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Summer 2020

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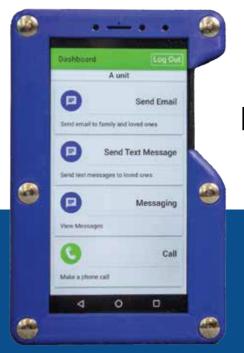


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Law Enforcement Liaison for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Region 7

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

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

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While Much Has Changed, Some Things Have Stayed the Same



Missouri voters
have expressed
their support
for fully
funding their
police agencies.

In 2020, Missouri sheriffs are celebrating the 75th year of the Missouri Sheriffs' Association. Since 1945, this charitable organization has educated thousands of sheriffs and deputy sheriffs as well as the law abiding citizens they are sworn to protect.

Many things in our society have changed since 1945, including the loss of what many consider the greatest generation — the generation of Missourians that struggled through two world wars, the Great Depression, a pandemic and who made sacrifices in order to protect their families and communities. While many things have changed, Missouri's sheriffs and the MSA are still working toward building and protecting our communities 75 years later.

Earlier this year, sheriffs from across Missouri stood together at the capitol on behalf of our law abiding taxpayers. We fought against the premature release of inmates from the Missouri Department of Corrections and the extreme change in bond rules established by the Missouri Supreme Court. We worked with Governor Michael Parson and his staff, as well as House Budget Chair Person Cody Smith and members of the house, to ensure local taxpayers were properly reimbursed for the housing of state inmates in local jails. We were then blindsided by a virus that upended the legislative session and our lives. Despite this disruption, we were pleased that members of the Senate and House worked together with our governor to make a \$50-million commitment to the safety and security of the local taxpayer.

In regards to the ongoing pandemic, sheriffs, along with their deputies, office personnel, courtroom security and jail staff, have been on the front lines protecting the public as well as those incarcerated in our jails. We have worked with local health officials to help them do their jobs to protect the public as well.

In the midst of all this we are now faced with a crisis of faith in law enforcement by many people in our country due to the actions of a few individual officers. Just as peaceful protesters do not want to be lumped together with violent rioters, law enforcement does not want to be lumped together with the unlawful actions of a few individual officers.

Law enforcement is now being scrutinized more than ever and some communities are considering "defunding the police," and there seems to be a narrative that many communities would support "defunding the police." I do not believe the majority of our constituents support this concept. In fact, Missouri voters have expressed their support for fully funding their police agencies, 911 centers and sheriffs' offices time and time again.

In fact, Dunklin County Sheriff Bob Holder, Newton County Sheriff Chris Jennings, Osage County Sheriff Mike Bonham, Cape Girardeau County Sheriff Ruth Ann Dickerson and Henry County Sheriff Kent Oberkrom recently led initiatives in their counties that passed with almost 60 percent approval from the public. Once again, this clearly shows that the majority of Missourians trust their local sheriffs and their local leaders.

Since 1821, Missouri sheriffs have been on the front lines protecting and serving our communities. For almost 200 years Missourians have chosen their chief law enforcement officer by election and asked the sheriff to protect their families and their neighborhoods. This has never been taken lightly. As the sheriff, you are given the responsibility of identifying problems; you are also given the opportunity to resolve them.

Missouri citizens can rest assured, even under these extremely turbulent times, that Missouri's sheriffs will ensure the rule of law is applied firmly and fairly for everyone in our communities.

David Parrish

President Missouri Sheriffs' Association

NEWS Around the State

Christian County Promotions



Sheriff Brad Cole recently announced the promotion of two of his staff members. Jason Applegate was promoted to the position of jail lieutenant and Krystal Smith was promoted to the rank of sergeant.

Applegate began his career with the Christian County Sheriff's Office in February 2015 as a corrections officer. His commitment to the job allowed him to quickly move up through the ranks to corporal over Transport, then later to administration sergeant before his latest promotion.

Smith began her career with the Christian County Sheriff's Office in March 2007 and has since served in many roles. Sheriff Cole said she has been a team player and role model since day one.

Sheriff Cole said he is pleased to have both Applegate and Smith on his team because they are dedicated employees who have always demonstrated a willingness to work hard in every position they have held.

Man of the Year

Congratulations to Greene County Sheriff Jim Arnott for being named to the

10th annual class of **Springfield Business** Journal's Men of the Year! The award recognizes the professional, philanthropic and civic contributions of businessmen throughout the Springfield region.



CONGRATULATIONS ALL AROUND

In late June Cass County Sheriff leff Weber and the Sheriff's Office Auxiliary hosted the quarterly awards and recognition event honoring several deputies and recognizing the retirement of K9 Loki.



Sheriff Weber introduced newly hired employees Elizabeth Hizey, Antonio Martinez, Edgar Aldrin, Jessica Miller and Fleet Services Tech Nate Chance.

Deputy Andrew Martin was promoted to the rank of Corporal in the Jail Division. Sheriff Weber recognized Brian Stufflebean and Jennifer Liston with Turner Construction for their outstanding work to complete the Cass County Jail expansion project on time and on budget. Sergeant Walter Burr was recognized for 20 years of service and Deputy Kevin Buerge was recognized for 25 years of service.

The night concluded with the retirement of K9 Loki. K9 Loki was purchased in 2013 with funds from the Cass County Law Enforcement Restitution Fund Board. During his time, K9 Loki had two handlers, Lieutenant Nicholas Sack and Deputy Adam Messmer. "As the only agency in Cass County to have dual purpose K-9 teams, we understand their value to our office and the community and we are grateful for K-9 Loki's service," said Sheriff Jeff Weber. K9 Loki's replacement is already in training and Sheriff Weber expects to introduce him to the public later this summer.

TAKING THE D.A.R.E.

Although COVID concerns shut down schools across the state and throughout the nation, Christian County Deputy Bill Whitaker and Darren the Lion were able to complete and conduct D.A.R.E. graduations in all five districts — Chadwick, Billings, Sparta, Clever and Highlandville — before those districts closed for the year. "This program is extremely important to me and to the local school administrators that continue participating each year. The students appreciate Deputy Whitaker taking the time to come in to their classroom each week and we hope that the things they learned in D.A.R.E. will enable them to make good decisions in the future and to stay off drugs," said Sheriff Brad Cole.



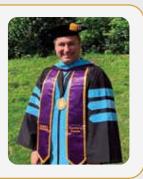
Honoring Their Commitment

In May, Corporal Landon Rogers and Deputy Cody Thomas of the Clay County Sheriff's Office School Resource Unit were presented with the Culture of Excellence in Service Award from the North Kansas City School District. Rogers is one of the unit's supervisors and floats between schools and Thomas is assigned to Staley High School. Sheriff Paul Vescovo said, "We are all proud of their commitment to the students, parents and staff in the district and Clay County."

Those on hand for the presentation were Deputy Cody Thomas, Sergeant Scott Archer, Captain Tommy St. John and Corporal Landon Rogers from the School Resource Unit. They were joined by North Kansas City School District administrators.

Sacrifice & Commitment Rewarded

On May 9, Captain Will Akin, director of Clay County Emergency Management, officially became Dr. Will Akin after he graduated with the honor, Dissertation of Distinction. Sheriff Paul Vescovo said those who work alongside Akin aren't surprised at his achievement. "We congratulate Dr. Akin, who is a true mentor and leader. Congratulations from your Emergency Management Division. I suggest everyone download, read, and discuss his dissertation. His level of sacrifice and commitment is evident within it," Sheriff Vescovo said. The link to his paper, Multigenerational Perceptions of the Law Enforcement Work Environment, is https://digitalcommons.olivet.edu/edd diss/126.



Quick Thinking, Brave Action



Cpl. Paige Rippee with the Greene County Sheriff's Office was heading home from working her overnight shift when she noticed a car pulled off the road and saw a passerby waving at her. She pulled over and saw a shed that was full of smoke and flames sitting approximately 10 feet from a propane tank and a house. Rippee grabbed her fire extinguisher and ran toward the shed, attempting to extinguish the fire while requesting Logan Rogersville Fire Department on the radio. As she emptied the fire extinguisher, the homeowner ran out of the house and handed her a water hose. Rippee was able to put out the fire before the fire depart-

ment arrived. Sheriff Jim Arnott said thanks to her quick actions she was able to get the fire out before it reached the propane tank and the house.

THERE'S A NEW SHERIFF IN TOWN

It's official. Scott Kiefer is the new sheriff of St. Louis County, replacing Sheriff Jim Buckles, who retired last fall. Sheriff Kiefer, who was appointed by Judicial Administrator Hope Whitehead, has been with the SLCSO since 2011, serving in a variety of positions, most recently as chief deputy. As sheriff, he will supervise some 100 employees responsible for supporting the court by serving court papers, enforcing court orders, transporting detainees and providing courtroom security for the St. Louis County Circuit Court. "I am honored to be given the opportunity to serve the people of St. Louis County, helping to ensure safe and equal access to justice," Sheriff Kiefer said.



DARE Donation

In May, the Ralph Russo VFW Post 2482 in St. Clair made a donation of \$1,500 to the DARE Program at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. The money will be used to support the program, taught to some 600 students in 15 schools. On hand for the presentation were (left to right) April Eads, Diane Haws, Major T.J. Wild, Corporal Harden, Deputy O'Fallon, James Myers, Dennis Henson, John Kriete, Ray Miller, Vic Medlock, Barry Casteel, Ron Gloriod, and Sheriff Steve Pelton.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Sheriff Stephen Korte recently announced that Tyler Pedersen was the recipient of the Pike County Sheriff's Office Scholarship. Each year the sheriff's office awards a \$500 scholarship to an

area high school graduate that is pursuing a law enforcement degree.



The Glue that Holds Them Together

LaDeann King, office manager for the Randolph County Sheriff's Office, was recently presented with the Moberly Optimist International Law Enforcement Award. Sheriff Mark Nichols said that for the last 24 years King



has served the citizens of Randolph County and the sheriff's office with dedication and selflessness. "As always LaDeann is the glue that holds us all together. Thank you for all you do for us Momma D. We love you and congratulate you."

Protecting the Protectors



Brady Snakovsky with Brady's K-9 Fund recently donated this custom-sized vest to Christian County Sheriff's Office K-9 Kye. This vest will keep Kye safe while working to

protect the citizens of Christian County.

The goal and mission of Brady's K-9 Fund is to donate a practical, mission ready vest to as many law enforcement K-9s as possible. "We want the K-9s who protect communities across the United States to be protected themselves during their entire shift and not just when time permits to put the vest on the dog. We have partnered with LOF Defence to donate their Streetfighter Vest because it is the best option on the market to meet our goals." As of June, Brady's K-9 Fund had provided 244 vests for K-9s throughout the country. For more information, visit Bradysk9fund.com.

NEWS

CORONAVIRUS COULDN'T STOP CAMP

The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office held its 18th annual Youth Summer Camp during the second and third weeks of June for all graduated fifth graders in the county. Unlike years past, this year's camp was modified to include guidelines for summer camp implementation through the CDC, switching from a four-night, five-day





overnight camp to a four-day camp. In the past, each camp included 130 campers but to meet social distancing and safety standards, this year's camp was limited to 80 day campers — and a long waiting list in the event there were any no-shows.

Food service changed from a tradition buffet style to brown bag lunches and Styrofoam container dinners. The sheriff's office bought almost 1,000 cones to implement social distancing standards throughout the camp and at activity stations, which were modified to include social distancing standards. Campers were trained in cough etiquette, hand washing, the symptoms of COVID-19 and how to report those symptoms if they feel they sick or another camper is showing

symptoms. What didn't change in 2020 was the amount of fun each camper had! Parents gave rave reviews, saying their children had a blast and couldn't stop talking about it.

"I wasn't sure the camp was a go this year. I had our Community Services Unit send out a letter to parents to gauge interest and the response was overwhelming," said Sheriff John Cottle. "I feel the area needed a first and we were that first. Once our first week concluded, Lt. Andy Binder received several calls from local faith-based groups asking us how we pulled it off and the specific guidance we went by. This year's camp was very successful and I am happy for the kids."

Raising the Bar

By unanimous vote, in June the Jackson County Legislature approved a contract for comprehensive mental health services at the Jackson County Detention Center with Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc. For the first time in the jail's history, mental health services for the population will be provided to national standards. Jackson County Sheriff Darryl Forté said they regard this as a crucial step in the direction of becoming a premier agency.

"We want to thank the county executive's team for their support in this endeavor and the members of the legislature who continue to make the well-being of our inmates, and the safety and security of our facility, a priority," the sheriff said.



LIFE SAVER

Lafayette County Deputy Chad Burns was recently awarded the Excellence in Service Award by Sheriff Kerrick Alumbaugh. After being dispatched to a report of an aggravated assault with an axe, Deputy Burns arrived on scene to find a 75-year-old male with a life threatening injury to his left arm. Deputy Burns applied a tourniquet to the arm to stop the bleeding until medical assistance could respond.

FORMER SHERIFF PASSES

On Wednesday, June 10, 2020, retired Knox County Sheriff Mike Kite, who served from 2001 to 2013, passed away at the University of Missouri Hospital in Columbia after falling ill. Sheriff Kite's dedication to public service was unwavering. Prior to being elected to the office, he served as chief deputy under Sheriff Dan Bishop. When Allen Gudehus took over as sheriff in 2013, Sheriff Kite remained with the sheriff's office and continued serving the community as a reserve deputy. At the time of his death he was also working part-time as an officer with the Edina Police Department.

Correctional Care

Cass County Sheriff Jeff Weber recently recognized Nurse Kim Otter for 15 years of service with Advanced Correctional Healthcare and the Cass County Sheriff's Office. Otter serves as the full-time nurse for the Cass County Jail. Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc., is the contracted service provider for inmate medical. The Cass County Jail includes a dedicated medical area for a doctor and nursing staff as well as housing for inmates needing medical care. "Nurse Otter is a valuable member of our family at the sheriff's office and we are happy to celebrate her

long tenure working with the Cass County Jail and Advanced Correctional Healthcare," the sheriff said.



Congratulations are in Order



Department of Public Safety Director Sandy Karsten recently named Platte County Sheriff Mark Owen as chairman of the Missouri Peace Officer Standards and Training Program (POST) Commission. He replaces Springfield Police Chief Paul Williams, who served as chairman since February 2017 and continues to serve as a member of the POST commission. POST is a regulatory program with responsibility for licensing peace officers, ensuring compliance with peace officer continuing education requirements, and conducting investigations for disciplining the licenses of peace officers. The POST Program also licenses

law enforcement basic training centers, basic training instructors, approves law enforcement training curricula, and provides staff support for the POST Commission.

Lifesaving Skills Recognized

Missouri Senator Jeanie Riddle presented two Senate Resolutions for the lifesaving actions taken by Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputy Eric Redman and former Deputy Ryan Parker, now a Troy Police officer. On April 3, the two responded to a 911 call regarding a 16-year-old who accidentally cut herself. When they arrived, the teenager was bleeding profusely from the forearm. Both Redman and Parker applied a tourniquet to slow the bleeding. Responding paramedics determined the girl cut an artery and without the quick and effective treatment applied by both Redman and Parker, she would have most likely died.

On hand for Redman's recognition were (left to right) Sgt. Tracy McCoy, Danielle Redman, Deputy Eric Redman, Missouri Senator Jeanie Riddle and Sheriff John Cottle and for Parker's were Troy Police Chief Jeff Taylor, Wendy Parker, Officer Ryan Parker and Sheriff Cottle.

"Congratulations on a job well done. You both are most deserving of this recognition," said Sheriff Cottle.





CLAY COUNTY DETECTIVE RECOGNIZED



Clay County Detective Scott Childers, who is assigned to the Western Missouri Cyber Crimes Task Force, was recognized for his work in several Metro Squad Investigations last year. In 2019, Childers assisted the Metro Squad with a shooting investigation and was able to ping the suspect's cell phone, placing him at the scene during the shooting. In addition, Childers used data from a 'hot spot' to identify two accomplices involved in the crime. Childers is also responsible for several investigations and arrests for possession of child pornography across the region.



HER HERO

Although she may be too young to realize it right now, one day one little girl will most likely look upon Johnson County Sheriff's Deputy Cpl. Nicole Collins as her hero.

In the afternoon of June 22, Johnson County deputies were dispatched to a rural address north of Knob Noster in regards to a 2-year-old who had been missing for approximately 20 minutes. When Collins arrived on the scene she noticed a large pond several hundred yards north of the residence and immediately asked the mother if the pond had been checked. When she was told that it hadn't been, Collins quickly went toward the pond and saw the child approximately 10 to 15 feet from the bank with water up to her neck. She determined that the child was stuck in the mud, immediately removed her outer vest and went into the pond to rescue the little girl.

Sheriff Scott Munsterman praised Collins' actions, saying "It's an outstanding outcome to a potential tragic event."

Gunny Retires

After serving his county for several years, Gunny, a K-9 officer with the Jasper County Sheriff's Office, retired from active duty. He will spend the rest of his days with his handler,

Deputy Jeremy Eads, enjoying family life.

"Deputy Gunny has searched a lot of cars over the years. He has certainly earned his retirement," said Sheriff Randee Kaiser.



NEWS

Group Donates Life-Saving Devices

President Jim Millican and Past President Larry Renshaw with the Fraternal Order of Eagles #4146 Raymore presented Cass County Sheriff Jeff Weber with a donation of 14 tourniquets and holders for deputies. "Deputies are likely to encounter victims with trauma such as serious bleeding when responding to emergency calls, so it makes sense that bleeding control equipment and training programs are something we have implemented at the sheriff's office. I appreciate the support of our community partners and this donation," said Sheriff Weber.





THEY WILL BE MISSED

Sheriff Paul Vescovo congratulated (left to right) Sergeant Robin Walters, Captain Steve Siercks and Captain Cathy Compton on their well-deserved retirements. Together, they have provided 107 combined years of service to the citizens of Clay County. "We wish you the best, and thank you for your years of dedication to the Clay County Sheriff's Office!"

Newly Graduated

Congratulations to the graduates of Class 255 of the Missouri Sheriff's Association Training Academy. Many of these young men and women will be serving citizens in Platte and Clay counties. This was the last part time academy in Platte City. The Platte City Academy has gone full time, starting their first full time academy on June 1.

