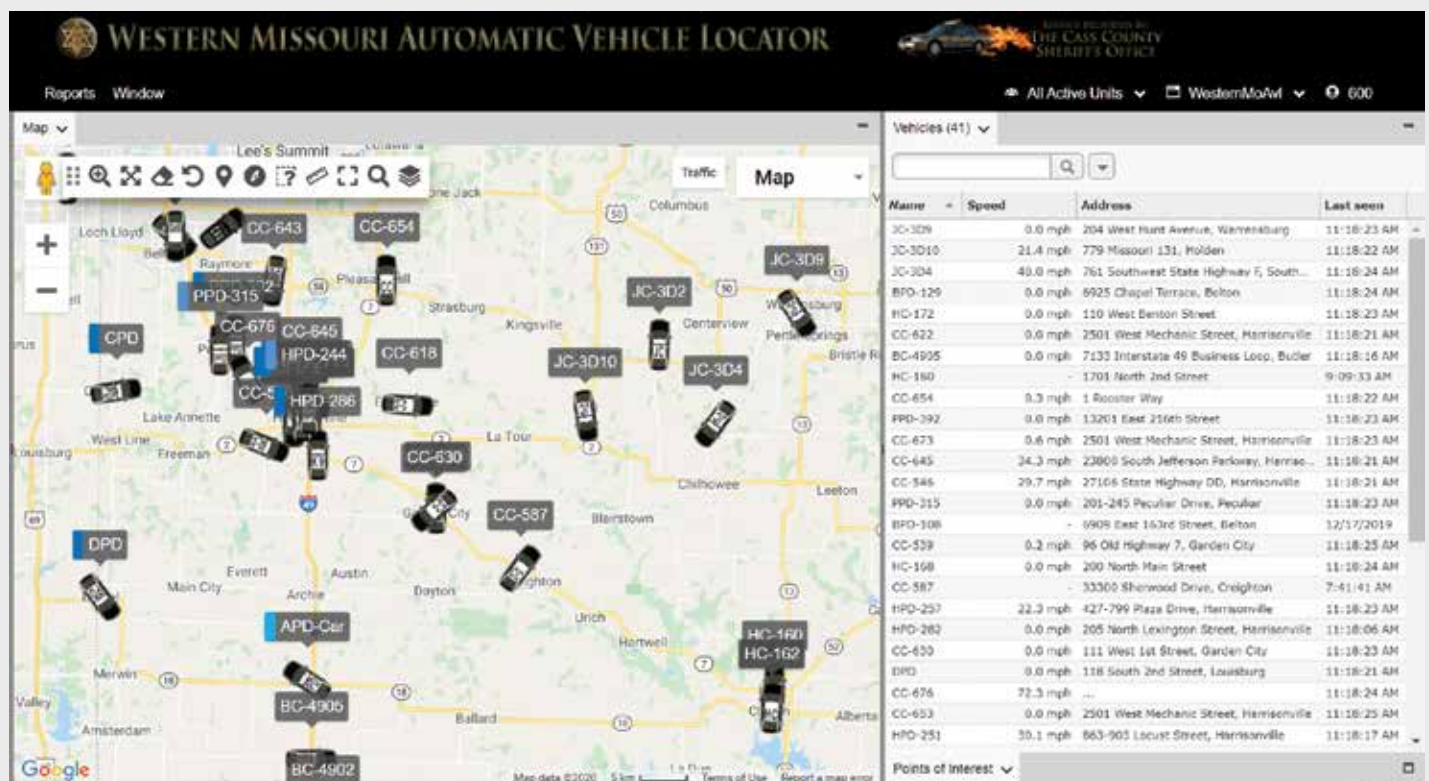


resulted in a lot of interest in the system by other counties.

"Because we had the resources, ability and people to setup and manage this system, not only for my agency, but others, we began coordinating for other agencies to join our system," Sheriff Weber said. "In 2018, we began expanding the system to include the surrounding sheriffs of Bates, Henry and Johnson counties. From there we included every municipal police department in our county."

To date, they have 17 agencies, including two fire departments, on board with a total 261 tracked units and 563 active users. And it's all been accomplished at the low cost of \$51 a year, per unit, for those agencies. That's because Cass County assumed all administrative work and cost to run the system.

"It has become an invaluable tool, allowing us to work with multiple agencies on large and small scale operations, deploying resources where needed — everything from car chases to man hunts," the sheriff said.



BARRY COUNTY SHERIFF GARY DAVIS

A MAN WITH A MISSION

Barry County Sheriff Gary Davis' first job in law enforcement was with the FBI.

It was 1970 and at the time, he and Mary Jane, his wife, were living in Springfield, Missouri.

"I needed a job and learned the FBI had openings in Washington, D.C., for fingerprint examiners. It paid about \$1,000 a year more than I was making in Springfield and I thought 'Wow — that's a lot of money,' so we moved and I worked as a fingerprint examiner for about five years. Law enforcement kind-of 'got in my blood' and I liked the culture of the Bureau so I went back to school, became a research assistant doing paralegal-type work for the Bureau, finished my degree and then got appointed to special agent in 1980," he said.

Over the next 23 years he was assigned to Washington, D.C.; Knoxville, Tennessee; New York City; Houston and then El Paso, Texas, for five years as a supervisor; then back to Washington, D.C., where he worked as a unit chief until he retired in 2003. During those years he met four or five presidents, and a young guy named Trump, who liked to visit with the FBI agents when he'd speak at their luncheons.

He also worked several high-profile cases. He and his partner were the first two agents at the Reagan shooting, he worked the Oklahoma City bombing and he worked several drug cases, especially in Texas. "My first week in El Paso, when I was lucky to find the office, we went out and found 2,500 pounds of cocaine! In New York I worked national security and counter-terrorism and helped plan the rededication of the Statue of Liberty. And I was in Washington, D.C., when 9-11 happened."

His decision to work in law enforcement was never an issue at home. His wife of 53 years also worked for the FBI for 16 years as a research intelligence specialist. She took early retirement when her husband hit the FBI's mandatory retirement age of 57. They have two grown children, one of

whom is a deputy with another Missouri county, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

After retiring, he spent his first year building a new house, but in 2004, not wanting to waste the training and experiences he had gained with the FBI, he got his POST commission and a teaching certificate. Except for a year that he took off to care for Mary Jane after she was diagnosed with cancer, he worked the next several years as a substitute teacher in his local school district. Then the weekend before the 2016 filing period closed, he received a phone call from someone asking him to run for sheriff. After much discussion and prayer, he and his wife agreed that if they were going to live in Barry County, they needed to be a part of making it better. He filed, ran against half a dozen other candidates in the primary and won by 65 votes. Then he won in the general election with more than 70 percent of the votes.

Sheriff Davis said that after taking office, he was pleasantly surprised with the professionalism of the staff, most of whom stayed on. He was unpleasantly surprised with the number of animal cases they get called to handle and the amount of paperwork the job requires.

"I do more paperwork now than when I was with the federal government," he laughed, adding that he streamlined much of what they do by getting new computers. He also continued with the former sheriff's vehicle replacement plan and now has just one car with more than 100,000 miles. However, he said he feels one of his most important accomplishments has been increasing salaries.

"The jail staff was making \$20,000 a year and I've gotten them up to \$24,000. And of my 23 sworn deputies, I've been able to get more than half of them at \$30,000 or above. They want to stay here but I lost nine last



year, five of whom left to take jobs with surrounding counties who can pay more, and one who went to work in the construction industry but wants to come back if we can increase the pay," the sheriff said, explaining that because the majority of funding is through sales tax, another goal is to get a sales tax increase on an upcoming ballot. "That will allow me to further increase salaries as well as hire two or three more deputies. I think the community would support it because 1/2 or even 3/8 of a cent, based on the current level of spending, would bring in around \$2 million a year. Barry County is a 790-square-mile county and it's a long way from one corner to the other. A couple substations and a couple more deputies would go a long way in allowing us to respond more quickly."

He's also realizing another goal — to improve the jail. Earlier this year the county commission signed a contract with an architect to renovate the existing facility. They'll be tearing down everything except cell blocks built in recent years, and adding a medical room, a 24-bed cell block for the least-dangerous inmates and building a new kitchen and laundry. Barring any unforeseen problems, they plan to break ground by August 1.

Sheriff Davis said he's also pleased that, through a partnership with the Ozarks Drug Enforcement Team, they've been able to dismantle several large drug trafficking organizations in the county.

"I really enjoy this job. I enjoy seeing our deputies grow and I enjoy helping the people of Barry County. They're so appreciative of the job we do. I hope to be elected one more term so I can see the jail renovation through and see the rest of my goals accomplished. Hopefully the people will feel the same way," he said.

● By Nancy Zoellner

SHERIFF MEETS CHALLENGES HEAD ON

Back in the early 90s, Max Huffman was working in IT. His good friend was working as a deputy for the Wright County Sheriff's Office.

The young-ish Huffman would often ride along with his friend as he patrolled, listening attentively to stories about the trials and tribulations of chasing bad guys and protecting good guys in a rural county. Finally, in 1996, he decided that he, too, wanted to make a difference in his community and enrolled in Southeast Missouri State University's Law Enforcement Training Academy.

After graduation, he volunteered as a reserve in Dade County while continuing to work in the corporate world. But when a road deputy position opened up, he applied, was hired and has been in law enforcement fulltime ever since.

"It just clicked. I knew that's what I wanted to do with my life and was fortunate to have a very good FTO. That changed my entire career because I learned a lot of good information that made the job not only interesting and safe but also fun to do," he said, adding that it was so enjoyable that, except for a stint at the Barton County Sheriff's Office while he campaigned for sheriff, his entire career has been spent at Dade County. His friend that got him interested in law enforcement comes to town occasionally to visit and work as a reserve.

"I actually had a rare opportunity to try out the job before I tried to get it," Sheriff Huffman quipped, explaining that he was chief deputy when the current sheriff, Steven Stapp, was activated with the National Guard and he was appointed to serve in his absence. "That's all it took for me to realize that I could do the job, I could do it well and I wanted to be sheriff

so I could serve my community."

He said that when Stapp returned from active duty, he resigned, took a patrol position with Barton County and soon after started campaigning. He won the primary and had no one running against him in the general election. He was sworn into office on January 1, 2013.

After taking office, Sheriff Huffman said he hoped to build a new 50-bed jail to replace their aging and overcrowded 14-bed facility, but the budget wouldn't allow it so instead, he focused on improving everything he could. Through those efforts, he was able to increase the number of

deputies patrolling the county

from three to seven. He also began a program that, through careful budgeting, has allowed him to replace one vehicle per year.

In 2014, he was able to upgrade to the Jail Tracker Records Management System and said that has been a tremendous benefit.

The program stores information electronically and allows them to share information in real time with other jails and sheriffs' offices on any device with an internet connection. He said being able to share information about detainees — things like gang affiliations, suicide attempts and behavioral health — has allowed his staff and detainees to stay safe.

"Without the assistance of the Missouri Sheriffs' Association, and more specifically Sheriff Kent Oberkrom, who headed up that push, we would still be using yellow note pads and Excel spread sheets! I can't say enough about the help Sheriff Oberkrom gave us. But now, unfortunately, we're struggling to fund the system," he said, adding that although the public is appreciative and supportive — and his commissioners are supportive of law enforcement — finding money to satisfy the law enforcement budget has

always been a challenge. Lately, it's gotten even harder.

"Although the commissioners approved my budget, because we're primarily an agricultural community and we're funded by sales tax and general revenue, which is down, we've actually been asked to reduce our staff by attrition this year," the sheriff said. "It's difficult because everyone wants good law enforcement but that doesn't come cheap and some people just don't understand what law enforcement does for the amount of pay they receive. But we will find a way to continue delivering the best service we can because that's what we do."

Cross-training deputies to work both the road and in the jail has been helpful in scheduling and stretching his dollars a little farther. His deputies also work their own drug cases, "and almost all crime in our community is drug-related in one form or fashion."

Although the job comes with many challenges, Sheriff Huffman said knowing he has the support of his community has helped. Officer-involved shootings and injuries and delivering death notifications — especially when children are involved — have been the most gut-wrenching. To see that cases are handled to the best of their ability and provide justice for victims has been the most rewarding.

He said it's also been rewarding to know that he has the support of his now-grown children. "In fact, my daughter was also bitten by the law enforcement bug and now works for Homeland Security in Tucson, Arizona. My son lives in Minnesota and is CEO of a dairy cooperative and is also supportive although he probably secretly wishes I'd get back into the corporate world," he laughed. "Although the job 'has its days,' I very much enjoy what I do and hope to continue doing it one more term. Then I plan to retire and farm, raise cattle and enjoy all that the Ozarks have to offer."

● By Nancy Zoellner



MCDONALD COUNTY SHERIFF MIKE HALL

SHERIFF IMPACTS COMMUNITY THROUGH ITS CHILDREN

Keeping children safe, teaching them the dangers of experimenting with alcohol and drugs, showing them that law enforcement is there to protect them — those are all things near and dear to McDonald County Sheriff Mike Hall's heart.

That's why he's spent the majority of his law enforcement career working in the schools in one capacity or another. In fact, this year he's celebrating his 20th year teaching DARE.

"And it's still my favorite part of the job. I get reenergized when I walk into the classroom, in part, because I believe this program can positively impact our community. Our nation has a drug problem. The best way to stop it is to never start. That's what I'm teaching these students," Sheriff Hall said.

Although he's dedicated his life to serving his community, that dedication initially took a different course.

"I got my EMT license for both Arkansas and Missouri during my senior year of high school and started working for a local ambulance service after graduation. However, as I got to know law enforcement, I knew that was where I should be so when I signed up for college, I decided to major in criminal justice," he said.

At the same time, he also started volunteering at the McDonald County Sheriff's Office, assisting with dispatch and the jail. When Sheriff Don Schlessman offered him a job in that division six months later, he jumped at the opportunity, and the next semester enrolled in the law enforcement academy.

"Talk about timing! In April 1997 I turned 21. I graduated from the academy in May and in June an overnight road deputy position opened and the sheriff offered it to me. I figured it had to be God's plan because it all came together in a matter of months. It certainly turned out to be an eye-opening experience," he laughed. "To go from dispatch to the classroom to working nights where everything happens — especially as a 21-year-old kid — wow!"

He continued working overnights until early 1999 when a school resource officer position opened in the McDonald County R-1 School District. He asked for it and the sheriff agreed that he would be a good fit.

For the next couple years, he covered one high school and seven elementary and junior high campuses.

"At the time I was talking to an Arkansas police officer whose child had been killed in the Jonesboro school shooting about developing training for the schools. Then in April of that year, two teenagers went on a shooting spree at Columbine and everything changed. Suddenly we were forced to think about the unthinkable and began training, sometimes with city police officers, deputies, other law enforcement, along with fire and EMS, on how to respond to an active shooter in our schools," he said.

Because he wanted to do more, in 2000 he attended DARE instructor training. A couple years later he was promoted to corporal and then in 2005, when another resource officer was hired, he was put in charge of patrol operations. However, he continued to oversee school training, attend as many school events as possible and teach the DARE program.

In early 2012, he left the sheriff's office to work fulltime at the schools while also campaigning for sheriff. He was elected and took office January 1, 2013.

Conservative budgeting and careful spending through the years by the county's officeholders allowed McDonald County to save enough money to recently double the size of the jail and add a kitchen as well as office space for the deputies — without increasing taxes.

"My next goal is to add more staff, especially in the jail, because although our holding capabilities went from 32 to 64, we have the same number of people working in the jail," Sheriff Hall said, adding that as a third-class county surrounded by counties with larger, more robust economies, trying

to attract and then keep good, qualified personnel has been his biggest challenge.

He and his staff have also been busy implementing jail standards, creating a policy and procedures manual and updating operations by switching to an electronic jail management system which allows them to share information with other jails in real time. With help from his lieutenant, Sheriff Hall established a Special Response Team and provided special training to handle such things as high-risk search warrants. He also accomplished his short-term goal of acquiring new bullet-proof vests for all road deputies and vests that are less than the suggested five years old for detectives.

Sheriff Hall's care for children extends to wanting them to have presents at Christmas so in 2009, he and a few deputies started a Shop with a Cop program. It quickly grew to encompass all emergency responders and is now called "Shop with a Hero." Thanks to a grant from Walmart and generous contributions from a supportive community, in 2019 they were able to raise \$12,900 — enough to take 118 children shopping with around \$100 each to spend.

His wife Kimberly and two children have also been supportive of his work and his choice of professions.

"My son actually loves law enforcement and wants to join the FBI when he graduates. My parents have always backed me in my choice to go into law enforcement — and both are avid scanner listeners! My dad, Gary, actually

wanted to be a trooper when he was young but at the time, they had a height requirement and he was just a little too short. Instead, he went into farming and has raised cattle my whole life. When I retire, I plan to work the farm with him. I figure by then, I'll be ready for the peace and quiet!"



● By Nancy Zoellner

ST. CLAIR COUNTY SHERIFF SCOTT KEELER

SHERIFF LEADS BY FOLLOWING A FAMILY TRADITION

St. Clair Sheriff Scott Keeler was raised in a law enforcement family. His father worked as an officer with the Independence Police Department before taking a job with the Kansas City Veteran Affairs Police. His paternal grandfather was a judge in Moniteau County. Discussions on law and justice were commonplace at the dinner table, but it was one particular conversation with his grandfather that set the course for how he lives his life — and runs his office.

"I was just 5 or 6 years old. We had come back home from a church service where the sermon was 'Judge not lest ye be judged.' I asked my grandfather how he could be a judge when the Bible says to judge not. He said he never judged a person — he judged the actions of a person — that good people do bad things and bad people do good things and that we are either held accountable or we reap the rewards of that behavior. That has stuck with me to this day. It's how I base my outlook on life and guides how I deal with the people I serve," he said.

Although the young Keeler felt he would work in law enforcement someday, in his younger years he worked as a mechanic and tow truck driver. Later he got a degree in electronics, then moved to Phoenix, Arizona, to look for a job in that field. Although that search was unsuccessful, he did get in with a security and investigations company that was just getting off the ground. Too far from family, a couple years later he moved back to the Kansas City area and started his own private investigations firm.

However, in mid-1998 the pull toward law enforcement became too strong. He closed his investigations office and enrolled in the Central Missouri Police Academy.

"I knew then that I wanted to return to the Truman Lake area and St. Clair County, in particular. I had attended the Boy Scout camp here and loved it and had the honor of meeting Shirley Collins, a long-standing sheriff in the county. After I graduated the academy, I hounded the sheriff's office for a job," he laughed. "Unfortunately, they didn't have any openings so I went to work for the Appleton City Police Department. When a road patrol spot with the sheriff's office opened in November 1998, I took

it and worked there 13 years as a deputy before I resigned to campaign for sheriff. That was a fulltime job in itself because I spent every day going door to door to share my thoughts and ideas."

His hard work paid off. He won the election, was sworn into office January 1, 2013, and has served as sheriff ever since.

Since taking office one of his top priorities has been making sure everything is transparent and done properly. To help accomplish that, Sheriff Keeler created a public information officer position so news could be made available and questions from the public could be answered in a timely manner. He also started a website that provides up-to-date information on court cases so victims — or just interested parties — can easily keep tabs on cases.

To make schools safer and build rapport between law enforcement and his county's youth, Sheriff Keeler started a School Resource Officer program.

"Two deputies — one fulltime and one part-time — go around to all the schools to keep those lines of communication open. I'd like to expand the program and put a deputy in every school, not only for safety reasons but because for most kids the only interaction they have with law enforcement is when there's a problem in the family. However, we don't have the funding to do that and the schools say they aren't in a position to help. So, for now, they divide their time up between the schools, attend functions and even accompany the students on field trips, which is a win-win for everybody," he said.

To keep his community safer and to better fight the war on drugs, Sheriff Keeler formed a Special Response Team Unit



and his office joined forces with the Mid-Missouri Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force, which consists of eight counties and several individual municipal departments located within those counties.

"I couldn't be more pleased with the results we've had because of that affiliation. In fact, I heard that

one of the drug kingpins said he wouldn't come to St. Clair County because he knew he was being pursued here. I take that as a compliment," he said.

In order to network with other law enforcement, Sheriff Keeler began hosting monthly luncheons for sheriffs in surrounding counties and police, prosecuting attorneys, Highway Patrol, conservation, probation/parole, and others in his county as well as the adjoining counties.

An ongoing goal is to build a new office/communication building so they can convert their current 135-bed facility into "just jail" and add badly needed space — and beds. A citizen's board is currently exploring expansion options. And as if keeping law and order in the county wasn't enough, each year the sheriff's office partners with the schools to provide winter coats, hats and gloves for children who need them and with Dollar General to make sure kids get gifts at Christmas. Each fall Sheriff Keeler organizes a family potluck picnic for his 72-member staff and their families.

"I'm a big believer that this operation is not just a team — we're a family — and I greatly appreciate every member," he said. "As a deputy sheriff, I felt like I was making a difference during my eight-hour shifts. Since taking office, that's expanded. Today my office is making a difference every hour of every day because it's no longer just my boots on the ground — it's my staff following my directives and doing what they can to serve and protect the St. Clair County community."

● By Nancy Zoellner

Fred Cave, Callaway County

On the Road Again

Transport and Extradition Deputy Fred Cave said that during his 30-year tenure with the Callaway County Sheriff's Office he's picked up prisoners from nearly every state in the Union — even from as far away as Anchorage, Alaska. Just as impressive, he's accomplished that without incident.