KEEPIN' IT REAL IN STODDARD COUNTY

For the first time ever, fifth grade students in every school in Stod-dard County will be receiving the core D.A.R.E. program in the coming 2020-2021 school year. Stoddard County Sheriff Carl Hefner said this will allow Corporal Andrew Johnson and Deputy Lori O'Dell, who have served as D.A.R.E. instructors for numerous years and have a deep passion for the program, to reach approximately 450 students.

The core program has changed throughout the years since it began in 1983. The current "Keepin' It Real" program teaches students not only about drugs and alcohol, but also focuses on decision making. Students learn how to use a decision making model to identify and assess their options before making a decision.

Sheriff Hefner said they're also excited to unveil their new D.A.R.E. vehicle and thanked Christian Memorials of Dexter for the amazing graphics. Pictured with the vehicle (from left to right) are Angie Duncan, Dexter Central Elementary principal; Louis Bell, Bloomfield Middle School principal; James Hamlin, Advance Elementary principal; Sheriff Carl Hefner; Deputy Lori O'Dell; D.A.R.E. Mascot Daren the Lion; Corporal Andrew Johnson; Cara Merritt, Richland Elementary principal; Dustin Hicks, Bernie Schools Superintendent; Casey Karnes, Bell City Elementary principal; and Nate Wills, Puxico Elementary principal.

"We appreciate the Stoddard County schools allowing us to go into their schools and share this program with our children," the sheriff said.



Shedding Light

To show his support for the Christian County Sheriff's Office and the K-9 Unit, David Holloway designed and crafted a desk lamp, then, along with his family, presented it to Deputy Thomas Buchness and Kye at the sheriff's office. Sheriff Brad Cole thanked Holloway for his dedication and contribution.



Meritorious Service

Gasconade County Sheriff Mark Williams recently presented Deputy Dustin Hawley with three letters of commendation, Meritorious Service awards for actions he took while dealing with an armed suspect and for the work he did to solve two separate burglaries. According to the awards, Hawley's dedication, professionalism and willingness to



follow up on leads resulted in the majority of the stolen property being returned and two wanted felons being arrested for one of the burglaries. The letters stated that Hawley's "fidelity, steadiness and desire to succeed reflects great credit upon yourself, your fellow deputies, and the Gasconade County Sheriff's Office."



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n December 31, several of Missouri's sheriffs will officially retire from law enforcement. With them will leave a wealth of knowledge.

Solon, an Athenian statesman, lawmaker and poet remembered for his efforts to legislate against political, economic and moral decline in archaic Athens, was quoted as saying, "In giving advice seek to help, not to please, your friend."

Our departing sheriffs, who will be sadly missed, have done just that for those who are taking their places. But we think those incoming sheriffs will also be pleased by what they read.

SHERIFF BRYAN ATKINS

Andrew County Sheriff Bryan
Atkins advises new sheriffs
to remember who they work
for. "You must have integrity,
be honest, and earn the
respect of both your citizens
and your employees. Be fair
with everyone you deal with while
keeping an open mind. Use common
sense and do not break the laws that
you've sworn to enforce and uphold."

He started his career March 1, 1981, as the fulltime court bailiff/fill-in dispatcher for Andrew County. Three months later he transferred to road patrol, working his way up to chief deputy before being elected sheriff and taking office January 1, 2009. He'll have worked a total of 39 years and 10 months when he retires.

One of his biggest challenges has been getting pay raises and health insurance for his employees in order to maintain a professional, committed, work force — without simply serving as a training ground for larger area departments that

offer better pay and benefits.

His greatest accomplishment as sheriff was building a new law enforcement center. "After working in the 1906 model 'jail house,' it became evident that holding inmates in the facility was totally unsafe for not only the inmates, but for my staff as well. In November

2012, we opened the new sheriff's office and 60-bed jail, with room to expand; in the summer of 2018, we finished a 20-bed expansion project. As many jails became overcrowded, we started housing inmates for other facilities, giving us the opportunity to generate an additional \$800,000 for the county."

After retiring, Sheriff Atkins hopes to travel and ride his motorcycle more, but he'd also like to teach continuing education classes or instruct at an academy and will always serve as an advocate for law enforcement in general. "I'm looking forward to relaxing but will miss being involved in the daily operations as I've done it for so long."

SHERIFF RICHARD STEPHENS

Carter County Sheriff Richard Stephens hopes new sheriffs will "Never lose sight

of the nobility of the mission and the reason we do what we do – to serve others. Our role and duty is not about us but rather about those we serve. When we make it about us and what we can gain from our service, it

Sheriff Stephens began his career in 1995 when he enrolled into the Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy in Aurora, Colorado, taking a job in detentions with the Gilpin County, Colorado, Sheriff's Office after graduation. He also worked with the Howell County Sheriff's Office and the Van Buren Police Department before successfully running for sheriff and taking office January 1, 2013.

is no longer viable and we rapidly fail."

He said his biggest challenge as sheriff was employing and then retaining qualified and committed officers. His biggest accomplishment? "Resilience. Throughout my time as sheriff we have confronted numerous disasters including two major tornados, five major floods (two were 'historic'), two total rebuilds of the department, a total loss of all sheriff's office facilities, an officer-involved shooting and, most recently, the pandemic. Not unlike my brother and sister sheriffs who likewise face turmoil, I am proud of accomplishing our goal of providing servicebased policing to our citizens throughout disasters."

Although he'll miss the satisfaction brought about by serving his community, he said he will also appreciate being able to release air held in for many years. "And I hope to continue working closely with law enforcement and mental health professionals throughout our state to bring awareness to crisis intervention programs and officer well-being and resiliency resources. Additionally I hope to teach at the college level."

SHERIFF PAUL VESCOVO

Clay County Sheriff Paul Vescovo advised sheriffs to remember to "Protect the office of sheriff. We work and answer to the people of our respective counties, not bureaucrats."

Sheriff Vescovo started his law enforcement career in 1978 as a patrolman with the Smithville Police

Department. He progressed through the ranks and in 1993 was appointed as Smithville chief of police. He served in that position until he was elected sheriff of Clay County and took office in 2001. Then after serving two terms, he deployed to Afghanistan in 2009 as a police adviser and mentor to the Afghan

police adviser and mentor to the Afghan National Police Forces. When he returned home, he made another successful run for sheriff, took office in 2013, and has served ever since.

The biggest challenge he's faced during his tenure has been recruiting, hiring and retaining qualified personnel to maintain the high level of service that the community has come to expect. He said he feels his most important achievement was being able to maintain a professional and cooperative relationship with state and local law enforcement agencies in Clay County. He's also pleased with the level of support he gained from the community, which has been kept informed through a strong social media presence and through several public

outreach programs presented by the sheriff's office.

Sheriff
Vescovo said
although
he'll miss the
comradery and
the relationships
he's developed over
the years, he's looking forward to being
able to relax and do some traveling after
he retires.

SHERIFF BEN BECERRA

Daviess County Sheriff Ben Becerra said the best advice he has for incoming sheriffs is to be very involved with their communities. "And make it known that you stand for the Constitution. That is of utmost importance!"

Sheriff Becerra began his law enforcement career in 1987 when he took a job with the Kansas City Police Department, East Patrol Division. He was employed there for seven years before he moved back home to Daviess
County and took
a job with the
sheriff's office.
"After working the
road for two years,

and then serving as chief deputy for seven, in 2008 I decided to resign and run for sheriff. I was elected and took office on January 1, 2009."

Although challenges come daily with the job of sheriff, one has been extremely difficult and that's satisfying the public. However, he said he was pleased that he was able to remodel the sheriff's office in order to make more space for his staff. "Like so many sheriff's offices across the state, being in 100-year-old courthouses makes working environments challenging. We managed to provide an office just for deputies while I maintain a separate work area that provides easy access for the public."

After he retires, Sheriff Becerra hopes to be able to relax a little and maybe enjoy some of the things he didn't have time to do while holding office. "But my most important goal is to continue to be humble and kind."

SHERIFF MATT SHOO

Montgomery County Sheriff Matt Shoo wants new sheriffs to treat the job as a marathon, not a sprint. "Hire good people you trust. Remember, the sheriff comes from the people and serves the people. And don't be afraid to ask for help."

Sheriff Shoo started in law enforcement in November 1991 when he took a job with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. Over the next 25 years he worked in nearly every single facet of the sheriff's office — road deputy, court bailiff, transport officer, jail administrator and finally chief deputy in 2001. From 2002 to 2016, when he filed to run for sheriff,

he also served as the part-time chief for the High Hill Police Department.

Although he faced several challenges throughout his term, making sure his staff was properly



trained and dealing with budget issues were the most difficult. He couldn't limit his "biggest accomplishment" in law enforcement to just one answer. "Participating in the D.A.R.E. program required me to attend one of the most difficult trainings of my career but working with the kids was one of the most rewarding. Being tasked with oversight and opening a new jail facility in 1998 was extremely challenging but I learned so much. And serving as chairman of the East Central Crisis Intervention Team for Audrain and Montgomery counties from 2015 to the present also ranks at the top of my list of accomplishments," he said.

After retirement, Sheriff Shoo hopes to be able to spend more time with family and friends and to take a few extended vacations. However, he also plans to stay involved in law enforcement in some capacity for a few more years, even if it's in an advisory position.

SHERIFF TERRY STEVENS

New Madrid County Sheriff Terry Stevens said his advice for newly elected sheriffs is simple and straight to the point. Sheriffs should surround themselves with people they can trust.

He started his career in law enforcement on January 1, 1985, working as a dispatcher with the New Madrid County Sheriff's Office. He worked his way up through the ranks to chief deputy before taking office in 1997.

His biggest challenge while serving as sheriff? Just doing the

job as it should be done.

His greatest accomplishment while serving as sheriff was solving two cold cases. One

from 1998 involved a 37-year-old woman and her 12-year-old daughter who were both murdered and the daughter was sexually assaulted. He never gave up tracking down leads and his persistence finally paid off in 2018 when advances in technology allowed investigators to develop a full DNA profile that led to the killer's identity - and the

fact that he had taken his own life nearly two decades earlier. The other cold case was closed last November when a Tallapoosa, Missouri, man was charged with the murder of a 35-year-old woman who went missing in 2006. "I'm glad we got them both cleared. That was my goal before retiring," he said.

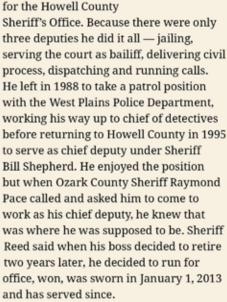
Although he's not sure yet what he's going to do with his time after retirement, he knows that he will be enjoying the time off.

SHERIFF DARRIN REED

Ozark County Sheriff Darrin Reed believes new sheriffs should stay strong and stand their ground when it comes

to protecting the citizens they serve. "And always keep integrity a top priority."

He started his career June 5, 1984 working



His biggest challenge as sheriff has been to stop drug abuse in his county. He started several programs to help combat drug addiction as a way to accomplish that goal. "I have always believed that an informed community is a safer community and feel I have made myself approachable to the citizens I serve, however, my biggest accomplishment has been to provide my deputies with all the

equipment they need to keep them safe."

After retirement he plans to continue serving as an advocate for law enforcement officers - and to try to get a little fishing in.

SHERIFF RICHARD LISENBE

Phelps County Sheriff Richard Lisenbe advised incoming sheriffs to hold off making a lot of changes right in the beginning and instead first get to know the employees, "and then make changes

that will make things better for the department as a whole."

His story began in 1971 when he moved to Washington, D.C., to work as a fingerprint examiner with the FBI. Then in 1976, he moved back to Rolla and was hired as a Phelps County deputy. The next 32 years found him working as a juvenile officer, then as a trooper with the Missouri State Highway Patrol teaching drug interdiction to law enforcement agencies across the U.S. and overseas. He retired in 2005, ran for sheriff in 2008 and took office in 2009.

His greatest accomplishment since taking office has been renovating the old jail that was built in the early 1970s with the use of drug forfeiture funds and at no cost to taxpayers. Keeping up with everchanging policies and laws, and retaining employees has proven to be his biggest challenge.

After retirement, the only things he hopes to keep up with are his four grandchildren and his hobbies of hunting, fishing and camping. "I'm looking forward to being able to devote more time to all of those."

SHERIFF MARK NICHOLS

Randolph County Sheriff Mark Nichols' advice for sheriffs just taking office is simple. "Always be available for your citizens and staff."

He began his law enforcement career on April 7, 1986, when he took a job in the Patrol Division of the Randolph County Sheriff's Office. Three and a half years



a half years. That's when he was asked by newly elected Sheriff Donald Ancell to come back to the Randolph County Sheriff's Office as his chief deputy. He agreed and held that position until he ran for sheriff, was elected and took office in January 2005.

Although he faced quite a few challenges during his tenure, including opening the newly completed Randolph County Justice Center and 120-bed jail, finding a way to retain good, quality officers and pay them a living wage has been his biggest.

While quite an undertaking, assisting with designing and opening a newer, safer jail and justice center was his biggest accomplishment.

Sheriff Nichols is one of the few who won't exactly be taking it easy after retirement. He'll still be working - he'll just be working in the private sector.

SHERIFF WAYNE WINN

Scotland County Sheriff Wayne Winn said he believes new sheriffs should be active in the MSA and legislation and should ask for advice from veteran

sheriffs. "Don't act like you know everything there is to know about being a sheriff or the job. I've seen too many first time sheriffs not ask for help and get themselves in trouble."

Sheriff Winn started his law enforcement career in 1992. He was laid off from a construction job when he got a call from Memphis Police Chief Danny Aldridge who asked if he'd be interested in police work. "I told him 'No' because I had never given it any thought." But after riding with him one evening he was hooked and in November he started as a patrolman with the Memphis PD. He

worked there until he took office in 2001.

One of the biggest challenges he's faced

One of the biggest challenges he's faced as sheriff is lack of manpower.

"With low wages and no health insurance it's difficult to attract quality people."

His list of "greatest accomplishments" is long. He was able to secure grant money to install a radio repeater system that allows deputies to communicate on calls and a CAD/records management system for the office. Sheriff Winn switched the entire fleet to pickup trucks, used drug seizure money to purchase assault rifles for those vehicles and obtained a backup generator for the sheriff's office.

"I also feel that during my terms as sheriff we were able to eradicate most of the marijuana from the county and I've worked with a neighboring sheriff's office in Iowa, which maintains its own crime lab, to get my officers better trained in forensics."

He's running for the position of Eastern District commissioner of Scotland County so retirement from the sheriff's office doesn't mean he'll be home with his feet up.

"If elected I'll work two days a week at that job and will work elsewhere the rest of the week. I may even take a part-time deputy job with a neighboring sheriff's office. I also hope to get in a little fishing."

SHERIFF JIMMIE RUSSELL

Taney County Sheriff Jimmie Russell advises new sheriffs to lead with integrity. "Do your job to the best of your ability by doing what is right. Don't try to be politically correct. When you do what is right, the politics will follow."

Sheriff Russell started his career in law enforcement June 1, 1985, as a patrolman for the Branson Police Department. He worked there until February 1, 1992, when he started at the Taney County Sheriff's Office as a deputy sheriff. Eight years later he won the election and took office as sheriff on January 1, 2001.

He said although it's difficult to point to one thing that proved to be challenging during his tenure, he felt the always-changing environment of law enforcement would rank high on that list. Building and then moving into a new jail was another.

"When I came into office we had a

38-bed jail but
were housing
110 in several
area jails," he
said, adding
that the county
commission planned
to build a jail designed to hold 100
inmates. "I convinced them to scrap those
plans and build our current 268-bed
facility."

Although returning stolen family heirlooms or arresting a suspect who has violated a victim makes the job worthwhile, he feels his most important accomplishment has been hiring new deputies and helping train them to think for themselves in a way that respects both the victim and suspect while upholding the law and honoring their rights. After retirement, Sheriff Russell plans to continue working his cattle operation and attend as many of his grandchildren's sports games as possible. He and his wife are also planning several trips on their Harley and hope to take a trip to Colorado where they can spend time in the mountains without phone service.

SHERIFF TERRY SHEDDRICK

Worth County Sheriff Terry Sheddrick said he felt it was important for new sheriffs to keep up with training and to stay informed on any changes in the laws — or laws that might be getting ready to change in the near future. "And don't be afraid to do your job!"

He began working in law enforcement in 1985 when neighbor Sheriff Lorace Waldeier asked him if he'd like a job. He had been farming and thought law enforcement sounded more interesting with a lot more promise, so he took it. He was with Worth County for 14 years before leaving to take a job with the Western Missouri Correctional Center in Cameron. He later transferred to the

Maryville Treatment Center and worked there for 10 years. Then he came back and farmed three years before running for sheriff in 2008.

COVER STORY

He was elected and has held the office since.

The biggest challenge he's faced as sheriff is having to work with a staff of just three - including himself. As the smallest and least populated county in the state, his budget doesn't allow him to hire more. However, even with a lean budget he has been able to regain the trust of his community.

"When I started we had a bad theft and vandalizing problem. We've also been working hard on the drug problem but there's still a lot to accomplish," Sheriff Sheddrick said.

His retirement plans are simple, downto-earth and slightly tongue-in-cheek. "I'm going back to the farm and maybe get rid of my telephone."

SHERIFF GLEN ADLER

Wright County Sheriff Glen Adler has more than one piece of advice for new sheriffs. "Don't go in thinking you will change the world because as much as you would like to, it won't happen. Also — try to get along with the county commissioners. It's ok to disagree with them but realize there's only so much to go around and working with them will get you a lot further than arguing." He also advised new sheriffs to treat all people with respect. "Lots of people have problems. We must keep doing what we do best, even if there are some that hate us for what we do. It's our job to protect people no matter who they

Sheriff Adler started in law enforcement in 1987 as a dispatcher for Wright County Sheriff Leo Bradshaw. In March 1988, he was assigned a spot as patrol deputy. Then in 1996 he took a job as chief of police for the city of Norwood and held that until he was elected sheriff and took office on January 1, 2005.

are."