"I never had anyone get away. I never even had anyone try to get away, but I've always told them, 'You respect me. I'll respect you.' And because of that, I've never had a bit of trouble," he said, adding that he also shares his faith with his transports. "I tell them 'God has a better plan for your life,' and they listen. Sometimes people have to hit bottom before they're willing to make a change. I figure I might be there for a reason so I share with everybody — from murderers on down."

Cave said when he started, he flew quite a bit but as fares increased and air travel changed, he began transporting in a patrol vehicle equipped with special safety features.

Sheriff Clay Chism said although he may be considered "old-school," he prefers to "keep the wheels on the pavement" because, in addition to the cost-benefit, he believes driving is safer than flying. "When you fly, you're at the mercy of the airline. You also take the chance of the inmate becoming unruly and the airline would then have the right to kick the deputy and inmate off. I can't end up with a deputy and inmate stranded in an airport somewhere!"

Cave said when he makes his pick-ups, he's always accompanied by another

deputy — a retired jail administrator, a retired civil process server or retired Sheriff Dennis Crane — when he's picking up men — or a female corrections officer when he's picking up women.

On long hauls, he pre-arranges with jails along the route to keep his detainees overnight while he and his law enforcement ride-along sleep in a hotel. Meals are usually grabbed along the way at fast-food restaurants. Prisoners wear handcuffs and leg irons but, depending upon the charges, one handcuff might be removed to make it easier for the detainee to eat.

Cave joined the Callaway County Sheriff's Office at the request of former Sheriff Harry Lee. Cave said at the time it sounded like a good, stable way to earn a living — and it has been. However, although getting paid to drive across the country might sound glamorous, it's usually anything but.

"I'll drive most of the day, then stop for dinner and to sleep. Then we get up early and try to keep on going until we get there. I try to pick up my prisoner and drive as far as I can get before stopping again for the night. I get to see some beautiful country but it's really just a job just like anything

else," he said, adding that when he's not transporting prisoners, he's assisting with courtroom security.

Sheriff Chism said he feels transport officers don't get enough respect for the job they do.

"It's easy for people to think of it as a whirlwind vacation on the taxpayers' dollars, but in real life that's one heck of a responsibility. Extraditing a prison from the West Coast or the East Coast to mid-Missouri can take four to five days of driving — two to two-and-a-half days to get there and then two to two-and-a-half days to get back.

It's not a job a lot of people could do — or do as well as Deputy Fred Cave," the sheriff said. "He's well-respected within our agency and throughout the community because, while he's firm in his duty, he is professional and respectful in his firmness. The criminal offenders themselves even recognize this, hence why they attempt to contact Deputy Cave when released. Younger deputies simply admire how Deputy Cave performs. As much as he deserves his retirement, I can't imagine the day when I have to fill his position because he is one of a kind. When you think about what a law enforcement officer should act like, there is no need to look beyond Deputy Cave as he sets the example at a very high mark! I admire him personally and professionally."

● By Nancy Zoellner





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Dwight Willis, Greene County

He Never Fails to Deliver

Inmates in the Greene County Jail receive a combined average of 168 postcards and a dozen or so pieces of legal mail and another 460-some electronic messages per day.

Dwight Willis and his assistant Corey Todd review them all. Every. Single. One.

They begin each morning by logging every piece in by hand on a computer, noting the name and address of the sender and the name, cell number and jacket number of the inmate who received it.

Next, the men read the postcards and cut off all stamps, which



have been known to hide illegal drugs. Postcards deemed “unacceptable” because of content or failure to meet guidelines are logged and a rejection notice is filled out for both the inmate and the sender. Once that job is finished, they process inmate outgoing mail, following the same procedures — but leaving the stamps intact.

Then they tackle the texts, reading as many as they can before their eight-hour shift ends. When time allows, they also watch random video visits, which are recorded. “We do the very best we can to get through the electronic messages but we devote our time and energy to the paper mail because it needs to be delivered in a timely manner.”

The job may seem mundane to some but Willis said every day brings new challenges. In his 19 years in the mailroom, he’s seen it all — some “racy” pictures he’d like to forget and envelopes that are full of all sorts of prohibited items including glitter and/or candy. And he’s read it all — heartbreaking notes from children who are missing their parents, reports from family members of children being taken from the home or letters from spouses detailing the struggles they’re experiencing with the main breadwinner behind bars.

“It can take a toll on you after a while so you have to learn how to mentally release it, go home and decompress,” he said.

Willis has also discovered and turned over information that has helped bring cases to a successful end — and he’s probably saved some lives.

“One of the more common things we deal with is victim witness tampering, especially in domestic violence cases. This is not verbatim but several times we’ve found outgoing mail that says something like, ‘If you think you got a beating before I got in here, wait until you see what happens if you show up in court and testify against me.’ We scan those in and send them to the prosecutor’s office,” Willis said, adding that he’s always on the lookout for suicidal tendencies — anyone talking about being depressed. “It’s really something we have to keep our eye on, especially during the holidays.”

Although he’s never discovered a proverbial “bar-cutting file” in a letter, he did help prevent an escape by an inmate who wrote about saving enough ink pens to dye his green jail uniform blue in hopes of walking out with volunteers. “We caught that letter, went up and looked and sure enough that’s what he had done — but he wasn’t able to get out the front door,” he laughed.

Willis and his assistant have also handled a few pieces of mail that could have been dangerous to their health.

Back in the day of the anthrax scares, Willis opened an outgoing letter addressed to a judge that contained a white powdery substance. It turned out to be baby powder but it caused quite a stir. And before Greene County switched to postcards only, Wilkes opened an envelope that carried only a sheet of blank paper. When unfolded, the paper crackled and little flakes started falling off. “We had it tested and it turned out to be a narcotic,” he said. “Ironically, the woman that sent it used her actual name and address on the return and she had a visit scheduled with that inmate that very night so the detectives just waited for her to show up. I believe she was arrested.”

Willis’ dedication to the job and his keen eye haven’t gone unnoticed. He’s been presented with a challenge coin from the Greene County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office to thank him for the information he’s turned over, and he’s received several letters of appreciation from sheriffs and even one from the Department of Justice for his involvement in a pedophile and child pornography case.

Willis said he’s proud of the job they do — and he doesn’t ever foresee a shortage of work.

“Inmates can receive an unlimited number of postcards and they can send as many as they can afford. Indigent inmates are provided with two postcards per week and we also pay postage for their legal mail because we have an obligation to keep their legal mail flowing and we have an obligation to make sure they maintain contact with the outside world. With an average population in the upper 900s — well, do the math.”

● By Nancy Zoellner

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Encartele: Empowering Corrections Through Innovative Solutions

Larry Hammerschmidt, Pete Lorenze and Larry Joiner have decades of experience between them to assist Missouri's sheriffs with state-of-the-art solutions for their jails.



Ever since it was founded in 2004, Encartele has focused on making a difference in the corrections industry — one jail at a time — by creating fair, secure, and easy-to-use technologies for law enforcement professionals and inmates and their friends and family.

In Missouri, Encartele has made a difference for numerous facilities including a jail in southwest Missouri where inmates and approved contacts traded more than 40,000 messages in December 2019 alone. In the same month, inmates in a central Missouri jail participated in 578 remote visits with friends and family.

To bring reliable, next-gen technology into corrections, Encartele maintains and operates two separate systems: ICENET and CIDNET. ICENET is a legacy inmate phone system that has supported jails for the last 15 years. CIDNET was first deployed in 2015 and currently provides messaging and video visitation services to more than 150 jails across the United States.

Of the two systems, CIDNET best represents the future of the corrections industry.

The web-based system maximizes a facility's operational efficiency in numerous ways. With CIDNET, digital forms replace standard pen-and-paper kites (messages). Content Broadcasting TVs replace bulletin boards and paper postings. And beyond that, every video visit, message, and user interaction gets logged and recorded by CIDNET, ensuring for accurate reporting and auditing.

Here are some other reasons why people love CIDNET:

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- Flag text moderation for messages, which can be set to automatically detect and then notify jail staff when certain phrases or potential offensive and/or unwanted images are used.

Larry Hammerschmidt, director of client relations at Encartele, said that's a major benefit.

"As you can imagine, jails don't have the manpower and their staff doesn't have the time to monitor every single call and video

visitation of every single inmate. However, the ability of flag text phrases or words is huge," he said, adding that it's already helped stop a very real risk at one Missouri jail. "That's just one of the ways we can streamline the jail operation and enable them to do more with fewer people."

Hammerschmidt, Larry Joiner and Pete Lorenz service sheriffs' offices and jails in Missouri and they have, combined, more than 100 years of experience that will help develop the system that's right for the sheriffs' needs.

Joiner is a retired police chief from Kansas City, Missouri, and former U.S. marshal for the Western District of Missouri. He's been involved in law enforcement and in the inmate phone business for many years and has developed strong working relationships with many police departments and sheriffs' offices across the state.

Lorenz is a former deputy, and also started one of the first private inmate phone companies, so he knows the business inside out. He, too, has developed strong relationships with sheriffs' offices across Missouri.

Hammerschmidt worked for Southwestern Bell for 27 years before retiring. Then in 2001 he got into the inmate phone business and has been working with Missouri's sheriffs ever since.

"One of the reasons we work very hard to stay connected through the Missouri Sheriffs' Association is because our relationship with the sheriffs and jail administrators helps us understand how they do things and determine what's important to them and what they need. Our products impact safety and security in the jail but they also impact manpower requirements," Hammerschmidt said, adding that he has always kept his own personal membership in the MSA in addition to the company membership because he supports the organization. "Involvement is one of the most important things we can do," he said.

For more information about Encartele's products, visit www.cidnet.net or contact Hammerschmidt at lhammer@encartele.net or 314-650-5800.



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CIT: IMPROVING RESPONSES TO PEOPLE IN CRISIS

According to data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, approximately 925,000 residents — or 18.57 percent of Missouri’s 6.15-million population — suffer with some form of mental illness. Statistics also show that during a mental health crisis, people are likely to encounter law enforcement and that can, and has, resulted in officer and citizen injury and even deaths.

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training, developed in Memphis, Tennessee in 1988 and brought to Missouri in the early 2000s, teaches law enforcement special strategies so they can de-escalate those situations and redirect the individual experiencing a mental health crisis from the criminal justice system to the behavioral health care system and treatment.

Jason Klaus, CIT coordinator for the state of Missouri, is doing his best to expand CIT training and establish CIT Councils throughout the state.

“In every community — it doesn’t matter the size, location or the population make-up — officers frequently find themselves responding to calls of individuals in a behavioral health crisis. There’s a lot of liability on these types of calls because, without training, they could end up as a use-of-force response. That’s a liability not only for the officer but also for the department. CIT trains and equips officers so they can identify those having a

behavioral health crisis — and that encompasses mental health and substance use — and then find local resources in their area that can serve those individuals. Historically, law enforcement officers have been problem solvers. They respond to a scene, they solve the problem and they’re gone. However, working with someone having a behavioral health issue takes time, it takes patience, it takes empathy. They have to understand why a person is in that situation — but it’s not easy. And an arrest is not necessarily going to solve the problem. Of course, that’s sometimes necessary but many times, it creates additional concerns in our jail facilities and it doesn’t allow individuals to get the appropriate treatment,” Klaus explained.

Shannon County Sheriff Darrin Brawley said that’s why he and Deputy Dustin Lyon attended CIT training.

“We’re one of the smallest offices in the state for staffing but with around 1,000 square miles, we’re the second largest in the state for land mass. And according to the last census, we were the poorest county in the state and we have a low population — fewer than 10,000. However, we have a lot of drug use and abuse and after going back and talking to the detainees, it was plain to see more was needed than a jail cell — from start to finish,” he said. “We were all trained on how to be cops — to make the arrest — but we were never trained on how to do

an assessment and take care of problems on site without just arresting someone, throwing them in jail and heading off to the next call. Since taking the training, we've slowed things down a bit and it's helped lower our jail population because we can get them help through the contacts we've made in our CIT Council."

His deputy Dustin Lyon, who previously spent several years in the military, got to put his CIT training to use while dealing with a fellow veteran within a week of graduating from the class. Sheriff Brawley said the man had called a suicide hotline and the call was referred to Shannon County, "And because of his training, Dustin knew just what to do. He talked to the man and got him to the veteran's hospital where he could get the help he needed."

The 40-hour CIT class is generally taught over a week's time. However, that can be difficult — if not impossible — for rural sheriffs, especially those with limited manpower, so Missouri created a segmented class where participants attend class one day a week for five weeks. Best news — the 40-hour POST-approved class is completely free.

"The core curriculum includes a behavioral health overview that touches on all aspects of mental illness in order to give the officer a different perspective and teach him or her how to respond appropriately to those kinds of calls. Instructors explain the different diagnoses and the signs and symptoms of mental illness and we go over medications that are frequently used to treat those illnesses so if an officer is on the scene and sees multiple bottles of medication, he or she can have an idea of what the person could be suffering from. We also teach hospital procedures and what they expect from us, and we go over civil commitment orders and the paperwork and proper documentation they will need for involuntary commitment," Klaus said.

They also discuss suicide intervention and spend a lot of time on de-escalation skills — communication skills that can be used to de-escalate a situation where a person is in crisis, "then we role-play, putting officers through scenarios so they can practice those skills. We also bring in individuals who are suffering with mental illness or substance abuse — we call this our 'Lived Experience Panel' — and they share their stories on how this illness has changed their lives. They also discuss interactions they've had with law enforcement, which allows officers to see things through their eyes," he added.

Because statistics show that law enforcement officers are more likely to die by suicide than by a line of duty death, the course also addresses officer wellness.

"We want to make sure they understand the toll the job takes on them — the stress and post-traumatic stress, the depression and anxiety from the traumas we see every day just by doing our job," Klaus said. "Sometimes a smell, a sound can carry you back to an incident — and law enforcement carries a whole career of incidents with them. We want officers to be able to recognize that and to have the skills they need to make sure they're not falling victim to the stressors of the job."

To provide further assistance, the CIT Council created a statewide data base of professional therapists and counselors that have been thoroughly vetted. That data base, which is available on the CIT website at www.MissouriCIT.org, allows law

enforcement and other first responders to get the help that they need without having to go through official channels.

"Law enforcement officers sometimes can adopt this Superman mentality — that if something is bothering us, we need to just suck it up and deal with it so in the class we also talk about breaking the stigma — that it's okay to not be okay. It doesn't mean you're weak. It just means that the job takes its toll. We want officers to know that if they recognize it early and talk about it appropriately, they can be better officers and healthier officers long term than if they just take all this stress on throughout their careers," he said.

And finally, in addition to the 32 core hours, individual councils are allowed 8 hours of electives to customize the training to their local needs.

Although data has not been collected over the years, Klaus estimates that with approximately 1,200 officers participating in CIT training each year, several thousand officers have gone through the course since it was first offered. However, that's just half the battle. Klaus said as state coordinator, he's also reaching out to stakeholders to discuss the importance of developing CIT councils in counties that have not yet done so.

"We can connect them with their community mental health liaison, which serves as a direct link between the law enforcement community and behavioral health centers. That way, when officers are working with someone in the community that has a behavioral health issue, they can do a referral to that CMHL and that person can make contact and try to get them linked up with mental health services," he said, adding that they're not just teaching law enforcement. "We're also teaching EMTs and paramedics, we're teaching nurses, we're teaching juvenile officers — we're trying to reach out to all segments of the professional community that works with individuals in crisis to make this a community approach because even most our emergency rooms are not properly equipped to treat this type of patient."

Klaus, a deputy with the Perry County Sheriff's Office and Missouri's CIT coordinator since June 2018, said he believes he was selected for the job because his rural background allows him to understand the barriers associated with implementing the CIT program in small sheriffs' offices that don't have many resources. "That's why it's so important to establish local councils and then work within those councils to identify resources that can help. This is a community issue. CIT brings the community together to resolve these concerns."

All CIT graduates and anyone who wants to learn more about the program is invited to attend the 2020 MO CIT Conference, to be held March 16 and 17 at the Holiday Inn and Expo Center in Columbia. Keynote speakers will focus on officer wellness but will also introduce new and innovative things in CIT. The registration fee is \$65. P.O.S.T. Certificates will be provided to law enforcement officers for the conference at no additional charge. CEUs will be offered for mental health professionals, for an additional charge of \$15 per person. Visit the website www.MissouriCIT.org for more information.

● By Nancy Zoellner



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Hippie Weed OR Medication?

Either way — the challenges for law enforcement can be daunting

In the November 6, 2018 general election, Missouri voters passed Amendment 2 with just over 65 percent of the total votes cast. As a result, Article XIV of the Missouri Constitution, now allows the use and possession of marijuana, the common term for cannabis, for medicinal purposes.

Missouri Attorney Dan Viets, who serves as the executive director for the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), when discussing the implementation of the medical marijuana program in Missouri is quoted as saying, “I am excited about the fact that thousands of patients who have been subjected to persecution and prosecution will now be free to use a relatively harmless substance which provides great relief from symptoms of disease and injury.”

However, statements professing cannabis as a “relatively harmless substance” may, at best, be misleading and at worst, manipulative. As Dr. Erik Messamore, a psychiatrist at Northeast Ohio Medical University put it, “A growing cannabis industry promotes the drug as a cure-all while downplaying dangers.”

According to a 2018 survey by the Substance Abuse Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, marijuana is the most commonly used psychotropic drug in the United States, after alcohol. As Doctor Ruby S. Grewal, MD wrote in his article on Cannabis-Induced Psychosis, published in the *Psychiatric Times*, cannabis is considered an environmental risk factor that increases the odds of psychotic episodes.

Why is there such a risk? And how can psychotic episodes be a good thing?

Christopher Blazes, M.D., a clinical assistant professor of psychiatry and emergency medicine at University of Michigan Health System, explained, “The cannabis of today is not the cannabis of 10, 20 or 40 years ago. It’s a much more powerful drug — and it’s more likely to cause psychiatric complications in terms of psychosis, agitation and paranoia.”

The main intoxicating ingredient in cannabis is delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). The amount of THC in marijuana has been increasing steadily over the past few decades. Ed Shemelya, initiative coordinator for the National Marijuana Initiative, an organization whose mission strives to dispel misconceptions about marijuana, says THC levels were generally


between 2 percent and 4 percent when he was a teenager in the late 1960s and early 1970s — today it is often over 40 percent and rising. For a person who’s new to marijuana use, this may mean exposure to higher THC levels with a greater chance of a harmful reaction. But can THC be toxic?

In the journal “Forensic Science International,” Dr. Benno Hartung and colleagues report that the lethal half dose for THC in humans is estimated to be around 30 mg/kg. This means that approximately 2 grams (.07 ounces) of pure THC has a 50 percent chance of killing a 150-pound man. This is the amount of THC found in .35 ounces of high-grade weed with 20 percent THC content.

The DEA reports that concentrated THC derivatives known variously as “wax,” “dabs,” or “butane hash oil” consisting of up to over 90 percent THC are now available on the streets; one tenth of an ounce of these would contain a lethal half dose of THC. The process of creating butane hash oil (BHO) poses the same extreme danger as meth labs because it requires infusing marijuana with butane then heating and vaporizing the oil. Several explosions have resulted in severe burns, disfigurement, death, and property damage.

Cannabis-infused products, which are now legal in Missouri, can also pose an extreme danger. Cannabis “edibles,” like gummy bears, take longer to produce a high than smoked pot, thus making it harder to gauge the right dose needed to achieve the desired effect. That, in turn, increases the risk of an overdose. Dr. Nora D. Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse of the National Institutes of Health says the edible candies “look very innocent and safe, so you take another and another, and slowly it is being absorbed. And then you start to feel awful, before you complete the absorption, and that can lead to a psychotic episode.”

Five years after Colorado legalized marijuana, a new study shows marijuana is sending many people to the emergency room. Twelve percent of the cases were for acute psychosis, where people without a history of mental disorders lost touch with reality. Intoxication and heart problems were other common complaints. They are all more frequently seen with edibles, according to Dr. Andrew Monte at the University of Colorado, School of Medicine.



By now you may be thinking, “Okay, but what is such a ‘daunting challenge’ for law enforcement?”

The passage of Amendment 2 has left a lot open to interpretation and many unanswered questions. Those who promoted legalization for medical purposes believe it is now a Constitutional right in Missouri to possess marijuana without question. At the same time, law enforcement feels a responsibility to uphold the law. Then there’s the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) tasked with the administrative responsibility of implementing the provisions of Article XIV as approved in Amendment 2.

Amendment 2 required the DHSS to issue qualifying patient cards to possess marijuana, qualifying patient cultivation cards for patients to grow and possess their own marijuana, and primary caregiver cards for a third party to grow and possess marijuana for up to three qualifying patients, long before DHSS was required to license grow facilities and dispensaries. What Amendment 2 did not do was establish a legal way to acquire marijuana prior to licensed dispensaries being operational.

In his June 26, 2019 article in *St. Louis Today*, “First step to grow medicinal pot legally in Missouri: Commit a crime,” Nassim Benchaabane wrote, “The first marijuana growers licensed by Missouri will have to commit a crime to get started, and regulators are expected to look the other way.”