Overseeing the jail, "where you're

housing different kinds of people, all with different problems," has been the most challenging task of his career. However, he's also pleased that under his leadership the county was able to build a new 80-bed

jail, scheduled to open in October 2020. Other "greatest accomplishments" include staying within budget while getting his employees raises and adding three deputies, and serving as a voice for abused or assaulted children, "putting some of those offenders away."

After retirement he hopes to do some traveling with his wife and family as well as counsel with people struggling with life. "I've worked so many suicides and I always wished I could have talked to them before that happened. I feel God has given me the gift of mercy to help others."

By Nancy Zoellner



PLANNING

Missouri Sheriffs United was founded in September 2019 and is incorporated as a 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization.

& PURPOSE

The purpose of Missouri Sheriffs United is to advance and promote the health, wellness and safety of Missouri citizens by advocating for, and educating Missourians on, the Office of Sheriff and furthering law enforcement's role in promoting a safer Missouri.

Missouri Sheriffs United (MSU) is a sister corporation to the Missouri Sheriffs' Association.



MSA — Providing 75 Years of Service to Those Who Serve

IN WORLD WAR I TAIL GUNNERS CAME UP WITH A PHRASE TO LET THEIR PILOTS KNOW THEY HAD THEM COVERED SO THE ENEMY COULDN'T COME UP FROM BEHIND AND TAKE THEM DOWN. THAT PHRASE, "I'VE GOT YOUR SIX," MEANT SOMEONE LOYAL WAS WATCHING OUT FOR THEM IN A WAY — AT AN ANGLE — THEY COULDN'T COVER THEMSELVES.

For at least 75 years the Missouri Sheriffs' Association (MSA) has been doing the same thing for sheriffs by providing legislative support, training, and assistance to further professionalize the office of sheriff and to keep sheriffs informed and well-trained to prepare them for anything that comes their way. Long story short: The MSA has Missouri sheriffs' six — and has for decades.

Although MSA's written history was lost when records were destroyed, it is known that the association formally organized in 1945. Four years later the MSA established by-laws and registered them with the Missouri Secretary of State's Office. Thanks to the efforts of Keith Hoskins, jail director for the Boone County Sheriff's Office and a history buff who has spent hours research-

ing at the Missouri Historical Society, we know that sheriffs decided to join forces much earlier.

A clipping from the "Palmyra," a Sedalia newspaper, dated March 4, 1897, says a called meeting of Missouri's sheriffs met February 23 "behind closed doors. The object of the meeting was to remonstrate the fees of sheriffs, as has been contemplated, especially in the matter of criminal costs, and a committee will visit Jefferson City to protest against the enactment of such legislation."

Several newspapers published in April, 1898 informed readers that the second annual meeting of the Sheriffs' Association of Missouri would be meeting the second Monday in June and that several committees would be appointed to visit Jefferson City and appeal to the legislature to make changes in certain laws that have a direct

"No official other than the elected sheriff has a greater responsibility for safety of the local community. They have worked together as a group for over 100 years and will continue to do so in the future," said Kevin Merritt, executive director of the MSA. "They don't want to let being 'good' get in the way of being 'great' public servants."

bearing upon the fees of the sheriff's office.

Although the state doesn't have any records of earlier official registration, a story headline from the January 14, 1902 issue of the "St. Louis Republic," reads

SHERIFFS' MEETING CALLED.

Organization to Be Formed and Legislation Discussed.

According to that article, the "Sheriffs of the State" would be meeting February 5 in Jefferson City "for the purpose of effecting a State organization." The article goes on to say that several amendments to the laws relating to the sheriffs would be discussed and possibly presented to legislators. "Among them will be the amending of the law extending the term of office from two to four years; a uniform fee for furnishing food for prisoners and requiring security for costs to be furnished Sheriffs and other court officers before writs are executed."

There must have been support for taking more formal action

because four days later the same papers tells readers that Missouri sheriffs organized to form a protective association that would also "promote a better acquaintance among the sheriffs of the state."

Other clippings show that while sheriffs were provided with networking opportunities, they also dealt with weighty matters. A 1904 article in the "Morgan County Democrat" announced that the Sheriffs' Association of Missouri, of which Sheriff G.A. Smith served as president, decided to meet in St. Louis during the World's Fair that year. A story that ran two years later in the "Scott County Kicker," reports that a resolution was offered at the convention of the State Sheriffs' Association of Missouri to request legislators to pass a law requiring executions to take place at Jefferson City. Those in attendance voted unanimously to adopt the measure.

Missouri Sheriffs' Association-Sedalia, Mo., February 25.—A called meeting of the Missouri Sheriffs' Association was held here to-day. The session was behind closed doors. The following sheriffs were present: M. W. Nelson, Audrain county; R. M. Leer, Johnson; A. F. Prussing, Benton; A. W. Ewing, Verno; J. S. Owen, Greene; J. A. Fulkerson, Lafayette; J. W. Calloway, Henry; T. E. Pratt, Marion; R. H. Smithey, Monroe; W. J. Hogue, Randolph; J. C. Williams, J. C. Porter and Ellis R. Smith, Pettis.

The object of the meeting was to remonstrate against the legislature reducing the fees of sheriffs, as has been contemplated, especially in the matter of criminal costs, and a committee will visit Jefferson City to protest against the enactment of such legislation.

THE Missouri Sheriffs? Association will meet in Jefferson City on January 5 to consider steps to have the term of office increased to four years .- Evening Journal. [The proper thing to do would be to fill all county offices for a term of four years; and county judges eight and four years, respectively. This thing of an election every two years is abominable. Under the present system, we no sooner get settled down to business after the election of officers, than the same old thing is on again to knock the props from under us. Besides, a four-year term will enable an incumbent to become familiar with the duties of the office and render some valuable service before he is ousted to give place to some "incompetent"-for all of which the people "pay the freight."

Sheriffs Told They Must Not Tolerate Lotteries, Etc.

A sheriff in a Missouri county must enforce to the letter all laws against gambling and lotteries or forfeit his office. He is not permitted by law to ignore some violations while enforcing those he chooses. His duties have been clarified recently by the Missouri Supreme Court.

This warning has been mailed to sheriff members of the Missouri Sheriff's Association by William Barton, general counsel of the organization. His interpetation of the legal duties of sheriffs was based, he pointed out, on a ruling of the Supreme Court last January.

"In the past", Barton wrote the sheriffs in his organization, "citizens have enjoyed themselves at functions sponsored by local groups at which games were played for prizes without knowing they were violating the criminal laws of the state. But the conclusion is now inescapable that, if a sheriff fails to enforce the state law against gambling and operation of lotteries, he automatically forfeits his right to his office."

Mo. Sheriff's Assn. Will Seek Honorary Memberships Locally

A solicitation drive will begin soon in the Douglas County-area for honorary membership in the Missouri Shoriff Association, Douglas County Sheriff Leonard Sanders said yesterday.

Certain citizens of the county will receive invitations from the association, asking them to become an honorary member of the association, thereby aiding the association in their effort to provide better law enforce-

Sanders said membership in the association does not entitle individuals to any special privileges or law enforcement powers, but is just a way of showing that the individual is in support of good law enforcement.

No money received by this membership drive goes to the local sheriffs office, but goes into the association which works jointly with sheriffs throughout the state in attempting to provide better law enforcement.

Sheriff Wears Many Hats In Todav's Society

"We can't do it alone, Sheriff Sanders said in a recent interview. "The public must be on our side in the fight for effective law enforcement."

According to the sheriff, peace officers of the eighties must wear many hats -- enforcer, crime fighter, jailor, officer of the courts, community relations person....and, the list goes on.

They must work in an ever-increasing, legalistic environment and deal with a growing, highly sophisticated criminal element in the war against drugs, organized crime and commercial vice.

Sheriff Sanders says there is a growing concern among law enforcement officials in this state for the lack of manpower and adequate compensation to accomplish the job the public demands

"The Missouri Sheriffs' Association founded over 37 years ago, is constantly working to update law enforcement and insure public safety in our state," Sheriff Sanders said.

Sheriffs Association to Give \$500 Scholarships

The Missouri Sheriffs association will award \$500 college scholarship to children of Missouri sheriffs and their paid deputier, Delgar Wells, president of the association, has announced.

A board of advisers consisting of four state educators will name the recipients of the scholarships, which eventually will cover four stodents. Sheriffs and their deputies will recommend the students who may be their own son or daughter or a child of a neighboring official.

Joseph Holvey, Sheriff of Macon County attended the Missouri State Sheriffs! Association at Jefferson City Tuesday, the 30th. Mr. Holvey was treasurer of the temporary organization; Sheriff Willis of Adair County was secretary and Sheriff Magruder of Randolph County, president. From now on the Missouri Sheriffs will have a working organization which will enable them to handle many problems in a more effective way than they have ever done before.

TO FIGHT FOR LONGER TENURE.

Missouri Sheriffs Employ Counsel to Draft Bill.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Jefferson City, Mo., Feb. 5.—The Sheriffs:
Association of Missouri met here to-day
with quite a number of members present to
discuss some legislation relating to their
office.

office.

The association voted to employ two law yers to draft a bill to make the office of Sheriff a four-year office in Missouri and another to increase the fees and mileage in certain cases.

ALL EXECUTIONS IN THE PRISON.

Sheriffs' Association Makes
Such Recommendation to
Legislature.

Sheriff Smith of this County Opposed
the Resolution but Was Unable
to Prevent its Adoption.

The sheriffs' association, which adjourned Thursday in St. Louis, adopted a resolution to ask the legislature to have all executions of criminals take place in the penitentiary. Sheriff Smith of this city, who retired as president of the association. opposed the resolution, but it went through just the same. The sheriffs would like to shirk the duty of hanging criminals and for that reason they would like to shift onto the penitentiary officials. The people of this city do not relish the idea of this being the hangman's city, and they will fight the resolution when it comes before the legislature.

The next meeting of the sheriffs' association will be held here in September, 1906.

ORGANIZING TO STOP THE YEGGS.

St. Joe Paper Approves
Move of the Missouri
Sheriffs.

From the St. Joseph Gazette.

The entire state can join promptly in any practical plan which Missouri sherifs may adopt for ridding the public of the tramp nuisance. If the movement shall succeed, we do not know of any other kind of law enforcement which the officials could secure that would reflect greater credit upon them.

"Our American tramp" we call him, because he seems to be an institution of this country alone. He is not an unfortunate, as a rule. He is nearly always able to work if he would. Almost invariably he is idle from desire to be so, and frequently criminal as a natural consequence of his idleness.

For years it has been the American idea to just "pass him along." If found in one community, he was warned to go to the next or suffer arrest. In the next stopping place, he had a like experience. Between whiles and places, he looted where this could be done without too great risk of discovery. Being an adept at such work, he was seldom caught in his petty crimes.

But he has always been a nuisance. He is the embryo thug and all-around bad man. Sooner or later, the society which has borne him will have to suffer severely from him—does suffer even now, and every day, since he has for years increased his kind and advanced in daring and ability to escape the consequences of his misdeeds.

Now the cheriffs' association of the state proposes to put him out of business—not merely to send him elsewhere but to make it necessary for him to become law abiding because he dare not do less. We repeat, the project is an important one in law enforcement. It is also a difficult one to carry out. But it should be made to succeed.

Want Executions at Penitentiary.
St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 29.—A resolution offered at the convention of the State Sherims, association of Missouri Thursday that the legislature be requested to pass a law requiring executions to take place at Jefferson City was adopted unanimously.

Sheriffs Want More Money.

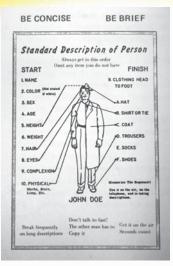
The sheriffs of Missouri want more money for attending court and more for feeding prisoners in the county jails, and a law will be asked of the 1915 Legislature providing for an increase, according to an announcement made Wednesday after a meeting of the legislative committee of the Missouri Sheriffs' Association held in Kirksville, says the Kirksville Daily Express.

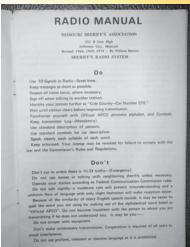
Four busky sheriffs, members of the committee, met with Sheriff Willis, who is secretary of the state association, and drafted out the request they will make to the Legislature.

At present the sheriff gets \$2 per day for attendance upon courts of record. They will ask that the fee be raised to \$3 per day. They also want the rate for boarding prisoners raised from 50 cents to 75 cents per day.



RADIO MANUAL







A grant obtained in 1976 allowed the MSA to create and publish a revised edition of the Sheriffs' Radio Manual, which included the 10-Code Signals and instructed on the correct way to use the radios and transmit information.

SHERIFFS' HANDS TIED.

Aissouri Laws Inadequate in Providing for Pursuit of Criminals.

At the meeting of Missouri sheriffs at efferson City the 5th the ever relevant natter of fees will be one of the subects discussed. The legislature will hen be asked to consider the result of he deliberations of the law enforcers. dissouri laws providing for the chase fter criminals are a little peculiar. Sheriff I. W. Gilstrap of Macon county, who is a member of the Inter-State nim a prepared paper, embodying some mprovements that may be of assistance o the men who hunt criminals.

"Few people are aware," said Mr. Gilstrap, "how far Missouri is behind ome other states in providing funds for he vigorous pursuit of criminals. For each arrest the sheriff is allowed \$1. if the arrest is made in his own county no expense fee is added. I have many a time paid out \$5 or \$6 in expenses to go after a man in a remote part of the county, and there only come back \$1 to me. Outside of the county you are allowed expenses—if you catch your man. Otherwise the burden is on the sheriff. You may lay your plans ever so well, but if you fail to land the fugitive your labor has been merely one of love. The consequence is, few sheriffs can afford to take the risk of making long trips after suspected parties. I recently went after three negroes in Colorado. I got them, and the state will pay the actual expenses of the trip, and will give me the sum of \$3. I was away four days and nights. My time at home would have been worth at least \$2 50 a day. I just give that as an illustration. Every Missouri sheriff, I dare say, has run across a similar experience. Criminals learn these things and they know if they can put distance between them the chances are all against the fellow that represents the strong arm of the law. Of course in other ways the sheriff's office pays better, and men are glad to get it. But, speaking from a standpoint of public policy, the State of Missouri could render life and property much more secure by putting within the reach of sheriffs the means to pursue criminals to the uttermost parts of the earth. The importance of this has been early recognized by Eastern states, and an awakening is bound to come in Missouri sooner or later."

Sheriffs Point To Lack Of Deputies

JEFFERSON CITY (A) Sever-Missouri sheriffs from third and fourth class counties complained here yesterday they needed more deputies.

The legislative committee and the board of governors of the Missouri Sheriffs Association met here to discuss their problems and possible legislation to be sought at the next session of the state legislature.

The group also accepted the bid of Jackson County Sheriff Arvid Owsley to hold the 1954 sheriffs' convention in Kansas City, possibly in August.

Missouri Sheriffs Open Two-Day Meeting

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Nov. 19
(AP)—The Missouri State Sheliffs' Association opened its twoday convention here today.

Dwight Brantley, special agent in charge of the FBI at Kansas City will speak at the closing dinner Saturday night.

Folks Known in Macon
A great many people here are well acquainted with Jeff Smedley, now sheriff of Jackson county and president of the Sheriff? Association of Missouri. Jeff isn't a very big man, and so they put him alongside of Sheriff Arch Leonard of Hannibal who is over 6 feet high and weighs possibly 240 pounds. They are in the Post-Dispatch's Missouri section tomorrow, and also Highway Patrolmen, Capt. S. S. French, C. M. Parker, Sergeant W. J. Ramsey, E. L. Davis, E. R. Robinson, Earl Austin and Roy Keller, all members of Troop B. at Macon.

Another interesting picture in the same issue is that of Gladys and Dorothy, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Garyl France of Macon, on their ponies.



The MSA's executive director worked from this tiny desk.



In its early days, the Missouri Sheriffs' Association's office furniture, like that used in the administrative assistant's office, was makeshift at best.







And another article dated February 16, 1910 shows that the MSA has long stood up for Missouri's sheriffs. The story states that MSA President Louis Nolte had a suit mandamus brought in the Missouri Supreme Court against State Auditor Gordon "to compel him to pay St. Francois County Sheriff William London 5 cents per mile for taking a prison to the penitentiary."

Other articles show that a century ago, Missouri's sheriffs were facing many of the same issues they face today. A story in a 1915 issue of the "Memphis Democrat" states sheriffs wanted more money for attending court — they had been getting \$2 per day and wanted \$3 — and for feeding prisoners in the county jails. They were asking to raise the inmate reimbursement from 50 cents to 75 cents per day.

Sadly, it seems the information about the MSA's early years exists only in old newspapers. According to the Missouri Secretary of State's office, the laws governing not-for-profit organizations were different back then so the association might have been operating much as it is today — just without today's formal registration.

IF MEMORY SERVES

Now fast forward a few decades where at least some of the history is available from the ones who lived it.

According to information gathered in an interview conducted five years ago with Emmett Fairfax and his wife Alice, when the association was formed in 1945, sheriffs met annually at different locations around the state to network, share ideas and work together to achieve common goals.

Fairfax, who was elected as Pettis County sheriff in 1960 and who served as head of the association's legislative committee, said Boone County Sheriff Duke Moynihan was elected as the first president. Because the MSA didn't have a home office or a director at the time, association business was run out of the office of the sheriff who was serving as president. Then in 1978, sheriffs made the decision to organize their efforts and hire an executive director. Perrian Winget was the first to hold that position.

Karen Logan, who was hired in October 1986 as administrative assistant, said that when she came on board the MSA operated out of an old dilapidated building on High Street above Kaiser Jewelers in downtown Jefferson City. The floors were slanted and covered in gold and white shag carpet and for many years the "desks" were doors on sawhorses. Logan joked that she was lucky because she had an office — the membership clerk had to work in the kitchen.

In 1989, the MSA took a step of faith and purchased and renovated a larger building at 229 Madison Street. At the time, MSA funding came from donations and membership fees. However, a lease agreement from the Sheriffs Retirement System board of directors enabled them to purchase the property and make payments.

Then in 2006 the Association took a giant leap forward and purchased property on Business 50 west of Jefferson City that included a large office, which currently serves as headquarters for the MSA, as well as a 7,200-square-foot warehouse that was converted into a training facility.





Missouri law requires all licensed peace officers, including sheriffs, to complete 24 hours of Continuing Law Enforcement Education each year. The MSA provides much of the training for sheriffs at conferences held twice a year.

SUPPORTING SHERIFFS

Fairfax said that soon after its creation, the MSA became strongly involved in legislation. Executive directors were charged with staying on top of any bills that would affect the way sheriffs operate.

"We had a strong presence at the state capitol. A lot of times, we'd work all day then run to Jeff City to have dinner with our reps and senators to explain how their votes would affect not only us as sheriffs but also the people who lived in our counties. One of our main concerns was establishing minimum qualifications for law enforcement officers," he said.

Although it took time, they were successful in their attempts. State statute now requires a minimum of 600 certified training hours to be eligible to test for a valid "Class A" peace officer license. In addition, all licensed peace officers must successfully complete a minimum of 24 hours of continuing education each year to maintain their licenses. The MSA provides that education at conferences and regional training sessions and also tracks the hours of training for sheriffs and staff who attend, something sheriffs said has been invaluable.

WALKING THE HALLS OF THE CAPITOL

Over the years, the MSA has fought and won many other battles as well.

In 2009, the association got behind the Deputy Sheriff Salary Supplementation Fund legislation, which adds a \$10 service fee on civil summons, writs, subpoenas or other court orders. The money goes into a pool that is used only to supplement the salaries and benefits of deputy sheriffs so they can make a living wage.

The MSA also supported Senate Bill 42, adopted in 2013, which states that to run for sheriff, a candidate must be a licensed peace officer. Prior to passage, only those who were convicted felons and those too young to hold the office of sheriff were excluded from candidacy. That same year the MSA backed a bill that transferred responsibility for issuing Conceal Carry Weapon (CCW) permits from the Department of Revenue to the sheriffs' offices. The MSA was also instrumental in bringing about legislation that requires sheriffs to complete at least 20 hours of classroom instruction each calendar year relating to the operations of the sheriff's office or face having \$2,000 of their salary withheld.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

To help ensure sheriffs would have professional, well-trained deputies to fill vacancies in their offices, in the late 1970s the MSA began the process of creating a state-licensed law enforcement academy with instruction provided by professionals who had worked or were currently employed in the field. The MSA Training Academy held its first class on January 14, 1979. Since that time, more than 3,400 men and women have graduated with the skills and training needed to obtain their licenses and work for either a sheriff's office or a municipal department. (See the story on page 60 for more information.)

Over the years, the MSA has also applied for and received several grants that helped sheriffs' offices acquire much-needed equipment and technology and it also took a stand in an attempt to increase crime victim services and to provide services for victims of human trafficking in Missouri.

Understanding that a sheriff's biggest liability is his or her jail, in 2012 the MSA assisted in organizing a committee to establish core jail standards and the following year began holding annual training conferences for jail administrators. The MSA has since also partnered with a company run by a former jail administrator that provides comprehensive hands-on training of detention officers.

The MSA also hosts annual training conferences for support staff and deputy sheriffs and offers an online training program. Since inception of the current system in 2016, hundreds of law enforcement officers and those who work in affiliated fields have registered for more than 144,000 courses and earned more than 138,000 credit hours — without leaving the office.

"No official other than the elected sheriff has a greater

responsibility for safety of the local community. They have worked together as a group for over 100 years and will continue to do so in the future," said Kevin Merritt, executive director of the MSA. "They don't want to let being 'good' get in the way of being 'great' public servants."

WIS SHERING TO SOCIATION

By Nancy Zoellner

ON THE JOB

Stopping Problems Before They Start

or the last couple years I have been wanting to create a program that would be available to help members of our community before things got to the point that they needed law enforcement intervention. We recently accomplished that by creating a Community Resource Program for Bates County and hiring Rachelle Mallatt as community resource coordinator to head it up.

The program is designed to help individuals struggling with addiction by providing resources that will help them break the chains of addiction and avoid an arrest. It will also assist families who have loved ones who are struggling with addiction by helping them find drug recovery programs that fit the specific needs of the individual and the family as a whole.

Along with providing drug rehab resources, Rachelle will provide a support system that comes with accountability for anyone who is part of the program. But it doesn't stop there because part of recovery requires establishing a new

lifestyle. So the community resource coordinator will also help those in the program with job searches, resume writing and the job application process as well as providing help with housing assistance applications and identifying community resources to assist in families who are struggling.

Rachelle was born and raised in Bates County and is eager to get started. Her hope is to help the people of this community in their struggles with addiction or just to help them get back on track. She said she's especially looking forward to working with individuals as their accountability partner and provide them with a support system along what can be a very difficult journey.

"I am excited to get started and to start building the necessary resources to help anyone in the community. I look forward to working with individuals and families, as they navigate the often rough waters with addiction and other needs in our community. I especially look forward to being someone's accountability partner



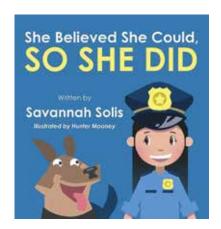
and support system through this journey," she said.

Rachelle is a hard worker and very dedicated in her faith and to our community. She is a perfect bridge between law enforcement and the recovery community as she is a true "been there, done that and living proof it can be done" person.

If you have questions or would like some information on what our resource coordinator can do to help you or a loved one, please call the Bates County Sheriff's Office at 660-679-3232 or stop by and see Rachelle at 13 W Dakota in Butler from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday. She can also be reached at rmallatt@bates-countysheriff.com.

By Bates County Sheriff Chad Anderson

BOOK CORNER



They Matter to Her #theymattertoher

Savannah Solis is 15 years old from Tyler, TX. She started thanking law enforcement when she was 10 years old after the deaths of two NYPD detectives, Det. Liu and Det. Ramos. Her goal was to thank police officers in all 50 states. She has traveled to 26 states so far (as the time the book was written) and London England where she spoke to the Metropolitan Police at Buckingham Palace. She has made over 9,000 homemade thank you cards and has mailed cards to police in 12 different countries. She started the Savannah Challenge which is to show appreciation to the men and women in blue. Over 120,000 young people in America have taken her challenge, as well as young people in 5 countries. Savannah's dream is to one day become a K-9 officer and make an impact on others as her heroes have done for her. The book is available at Target stores and online through Amazon and Barnes and Noble. Savanah also has a Facebook page, Help Savannah Say Thank You, that allows you to follow her as she visits law enforcement across the nation.



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Culmination of Years of Work Was Celebrated July 4th

In September of 2011 we started a journey to create Phase 1 of our new Webster County Justice Center. It was a very long journey but we did it right.

We needed a new facility because our old jail, built in 1939 to 1941, had become unsafe. It was built well - they did good work back then — and was even structurally sound but the jail section and most other offices were just too small — so small that service and safety were compromised.

The booking area was literally 4 feet from my desk so basically, for the last 12 years my office was in the booking area! That meant I was present for most all of the struggles in the jail when I was on the phone trying to return your calls. We remodeled and added cameras and that helped quell some of the violence but it was still terribly inhumane and was held together only with a very good jail staff and frequent bandaids by our maintenance guys, who were led by our commission.

In 2011, after a few years on the job, the vision was clear, we couldn't remodel anymore. We had to build a new jail. It was literally a matter of life and death for some of our citizens. It was also a matter of privacy and winning or losing civil

rights lawsuits. As custodians of inmates we have the obligation to care for those people under our control - and the courts don't look lightly on failure to provide good environments. The need was very clear to me but to answer the need, we had to pass a tax. To do that we had to communicate the poor jail conditions. Our county had voted down the same issue multiple times already so it looked impossible — but it wasn't. We focused on the needs — not a pretty picture of a new building.

So July 4, 2014 we opened the doors to the public. Once you entered the jail, saw, smelled and felt it, you knew, it was time to move forward. The tour made instant believers of everyone who entered. Those of us who "lived" in there smiled as we knew others now understood the severity. As a result, a ¼-cent initiative passed that August. So many people helped us accomplish our goal. I'd like to name them all but it's just not possible.

After voters approved the tax, HMN Architects, Septagon Construction managers, and county leaders took the reigns.

In summary, we gave you our best. We kept taxes low, we built Phase 1 of a beautiful building that can be expanded when needed. We hope our community



is proud of the fact that they helped us provide the safest and most efficient jail we could afford.

Today, July 4, 2020, we officially opened. It was one of the most humbling experiences in my career. U.S Senator Roy Blunt, US Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler, Governor (and former sheriff) Mike Parson, Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft and most all of our local and state office holders both past and present were on hand, as were hundreds of Webster County citizens. Missouri has 115 counties, those leaders picked Webster County as their destination on Independence Day 2020. We appreciate them taking the time to support us. Webster County is a special place!

Thank you all for your support and kindness.

By Webster County Sheriff Roye Cole







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Lt. Andy Binder — A Man of Many Talents

rowing up in Arizona, Andy Binder, who runs the Office of Professional Standards and Public Relations for the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, had no intention of ever working in law enforcement. He enlisted in the Navy right out of high school and was sent to North Carolina to work as a cryptologist, deciphering the enemy's secret codes. At the end of his obligated service, he signed up for the Navy Reserves and started attending school in North Carolina to become an Oracle data base programmer. But the direction of his life changed dramatically after the September 11 terrorist attacks on America.

"I was watching Game 5 of the World Series when I got a phone call that I was being involuntarily recalled back into the Navy. I dropped out of school, kissed my wife and 3-year-old son goodbye and met my unit in Norfolk, Virginia, where I was assigned to Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 202," he said.

Binder was sent to the Port Security War College and ended up as a rear gunner on a 27-foot patrol boat, providing port security under NATO orders. Next he was sent to Rota, Spain, to handle port security and escort U.S. and British ships through the Straits of Gibraltar after intelligence learned of al Qaeda plans to blow up those ships. When he finally returned home two years later, he knew he was no longer suited for a desk job but wasn't sure what he wanted to do — until he saw a group of men and women running an obstacle course at a

police academy. He went in, applied, got accepted and has worked in law

officer position opened up at Lincoln

enforcement ever since.

Binder started his career
with a small department in
a suburb of Raleigh, North
Carolina. Then in 2005 he
and his family moved to
Missouri when his wife, a
telecom engineer, took a
job in St. Charles County. He
took a patrol officer position
with a municipality in the
same county but because he
wasn't fond of writing tickets,
he applied when a school resource

County and was hired in August 2006. After holding that position for three months, while also helping write policies, the sheriff saw that Binder was quite the wordsmith and asked him to oversee the process of obtaining accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. Binder finished the three-year project in 13 months and the

sheriff's office obtained accreditation in 2008.

"In 2005, the sheriff's office was involved in a shooting that resulted in the death of two young people. That created a very deep divide in the community and a strong hatred towards the sheriff's office. When Sheriff Cottle took office in 2012 one of the things we strived to do was to develop a community policing model that has our deputies more involved in the community," he said

Establishing an inmate choir was just one piece of that objective. Treating the community to free snow cones was another

"On average, we give out 6,000 snow cones per year. It's such a big hit that we get invited to all kinds of school events, church groups, VA functions — you name it — which give us an opportunity to talk to folks and let them see another side of the sheriff's office. We're also heavily involved in Special Olympics and our Youth Camp, which is open to all kids in our community who are graduating from fifth grade, is in its 18th year. That's how we've built a bond with our community and we've kept working at it every single day," he said, adding that as public information officer it's his job to make sure the community knows what the sheriff's office is doing. "And with social media, that's become very challenging!"

But his job doesn't stop there. In addition to teaching PIO classes to upper level officers for FEMA, he also oversees the LCSO Internal Affairs and Training divisions, he handles all grant writing, he's responsible for developing and maintaining the policies and procedures, and he heads up the Early Assistance Program, which helps deputies confidentially obtain counseling. Binder will also be in charge of a newly formed Domestic Violence Unit which, when operational, will employ health care professionals to serve as advocates for victims and assist them in moving through the legal process.

"I stay very busy and I wear a lot of different hats, but everyone does so in order to not only make this work, but to make it work better," he said.

Sheriff John Cottle said he greatly appreciates all that Binder has done and continues to do.

"Lt. Binder is a valuable team member and a great asset for the citizens of Lincoln County. He has written over \$350,000 in operational grants and recently helped craft a \$950,000 Inmate Workforce Redevelopment Grant," the sheriff said. "He serves for the betterment of all people in our community and I am glad for the work he is responsible for."

By Nancy Zoellner

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Sergeant Exhibits Courage and Commitment

aking entry into a building to execute a search warrant or make a high-risk arrest can be difficult and dangerous because there's always a door to go through. "Back in the day" the SRT team leader would grab the biggest guy he had, hand him a ram and through the door they'd go. But today different types of door construction and fortifications are used to keep the cops out. Hardened locations might require power saws or torches. Quick entry for felony warrants might be best accomplished with a shotgun. Doors that are "booby trapped" can require an entirely different set of tactics.

Sgt. Jeremy Wilson, training officer for the Taney County Sheriff's Office, teaches "breachers," the term used to identify the guy who gets the door open, how to look for and identify those obstacles and then how to overcome them. A breacher himself, Wilson also puts together dynamic search warrant entry training, barricade and covert entry training, and hostage rescue training for the sheriff's office SRT team.

"When I was a senior in high school a guy got me involved in the volunteer fire department. While I was doing that, I learned more about the ambulance service, decided to go to EMT school right after high school and was hired by the Taney County Ambulance District as soon as I finished. Then while working there I rode along with some of the Taney County deputies and, not knowing a lot about anything at the time, I thought it sounded cool to be a SWAT medic. I attended the academy and after graduating went to work as a law enforcement officer while maintaining my EMT license. By 2004, I was working as a deputy with the Taney County Sheriff's Office and I had filled the medic position on our SRT team. Later, I had a chance to attend a tactical breaching instructor school and when I came back, I made some improvements to our breaching operations and increased the level of training for the team, and I've continued to do that ever since," he said.

But that's not all Wilson teaches.

In 2014, after legislation allowed school districts to get active shooter training from certified law enforcement instructors, he and Brad Daniels, the SRT team leader and now chief deputy, attended an ALICE Instructor Course, an acronym for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Escape. Since that time, they have implemented the course at all schools in the county except for the Branson School District, which is handled by the Branson Police Department, as well as at several churches and businesses — and it was provided by the sheriff's office at no cost.

"The school districts have really come a long way. We've been able to tailor training to specific schools by taking their plans and putting them to the test, running different scenarios to see what needs to be changed. It's a constantly evolving process but I feel that it's an important asset the sheriff's office can bring to the community to make it safer and more prepared for a potentially bad day," Wilson said.

He also teaches firearms, use of force, defensive tactics and defensive driving courses as well as an integrated response course designed to improve integration between law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services (EMS) in active attack/shooter events. Wilson said it's a long, hard day for

participants, "but I feel like we're breaking down some barriers so they will be more familiar with each other, they'll all know the same things and

they'll be more prepared to work together while responding to a chaotic event. By teaching this, it's another way to make our community safer."

Recently certified as a generalist instructor with POST, he's also taught cell extraction classes for the Missouri Sheriffs' Association and has filled in for instructors in nearby law enforcement training courses. However, although his official title is "training officer," Wilson does more than just train. He also oversees the armory, maintaining the inventory of all department-issued handguns and

rifles, tasers and other equipment, and he makes sure all weapons are inspected annually. He also keeps an inventory of ammunition to make sure they have plenty on hand for training and duty use. In addition, as chief range officer, he conducts twice-a-year qualifications. Wilson was also tasked with assisting Chief Deputy Daniels in keeping the sheriff's office updated during the COVID-19 pandemic and working with SEMA to obtain personal protective equipment for deputies and corrections staff.

"It all keeps me busy, but I enjoy that and I feel good about being a part of efforts to constantly improve our service to the community. That's why we're here," he said.

Taney County Sheriff Jimmie Russell said Wilson has been a great asset to his office.

"He is an excellent instructor and very professional. He has raised the quality of our officers' training and is always striving to bring new training for our employees," he said. "I am very proud of the work he does."

By Nancy Zoellner



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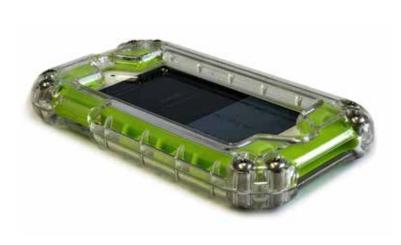
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His Job Focuses on Four-Legged Residents

ost officers have colorful stories to tell about their days on the job, but few can match those of Mike Stoufer. He has removed ears from burned cows to prove they were stolen, removed venomous and non-venomous snakes from abandoned property, and even relocated an alligator, a 225-pound black leopard and a macaque monkey to a wildlife preserve.

He's also been bitten by llamas, dogs, goats, horses and cats, but said it comes with the territory and he's "used to it. I did think I was going to lose a thumb one time because a feral cat bit it and I ended up with a blood infection. But it healed. And I now wear steel-toe boots to keep the dogs from biting my feet."

Stoufer is the animal control officer for the Camden County Sheriff's Office. He was hired in 2008 to work as the county's animal shelter manager but when plans to build a shelter didn't materialize he was issued a handgun and a tranquilizer gun and he hit the road. However, Stoufer isn't your typical "dog catcher." He doesn't drive around — animal control pole in hand — looking for stray dogs to nab.

"I don't have to! I already get plenty of calls each day. In fact, I usually respond to between 1,200 and 1,600 calls per year. In addition to dogs on the loose, I also have a lot of livestock calls — horses, cows, goats, sheep and llamas; I accompany the Department of Agriculture agent on inspections sometimes for exotics; and I occasionally get calls on cats. There's not a lot we can do with feral cats except euthanize them if they're sick or causing a problem," he said, adding that he rarely gets calls about domesticated cats. "We have a few residents with 10, 20 or 30 cats, but as long as the area is kept clean, the cats are being provided with food, water and shelter and they're not a public nuisance, you can have as many as you want."