The article goes on to explain that while Missouri law allows for state-approved businesses and individuals to grow marijuana for medicinal use, it says little about how growers should obtain their first seeds. That’s because it’s a felony to obtain young marijuana plants or seeds already in Missouri, or to get them from one of the 32 other states with legal marijuana. Or is it? Not according to Viets.

Viets’ opinion as an attorney is that it has never been illegal to buy marijuana, marijuana plants, or marijuana derivatives — only selling, distributing and possessing was illegal. Now that possessing marijuana for medicinal purpose within specific parameters is legal, Viets says qualifying patients who buy or accept marijuana as a gift from others are not committing a crime and should not be questioned by police.

Amendment 2 says all marijuana or marijuana infused products for medical use “sold” in Missouri shall be cultivated in a licensed medical marijuana cultivation facility located in Missouri. The key word is “sold.” Proponents such as Viets believe the amendment does not prohibit a qualifying patient from “buying” from wherever or whomever they want. Is he correct? Who knows? Other attorneys say he is wrong.

In the same article, Viets, who also serves as head of the Missouri Medical Cannabis Industry Association, states that marijuana advocates and state regulators are well aware of the paradox involved in growing marijuana legally. “It’s kind of a ‘chicken and the egg’ issue — it has to start from somewhere. The stork doesn’t bring it. Santa Claus doesn’t bring it.”

Lyndall Fraker, director of Missouri’s medical marijuana program, said in April of 2019 that Missouri likely would follow other

states in instituting a “don’t ask, don’t tell” period. Therein lies a daunting challenge for law enforcement. Those with patient cards and DHSS seem to believe “has the great Oz spoken” and that law enforcement should, “pay no attention to that man behind the curtain.” Or as one card holder put it, “I voted for the right to possess and I have that right now. It doesn’t matter when the dispensaries open. It’s not up to the police to know where you got it. That’s your medication.” Yet, Missouri law requires the burden of proof that an individual is exempt from drug possession charges, “shall be upon the defendant.” This “burden” applies to all prescription medication as well.

So — could the Missouri Attorney General help law enforcement with direction on how to proceed? One would think, but

they would be wrong. Under an existing Missouri court decision, opinions of the attorney general are entitled to no more weight than that given the opinion of any other competent attorney.

Here’s another quandary.

Qualifying patients are allowed to have up to eight ounces of dried, unprocessed marijuana, or its equivalent in their possession and if they grow it themselves they can have up to 12 ounces. However, federal law prohibits medical marijuana users from possessing or buying firearms and ammunition. And there are no exceptions, according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. That means Missouri residents are not legally able to have a license for medical marijuana and possess a firearm at the

same time. And an individual who is habitually in an intoxicated or drugged condition is also prohibited by both state and federal law from possessing firearms.

Further complicating matters, Missouri law requires a sheriff to deny an application for a permit if the applicant is not eligible. However, sheriffs conducting eligibility checks on permit applicants cannot find out from DHSS if the applicant holds a qualifying patient or a primary caregiver card, nor can sheriffs get this information when a permit holder is renewing his or her permit.

So — should law enforcement turn a blind eye to a qualifying patient who is in a drugged condition every day and possessing a firearm? Proponents of medical marijuana say they should. They say this law does not apply to qualifying patients and primary caregivers as Amendment 2 reads, “Possession of marijuana in quantities less than the limits shall not subject the possessor to arrest, criminal, civil or sanctions under Missouri law.” Again — what should law enforcement do? Should they look the other way?

Should law enforcement investigate medical marijuana abuse just as they would investigate prescription drug abuse? And should they investigate physicians providing fraudulent qualifying patient certification just as they would a physician issuing fraudulent prescriptions?

Or, has the great Oz has spoken?

● By Kevin Merriitt, Executive Director
Missouri Sheriffs’ Association

...Marijuana advocates and state regulators are well aware of the paradox involved in growing marijuana legally. “It’s kind of a ‘chicken and the egg’ issue — it has to start from somewhere. The stork doesn’t bring it. Santa Claus doesn’t bring it,” said Dan Viets.

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Bringing Justice to Victims



Typically a case is not considered “cold” by law enforcement until all evidence has been processed by a crime lab and all tips and leads have been exhausted. Although that amount of time can differ greatly from case to case, unsolved cases generally fall into the “cold case” category after one year.

Murders committed by Jack the Ripper in 1888 in London, England, would probably qualify as the oldest cold cases that remain unsolved. One of the oldest cold cases in American history is that of 7-year-old Maria Elizabeth Ridulph, who disappeared on December 3, 1957, from her Sycamore, Illinois, neighborhood. She was last seen by a childhood friend in the company of an unknown man who appeared to be in his early twenties and who called himself “Johnny.” Nearly five months later, her remains were found in a wooded area approximately 100 miles from her home.

Although police conducted countless interviews, no one was ever charged. In 1997, police closed the then-40-year-old case, naming a man who had died in 1992 as the one who had likely abducted and killed the little girl. However, the case was reopened in 2008 based on a deathbed confession by the mother of Jack McCullough, who under his former name John Tessier had been a neighbor of the Ridulph family. She said she had lied when providing her son with an alibi and knew he had committed the crime. In 2011, McCullough was charged and in 2012 was found guilty and sentenced to life in prison. He was 73 at the time.

Then during a March 2016 court hearing, initiated by a petition asking the court to set aside the ruling, an Illinois Circuit Court judge vacated the conviction and sentence and ordered a new trial. A week later the charges were dismissed and in 2017, nearly 50 years after Maria’s disappearance, McCullough was declared innocent of the crime. The case remains unsolved.

According to information provided by the FBI Uniform Crime Report, Maria’s story isn’t unusual. On average, more than 30 percent of all homicides go unsolved. In Missouri the average is slightly lower.

James M. Adcock, a retired US Army CID agent, former chief deputy coroner of Investigations in Columbia, South Carolina, and former tenured professor at the University of New Haven, blames those numbers on a lack of commitment,



Left to right: The first civilian chemists were hired in 1962. Here, Chemist Frank Durham (l) and Chemist Afton Ware (r) perform microchemical testing of drugs and preparing chemical solutions. Originally, troopers performed all examinations in the Crime Laboratory. Sgt. J.O. Rhoads works in the Patrol's Crime Laboratory in 1955.

manpower and funds.

"Commitment," he said, "requires a dedicated cold case unit where fulltime detectives investigate cold cases only." To address the problem of inadequate manpower, he said agencies should consider utilizing vetted outside sources such as retired police officers, professors, grad students and others to conduct the mundane administrative tasks associated with the investigation process. Organizations in the community should be asked for donations that would be earmarked for cold case investigations to meet funding needs, he said.

"But the real key to overcoming the hurdles is political momentum. And that requires pressure from local citizens and community leaders who understand how high the stakes are," said Adcock, who has spent 19 years training law enforcement, researching, and reviewing cold cases for agencies around the U.S. "Unless that happens, our national cold-case crisis is likely to geometrically worsen."

Founded in 2004 on the belief that "No crime should go unpunished, and every victim needs to get the justice he/she deserves," the Cold Case Investigative Research Institute is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit that assists families and law enforcement with unsolved homicides, missing persons and kidnapping cases. These volunteer crime fighters are students and nationally recognized experts such as profilers, detectives, crime analysts, prosecutors and crime scene investigators who work side-by-side with professionals of the criminal justice community to provide the boots on the ground that Adcock calls for.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP) Crime Laboratory, opened in May 1936 in Jefferson City, has been instrumental in solving many cold cases — and

the forensic lab services are provided to agencies such as sheriffs' offices and police departments at no charge.

The laboratory was one of the first in the country and by 1939 had already conducted 250 chemical, firearms and microscopic examinations. Initially housed in two small rooms of the Broadway Building in Jefferson City, the crime lab now occupies nearly 20,000 square feet and also includes seven satellite laboratories across the state.

At the start of its operation, the lab was manned strictly by uniformed officers of the MSHP. That continued until 1962 when the first two civilian chemists were hired. For the first 20 years, the chemists were "generalists" who performed blood alcohol, chemical, drug, microscopic and trace evidence testing. Other non-chemistry analyses such as firearms functioning, tool marks and fingerprints were still analyzed by trained uniformed officers, but by the late 1960s those jobs were also being handled by civilians.

According to the MSHP, one of the most transforming changes made at the Crime Laboratory Division was the development and implementation of human DNA analysis and profiling. DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) is the building block for the human body and is contained in virtually every cell. The DNA in people's blood is the same as the DNA in their saliva, skin tissue, hair and bone, and it does not change throughout a person's life.

The passage of Senate Bill 578 in 1991

required DNA samples from convicted felons of certain violent crimes to be collected, processed and recorded in a state and national database, Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). The 2004 passage of Senate Bill 1000 expanded Missouri's offender DNA database law to require collection of DNA from all convicted felons. Additionally, 100,000 DNA samples were required to be collected immediately from prior offenders of eligible felony convictions. The program, funded by a court fee of \$30 assessed on every felony conviction and \$15 on every misdemeanor conviction in the state, increased annual DNA submissions to the MSHP Crime Laboratory from an estimated 2,200 offender samples per year to more than 28,000 per year.

In 2009, the database law was expanded again with the passage of HB 152, which required the collection of DNA from individuals arrested for other qualifying crimes. In the 12 prior years under the old law, the crime laboratory analyzed and uploaded a total of 27,211 convicted offender DNA samples. Since the change in the law took effect, the database has increased to more than 356,110 convicted offender profiles.

New Madrid County Sheriff Terry Stevens said DNA was the key to solving one of the worst crimes in his county's history.

"DNA has opened so many avenues that weren't available to us even as late as 10 to 15 years ago," he said. "If you can collect DNA evidence at a crime scene, it certainly enhances your ability to solve that crime and to bring justice to the victim. Because of the advancements, we're seeing cold cases across the nation — cases that have languished for years — being solved. It's a great tool for law enforcement."

● By Nancy Zoellner



Technology, Old Fashion Detective Work Helps Victims Get the Justice They Deserve

That's the mission statement of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office Cold Case Investigations Unit.

Sheriff Steve Pelton said the unit, formed in 2018, consists of four retired law enforcement investigators and one full time detective who have a combined 150 years of experience:

- Captain Chuck Subke, who has 22 years in law enforcement, 12 served as chief detective at Franklin County;
- Gary Toelke, with 41 years in law enforcement, eight as chief deputy and 28 as sheriff of Franklin County before he retired;
- Tom Yoder, with 26 years in law enforcement, eight at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and 16 as chief of police at the St. Clair Police Department before retiring;
- Larry Cook, with 24 years in law enforcement, 2½ years at the Kinloch Police Department, 3½ years at the Pine Lawn Police Department, and 13½ years at the Pacific Police Department as detective, then assistant chief/captain before retiring; and
- Tom Thacker, who has 30 years in law enforcement, six with the Union Police Department and 24 with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office before retiring.