What residents can't have is dogs that run loose. Stoufer said when he started he wrote tickets under state statutes but said those tickets weren't getting any reaction. So over the years, officials looked at what other counties had in place, chose Boone County's ordinance and modified it to fit Camden County. That law, described by Stoufer as "basic but with teeth," was finally adopted on July 1, 2019. Violation of the law can result in fines and even jail time and community service for repeat offenders. Although those found guilty of animal abandonment can be fined \$500 for each abandoned animal. Stoufer said the law wasn't designed to punish people but instead to get them to take ownership of their animals.

> "I was raised on a farm and I love animals. That's why I applied for the position. I wanted to make sure our county was doing right by its animals."

Among other requirements, the law also states that dogs and non-feral cats over three months of age must be vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian with a rabies vaccine. Dogs over nine months of age must be microchipped with the owner's address and contact information or they must wear a collar with a tag showing that information.

Stoufer explained that he picks up a lot of dogs only to find that they're not strays but the owners didn't take the time to get them chipped or get them a collar and tags so they can be taken home.

"Then the county has to pay to house them at one of our animal shelters until the owner is found. That's why we started holding two microchipping rabies clinics every year," he said.

The clinics, offered every year since 2016, are held in two different locations in the county. Veterinarians donate their time and volunteers help keep things running smoothly. The sheriff's office pays for the vaccinations and the microchips, both of which are provided to the county at cost — usually between \$2,000 and \$5,000 per clinic. To date, approximately 1,000 animals have been microchipped and given rabies shots.

"It sounds like a lot of money but it allows us to get pets back to their owners instead of spending money to build a shelter and staff it," he said.

Stoufer is certified and educated through the Federal Emergency
Management Agency, the National Animal Control Association and the Missouri Animal Control Association. He said he appreciates the training opportunities and is grateful he is able to work in a job that he loves. "I was raised on a farm and I love animals. That's why I applied for the position. I wanted to make sure our county was doing right by its animals."

Sheriff Tony Helms said he couldn't be more pleased with Stoufer's performance.

"He takes great pride in caring for animals needing reunification with their owners as well as injured and sick animals that are unable to care for themselves. Mr. Stoufer is in regular contact with area animal shelters and he has earned the respect of community leaders and, more importantly, the citizens of Camden County that he serves," Sheriff Helms said.

By Nancy Zoellner



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LIFE DISRUPTIONS CAUSED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND PROTESTS DID NOT KEEP MISSOURIANS FROM LETTING THEIR SHERIFFS KNOW THEY WERE APPRECIATED.

In fact, they seemed to have just the opposite effect. Everything from hand sanitizer to meals, snacks, water and soft drinks – and even a designer cake – was delivered to sheriffs' offices all across the state. Many sheriffs said baked goods, snacks and meals were coming in almost faster than they could eat them. And every one of those gifts was always accompanied by a big "Thank you for what you do!"

As one sheriff put it, "From large to small gestures of support, we are incredibly grateful to the residents of our county during this incredibly difficult time. With people working together for the betterment of others it illustrates not all is terrible."

Sheriffs were also grateful for the assistance they received from the Missouri Sheriffs' Association. Executive Director

Kevin Merritt spent countless hours the first few weeks of the COVID-19 outbreak working with both the federal and state government as they navigated uncharted waters and established the US Department of Labor Families First Coronavirus Response Act, he worked with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to ensure COVID-19 testing would be available for law enforcement and other first responders, he worked with Gov. Michael Parson and his staff on executive orders so that first responders who became ill due to COVID-19 exposure on the job were covered by Missouri Workers Compensation, and he worked with the Missouri Supreme Court to stress the need to allow local courts to control local jail population so the court wouldn't order a mass release of local jail inmates – as well as a whole host of other important tasks. The list was too long to include in this story but can be viewed by visiting the MSA website at www.mosheriffs.com.



ADAIR COUNTY

U.S. Bank donated gift cards; students from Bright Beginnings Learning Center brought hand crafted thank you cards for the sheriff's office; and Sparklight, the local cable provider, and Pagliai's Pizza partnered to provide lunch for the staff.

ANDREW COUNTY

Isaiah, a young resident of the county, brought treats in for the staff as did resident Jen Gentry and several other residents. "The support from our community has been amazing," said Sheriff Bryan Atkins.

AUDRAIN COUNTY

Uplift Mid-Mo provided a "care package" and creative card for staff; and Marg Graf and her crew at Graf and Sons and Mark Hudson took in snacks and a deli meat and cheese tray.

BARRY COUNTY

The Cassville Subway provided lunch for the staff and other residents stopped by with other treats for the sheriff and his staff.

BARTON COUNTY

Ron Kirby, Scott and Debbie Castle brought gift baskets and treats for staff; McDonalds of Lamar delivered "thank you meals;" the Beef Jerky Outlet delivered snacks; and 7-year-old Carter, his mom Skye and younger brother Dale made cupcakes for the office.

BATES COUNTY

The Dennison family brought a thank you card and goodies for the staff and Brandi Hill and Alisia Dugan delivered baked goods to the office. Sheriff Chad Anderson said he was thankful that his community supported law enforcement and grateful for all the ways they were showing it.

BENTON COUNTY

Sheriff Eric Knox said the whole office appreciated the cake made for them by The Baker and the Artist Bakery. "Once again I am humbled by the outpouring of support from our community for their law enforcement. Caring citizens are making known how much they love their deputies! We are blessed to live in beautiful Benton County. Thank you to everyone for the food, cards, letters and emails supporting the men and women of the Benton County Sheriff's Office. You are why we go to work every day."

BOLLINGER COUNTY

The Marble Hill Bank of Missouri provided the sheriff's office with lunch and other goodies were brought in by citizens of the county.



















CAMDEN COUNTY

Kyle Kemp and his daughter stopped by the Camden County Sheriff's Office to drop off snacks. Staff was surprised another day when several citizens stopped by to drop off more snacks. Sheriff Tony Helm said he feels truly blessed to have such a caring community. "It is our pleasure to serve the citizens of this county."

CASS COUNTY

Supporters stopped by several different times to drop snacks off for the deputies and everyone in the office, "And they were all enjoyed and very much appreciated," Sheriff Jeff Weber said.

CHRISTIAN COUNTY

LifePoint Church in Ozark provided lunch for everyone. Lunch was brought in another day by Nichols Phanco Ball & Associates from Highlandville. "Their acts of kindness and their support for the Christian County Sheriff's Office is greatly appreciated," Christian County Sheriff Brad Cole said.

CLAY COUNTY

Over the last four months the Clay County Sheriff's Office reported "continued support" from its residents, and area businesses. Since the onset of the Corona Virus response, and through the civil unrest in the Kansas City area, individuals and civic organizations donated meals, masks, and delivered notes of support to employees. Even the youth got involved. Three children sold lemonade and other goodies to support local law enforcement, then used the proceeds to surprise the sheriff's office with J&S Pizza. "The tremendous amount of support from our residents exemplifies



all of the positive relationships built over time." Sheriff Paul Vescovo said.

COLE COUNTY

With the shortage of hand sanitizer, Blacksmith Distillery of Lohman switched from making bourbon to making hand sanitizer and then gave it to all Cole County first responders for free. Many residents brought food for the staff.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Loving Hands Hospice teamed up with FORTO Coffee and Shaquille O' Neal to provide coffee shots to keep everyone at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office energized through their long shifts; a resident brought in two large boxes of assorted fruit; Mehringer Chiropractic provided deputies with pizza and coupons for chiropractic care; First State Community Bank took in a big box full of snacks; Kevin O'Connell and Guild Mortgage-Washington, MO provided gallons of needed hand sanitizer for staff and deputies; SERVPRO of Franklin County donated their time and services to sanitize the office and all of the vehicles; and several other groups and individuals brought in a wide variety of snacks, drinks and meals.

GREENE COUNTY

Local State Farm Insurance Agents Frank Orellana and Jim Roebuck donated sandwich wraps and potato chips; the Salvation Army and Harbor House took in ice cream treats; Lisa Rhea and her grandchildren delivered













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cookies, brownies and a thank you card; the Christian Family (Gretchen, Jack and Lily), delivered goodies and thank you cards; ladies with Ravenwood and Arbors Assisted Living Facilities made staff a plate of cookies; Springfield area Planet Fitness Clubs provided free pizza; the Tinsley family dropped off lots of snacks; Whitney Grove with The Pharmacy at Pleasant Hope donated 96 bottles of hand sanitizer; Christ Community Church in Springfield delivered Chick-Fil-A Sandwiches: Pat Duran and Great American Taco provided staff with tacos, chips, salsa and queso dip; Dr. Norman Knowlton and his wife Mary Nan delivered fried chicken dinners complete with mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans and biscuits for the entire evening and overnight staff; Pappos Pizzeria provided GCSO staff with lunch; Taco Bell regional manager Kelly Batiste donated and delivered tacos and burritos; Texas Road House in Springfield brought GCSO employees lunch of steak, potatoes and salad; Ozarks Coca-Cola/Dr. Pepper Bottling Co. donated beverages; and Glenn Blake and Turners Station Deli provided patrol deputies with meals – all to say "Thanks for serving our community!"

HENRY COUNTY

Sidetrack Cafe in Windsor brought a big box full of snacks and other goodies to the Henry County Sheriff's Office; members of the Disaster Response Team and others provided three rounds of BBQ and all the trimmings; Gary's Tow delivered lunch and other items; Girls Scout Troop 3503 took cookies; Spouse House delivered treat bags and personalized cooler bags; Dee Ensor took in a huge tray of cookies; and Tara Brown provided pizza, cheesy bread and cookies. "Thank you for thinking of us. The treats – and the support – are much appreciated," said Sheriff Kent Oberkrom.

JASPER COUNTY

Jasper County Sheriff Randee Kaiser said his office was appreciative for the Mango Magic smoothies that were donated by Tropical Smoothie Cafe in Carthage; the delicious lunch of spaghetti and meatballs, lasagna and bread knots provided by Taste of Italy and all the other treats that were brought in.

LINCOLN COUNTY

From celebrities to egg farmers, the community poured in to support the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office. New York Mets Hall of Famer Darryl Strawberry and his non-for-profit Dream Center visited the sheriff's office and provided lunch; the George Family made employees homemade hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies; and Tim Asbridge, the complex manager of Rose Acre Farms in Lincoln County, delivered 90 cases of fresh eggs to help feed employee families. Most incredible are the men and women of the Rural 3D PPE Printing for COVID-19. This grassroots movement of volunteers created over 1,800 pieces of PPE gear for first responders using their 3D printers. The sheriff's office, which received 100 masks, helped to support the production of PPE by donating inland filament, the material used to create the masks.

MARION COUNTY

Sheriff Jimmy Shin and his staff said they very much appreciated Heartland Auto Body and Towing for the delicious "power rings" and several other donations provided by residents.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Sheriff Matt Shoo said he was very thankful that two local businesses, Wood Hat Spirits and Supreme Cuisine, partnered to help his office during the pandemic by manufacturing and bottling hand sanitizer, which was then provided to the sheriff's office at no charge. "Both local businesses stepped up and we truly appreciate it," the sheriff said.











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NEWTON COUNTY

Ray Crews, a resident of Neosho, put smiles on deputies' faces when he stopped at the sheriff's office to bring them some muffins. Another day the Neosho Exchange Club grilled hamburgers and hotdogs for them and the Neosho PD, and the Meinershagen family brought a "heartfelt card and amazing, handmade cookies," said Sheriff Chris Jennings. "Our citizens have continually supported their local law enforcement year after year and we certainly appreciate it. It means a lot to us."

PLATTE COUNTY

Several gifts to show support and appreciation were presented to the Platte County Sheriff's Office. Culver's in Platte City provided gift cards for ice cream for every employee. The gift cards were paid for by donations from citizens. The Third Friday Patriots brought "goodie bags" for each employee. "From all of us at the Platte County Sheriff's Office, thank you to all of the citizens who contributed to these gifts. We are blessed to work in a community where we are supported and gestures like this mean a lot to us," said Sheriff Mark Owen.



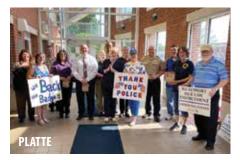


POLK COUNTY

People in Polk County needed hand sanitizer but, like the rest of the nation, they were having a hard time finding any. Whitney Grove, who coowns The Pharmacy at Pleasant Hope and another pharmacy in Ash Grove, contacted Spencer Detherage, who owns Bub's Distillery in Rogersville, and Jerry Brown, who owns RevHoney in Bolivar, and the trio formed a plan where Detherage manufactured hand sanitizer at his distillery, then shipped it to Brown, who bottled it using some of the same machinery he uses to bottle his beverages. It was then made available in the pharmacy, which donated 36 bottles, four 1-gallon jugs and 36 masks to the Polk County Sheriff's Office. A second donation went to the Greene County Sheriff's Office. Polk County Sheriff Danny Morrison said the hand sanitizer is used in the sheriff's office lobby, the Polk County Jail and by deputies on patrol.

PULASKI COUNTY

The Jones Investment Group, United Shield Life Insurance and La Familia partnered to provide lunch as a way to say "thank you" to the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Jimmy Bench said the thanks were going both ways.





"It was greatly appreciated and we thank them for taking care of our department!" The sheriff also extended thanks to the Fraternal Order of Police for their generous donation of PPE.

WARREN COUNTY

Pastor Glenn Sparks of the Warrenton Fellowship Baptist Church stopped by the Warren County Sheriff's Office to drop meal gift certificates for each of the employees. The donation was a collective effort by the Fellowship Baptist Church, St. John's Lutheran Church and the Warrenton Wesleyan Church. The gift certificates provide a free meal for each employee and their guest at any of the participating downtown restaurants. Pastor Sparks also brought a huge stack of handwritten notes from members of the participating churches. "These churches not only showed their love and support to our staff, but they made their donation to specifically support and invest in our locally owned small downtown businesses," said Sheriff Kevin Harrison. "I enjoyed a cup of coffee and read through the notes with staff members this morning. With all the negativity on the news and throughout society sometimes it is easy to lose focus of the good and positive things we have locally. There are many very good people throughout our community. We are thankful for the support, the kind letters, and the generous gifts of appreciation."







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Sheriff Connects With His Community

rundy County Sheriff Rodney Herring was searching for a quick and easy way to communicate with his community without posting on Facebook.

He found it. In June he introduced the Grundy County Sheriff's Office App.

"I worked with a company named OCV LLC out of Alabama to create it. I'm their first Missouri client but I think other sheriffs will think this app could be beneficial to their office so I probably won't be their last," he said.

The Grundy County Sheriff's Office app is free to download and it's available through both Apple's App Store and the Google Play Store.

Sheriff Herring said he feels it combines the best of all the social media sites.

"Instead of posting on several different social networking sites, I can save time and effort by posting to the app. I'll still put out an occasional news release and I'm always available for questions. I'm a working sheriff and I don't have a lot of time to be posting to several different media sites. Likewise, I'm a small agency and I need all of my people working instead of being designated to run social media accounts. This app will allow me to post once and be done," he said, adding that he's especially pleased with the options that are available to him.

He said he can push out emergency or non-emergency alerts/ notifications to users who will also get National Weather Service alerts. He can use the app to share news stories and to keep the pubic updated on events as well. It also includes a link to the Missouri State Highway Patrol Sex Offender Registry. But it doesn't just offer one-way communication. Users will have



access to the sheriff's office directly inside the "Contact Us" tab, which features a list of numbers for the different departments and for the detention center. Users can also submit crime tips as well as compliments or concerns and they can even include pictures or videos.

"Those all come straight to me. There's a 'Frequently Asked Question' tab and another feature allows users to make a digital inventory of their personal property. You wouldn't believe how many times we have taken burglary reports where the owner has no pictures, no model numbers or no serial numbers. The inventory is not shared – all the information is stored on the user's phone unless that person wants to share it with the sheriff's office, for instance, in the event of a burglary," Sheriff Herring explained. "In addition, the app 'grabs' allowable public information from records and jail software and displays it. Active warrant information will appear under the 'Most Wanted' tab. I can also post wanted posters or info on missing persons or I might even ask for help identifying a suspect from still pics or video."

App users can click on the "Inmates and Jail Info" tab to view photos of those incarcerated in the detention center and they can access the visitation schedule, order commissary items for detainees or place funds in an inmate's account. The app can also be used to set up accounts and purchase data so detainees can participate in video visitation, make phone calls or send text messages.

Under the "More" tab, users can share the app, link to the Missouri Sheriffs' Association, poison control and the child abuse and neglect hotline.

"The app control panel from which I disseminate all information is so easy to use and I am very pleased with the app and its abilities. Although no analytics are available at this time, I have had an overwhelming positive community response from just my local news media announcements and Facebook post announcing the app. Dozens of citizens have contacted me and told me that the app is very user friendly and they love it," Sheriff Herring said. "I was surprised that we could acquire something with such great value to our community for such a reasonable cost."

According to their website, OCV, LLC, has been creating mobile apps development for law enforcement, public safety, emergency management and public health agencies for nearly a decade. During that time, they have developed more than 500 custom mobile apps for agencies in 40-some states and in Canada. For more information visit https://myocv.com.

By Nancy Zoellner



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Gone but NEVER to Be Forgotten



hose looking for a textbook example of a good law enforcement officer needed to look no further than former DeKalb County Sheriff Andy Clark, Unfortunately, the sheriff was killed in a crash June 3 while responding to a call. He was buried with full police honors.

Former Chief Deputy and now Sheriff Kasey Keesaman described his former boss as a man dedicated to his faith, his family, his office and his community.

"Where do I start? He was a Christian – a follower of Jesus Christ. When we had difficult issues facing us, he prayed - we prayed together. His faith was important to him. He loved his wife Jodi with all his heart and did everything he could for her to make her life as stress-free as possible. And he was crazy about his kids! He also cared about his people. He was willing to fight for us to get raises, he would work holidays so the deputies could have time off and he was always asking the dispatchers and deputies how they were doing. He truly cared about them as people and not just as bodies filling positions. He also cared about his community immensely. I remember when he was a new deputy just out of the academy and he said 'I'm going to be sheriff one day.' He worked other jobs but this is what he wanted to do his whole life," Sheriff Keesaman said. "He just wanted to serve others."

Sheriff Clark graduated from the Missouri Western Police Academy in 1997 and served as a DeKalb County deputy, a Cameron police officer and an insurance agent before he was sworn in as sheriff of DeKalb County in 2016. But he wasn't an administrative, "behind-thedesk" kind of sheriff – he was an active,

working sheriff who led from the front, according to Sheriff Keesaman.

Because he cared deeply about children he attended the training to become a D.A.R.E. officer. The district eventually dropped the program so a few months after he was elected, Sheriff Clark cre-

ated a Junior Deputy program for sixth-graders that addressed

things like bullying, online safety, the dangers of drug and alcohol use and fire safety. He wrote the entire curriculum and worked with the schools to get it established, then helped teach it.

He's also the reason school resource officers will be in every school in DeKalb County from now on. Sheriff Keesaman said in addition to dealing with a couple direct threats at their schools, incidents in nearby schools caused them to be concerned.

"Andy just decided it was time to do whatever it took to protect our kids. We initially hoped to work with the school districts to jointly fund SROs but the money just wasn't there so the sheriff figured out the cost, then put together a proposal for a sales tax to fund the program. The county approved it and the residents overwhelmingly supported it so when school starts up this fall, his legacy will live on through that program," the sheriff said.

Sheriff Clark also made several improvements to the sheriff's office, finding a way to budget for new vehicles and allowing the sheriff's office to get equipment through the Department of Defense surplus property program. "And wow – he was a jack of all trades! If he had a roll of duct tape and Liquid Nails or Gorilla Glue he could fix anything," Sheriff Keesaman laughed. "In his personal life he enjoyed taxidermy and forging steel into knives

and he was excellent at wood work. I honestly don't think there was anything he couldn't do."

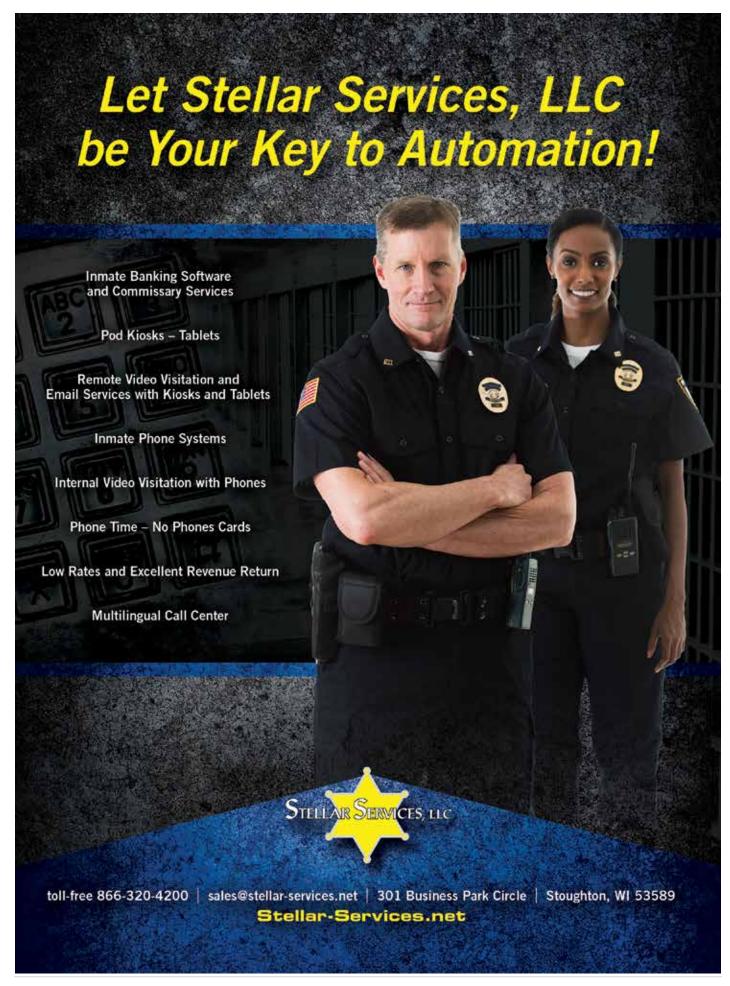
Sheriff Keesaman said the entire office was grieving but what made it even harder for him was that Sheriff Clark was also his best friend.

"After I'd get home from high school Andy, who was a patrol deputy at the time, would come by my house to pick me up and I'd ride with him for a while. He's actually one of the reasons I got into law enforcement," he said. "When he was elected he asked me to come in as his chief deputy and of course, I said 'Yes!' I can't tell you what an absolute blessing and honor it was to work with him. He taught me so much, including how to take over his job in the event that something happened to him. We all know that's a possibility every time we walk out the door but I guess I just never believed it would happen to him."

Sheriff Keesaman said although they've changed the names on the office doors, he hasn't touched his former boss' office yet.

"Even though I was sworn in, I still feel like this is his term. No one filed to run against him in the coming election and no one signed up to run against me so I'll be sheriff the next term but I sure didn't want the office this way. He used to joke that I'd be sheriff one day and I'd always respond 'Nope, when you retire, I'm going to retire from being chief deputy.' I guess he was right after all. I know we all have to push ahead because crime doesn't stop to give us time to grieve. And I finally took him off speed dial because several times a day I'd think 'I have to call Andy to tell him . . . ' Then I'd remember. The only things that are consoling are that he died doing what he loved and I know he's with the Lord. Someday I'll get to see him again. It still hurts but that takes the sting away."

By Nancy Zoellner



VALUE OF DNA

DNA, short for deoxyribonucleic acid, is a complex molecule that contains the instructions needed for an organism to develop, survive and reproduce. It's found in every cell of every living thing. People, plants, animals and even single-celled organisms and bacteria have DNA within their cells.

However, DNA does more than just specify the structure and function of those living things — it also serves as the primary unit of heredity. Whenever organisms reproduce, a portion of their DNA is passed along to their offspring. In humans, half the DNA in cells comes from the mother, and half from the father. That's why children share traits like skin, hair and eye color with their parents.

It was the function of passing DNA from one generation to the next that helped the Boone County prosecuting attorney successfully prosecute Ralph E. Davis, the first person in Missouri to be convicted using DNA evidence. He was found guilty of murder and sentenced to death for killing his wife Susan in 1986. To date, her body has not been found.

Mike Himmel, a former Columbia police evidence technician who got called in when the case was turned over to the major case squad, said it took a team effort to get the conviction. History tells us how and why it was needed.

Susan and Ralph were married with two children and lived in Boone County. The marriage was happy until late 1985 when Susan took a job and Ralph, convinced his wife was cheating on him with a coworker, became



abusive. In November, 1985 Susan filed for divorce but called it off two weeks later. Over the next six months, deputies with the Boone County Sheriff's Office responded several times to the Davis home for domestic abuse incidents. In May, 1986 after yet another fight that left Susan with

bruises, she contacted the sheriff's office and charges were filed against Ralph for third degree assault. She also requested and was granted an ex parte that prohibited Ralph from entering their home. Both hearings were set for June 2.

Susan left later that day in the family automobile - a red Ford Escort - to take the children to her parents' home in Iowa. While in Iowa, she learned her husband was repeatedly violating the restraining order, even telling a neighbor that his wife was having an affair and using drugs and that, "The only way to stop a whoring bitch like that is to shoot her."

On June 2, Susan drove a rental car from Iowa back to Columbia for the hearings. The adult abuse matter was continued but the restraining order was extended for 180 days. Susan returned to her parents' home that night but on June 5 drove back to Columbia in the Escort to go back to work. The children stayed in Iowa with their grandparents. After getting home she was talking to her neighbor when Ralph showed up, got belligerent, and then left. The next day, Susan met with deputies and new criminal charges were filed against Ralph. He was arrested, released on bond and again ordered to stay away from Susan. She had spent one night in a woman's shelter and another at a hotel but returned home on June 8 and went to work on June 9. She left work around 6:15 p.m., telling a coworker she intended to drive straight home. That was the last time she was seen.

On June 11, 1986, after getting calls that Susan was missing, deputies searched the Davis home but found only a dog that Susan had brought with her from Iowa, prescription bottles – one for Tetracycline – and a messy house. That same day, Ralph filed for divorce and three days later drove to Iowa to get his children, telling everyone that Susan had run off to Texas with her boyfriend. With her gone, the abuse charges were eventually dismissed, the divorce was granted, and Ralph, who was working as an insurance agent, was awarded custody of the children.

Law enforcement suspected Ralph was lying about Susan's disappearance but had no evidence to prove it. What they didn't know was that on the day of Susan's disappearance, Ralph drove the Escort from Columbia to a storage facility in Jefferson City. Ralph told the attendant he needed to rent a space large enough to hold his car. The attendant later told law enforcement that

Ralph said he was hiding the vehicle to avoid losing it in a divorce.

In January, 1988 – some 17 months after hiding the car – Ralph received a notice telling him he was several months behind on rental payments for the unit – but he ignored it. On March 7, 1988 employees of the storage facility cut the lock, opened the unit and discovered the car. When they ran the plate, law enforcement learned the car belonged to the missing woman. One look at the car told them it had been the scene of a murder.

The driver's side window was broken out, the windshield was cracked, the interior was coated with dried blood and human tissue. There were swirls in the blood indicating that someone had tried to clean it up while it was still fresh. The floorboard also held broken glass, human bone fragments and shotgun pellets.

Boone County officers wrapped the car and transported it to one of their facilities. In the meantime, Boone County Sheriff's Detective Larry McCray, who has since passed away, was assigned as the lead investigator in the case and law enforcement went to the Davis home to question Ralph. He stuck to his original story – until they told him they had the car. Then Ralph backtracked and asked for an attorney as deputies arrested him.

Searches of Ralph's business and home discovered Susan's diamond wedding ring from a previous marriage, receipts from the storage facility where he kept the car and copies of checks he used to pay storage fees. Officers also found a 12-gauge shotgun that Ralph purchased on June 9, 1986, the last day Susan was seen alive. Tests later revealed that the shotgun had been fired.

Himmel said after doing research he found that only two private labs, Lifecodes Corp. in Valhalla, New York and Cellmark Diagnostics in Germantown, Maryland, were doing DNA work-up and at that time, they were only doing reverse DNA for paternity. However, both companies had credentials, and both wanted to get in criminal work. Cellmark was chosen by the flip of a coin.

Himmel, who had been tasked with processing the car, got busy.

"I think we worked on it 15 hours straight the first go-around. We started

at the back and we literally took that car down to bare metal and even swabbed the bare metal after we removed all the carpeting and padding and everything else because we didn't know what the lab was going to need as far as blood – or even if it could be done since the blood was two years old. You have to remember - this case was back in the dinosaur days with DNA," he said. "The Highway Patrol didn't go online with DNA until the second half of '90. In fact, they used this case to garner funding because everybody was kind-of holding their breath, waiting to see 'What is this DNA stuff? Is it going to be something law enforcement can use?' The FBI wasn't even using DNA at that



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time. It was such a new genre that nobody understood it or had any idea of the potential."

"I dug shotgun pellets out of the door and the carpeting and we were prepared to testify that they were fired shotgun pellets and not unfired pellets. The medical examiner didn't have a body so he couldn't testify about whose blood it was. However, he could say whoever it belonged to, that person either needed immediately medical attention or they were deceased. Bone fragments also came into play. We found 33 to 36 small bone fragments and Dr. Stout, a forensic anthropologist with the University of Missouri, determined that it was human bone and that it most probably came from the cheek and jaw area. We were brainstorming evidence for months getting ready for trial but we went one step further, which was genius. We had them check the bone at MU's forensic lab for drug residue and they found residue around bone pores that showed the person had been taking Tetracycline, which is used to treat infections. So we did a pharmacy audit and found Susan Davis was on Tetracycline," Himmel said. "You talk about a team effort! Boone County did a hell of a job on this, building the case, one piece of the puzzle on top of the other. We couldn't hang our hat on DNA because we didn't know if it would make it to the courtroom or even if it could be understood so Boone County was making a case by putting multiple pieces together that overwhelmingly would convince the jury that Ralph Davis killed his wife." They also got court orders to get blood from Ralph and their two kids.

As the court date drew near, Himmel said there was "quite a go-around" over the car. "They wanted to take the jury down to the car but we wanted to have that car in front of the jury so we could explain the blood spatter and the high-velocity misting because all of that would help us tell where the victim was sitting in the car. The car itself was evidence – it was the crime scene – so we couldn't just disassemble it or cut it up. McCray and I finally decided to just go get another car. The junk yard gutted it and even painted it red for us, then cut it in half. Next, we figured out how to put it together in the courtroom like a model. We testified to all the evidence and then that night we brought the mock-up car, which was in pieces, and built the car in the courtroom."

During the trial, which began in March 1989, Boone County Prosecutor Joe Moseley used the replica of the car, with each piece of evidence placed where it was found, to illustrate the crime scene for the jury.

To top it all off, the lab was able to show that the blood on the carpet combined with Ralph Davis's blood created the DNA building blocks that are their two children. The jury deliberated just two hours before coming back with the guilty verdict. Although Ralph's attorney filed appeals, none were granted. Ralph was put to death by lethal injection on April 27, 1999 at the Potosi Correctional Facility. He never admitted guilt and did not provide any information that would lead them to Susan's body.

"It took a team approach – the prosecutors, the detectives, cooperation with the Cole County Sheriff's Office, the Columbia Police Department, bone experts, DNA analysis from two different labs and of course the Boone County Sheriff's Office. It was quite a feat but I was happy we could accomplish it," Himmel said.

However, it wasn't quite enough for McCray, who, according to those who knew him, continued looking for the burial site up until his own death, caused by complications of cancer. John Fields, who was working as a patrol deputy at the time of Susan's disappearance, also continued to look for signs of a grave long after the case ended.

"I was assigned to be the bloodhound. I was a traffic officer working the day shift during that time and every day the lead detective had me checking roads to find where Ralph had buried his wife. I sometimes spent my entire shift traveling down county roads looking for possible grave sites," he said. "After Ralph was put away, a person who lived in a neighborhood north of Columbia but who moved away after Susan was killed, returned to the area. He said that he remembered seeing Ralph come out of the woods sweating heavily around the day Susan went missing. He said he went back in the woods and he saw a grave and thought Ralph had buried a dog. He tried to take us back to the spot but things had changed over the years and we never found the grave. I hope it will turn up one day, if for no other reason than to give her family closure."

Boone County is currently in the middle of another murder case where the body has not been found. Joseph Elledge is accused of murdering his then wife, Mengqi Ji. She disappeared on October 8, 2019, and is presumed dead, according to investigators. Elledge's trial is set for September 1st.

By Nancy Zoellner

RACE, TRUST & POLICE LEGITIMACY:

How are they entwined?

ince May 25, the cry for national police reform has reached a fever pitch. To that end, three states have already passed reform legislation and another 13 have introduced or amended legislation. (See chart) But is the call for reform new or has it been around since the inception of policing?

In her 2016 article titled "From 'War on Crime' to War on the Black Community," Elizabeth Hinton wrote how in his televised speech following five days of civil unrest in Detroit during the summer of 1967, President Lyndon Johnson announced the creation of the Kerner Commission to evaluate the uprisings there and in other cities and to prescribe policies to suppress future disorder.

In his 2016 article titled, "Fifty Years Ago, the Government Said Black Lives Matter," Julian E. Zelizer wrote that the Kerner Commission's 1968 report shocked many—not least of all the president—when it determined that blame for the riots rested squarely on white racism and the systemic disadvantages it caused.

Research consistently shows that minorities are more likely than whites to view law enforcement with suspicion and distrust. Minorities frequently report that the police disproportionately single them out because of their race or ethnicity. Zoe Mentel wrote in "Racial Reconciliation, Truth-Telling and Police Legitimacy," a study conducted on behalf of the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing

Services, that, "African-American communities have historically been subject to deliberate oppression by law enforcement, from slave-catching through Reconstruction, Jim Crow, and the civil rights movement. Today the community sees relentless drug enforcement: people are stopped on the street. Their doors are kicked in. They are taken from their families and sent to prison at enormously high rates, and they come back with criminal records, unable to get a legitimate job."

FINDING THE UNDERLYING CAUSE

As we move forward, let's explore different thoughts, concepts and ideas that may be at the root of the conflict between law enforcement and minority communities, and examine possible solutions.

Could the lack of police legality, police legitimacy or procedure justice by police be the problem?

The public's perceptions about the lawfulness and legitimacy of law enforcement are an important criterion for judging policing in a democratic society. Lawfulness means that police comply with constitutional, statutory and professional norms. Legitimacy is linked to the public's belief about the fair and just police action and its willingness to recognize police authority. Police legitimacy reflects the belief that the police ought to be allowed to exercise their authority to maintain social order, manage conflicts and solve problems in their communities.

Legitimacy is reflected in three judgments:

The first is public trust and confidence in the police. Such confidence involves the belief that the police are honest, that they try to do their jobs well, and that they are trying to protect the community against crime and violence.

Second, legitimacy reflects the willingness of residents to defer to the law and to police authority, i.e. their sense of obligation and responsibility to accept police authority.

Finally, legitimacy involves the belief that police actions are morally justified and appropriate to the circumstances.

Racial and ethnic minority perceptions that the police lack lawfulness and legitimacy, based largely on their interactions with the police, can lead to distrust of the police. Distrust of police has serious consequences. It undermines the legitimacy of law enforcement, and without legitimacy police lose their ability and authority to function effectively.

Many law enforcement agencies have allowed researchers to study efforts to improve the lawfulness and legitimacy of their policing activities. They do so because they want to raise the level of trust and confidence of the people they serve while controlling crime effectively.