Sheriff Pelton said they systematically put that experience to work, reviewing unsolved homicides and missing person cases. Their efforts paid off late last year when Kirby R. King was charged with the murder of Karla Jane Delcour. The sheriff shared some of the details.

"On June 24, 1987, the body of a female was discovered in a wooded area along the North Service Road approximately 2 miles west of St. Clair, Missouri. She was discovered in a state of decomposition, bound at the wrists and around the neck. The St. Louis medical examiner determined the cause of death to be strangulation by ligature.

"She was later identified and that's when investigators went to work, retracing her last steps. It was determined that her murder occurred on or around June 21, 1987, at a residence off Iron Hill Road in Union. At the time, investigators spoke to several potential witnesses and/or suspects. However, charges were never brought forth. Her murder remained unsolved until 2018 when Franklin County Cold Case investigators reopened the investigation into her murder. The cold case investigators felt this was one that could use further investigation and follow-up. Some of our investigators were familiar with the case because they worked on it originally when it happened. That's one of the perks we have with this unit."

He said Franklin County detectives traveled to Texas and Arizona as well as several locations in Missouri to re-interview suspects and witnesses. "We believed enough evidence existed to charge at least one person with her murder. The original report was updated and submitted to the Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney's Office for review and we were very pleased that charges were issued," the sheriff said, adding that they would not be releasing any additional details because that might hinder prosecution. "This case is about bringing justice for the victim and the victim's family and ensuring that Ms. Delcour will not be forgotten."

And as soon as investigators wrapped up the Delcour investigation, they immediately went to work on another cold case, "making sure every 'i' was dotted and every 't' was crossed. They're looking at any new information, any advancements in technology that could



Left to right: Sheriff Steve Pelton, Captain Chuck Subke, Retired Pacific Assistant Chief Larry Cook, Retired St. Clair Police Chief Tom Yoder, Retired Franklin County Sheriff Detective Tom Thacker, Retired Sheriff Gary Toelke and Major Trevor Wild.

help us or if there's any new evidence that we could possibly cross reference with DNA," the sheriff said, adding that they also re-interviewed people they talked to in earlier investigations. "Sometimes witnesses or people involved in the case have a change of heart when they get older or if the suspect has passed away, they no longer feel there's a threat if they say anything. It's definitely worthwhile to talk to them because when a former witness, friend or relative with new information is located, it could bring a killer to justice."

When investigating cold cases, the unit also utilizes internal/external resources such as the medical examiner's office; internal or external criminalists or other specialists (fingerprint, firearms and forensics); federal agencies such as the FBI, Department of Homeland Security, US Marshals, the Violent Crimes Apprehension Program and the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System; and they tap into national and/or state databases such as the National Center for Analysis of Violent Crimes, Missing Persons Clearinghouse, Missouri State Highway Patrol and DNA databases.

Sheriff Pelton said they also re-send evidence to either the Missouri State Highway Patrol lab or the St. Louis County lab for processing, "But sometimes there's a problem with that. Many years ago, we didn't even know what DNA was so there could be a problem with contamination. And then there's the record-keeping. Some of the cases date back to pre-computer or early computer so files can't be cross referenced. There are a lot of obstacles to overcome but it is a priority to make sure justice is served for everyone."

In the meantime, the sheriff said if anyone has any information regarding an unsolved homicide or a missing person, regardless how insignificant a person believes it to be, he wants them to share that information with the Franklin County Cold Case Investigations Unit by either calling the detective division at 636-583-2560 or emailing franklincountycoldcase@franklinmo.net. "It could be the key to solving the case."

● By Nancy Zoellner



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DNA Solves One Cold Case, Guilty Conscience Another



Thanks to modern technology, the New Madrid County Sheriff's Office was able to clear a cold case through DNA even though the suspect

in the double homicide had been dead for nearly two decades.

Sheriff Terry Stevens, who was working as an investigator for the New Madrid County Prosecuting Attorney's Office at the time, said it was the most heinous crime his community had ever seen.

In March 1998, outside of the small town of Portageville, 37-year-old Sherri Scherer and her 12-year-old daughter, Megan, were both murdered, and the daughter was sexually assaulted. Their bodies were discovered when the husband and father of the pair returned home from work. Sheriff Stevens said one of the investigators at the scene swabbed various areas of the girl's body, and from that they were able to get a partial DNA profile. However, the profile lacked enough markers for entry into the CODIS (Combined DNA Index System).

According to Sheriff Stevens and a timeline released from the Missouri State Highway Patrol, some two and a half hours later an attempted home invasion and shooting were reported across the Mississippi River near Dyersburg, Tennessee. A man in a van stopped to ask for directions, then attempted to enter the residence of a woman and her children. As she held the door shut, the man fired through the door, striking her in the arm before fleeing. The woman provided a detailed description of the suspect and a composite drawing was created. They didn't have a name, but they had a face. Ballistics later connected the shooting to the Scherer murders.

Sheriff Stevens said that over the years they never gave up on the case, continuing to conduct numerous interviews and follow up on hundreds of leads. Then in 2006, significant advances in testing allowed them to develop a full DNA profile, which was entered in CODIS. That resulted in a match to a 1990 murder of a 28-year-old Greenville, South Carolina, woman.

Following the DNA match, the cases were featured on America's Most Wanted. Investigators from South Carolina, Tennessee and Missouri joined forces to explore the more than 1,200 leads that came in from that program. Soon after, another CODIS revealed the same suspect was involved in a 1997 rape of a 14-year-old female in Memphis, Tennessee.

Sheriff Stevens said that in 2018 they sought the services of Parabon NanoLabs, a private DNA technology company whose processes, when combined with investigative techniques, led to the identification of Robert Eugene Brashers as the man responsible for the crimes. When investigators learned Brashers had been dead since 1999, they obtained DNA samples from his family members, which confirmed those findings.

"However, we wanted to make sure, so we got a court order to have Brashers' remains exhumed. DNA samples were collected and tests confirmed his DNA matched the DNA collected in

each crime," he said, adding that they learned Brashers had an extensive criminal history. They also found out how he died.

"In January 1999, he was holed up in a hotel in Kennett, Missouri, which isn't far from us. Police ran the plates on his car and learned they were registered to a stolen vehicle, but when they tried to make contact with him he barricaded himself in the room. After a lengthy standoff, he ended up taking his own life," the sheriff said.

Another New Madrid County cold case was closed last November when Melvin Ray Hufford of Tallapoosa, Missouri, was charged with the murder of Teresa Butler, a 35 year old who went missing from her Risco, Missouri, home on January 25, 2006.

"She was a mother with two small children. Her husband left to go to work around 9 p.m. and when he returned the next morning, the babies were there but she wasn't. We started an investigation that last year culminated with a guilty plea," Sheriff Stevens said, adding that Hufford had been on their radar "from the git-go. We had actually arrested him earlier last year on a home invasion and assault in Tallapoosa and he was being housed in Pemiscot County because we don't have a jail. He was there for quite a while because he kept putting off his hearings and during that time, one of the investigators there kind of befriended him. While talking, Butler just confessed. He said he was tired of looking over his shoulder and wanted to get it off his chest."

According to the statement from Hufford, after the husband left for work, he showed up at the house to "party" with Butler. He shot up meth, then injected Butler but she started complaining of chest pain. He said he went to get her a glass of water and when he returned, she was unconscious.

"He panicked, removed her body from the residence, and hid it in a rural ditch dump. He returned to the house to steal a few items and do a little ransacking to make it look like a home invasion, then left. The following day, when we were notified, we swarmed the area. He saw us and freaked, but waited until later that night to get her body. He then hid it in a cabinet under the kitchen sink of an abandoned rental home owned by his father," the sheriff said.

Hufford ended up going to jail on another crime and when he returned more than a year later, he retrieved what was left of the body, burned it, ground up the bones and teeth, and dumped the remains in a ditch south of Tallapoosa.

"It was my original goal to bring the young woman home. Risco is my home town. I went to high school and met my wife there. We lived there the first 10 or 11 years we were married and I had family there. Of course, I take every homicide seriously but this one I also took personally. This shook the entire community. It was the same with the double homicide in Portageville. I was hoping for a different outcome but I'm glad we got them both cleared. That was my goal before retiring," he said.

● By Nancy Zoellner



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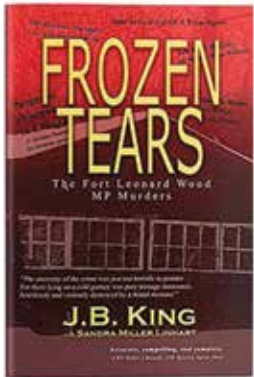
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THE BOOK CORNER



FROZEN TEARS

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Written by J.B. King, "Frozen Tears" is a read every law enforcement officer will enjoy.

Given 4.7 out of 5 stars by Amazon purchasers, the book details the 1970s murder of three innocent teens, the shooting of another, and the investigation carried out by multiple jurisdictions to build a court-prosecutable case against SP4 Johnny Thornton, a military police game warden based at Fort Leonard Wood.

The author, who was the initial law enforcement contact and part of the investigative team, includes photographs, sketches and photo copies of police reports to paint a vivid picture of the crime scene, the victims, many of the investigators and the heartless killer in what was dubbed the "crime of the century." He also provides a look at some of the obstacles law enforcement had to overcome "back in the day."

King, who served as sheriff of Pulaski County from 2005 to 2012, has also written three other books, "Tales from the Blue: Adventures in Law Enforcement," which provides an inside look at crazy but true stories from his life as a Missouri State Highway Patrol officer; and "The Tilley Treasure" and "Justice: Military Tribunals in Civil War Missouri," which provide a unique look at how the war affected Missouri's citizens. All four books are available on Amazon.