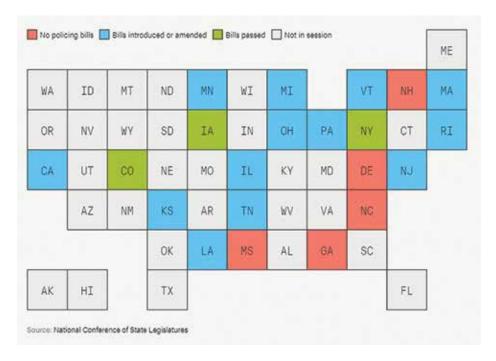
Personal interactions have the strongest impact on perceptions. People form opinions of the police based on their own interactions with them or the experiences they hear from trusted friends and family. People tend to

focus on how police treat them — the process and interactions — rather than the final outcome of those interactions. For example, research shows that people report positive impressions of an officer who treated them fairly and respectfully even if the officer gave them a speeding ticket. Research also shows that an officer's demeanor and actions are crucial to perceptions of police legitimacy. If officers communicate well, listen and treat citizens with respect, citizens will respond in kind.

People who perceive that they received "procedural justice" are also likely to perceive the police as legitimate and trustworthy and are likely to comply in the future. Procedural justice is the notion that a process is fair and that people have the opportunity to be heard, are treated politely and respectfully, and are judged by a neutral system free of bias. Fundamentally, procedural justice concerns the fairness and the transparency of the processes by which decisions are made and may be contrasted with distributive justice (fairness in the distribution of rights or resources), and retributive justice (fairness in the punishment of wrongs). Hearing all parties before a decision is made is one step which would be considered appropriate to be taken in order that a process may then be characterized as "procedurally fair."

What is clear from the research is that race is a consistent predictor of attitudes toward the police. Hence, some researchers argue that what happens during the interaction is as important as the reason for it. So, in addition to questions about bias in the decision to initiate a contact, questions have been asked about bias in other aspects of the interaction: the length and the decision to cite, search or use force. Furthermore, researchers are exploring whether bias, if it exists, is a department-wide culture or isolated in certain units or a select few problem officers. Resolving each of these questions requires different data sources and different methodological approaches.

States with Police Reform Bills



A BALANCING ACT

So how does law enforcement in general promote understanding and respect for racial and cultural differences? How do they utilize effective, non-combative methods for carrying out law enforcement duties in a racially and culturally diverse environment? According to a summary of research conducted by Robert Sampson and Dawn Bartusch, "While low-income black communities can be highly intolerant of criminal and violent behavior (even more so than those in ostensibly lower crime communities) they still hold a high degree of mistrust toward the law and law enforcement."

Policing was designed to be a safety mechanism for a community when informal social controls fail. The wideranging and systemic root causes for the structural inequalities existing in America's most troubled neighborhoods extend far beyond the reach and responsibility of law enforcement alone. Officers have primarily two tools at their disposal: enforcement or arrest. Yet law enforcement often singlehandedly bears

the burden of addressing the crime and violence issues that are symptomatic of the underlying problems. Mentel stated in her report for the DOJ, "In short, the police are charged with solving a problem beyond their scope with tools that are inadequate in addressing the social factors that contribute to persistent crime and violence."

When examining the antecedents of cooperation and compliance with police among Whites, African-Americans and Hispanics in the US for their study titled "The Role of Procedural Justice and Legitimacy in Shaping Public Support for Policing," Jason Sunshine and Tom Tyler found that police legitimacy was the key to cooperation among all ethnic groups. Empirical evidence such as this is important because it suggests that if police adhere to principals of procedural justice in their dealings with ethnic minority group members, then they may be able to successfully engage this group and shape their willingness to cooperate with police. However, is procedural justice effective for ethnic minorities who question the legitimacy of the law?

Intuitively, given the difficulties

police face when dealing with minority groups in general, minorities who also question the legitimacy of the laws they are being asked to abide by might be particularly difficult to engage. Murphy et al. research from 2009 suggests that procedural justice might work particularly well for such groups. However, subsequent research also suggests the opposite.

Studies on beliefs about the appropriate power relationship between authorities and those being governed indicate people care strongly about their treatment by authorities (i.e. they place greater weight on procedural justice) when they believe they should have personalized connections with those authorities and the institutions they represent. For people with the opposite opinion, procedural justice is less of a concern, according to studies conducted by Hofstede in 1980 and by Tom Tyler, E. Allan Lind and Yuen J. Huo in 2000. Following this line of argument, procedural justice may be less effective for ethnic minority group members who question the legitimacy of laws and rules because they may have no desire to interact with authorities who are guided by and enforce laws they believe are illegitimate. Furthermore, US studies on conflict in the workplace between ethnic groups and their supervisors indicates that for those with strong minority identification and a weak identification with American society, procedural justice has little impact on the groups' acceptance of their supervisor's decisions, stated Huo, Smith, Tyler and Lind in a 1996 report.

While these studies highlight circumstances whereby procedural justice plays little role, they do not provide an adequate explanation for why ethnic minorities who question the legitimacy of the law may respond differently to procedural justice than majority group members who share the same doubt. While some research predicts procedural justice should be more effective for those who question the legitimacy of the law, other studies suggest it may be

'Police are charged with solving a problem beyond their scope with tools that are inadequate'

Zoe Mentel U.S.Department of Justice,Office of CommunityOriented Policing Services

less effective for ethnic minority groups. In his theory of social distancing, John Braithwaite, author, emeritus professor and founder of the School of Regulation and Global Governance (RegNet) at the Australian National University, offered a useful theoretical framework for predicting anticipated differences between those ethnic minority and nonminority group members.

FOSTERING TRUST

Braithwaite argued that individuals evaluate authorities and their laws in terms of how they perform or what they stand for. As such evaluations are made, revised and shared with others over time, people develop a position in relation to the authority and its system of laws. Social distancing is a concept central to this positioning and refers to the degree to which individuals or groups have positive feelings for other individuals, institutions, and their legal systems. In a legal context, social distancing would relate to the liking one has for an authority and/or its system of rules and laws.

The results of a national randomized sample of 1,204 citizens of both ethnic minority and majority group members published in "Understanding minority group willingness to cooperate with police: Taking another look at legitimacy research," a study authored by Kristina Murphy and Adrian Cherney, revealed that for the nonminority group, procedural justice was effective at increasing cooperation levels for those who questioned the legitimacy of the law. In other words, cooperation was much higher for those who questioned the legitimacy of the law when they thought the police treated people fairly compared to when they thought police treated people unfairly. In contrast, procedural justice had no effect on cooperation levels when people did not question the legitimacy of the laws and rules enforced by police.

Murphy and Cherney wrote that for the ethnic minority group, procedural justice had a very different impact on cooperation. Once again, those who viewed the law to be more legitimate were overall more likely to indicate they would cooperate with police. It can also be seen that for those ethnic minority respondents who viewed the law as legitimate, procedural justice had no effect in shaping their cooperative behavior. However, for minority group members who questioned the legitimacy of the law, procedural justice had a significant negative effect on their willingness to cooperate with police. This particular finding is important as it suggests that procedural justice might be counter-productive in shaping cooperation for minorities who question the legitimacy of the law.

Although the research conflicts, law enforcement agencies must ensure police legality, take steps to foster police legitimacy in the eyes of the community, and practice procedural justice as noncombative methods of policing a diverse community.

By Kevin Merritt

POLICE REFORM

What Do We Want and Are We Willing to Pay For It?

osie Duffy Rice, president of The Appeal, an organization that produces original journalism on how policy, politics, and the legal system impact America's most vulnerable people, quoted a co-worker as saying, "If we're going to divest from the system, what are we going to invest in, and how are we going to shift accountability in that same paradigm?"

Rice goes on to say, "The answer is that we should expect less of the police, that we should demand less of our criminal justice system as a general rule. But we should simultaneously expect more from all the other social systems that are relying on the criminal justice system to implement the values or the order to a community that police are now expected to do."

Dr. Phillip Atiba Goff, co-founder and president of the Center for Policing Equity has this to say, "The police should not be the people who you call when you're scared of a neighbor. That just doesn't make any sense, right? If you call somebody who has a gun, you've escalated the situation. You can't say, I got someone with a gun so everybody would settle down.' That's not a real thing. I'm a psychologist; I know. We study people's brains. It doesn't calm people down. But what that means is that when Barbecue Becky calls 911, there needs to be someone else that 911 operators can turn to."

Alex S. Vitale, author of the 2017 book, "The End of Policing," put it this way. "Part of our misunderstanding about the nature of policing is we keep imagining that we can turn police into social workers. That we can make them nice, friendly community outreach workers. But police are violence workers. That's what distinguishes them from all other government functions. They have the legal capacity to use violence in situations where the

average citizen would be arrested. So when we turn a problem over to the police to manage, there will be violence, because those are ultimately the tools that they are most equipped to utilize: handcuffs, threats, guns, arrests. That's what really is at the root of policing. So if we don't want violence, we should try to figure out how to not get the police involved."

Society seems to have forgotten that policing was designed to be a safety mechanism for a community when informal social controls fail. There was a time years ago when society did not get the police involved in every aspect of daily life. Parents did not call the police if their child misbehaved or didn't want to go to school. We did not call the police if grass clippings from a neighbor's mower came into our yard. Vegan joggers did not call the police to demand something be done about how the smell of meat on

a bar-b-que grill offended them.

Informal social controls seem to have given way to a culture of "call the police for everything." Homelessness? Call the police. Someone is in a drug induced or mental health crisis? Call the police. You're offended? Call the police. Oh, and then demand reform when you do not like the police response. Could it be that the relationship between society and police is like that of a teenager and parent? You know – a "Get out of my life, but drive me to the mall first" type of relationship.

So, what do we want?

In their article, "The Safety Net Is Broken: How Police Became Mental Health First Responders," Ericka Guevarra and Conrad Wilson agree that, "A better system would have more resources to catch people before they hit a crisis point." This "better system" seems to be what reformist want. Guess

what? Police want it. We all do.

Are we willing to pay for it?
An examination of costs, charges, and payments for inpatient psychiatric treatment (inclusive of drug and alcohol abuse treatment) in community hospitals reveals just how costly services are to help people before they reach the crisis point.

When adjusted for inflation, the average daily cost for in-patient treatment for bipolar disorder can be as high as \$1,068 per day while the average cost per day for drug abuse treatment can reach \$1,398. That works out to \$29,912.68 and \$32,049.36 respectively for the standard 28-day stay. Who can afford that? Medicare Part A for mental health/substance abuse inpatient treatment requires a \$1,408 deductible, and per-day co-insurance can be as high as \$704 per day.

The average cost per day in the county jail and state prison is \$45 and \$71, respectively. According







CAMDEN NEW JERSEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Service Area: 11.4 square miles **Estimated Population:** 74,000

401 Officers - 35 Officers per square mile **Annual Budget:** \$68.45 million - \$925 per citizen

COLUMBIA MISSOURI POLICE DEPARTMENT

Service Area: 63.5 Square Miles Estimated Population: 123,195

173 Officers - 2.7 Officers per square mile Annual Budget \$20 Million - \$162.40 per citizen

SPRINGFIELD MISSOURI POLICE DEPARTMENT

Service Area: 82.5 Square Miles **Estimated Population:** 167,379

362 Officers - 4.3 Officers per square mile **Annual Budget:** \$29 million - \$173.26 per citizen



Camden neighborhoods are treated to free ice cream from Mister Softee trucks. The ice cream is paid for by the Camden County, New Jersey Police Department. Photo courtesy of the Courier Post

Camden's Growing Deficits

Camden's deficit is projected to increase from \$8.2 million in fiscal 2020 to \$52.2 million in fiscal 2024, an amount that would require a 50 percent increase in state aid to cover the shortfall.

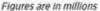




Chart: JOHN DUCHNESKIE / Staff Artist • Source: N.J. Division of Local Government Services

to research by Kevin C Heslin, PhD and Audrey J Weiss, PhD, the recidivism rate for inpatient treatment is 15 percent within 30 days of release. And, according to a Journal of the American Medical Association study, up to 60 percent of people who have been treated relapse within a year. Is there any wonder state and private mental health and substance abuse hospitals closed when you can warehouse someone in jails and prisons for a fraction of the cost?

Some estimate that 1 in 25 American adults need substance abuse and/or mental health treatment for a serious condition. With an estimated 5.98 million adults in Missouri that equates to approximately 239,550 adults needing services. To help put the cost into perspective, the entire annual operating budget for the Missouri Department of Corrections will only pay for 20,000 28-day inpatient stays. It is a

myth that we can simply defund the police and use that money to provide adequate "community" services. So what do we do?

Community policing can be effective in restoring the broken relationship between the police and communities. But, are we willing to pay for that?

In 2010, the City of Camden, New Jersey, with a population of approximately 74,000, was widely considered one of the most dangerous cities in America. In 2011 and 2012, police were "defunded" thanks to devastating cuts in state aid. The cuts forced Camden to decrease its budget by 20 percent in a single year. Police officers were fired, services were cut, and crime spiked. At one point, the city had 175 open-air drug markets, and 80 percent of drug arrests were of nonresidents. Gangs openly terrorized neighborhoods. Arrests in 2011 fell to almost half of what they had been just two years earlier and

burglaries increased by 65 percent. The murder rate skyrocketed. Eventually, residents largely gave up on calling police for minor crimes. And, despite the police being defunded, there was no money for community mental health and substance abuse services.

In May of 2013, the Camden City Council approved resolutions that eliminated the city police department and established a new one under county control. The city is approximately 11.4 square miles and reached its full complement of 401 sworn officers on June 7, 2013, when 92 recruits were commissioned. The new force doubled the size of the previous city force – giving them right at 35 officers per square mile.

The budget for the new police force, which, like the old one, depended heavily on state funding, ended up millions higher the first year than what the city had planned to spend, and it has continued to grow. Camden budgeted \$68.45 million in 2019 for police. That amounts to \$925 per resident. (See fig. 1)

The US Department of Justice's Office of Community Policing Strategies praised the work of the new Camden County Metro Police. The "reformed" police officers were walking foot-beats and hosting spontaneous BBQs. The police department was paying for "Mr. Softee" trucks to drive around and give out free ice cream. During a visit to Camden in May 2015, President Obama called community policing in Camden "a symbol of promise for the nation."

Camden's police budget continues to increase 2 percent per year – and adds \$2.4 million per year in "indirect costs' – its growth "compels the contraction of other vital city departments and services." The overall projection for the city's budget is "discouraging" according to an internal report. It estimates that in the next five years, Camden will rack up a \$139 million cumulative deficit – growing from an \$8.2 million deficit in fiscal 2020, to a \$52.2 million deficit in 2024. (See fig. 2)

The quality of life for Camden residents is better and they experience a greater relationship with police, yet the city still struggles to retain police officers and the Community Police Program is bankrupting the city.

By Kevin Merritt

PANDEMIC TRAFFIC ISSUES AND LESSONS IFARNED

s I write this article, we are just starting to "open up" from the stay-at-home orders issued during the coronavirus. I hope you are safe and well. Life as we knew it certainly changed. Most of my work is on the road meeting with law enforcement in large groups during trainings, meetings and conferences. I feel like I am a teenager again — gas is cheap, but I am still grounded. It is my hope that by the time you are reading this article we are at the sheriffs' conference at the lake. That would mean that things have made a big turn around and we are back to the "new normal." whatever that is. If you see me, tell me how great my hair looks. I have not had a hair cut in three months. Hopefully by then I will have had a haircut but, if not, I intend to bring the mullet back.

One other thing I tried during this pandemic was to help my school-aged nieces and nephews with their on-line classroom learning. I offered a class on crash data trends now and in the past, and some of the fascinating laws of physics that are involved in seatbelt usage and crashes. It was kind of weird — every one of them said thanks, but their internet was broken.

The purpose of this article is to report on what we learned, and to show how traffic enforcement and traffic safety were affected by the pandemic. During the initial days of the pandemic most agencies told their deputies to avoid direct contact with people as much as possible. Jails did not want to take in suspects for minor violations.

When the pandemic first started, one of the predictions was that traffic enforcement was going to be greatly curtailed. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Regional Law Enforcement Liaisons (LELs) held a conference call to discuss what would happen to traffic enforcement campaigns such as Click It or Ticket, etc., and when the time came, how we could help law enforcement get re-engaged into regular traffic enforcement duties. After the call I thought the best way LELs could help law enforcement was to find out what they felt their needs would be and to get a snapshot of what was happening at the time.

I developed a survey that I sent out to several agencies in NHTSA's Region 7 (Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Nebraska and Iowa), most of which had a very pro-active traffic enforcement focus prior to the pandemic. The surveys were sent to sheriff's offices, police departments and state police agencies large and small, rural, urban and suburban. If you or your agency participated, thank you. Here are some of the results of that survey:

FIRST WAVE

During the first part of the pandemic stay-at-home orders in an attempt to avoid face-to-face contact as much as possible, most law enforcement agencies cut back traffic enforcement to only serious traffic violators.

Traffic volume went way down, as expected.

- Some agencies reported that their traffic enforcement went down 90%.
- Traffic crashes went way down, 30 to more than 65% in some jurisdictions.
- Most officers' biggest fear was bringing the virus home to their families and children.
- Some agencies' traffic units (if they had them) were reassigned to other pandemic related duties, such as guarding food stores and providing patrol shift fill-in assignments.
- Arrests for impaired driving went way down, although a few agencies reported that their arrests were up somewhat. Officers found fewer vehicles on the road, which made it easier to spot the impaired drivers. (This may also be consistent with the record alcoholic beverage and cannabis sales during the pandemic.)

SECOND WAVE

There was an interesting change in the second wave of survey responses (about 10 days later) as we went farther into the stay at home orders.

- Agencies were finding that there was a large increase in speeders as the roadways were less congested. The speeds were excessive, many over 100 MPH. The Missouri Highway Patrol and other state police agencies in Region 7 reported a record number of speeding citations during this time frame of speeding more than 25 MPH over the limit, and citations of over 100 MPH. Local agencies were seeing the same thing, as well as seeing an increase in street racing and rallies. Distracted driving also seemed to be on the rise.
- Many agencies that had curtailed traffic enforcement duties were now returning to conducting enforcement, especially for speeding.
- The national news carried more and more stories of the rise of the excessive speeding (100 MPH+) and of the street racing. More and more agencies started to warn the public on social and local media that they were back to enforcing traffic laws, and that traffic safety was becoming a priority. The early survey respondents had reported that they had done little or no social media concerning traffic safety.

One of the things we learned from this pandemic shutdown is that traffic safety and enforcement are still a vital law enforcement function. If the public perceives that law enforcement is not going to do traffic enforcement, many will increase speeding and reckless driving.

According to the survey results, law enforcement agencies felt that after the pandemic their needs, to be met by LELs, NHTSA or the Highway Safety Office, would be:

- 1. Messaging about the importance of traffic safety, especially as more people get back on the road and that law enforcement is back to conducting regular traffic enforcement.
- 2. Continued funding for traffic grants.
- 3. Being kept in the loop as to what other law enforcement was doing.

One of the things we learned from this pandemic shutdown is that traffic safety and enforcement are still a vital law enforcement function. If the public perceives that law enforcement is not going to do traffic enforcement, many will increase speeding and reckless driving. As the medical system geared up for treating sick people, it was very important not to take medical resources away from those duties to treat crash victims. While the number of crashes were way down, in Missouri and in many other states the number of serious injury and fatality crashes were

going up, in spite of fewer vehicles being on the road.

The NHTSA has rescheduled the National Click It or Ticket Campaign to Nov. 16-29. I hope your agency will participate in this and other enforcement campaigns, many of which have been rescheduled. See www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov for an updated event calendar. For information on statewide campaigns contact your MODOT Law Enforcement Liaison. If you don't have their information, contact me and I will put you in touch with your LEL.

If we are not at the conference at the lake, I hope to see you soon. If you and your people are getting tired of on-line training and your agency needs inperson training, I have POST certified training that we present at your agency at no charge. Contact me at bsully@sbcglobal.net

I want to thank you and your deputies for the service and sacrifice you make to protect the public. Once again law enforcement did us proud! Stay Safe.

By William Sullivan

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BREAKING THE CYCLE

Jail Strives to Re-integrate Detainees Back into Society

People with mental health problems, drug and alcohol issues and a lack of life skills fill county jail cells across Missouri. Unfortunately, in most counties the budget dictates that the segment of the jail population that might profit from help of some kind instead cycles through the system with little hope of ever getting on the right track.

In Greene County, the sheriff and jail administrator are dedicated to programs and systems that can help some people break the cycle and return to the community better equipped and more productive than when they ended up behind bars — and keep them from returning.

Sheriff Jim Arnott and Jail Administrator Major Royce Denny are committed to providing a full gamut of programs aimed at lowering the recidivism rate and giving detainees hope of a better day.

There are religion-based programs, domestic violence mitigation, Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous and a General Education Degree program. A corps of 600 volunteers helps staff and maintain these programs. In addition to a detainee work program, which gives a sense of responsibility and routine that may translate to the larger world, there is a limited, judge-ordered work release program.

It is axiomatic in law enforcement that much of the criminal behavior that lands people in jail stems from some form of mental health and/or substance abuse problems. The Greene County Jail addresses those issues with a mental health program designed to support both current and former detainees in their efforts to get out and stay out of jail with pride and a sense of accomplishment. The program is fully staffed with a physiolo-

gist as chief of Behavioral Health, licensed counselors and social workers. In addition, the colleges and universities in Springfield provide a constant flow of interns — at no cost to the county — who are working toward undergraduate and graduate degrees in various fields of mental health and social work.

In the immediate realm of keeping good order in the jail, the mental health program helps tremendously, Denny said, explaining "Inmates have someone to talk to that is not an officer. It's phenomenal. And it saves us from a ton of problems."

A system of continuing care is being developed as well. The Rapid Access Center will give detainees as well as former detainees a place to reach out for help in staying out of jail and to get assistance with life skills that will help them get back on their feet. "If someone gets clean (of drugs or alcohol) in jail, then this program will help them to stay that way," Denny said. "Somewhere in there is a place to break the cycle. I see this benefiting a lot of people.'

GROWING FORWARD

Sheriff Arnott has a long history with the current Greene County Jail but has looked to the future in bringing his community on board to build a new, bigger facility. With the support of that community, the new jail will be situated in suburban Springfield on property away from the city center in a more suburban setting.

During his 32 years with the sheriff's office, Sheriff Arnott has risen through the ranks and gained the confidence of county voters. As sheriff, he will oversee design and construction of the \$150-million jail that, on the day it opens, will be Missouri's









largest. Planned for 1,200 beds, the new facility will eclipse jail capacity in both of the state's metros. It's a huge undertaking but one that the sheriff is anxious to see underway.

Like many others across Missouri, Green County's current jail, built in the 1980s and expanded in the early 2000s, is a reflection of the rising demand for space, taxpayer reluctance to spend more, changing times, and the necessity of adjusting to circumstances.

The main jail's current capacity is 601 with an additional 108 in temporary cells. However, the average daily population often rolls into the 900-plus range with an all-time high of 1,038. Those numbers include around 275 federal prisoners the county contracts to hold.

Virtually every detainee in Greene County is charged with crimes against persons. Minor drug offenses, property crimes and other non-violent offenses are basically handled on a bookand-release basis. Only a very small number of those held in the jail are prisoners serving county time. The jail population is not "super diverse" as Denny puts it. "We don't have room for everybody — 99.9 percent are held for serious felonies. At any given time we have 30 or so in for murder."

That means Sheriff Arnott has a very dangerous population jammed into a jail that he says has been overcrowded for 15 years. Even with the addition of 108 temporary beds, Greene County detainees are still being at times held in as many as 10 surrounding county jails.

The need for a new jail has been apparent to law enforcement for decades, but as is generally true less so to the taxpaying public. As Sheriff Arnott said, "new jails are not sexy." As a consequence it has taken years of planning and penny-pinching — to the tune of \$95 million — to get the new \$150-million jail project moving forward.

And the sheriff is focused on giving the taxpayers value for their dollars. In his current facility, often described as a "city within a city," he uses about 40 volunteer detainee workers at any one time to reduce costs across the board.

A CITY WITHIN A CITY

Meals are one of the biggest costs for any detention facility. The Greene County Jail kitchen produces more than 700 meals three times a day. That massive food service is handled by volunteer detainees guided by professional kitchen staff. The laundry facility is similarly run by volunteer detainees under supervision, as is cleaning of the entire five-building jail campus. All mowing, lawn maintenance and roadside trash collection is also handled by crews of volunteer detainees. It all saves

money, Sheriff Arnott said, pointing to their savings on food as an example. "I've never found a contractor who can beat our per-meal costs."

The new facility will operate the same way. "It's been done both ways — with contractors and with the volunteers. (Volunteer detainee labor) allows things to run better," Arnott said. "I run this like a business and I have a financial person to oversee the \$32-million annual budget."

But there's another benefit. By giving large numbers of detainees something to do besides sit on their bunks all day, the sheriff is also breaking up one of the biggest problems all sheriffs face, commonly described as a "building full of people with 24-hours a day to think of ways to foul things up."

CORRECTION COMPONENTS

It seems likely that what will soon become Missouri's largest county jail will also be its most progressive.

Currently, Denny oversees a staff of 268 of the office's 456 employees. That includes three captains, seven lieutenants, 18 sergeants, 42 corporals and 198 commissioned and noncommissioned detention officers. On each shift a cadre of 54 is tasked with keeping hundreds of detainees safe and secure. When the new jail opens, Denny's jail crew will nearly double to more than 480.

In the 1980s, cell blocks were replaced with pod systems that featured open areas surrounded by cells and a central control room where officers could control cell doors and keep an eye on behavior. While efficient and safe for COs, it detached jailers from detainees and made preventative patrolling and interaction difficult. The move has been back toward more direct supervision which opens the door to better behavior control, Denny said explaining, "Officers learn the inmates. They can spot troublemakers and stop problems from escalating."

The jail administrator had high praise for his staff. "We have very few issues for the size and makeup of our population."

Sheriff Arnott makes it clear that, as is currently being done, the new jail will be run like a business with a focus on taxpayers getting the maximum value for their hard-earned dollars. That means systems and programs aimed at saving money will move as well. While much of Sheriff Arnott's and Denny's focus is on running a safe, secure facility they will also continue to support programs designed to help detainees while they are going through the system and beyond, which, in the long run, will improve the community and save taxpayer dollars.

By Michael Feeback

DISCONTENT WITH COOKIE-CUTTER LIFESTYLE, HE BROKE OUT OF THE BOX

R oyce Denny is a man of many parts. The Springfield native came to law enforcement armed with a biology degree and a successful corporate retail career. One day he realized that he wanted more out of life than carrying a briefcase. Not long after he was a corrections officer at the Greene County jail. Since making that decision to "do something different," Denny's career trajectory has been straight up.

Today Major Royce Denny is the administrator of what will soon become the biggest jail in Missouri. He manages a staff of 268 commissioned officers and others, oversees a complex system of programs and is responsible for detention of more than 900 people accused of very serious crimes. His responsibilities will become greater in 2022 when

the new Greene County jail opens. The facility will hold 1,200 detainees and Denny's staff will nearly double to 480. With his penchant for the different and his proven record in law enforcement, Denny seems a man who will take it all in stride.

Denny's rise through the ranks over the last 20 years has been steady. A newly minted corrections officer in 2000, he was a corporal by 2001, a sergeant in 2002, a lieutenant in 2004.

In 2012, Denny graduated the Law Enforcement Academy and became a commissioned officer. That sparked his interest in "something different" and he was soon assigned to the burglary task force. He also joined the county SWAT team, meanwhile carrying on his duties at the jail.

The SWAT team provided the new experiences Denny sought. It also led to a close call.

The team was called on to serve a high-risk search warrant, but this one would be different than the close to 100 they serve each year. As they moved down a hallway Denny was in the lead holding the shield. Everyone was wearing noise-cancelling earplugs but, as Denny puts it, the smell of cordite and the feel of a bullet going by were unmistakable. Someone shot down the hall. The operation moved through the door, secured a female occupant and cornered a couple of armed bad guys in the bathroom who threw their guns in the bathtub and gave up.

It was only later, when his uniform was going into the laundry, that Denny put his finger through the bullet hole in his pants cargo pocket. Near thing. It is a testimony to a man who likes new experiences and takes things in stride that he calls this a "funny story."

In 2014 Denny was promoted to operations captain as his ca-



reer continued its upward trajectory. In 2016 he took over as administrative captain, working with the sheriff's office on court security, civil service and other matters.

Denny was promoted to major in 2018 and took over as jail administrator. He also oversees warrant service, extradition and fugitive apprehension. He credits his staff with keeping the jail operating effectively. He hires carefully, leads by example and encourages his staff to enjoy their work. "I'm blessed to have the staff I have, I work for the best people in law enforcement and detentions," Denny says.

Denny takes a forward-looking approach to his job. He points to a program instituted to clear a huge backlog of fugitive warrants as part of keeping things moving forward in

an organized way. When the program was instituted there were 18,000 warrants waiting for service. By working through the pile — seeing who was still alive to be picked up, who might still be around the county, checking on how old warrants were and the like — active warrants have at this point been brought down to a manageable 5,600 at last count. "A huge success," Denny says pointing to eliminating wasted man-hours pursuing the dead, departed and outdated.

The major is a strong supporter of the jail's many programs, especially the mental health outreach component and sees making an effort to break the cycle that so many detainees go through — picked up, jailed, reoffend, jailed ad infinitum — as a key part of his job. Programs that keep someone from coming back through his jail are important to the community, Denny says. "I can see benefit to a lot of people."

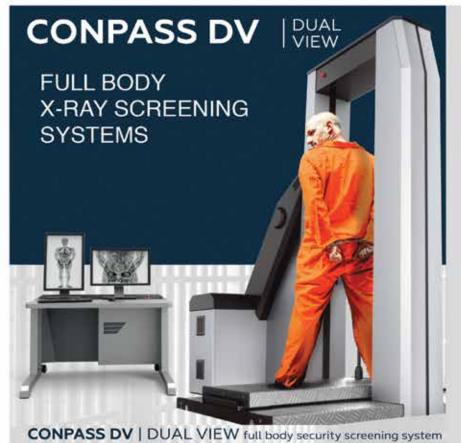
He's also found a balance between his profession and having a life. He is a family man who enjoys trail riding and training young horses. His wife, a paramedic; three daughters and he share their farm with eight horses. While the oldest works for the county, the middle daughter is off to college and the youngest is "his little partner." They ride when she's not playing softball.

When he wants quiet, Denny has a piece of property on the river in Hickory County he bought in high school, the kind of mature move one would expect of a guy who studied biology, succeeded in retail and then mid-stream moved into one of the most difficult professions one could choose, for "something different."

By Michael Feeback



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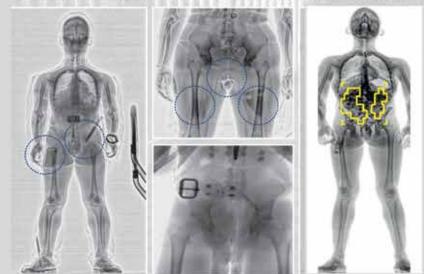


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hile most Americans continue to support their local law enforcement officers, many working in that profession have come under fire lately by the very communities they were sworn to protect.

The growing public scrutiny points to an even greater need for professional, high-quality, all-encompassing training. That's what the Missouri Sheriffs' Association Training Academy continues to provide.

And MSATA graduates are highly sought after! Nearly 100 percent of graduates get job offers before their education is even completed. The Jefferson City Part Time Academy Class 254, which graduated seven trainees in late June, was no different.

Melvin Knox, who won the High Firearms Score award, is in the hiring process with more than one agency trying to recruit him.

Evan Chadwick, who won the Valedictorian award, the Class Leader award and who was recognized for perfect attendance, was hired by the Booneville Police Department.

Bryan Hancock, who was presented with the Salutatorian award, the Honor Graduate award and who was recognized for his perfect attendance, was hired by the Centralia Police Department.

The MSATA also allows students already working in law enforcement to advance their careers.

Tiffany Herndon, who was also recognized for her perfect attendance, has been working as jail administrator for the Osage County Sheriff's Office. She is now a licensed peace officer and deputy sheriff.

Jeremy Morse, who has been working at the Callaway County Sheriff's Office as a jailer; Christine Kelsey, who has been working at the Pettis County Sheriff's Office as a dispatcher; and Jeffrey Sostorecz, who has been working at the Moniteau County Sheriff's Office as a jailer, are also now licensed peace officers and deputy sheriffs.

Similar accounts could be shared by students graduating soon from the MSATA in Poplar Bluff, West Plains and Waynesville.



Continued deep support for law enforcement was evidenced at the Jefferson City Part Time Academy Class 254 graduation, which drew a standing-room-only crowd of family and friends. The celebration was emceed by Victor Pitman, training coordinator for the Missouri Sheriffs' Association; Maries County Sheriff Christopher Heitman conducted the invocation; and the guest speaker was Deputy David Barrett with the Cole County Sheriff's Office.

The 700-Hour Basic Peace Office Academy exceeds the State of Missouri's minimum basic training requirements for peace officer licensing and which allows the certification graduates to work in either municipal or county law enforcement. However, the MSATA has two things that set it apart from others. It offers regional part-time classes in several locations around the state, which allows students to live at home, work and spend time with family while attending classes, and it is the only academy in the state to incorporate jail and court security officer certification into the curriculum.

"The county jail in most communities is the last thing people think about when discussing law enforcement. It is a hidden community within the community. Most people don't realize that the county jail usually accounts for more than 50 percent of a







sheriff's responsibility, budget, personnel and liability," said MSA Training Coordinator Victor Pitman. "Every other law enforcement agency and the courts depend on the county jail in order to perform their duties."

The MSATA includes a blend of more than 700 hours of class-room and practical training, which primarily focus on a peace officer's ability to communicate with the public.

"The media often portrays the role of a peace officer from the perspective of a person who violated the law or is being arrested and prosecuted, as if the peace officer is the aggressor. But the peace officer is trained to approach his or her responsibility from the victim's point of view. The community we serve passes laws through its elected representatives; the peace officer enforces those laws to protect the citizens they serve; and the courts interpret the law and decide if a person is guilty or not guilty," Pitman explained, adding that the peace officer responds to a call to help a victim and does their best to make the victim safe. get them medical care, if needed, and investigate the crime. "Then, and only if the evidence supports it, the peace officer arrests the



Bryan Hancock was pinned by his wife, Alyan, and his daughter, Arya, who now refers to him as "Officer Daddy."

person who victimized another person in their community. As Sir Robert Peal stated in his 9 Policing Principles, '...the police are the public and that the public are the police, the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to the duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence.'"

MSATA students receive about 250 hours of training on listening skills, communication skills, cultural diversity and dealing with aggressive behavior. They also receive training on basic first aid, statutory and constitutional law, criminal investigations, report writing, use of force decision making, ground avoidance and escape, less lethal use of force tools, traffic enforcement, traffic crash and driving while intoxicated investigations, use of restraints, defensive tactics and firearms training.

"The county jail in most communities is the last thing people think about when discussing law enforcement. It is a hidden community within the community. Most people don't realize that the county jail usually accounts for more than 50 percent of a sheriff's responsibility, budget, personnel and liability," said MSA Training Coordinator Victor Pitman. "Every other law enforcement agency and the courts depend on the county jail in order to perform their duties."

The academy classes are taught by a variety of professions including working or retired deputies, police officers, highway patrol troopers, federal law enforcement officers, juvenile officers, judges, firefighters and attorneys who live in the communities where classes are held. They are licensed and regulated by the Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Program, a Division of the Missouri Department of Public Safety.

The forced shutdown of face-to-face classes during the beginning stages of the COVID-19 crisis showed the creativity, tenacity and determination of the MSATA administration and staff and the flexibility and drive of students. Classes were delayed only long enough for administrators to set up live, interactive webinars that allowed students to continue to learn and stay in close contact with each other — but from a distance.

The MSATA is currently operating in Camdenton, Reeds Springs, Salem and Union. Those classes started last January and are scheduled to graduate in November 2020. A full-time academy class just started in Platte City on June 2. New part time academy classes in Jefferson City, Poplar Bluff, Waynesville, and West Plains are scheduled to start again in August 2020 and are scheduled to graduate in May 2021. Another round of classes will kick off in January 2021 with locations to be determined by enrollment.

Individuals who desire to truly make a difference in their communities can get more information about the MSATA by visiting www.mosheriffs.com and clicking on the Academy link under the Training tab or by calling 573-635-5925.

By Victor Pitman





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