HUNTING OF MEN

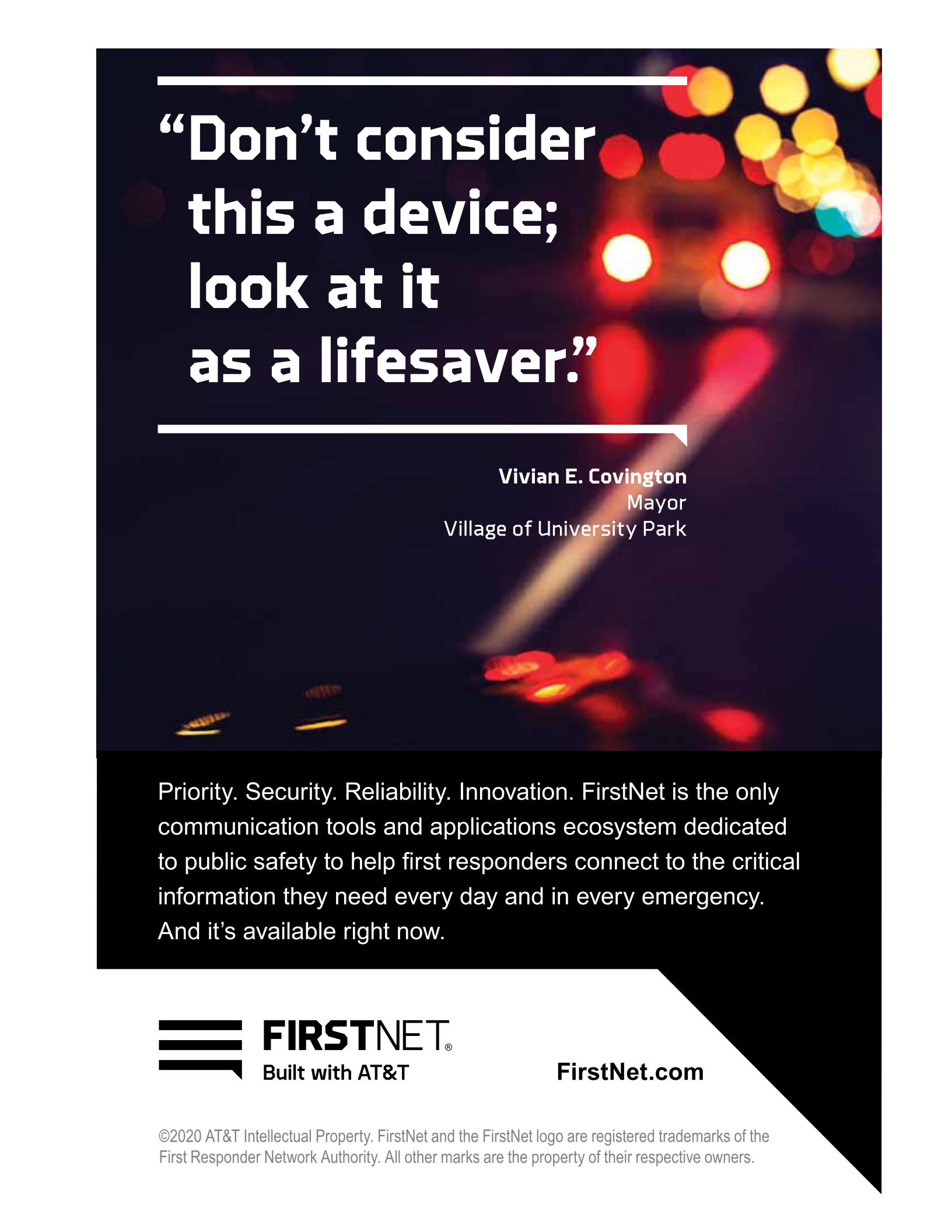
A JOHNNY TILL DETECTIVE NOVEL

Johnny Till is a force to be reckoned with as a new homicide detective for the Lawler County Police Department. As tradition demands, on his first day on the job, Till pulls a cold case file to investigate. The file in question is one that has haunted the department and community for years: the cold-blooded murder of Officer Michael Dunlap, gunned down in the black of night some 20 years earlier.

Now, in order to solve the murder and heal the victims left behind, Till must reopen old wounds and retrace the final days of Dunlap's life. The journey will lead him down a rabbit hole to a darker, more sinister conspiracy, one that threatens to steal the lives of children around the world. In order to close this cold case, Till must not only come into his new role as a homicide detective, but also face his own fears to truly become a hunter of men.

The book, the first of more to come in the Blue Mystery series, was authored by Lance LoRusso, a cop-turned-attorney "with a writing habit."

He's written several other books as well — "Parallax: Crime Tales," "Peacemaking," "Blue News" and "When Cops Kill: The Aftermath of an Incident." All his books are available on Amazon. You can also find his book news online at LanceLoRussoBooks.com.



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Maintaining Order and Safety Inside, Teaching Change for the Outside

Dangerous detainees, an aging facility, an outdated prisoner monitoring system — in some ways the story of the St. Charles County Department of Corrections will be familiar to sheriffs and jail administrators across Missouri. What may be less familiar perhaps are empty beds and a positive outlook for the future. That's the jail story in Missouri's third most populous county.

Current population distribution consists of inmates awaiting trial, committed/sentenced, state prisoners, and holds for other jurisdictions including local municipalities as well as federal inmates. Individuals are held on a wide variety of offenses ranging from misdemeanor traffic offenses to murder in the first degree. The maximum sentence anyone can serve at this facility is one year per individual case; however, some individuals have been held longer waiting to go to trial.

Since taking over as director of the St. Charles Department of Corrections in May 2018, Daniel Keen has brought his brand of professional, forward-looking administration to the county. He came to Missouri from the Northampton County Department of Corrections in Easton, Pennsylvania, where he directed a staff of 267 overseeing more than 1,000 inmates.

Keen has a 20-year career managing large penal institutions and a clear idea of what needs to be done to keep a jail safe, operational and contributing to the community.

The first priority of any jail is the safety of staff and inmates. The current St. Charles facility does not make that easy. Built in

1989 with a capacity of 218, the five-story building was designed at a time when multi-level facilities were in vogue. There is no efficient way to get from floor to floor rapidly. There are three elevators and it requires rides in two of them to get to the top floor. That makes responding to problems or incidents time consuming and inefficient. Expansion over the years added space but did not change the dynamic of the design.

That design also incorporates indirect supervision. The trend toward pod systems reduces the number of officers needed to monitor prisoners but has eliminated the direct contact that Keen sees as critical to heading off trouble and maintaining a safe jail environment.

"When we house these individuals, the facilities design hinders us from knowing what's going on," said Keen, whose entire career before arriving in St. Charles was in direct-contact facilities. "With direct supervision officers are on the housing units with the inmates, touring their housing unit every 15 or 30 minutes. It can reduce damage to county property and deter inmates' bad behavior."

As jail populations have shifted from 40 percent minimum security risks, 40 percent medium risks and 20 percent maximum risks to the exact reverse, maintaining order and preventing mayhem have become more difficult in systems where there are blind areas and a lack of hands-on monitoring, Keen said. A measure of just how much violence has escalated: assaults in the St. Charles County jail are up 450 percent over 2016.

“With indirect supervision, fights break out where we can’t see them and we’re not sure what happened,” he said.

While the challenge of maintaining order and safety inside the jail is a universal concern for sheriffs and administrators across the state, some aspects of Keen’s experience are unique. The St. Charles Sheriff’s Department is separate from the Department of Corrections that is overseen by the county executive rather than the sheriff. Sheriff’s deputies are exclusively tasked with prisoner transport serving warrants and court security/duty.

It would be hard to find anything more unique in a Missouri jail than empty beds, but that’s the case with St. Charles County, which currently has an average daily population of around 350 — far below the full 528-bed capacity. That has allowed Keen to condense operations but has not changed the contact equation. He hopes a renovated facility currently being discussed will address that, providing the opportunity to institute a direct-contact system.

Keen has instituted programs at the facility that are aimed at giving detainees and inmates hope of a different life experience once they walk free. He is also focused on programs that can provide inmates with tools to reintegrate into society more successfully and break the cycle of repeated incarceration. Last year Keen took the first steps toward that goal by instituting the Life Skills Program.

The program gives inmates practical instruction in filling out job applications, handling an interview and interacting with other people appropriately, among other things. Inmates who attend the programs can work toward a lesser classification inside the jail. “We are looking to build a better community,” Keen explained. “We want to have people go out better than they came in. We tell them when to eat, when to sleep, and when they are released, there is no one to tell them what to do next. I want to give them some skills to stay out, to have a sense of having completed something.”

Currently, the program serves only women inmates but Keen has plans to include the male population and to work toward setting up more programs like Moral Recognition Therapy, a type of behavioral therapy aimed at decreasing the likelihood of someone returning to abusing substances or alcohol. Keen sees the first part of his job as keeping prisoners in jail and the second part as keeping them out.

On the “keeping in” side, Keen is working to develop policies and practices for his jail through his work with the Missouri



Sheriffs’ Association Jail Standards Committee and the American Corrections Association.

“I am ‘pedal to the metal’ on changing the culture, setting policies that reflect standards,” Keen said. He brings a strong background to that effort. He was the director of the Pennsylvania State Standards Board, overseeing 62 county jails. “We went around to inspect jails and make sure that they were meeting at least minimum requirements. Doing so is an extra shield of insurance (against inmate lawsuits). The (MSA) committee is working to put best practice standards in place that can be a tool for all counties. Once a jail is in line, it’s easier to maintain.”

Along those lines, Keen said he hopes to make his facility a model for others — a place where those interested in practices and policies can come to see a working example. He’s also more than willing to go out and tour a jail if a jail administrator or sheriff would like some on-site advice. “I’m willing to go out and have a look if I can help,” Keen said. “We are all a team, a family, so let’s take care of each other.”

Keen is optimistic about the future of his jail. With the county council and administrators joining him in looking at what kind of build or renovation can be done to modernize the facility, he’s already thinking about how that might look. Certainly he wants a design that allows direct-contact supervision. And Keen would like to see any new facility in the current location across from the courthouse. That would open the door to the possibility of a skyway, which would allow easier court transfers.

“My goal is to put St. Charles County DOC on the map,” Keen said. “I want to build a system and a place where people can come and learn. I want our jail to be an example of what can be done in corrections.”

● By Michael Feedback



KEEN

A Professional 'Committed to Excellence'

Before taking over as director of the St. Charles County Department of Corrections in 2018, Daniel S. Keen had a two-decade career in corrections in Pennsylvania. His resumé reads like a “Who’s Who in the Penal System.”

However, when he started working in jails, it wasn’t necessarily for the long-haul. “I knew I wanted a career within law enforcement but was undecided where within the field I wanted to be. I started in corrections simply for employment within the law enforcement field. However, as I progressed through the ranks, I became more hungry for the next steps, ranks, and learning more about how we as an industry can improve corrections overall,” he said.

He clearly accomplished those goals.

In 2008-2009, Keen served as warden of the Bedford County Correctional Facility in Bedford, Pennsylvania, which had a staff of 85 employees and jail population of 185. During his time at Bedford, Keen was credited with lowering operational costs, increasing revenue to the county, and helping the facility achieve a 100-percent PA DOC Inspection outcome for only the second time in 14 years.

From 2009 to 2011, he served as the director of County Prison Inspections and Services for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections in coordination with the governor and other state officials and agencies.

He left that position in 2011 to take a job as warden of the Franklin County Jail in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. He worked there until 2015, overseeing a \$12 million budget, and

supervising a staff of 167 and a prisoner population of 470. As warden he focused on employing cutting edge corrections practices and programs while also working to revolutionize certain aspects of managing mentally ill offenders.

In 2015, Keen was named director of the Northampton County Department of Corrections in Easton, Pennsylvania, serving as chief spokesperson for all public communication for the institution while also overseeing a budget of \$30 million and managing a staff of 276, an inmate population of 1,100 and a corps of more than 400 volunteers. While in that position, Keen worked to heighten effectiveness regarding operations and procedures while also elevating staff training, reducing costs and establishing more effective communication with the citizens he serves.

His works were recognized in 2015 when he was presented with the Thomas A. Fulcomer Presidents Award by the Pennsylvania Prison Wardens Association. The award was established to honor members of the PPWA who go above and beyond to support the association through their character, service and commitment to Corrections in Pennsylvania. During the presentation, PPWA President Craig Lowe called Keen “a true corrections professional committed to excellence.”

However, Keen’s experience isn’t limited to his work inside jails. Keen holds a bachelor’s of science degree in Criminal



Justice and has had a long list of law enforcement certifications including as a CERT Master instructor, Security Threat Group, TAC officer and CLEAN Terminal Administrator, PREA Investigator and was certified as a sharpshooter. He was also an adjunct instructor at the Penn State University Justice and Safety Institute, teaching First Line Supervisor, High Impact Supervision and Leadership and Command training and is a member of several corrections-related associations including the North American Association of Wardens and Superintendents, the East Coast Gang Intelligence, the International Law Enforcement Educators and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

In 2018, Keen brought his drive, knowledge and skills to Missouri when he took over as director of the St. Charles Department of Corrections.

“My niece was attending Lindenwood University (in St. Charles). My brother, a high school principal in Pennsylvania, visited her many times during her years at the university and spoke highly of the area. As my wife and I were discussing the possibility of moving south, the Director of Corrections position in St. Charles County became available and we knew instantly this was a great opportunity for our family,” he said, adding that his career goals are more “team goals.”

“I want to do the best I can as director of Corrections, of

course. As a team, our goal is to have St. Charles County DOC be a model facility for corrections both state and nationwide. We hope to build a team of high performance staff that would excel in their roles and leadership. Each position holds a command that would present as unparalleled to other facilities,” Keen said.

He said he also hoped to be a resource for other facilities. That’s why he agreed to serve as a member of the Missouri Sheriffs’ Association Jail Standards Committee.

Jeanne Merritt, marketing director for the MSA and a founding member of the committee, said that after hearing of Keen’s background, she was happy to learn he was willing to attend their jail administrator committee meetings.

“St. Charles County Sheriff Scott Lewis sent me contact information for Mr. Keen, stating he might be interested in being part of our group so I gave him a call. Our goal as a committee is to provide educational and networking opportunities and a support system for Missouri’s jail administrators,” she explained. “After just a few meetings he showed an interest in being a committee member — and we were all pleased about that! The experience and knowledge he brings to the table has been a great asset to all our jail administrators.”

● By Michael Feedback

JASPER COUNTY:

Treatment Concepts to Practice

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, nearly
 2.6 million people were arrested in the United States in 2017
 for crimes directly related to alcohol or controlled substances.

These individuals, who often suffer from mental illness or substance use disorder, remain incarcerated for extended periods of time, creating additional stress on an already overburdened county jail system. Finding solutions to the ever-increasing number of persons in jail with substance use disorder and mental health issues are top priorities of county officials across the United States.

One of the things we have found to be a certainty: if you continue to use the same process or strategy you will likely get the same results. You may have heard the quote from author Courtney Stevens, “Nothing changes, if nothing changes.”

This holds true in many areas including the criminal justice system. If you treat people who are addicted to drugs or alcohol the same way over and over, the results are often going to be the same. If upon arrest they sit in jail, go to court and get released back into the community without any other resources, it is a pretty safe bet nothing will change. In other words, those individuals are unlikely to recover on their own; they are unlikely to pick another path and stay on it unless something changes.

What if we provided that other path for them? What if, upon arrest and while sitting in jail, there were treatment opportunities available to this person? With a structured and robust treatment regimen in the jail, along with a comprehensive release plan, something might actually change for the better. Now, we have changed the process and, in turn, could expect a different outcome with better results.

Although the criminal justice system has limited opportunities to be innovative, Jasper County leaders recently have worked collaboratively to develop and implement an alternative strategy of dealing with inmates with substance use disorder. This journey began when the voters of Jasper County agreed to continue a capital tax which will allow for an expansion to the jail. One of the areas of expansion will include smaller (10-12 bed) dormitory style housing units. These housing units would allow the sheriff's office to partner with community resource providers to provide incarcerated individuals with the opportunity to stabilize, connect with various resources and begin structured individual and group therapy treatment programs such as Moral Reconnection Therapy (MRT), which seeks to decrease recidivism among both juvenile and

adult criminal offenders by increasing moral reasoning.

According to the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, MRT is systematic and implements a cognitive-behavioral approach, which positively addresses ego, social, moral and positive behavioral growth. An analysis of several case studies shows a remarkable drop in recidivism rates in drug court participants.

Defendants would be sentenced to the program by the judge and while incarcerated they would be exposed to a variety of treatment options. These treatment options will also be available to pre-trial inmates on a voluntary basis.

Currently, there are a number of people going through the justice process who are seeking a different outcome, but they do not have the resources. This program can act as a start to that process of change and as a connection to those resources.

Judges and law enforcement officers are often frustrated because incarceration at the state level does not always meet the community and law enforcement expectations of punishment. This program provides circuit court judges with a sentencing alternative. It is also a course of action that may affect future recidivism.

It is widely known that incarcerating people with mental illness creates a huge burden on law enforcement, county jails and the judicial system. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), nearly 83 percent of inmates with a mental illness do not receive treatment while incarcerated. The model described above for treatment, therapy and counseling for substance abuse can be utilized for mental health treatment as well.

● By Jasper County Sheriff Randy Kaiser
 with contributions from Nancy Zoellner

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New Year's Trends AND BOLD PREDICTIONS

I am writing this article in mid-January at the beginning of a new decade. As your National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Law Enforcement Liaison, I wish for you a happy new decade. What a great time to report on recent trends in traffic safety and make some bold predictions. They are actually pretty lame predictions. I call them bold because they are in bold font. The predictions are mine alone and are not from NHTSA.

My first bold prediction for the decade is actually a “hope,” and that is that the Super Bowl will feature the Kansas City Chiefs v. the Green Bay Packers, my two favorite teams. (I also hope for peace on earth, etc.) The Chiefs will win by 4 points. (As I write this, both teams have advanced to the championship round of the playoffs.) Speaking of the Super Bowl, NHTSA has a media kit for impaired driving enforcement during the Super Bowl at www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov. It gives you talking points and sample press release templates that are customizable for your agency. It is focused on the increase in impaired drivers on Super Bowl Sunday. Unfortunately, the Super Bowl will be over for this year when this article is published, but I encourage you to check out the material constantly being uploaded to support this year’s traffic safety enforcement events. It also has some great social media suggestions for law enforcement.

Bold Prediction number two: There will be more electric vehicles and non-combustion engines on the roadways. As a result, there will be dropping gasoline tax revenues. Vehicles will be taxed by the mile, and it will be done seamlessly by your vehicle sending an electronic monthly accounting of miles driven, along with tax payments electronically sent from your bank account to the taxing agency. How convenient is that! While we are at it, let’s tax the bicyclists electronically, too! Those slackers have been getting a free ride all these years*.

Bold Prediction number three: The Federal Government will legalize recreational cannabis (it will allow the states to decide if they want to legalize it for their state). There will be a continued increase in cannabis impaired crashes and deaths. As a result, there will be better research on the effects of THC on driving, better roadside testing, and an “intoxilyzer” type instrument with legal standards on the amount of TCH one can have to drive legally, similar to alcohol. It will probably be based on some type of algorithm/matrix, not a pure number.

Bold Prediction number four: Totally driverless vehicles (no steering wheels, pedals, etc.) will not be widespread, if at all. Vehicles will be more automated and smarter, but not totally driverless. If you were to stop a driverless car for speeding, who gets the ticket? “Ma’am, I need the name and address of your programmer please.” If the thought of driverless vehicles scares you, consider this: according to NHTSA, 94 percent of all crashes now are the result of some type of failure in driver behavior. If the driver is eliminated, would we be actually safer? As vehicles get smarter and more crash avoidance/safety systems are built into vehicles, they will be safer. Because 94 percent of all crashes are now caused by some type of unsafe driver actions, Law Enforcement Liaisons (LEL) encourages law enforcement officers and agencies to conduct high visibility traffic enforcement. Traffic enforcement changes the driving behavior of the violator and other motorists who see the enforcement being conducted. Let’s not wait for the future to become safer. Good traffic enforcement will reduce crashes and crime now!

Current trends in traffic safety:

Crashes: In 2011 for the first time in over 40 years, fewer than 30,000 people lost their lives in traffic crashes (29,807). The past decade started out with traffic fatalities go-

ing down from the previous decade. Then, fatalities started climbing again. Thankfully, the last two years have shown declines once again. (They are probably down for 2019 from 2018, but it is not official yet.) In 2018, 36,560 lives were lost — a 2.4 percent decrease from 2017. We still have work to do.

Non-passenger deaths are trending up. This includes pedestrians, bicyclists and motorcyclists. Deaths involving commercial motor vehicles are also trending up this decade.

The national seat belt use rate increased to 90 percent from 85 percent in 2010. As the seatbelt rate has gone up, the trend is that passenger vehicle deaths have decreased. In 2018, 47 percent of the passenger vehicle deaths were unrestrained. Seat belts are still the most important safety item in your vehicle. But you must wear them. Please participate in the upcoming Click it or Ticket Campaign. Let me know if you have any questions.

Alcohol-impaired deaths are slightly down, whereas other drug-impaired driving deaths are up. If you can, attend or send your deputies to ARIDE and DRE training.

My last bold prediction is this: Fatal/serious injury crash numbers will continue to tend down in the next 10 years. Better technology, safer cars, better engineering, better evidence-based traffic enforcement, and all traffic safety professionals will work hard as a team to see that we save lives and reduce crashes. All we have to do is the work.

Bring on the future and thank you for doing your part. Happy New Decade!

If you need more information (I have lots more stats!) or POST approved free training, contact me at bsully@sbcglobal.net or 913-208-5714.

**calm down, this is sarcasm*

● By Bill Sullivan, Law Enforcement Liaison NHTSA



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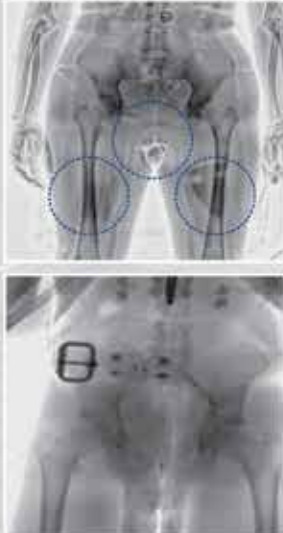
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